

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON AN ICCAT  
BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH DOCUMENTATION PROGRAM**

*RECOGNIZING* the situation of Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks and the impact that market factors have on the fishery;

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the rebuilding plan for western Atlantic bluefin tuna and the recovery plan for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna that ICCAT has adopted, including the need for complementary market related measures;

*CONCERNED* by the impact that illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing has in the Convention area;

*AWARE* that the current Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Programme was not designed to provide a mechanism to provide direct control on bluefin tuna fisheries;

*REITERATING* the responsibilities of flag States to ensure that their vessels conduct their fishing activities in a responsible manner, fully respecting ICCAT conservation and management measures;

*NOTING* the need for improved and strict control on all the components involved in the bluefin tuna fisheries;

*MINDFUL* of the rights and obligations of port States to promote the effectiveness of management measures adopted by regional fisheries management organizations;

*UNDERLINING* the complementary role that importing States also have in the control of the catches of bluefin tuna to ensure compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures;

*RECOGNIZING* that in order to have effective control of the movement of bluefin tuna, strict tracking of the product from the point of capture throughout the whole operation to its final market has to be established;

*COMMITTED* to taking steps that conform with international law, notably as regards the World Trade Organization (WTO), and to ensure that bluefin tuna entering markets of Contracting and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities of ICCAT and non-members of ICCAT is caught in the Convention area in a manner that does not diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures;

*UNDERLINING* that the adoption of this measure is intended to help support the implementation of conservation and management measures as well as scientific research for bluefin tuna and is being applied on an exceptional basis;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

**PART I**

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. Each Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity and Fishing Entity (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall take the necessary steps to implement an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Scheme for the purpose of identifying the origin of any bluefin tuna in order to support the implementation of conservation and management measures.

2. For the purpose of this Programme:
  - a) "Domestic trade" means:
    - trade of bluefin tuna harvested in the ICCAT Convention area by a vessel or trap, which is landed in the territory of the CPC where the vessel is flagged or where the trap is established, and
    - trade of farmed bluefin tuna products originating from bluefin tuna harvested in the ICCAT Convention area by a vessel which is flagged to the same CPC where the farm is established, which is supplied to any entity in this CPC, and
    - trade between the Member States of the European Community of bluefin tuna harvested in the ICCAT Convention area by vessels flagged to one Member State or by a trap established in one Member State.
  - b) "Export" means:

Any movement of bluefin tuna in its harvested or processed form (including farmed) from the territory of the CPC where the fishing vessel is flagged or where the trap or farm is established to the territory of another CPC or non-Contracting Party, or from the fishing grounds to the territory of a CPC which is not the flag CPC of the fishing vessel or to the territory of a non-Contracting Party.
  - c) "Import" means:

Any introduction of bluefin tuna in its harvested or processed form (including farmed) into the territory of a CPC, which is not the CPC where the fishing vessel is flagged or where the trap or the farm is established.
  - d) "Re-export" means:

Any movement of bluefin tuna in its harvested or processed form (including farmed) from the territory of a CPC where it has been previously imported.
3. CPCs shall require a completed bluefin tuna catch document (BCD) for each bluefin tuna:
  - a) Landed at its ports,
  - b) Delivered to its farms, and
  - c) Harvested from its farms.

Each consignment of bluefin tuna domestically traded, imported into or exported or re-exported from its territories shall be accompanied by a validated BCD, except in cases where paragraph 8(c) applies and, as applicable, an ICCAT transfer declaration or a validated Bluefin Tuna Re-export Certificate (BFTRC). Any such landing, transfer, delivery, harvest, domestic trade, import, export or re-export of bluefin tuna without a BCD or a BFTRC shall be prohibited.

4. In order to support an effective BCD, CPCs shall:
  - a) not place bluefin tuna into a farm not authorized by the CPC or listed in the ICCAT record,
  - b) not place bluefin tuna from different years or CPCs in the same cages unless effective measures are in place to determine the CPC of origin and catch year when the bluefin tuna are ultimately harvested from the farm.
5. Each CPC shall provide BCD forms only to vessels and traps authorized to harvest bluefin tuna in the Convention area, including as by-catch, and to authorized farms. Such forms are not transferable. Each BCD form shall have a unique document identification number. Document numbers shall be specific to the flag State and assigned to the vessel or trap.

## **PART II**

### **VALIDATION OF BCDs**

6. The fishing vessel master or trap operator, or its authorized representative, or the operator of farms, or the authorized representative of the flag State shall complete the BCD by providing the required information in appropriate sections and request validation in accordance with paragraph 8 for a BCD for catch landed,

transferred to cages, harvested or transshipped on each occasion that it lands, transfers, harvests or transships bluefin tuna.

7. A validated BCD shall include the information identified in **Annex 1** attached.
8. a) The BCD must be validated by an authorized government official, or other authorized individual or institution, of the flag State of the vessel or the State of establishment of the trap or farm that harvested the bluefin tuna, or if the vessel is operating under a charter arrangement, by an authorized governmental official or institution of the chartering CPC.
  - b) The flag CPCs shall validate the BCD for all bluefin tuna products only when all the information contained in the BCD has been established to be accurate as a result of the verification of the consignment, and only when the accumulated validated amounts are within their quotas or catch limits of each management year, including, where appropriate, individual quotas allocated to vessels or traps, and when those products comply with other relevant provisions of the conservation and management measures.
  - c) Validation under 8(a) shall not be required in the event that all bluefin tuna available for sale are tagged by the flag State of the harvesting vessel or the State of establishment of the trap that harvested the bluefin tuna.
  - d) Where the bluefin tuna quantities caught and landed are less than 1 metric ton or three fish, the logbook or the sales note may be used as a temporary BCD, pending the validation of the BCD within seven days and prior to export.

### **PART III**

#### **VALIDATION OF BFTRCs**

9. Each CPC shall ensure that each bluefin tuna consignment which is re-exported from its territory be accompanied by a validated bluefin tuna re-export certificate (BFTRC). In cases where farmed bluefin tuna is imported live, the BFTRC shall not apply.
10. The operator who is responsible for the re-export shall complete the BFTRC by providing the required information in its appropriate sections and request its validation for the bluefin tuna consignment to be re-exported. The completed BFTRC shall be accompanied by a copy of the validated BCD(s) relating to the bluefin tuna products previously imported.
11. The BFTRC shall be validated by an authorized government official or authority.
12. The CPC shall validate the BFTRC for all bluefin tuna product only when
  - a) all the information contained in the BFTRC has been established to be accurate,
  - b) the validated BCD(s) submitted in support to the BFTRC had been accepted for the importation of the products declared on the BFTRC and
  - c) the products to be re-exported are wholly or partly the same products on the validated BCD(s).
  - d) A copy of the BCD(s) shall be attached to the validated BFTRC.
13. The validated BFTRC shall include the information identified in **Annex 2** attached.

### **PART IV**

#### **VERIFICATION AND COMMUNICATION**

14. Each CPC shall communicate a copy of all validated BCDs or BFTRCs, except in cases where paragraph 8 c) applies, within five working days following the date of validation, or without delay where the expected duration of the transportation should not take more than five working days, to the following.

- a) the competent authorities of the country where the bluefin tuna will be domestically traded, or transferred into a cage or imported, and
  - b) the ICCAT Secretariat.
15. The ICCAT Secretariat shall extract from the validated BCDs or BFTRCs communicated under paragraph 14 above the information marked with an asterisk in **Annex 1** or **Annex 2** and enter this information in a database on a password protected section of its website, as soon as practicable.

At its request, the SCRS shall have access to the catch information contained in the database, except the vessel or trap names.

## **PART V**

### **TAGGING**

16. CPCs may require their harvesting vessels or traps to affix a tag to each bluefin tuna preferably at the time of kill, but no later than the time of landing. Tags shall have unique country specific numbers and be tamper proof. The tag numbers shall be linked to the BCD and a summary of the implementation of the tagging program shall be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat by the CPC. The use of such tags shall only be authorized when the accumulated catch amounts are within their quotas or catch limits of each management year, including, where appropriate, individual quotas allocated to vessels or traps.

## **PART VI**

### **VERIFICATION**

17. Each CPC shall ensure that its competent authorities, or other authorized individual or institution, take steps to identify each consignment of bluefin tuna landed in, imported into or exported or re-exported from its territory or among member states of a regional economic organization and request and examine the validated BCD(s) and related documentation of each consignment of bluefin tuna. These competent authorities, or authorized individuals or institutions, may also examine the content of the consignment to verify the information contained in the BCD and in related documents and, where necessary, shall carry out verifications at with the operators concerned.
18. If, as a result of examinations or verifications carried out pursuant to paragraph 17 above, a doubt arises regarding the information contained in a BCD, the final importing State and the CPC whose competent authorities validated the BCD(s) or BFTRCs shall cooperate to resolve such doubts.
19. If a CPC involved in trade of bluefin tuna identifies a consignment with no BCD, it shall notify the findings to the exporting State and, where known, the flag State.
20. Pending the examinations or verifications under paragraph 17 to confirm compliance of the bluefin tuna consignment with the requirements in the present Recommendation and any other relevant Recommendations, the CPCs shall not grant its release for domestic trade, import or export, nor, in the case of live bluefin tuna destined to farms, accept the transfer declaration.
21. Where a CPC, as a result of examination or verifications under paragraph 17 above and in cooperation with the validating authorities concerned, determines that a BCD or BFTRC is invalid, the domestic trade, import, export or re-export of the bluefin tuna concerned shall be prohibited.
22. The Commission shall request the non-Contracting Parties that are involved in domestic trade, import, export or re-export of bluefin tuna to cooperate with the implementation of the Program and to provide to the Commission data obtained from such implementation.

## PART VII

### NOTIFICATION AND COMMUNICATION

23. Each CPC that validates BCDs in respect of its flag vessels, traps or farms in accordance with paragraph 8(a), shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat of the government authorities, or other authorized individuals or institutions (name and full address of the organization(s) and, where appropriate, name and title of the validating officials who are individually empowered, sample form of document, sample impression of stamp or seal, and as appropriate tag samples) responsible for validating and verifying BCDs or BFTRCs. This notification shall indicate the date at which this entitlement comes into force. A copy of the provisions adopted in national law for the purpose of implementing the bluefin tuna catch documentation program shall be communicated with the initial notification, including procedures to authorize non-governmental individuals or institutions. Updated details on validating authorities and national provisions shall be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat in a timely fashion.

24. The information on validating authorities transmitted by notifications to the ICCAT Secretariat shall be placed on the password protected page of the database on validation held by the ICCAT Secretariat. The list of the CPCs having notified their validating authorities and the notified dates of entry into force of the validation shall be placed on a publicly accessible website held by the ICCAT Secretariat.

CPCs are encouraged to access this information to help verify the validation of BCDs and BFTRCs.

25. Each CPC shall notify to the ICCAT Secretariat the points of contact (name and full address of the organization(s)) that should be notified when there are questions related to BCDs or BFTRCs.

26. Copies of validated BCDs and notification pursuant to paragraphs 23, 24 and 25 shall be sent by CPCs to the ICCAT Secretariat, by electronic means, whenever possible.

27. The Commission shall consider the introduction of an electronic system as informed by results reported to the Commission from the electronic statistical document pilot programs conducted by CPCs in accordance with *Recommendation by ICCAT on an Electronic Statistical Document Pilot Program* [Rec. 06-16]. Those CPCs which implement an electronic system in advance of the Commission shall ensure the electronic system meets the requirements of this measure and has the ability to produce paper copies upon request of national authorities from the exporting and importing Parties.

28. Copies of BCDs shall follow each part of split shipments or processed product, using the unique document number of the BCD to link them.

29. CPCs shall keep copies of documents issued or received for at least two years.

30. CPCs shall provide to the ICCAT Secretariat a report each year by October 1 for the period from July 1 of the preceding year to June 30 of the current year to provide the information described in **Annex 3**.

The ICCAT Secretariat shall post these reports on the password protected section of the ICCAT website, as soon as practicable.

At its request, the SCRS shall have access to the reports received by the ICCAT Secretariat.

31. Recommendations 92-01, 93-03, 96-10, 97-04, 98-12 and 06-15 and the Resolutions 93-02, 94-04, 94-05 on the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Programme are repealed and replaced by this Recommendation.

## Data to be Included in Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (BCD)

1. **ICCAT Bluefin tuna catch document number\***
2. **Catch Information**  
 Vessel or trap name\*  
 Flag State\*  
 ICCAT Record No.  
 Date, area of catch and gear used\*  
 Number of fish, total weight, and average weight\*  
 Tag No. (if applicable)
3. **Transfer information**  
*Towing vessel description*  
 Vessel name, flag  
 ICCAT Record No., and towing cage number (if applicable)
4. **Transshipment information**  
Carrier vessel description  
 Flag State  
 ICCAT Record No.  
Date  
Port (name and country or position)  
Product description  
 (F/FR; RD/GG/DR/FL/OT)  
 Total weight (NET)
5. **Farming information**  
Farming facility description  
 Name, flag of farm\*, ICCAT FFB No.\* and location of farm  
 Participation in national sampling program (yes or no)  
Cage description  
 Date of caging, cage number  
Fish description  
 Estimates of number of fish, total weight, and average weight\*  
 Estimated size composition (<8 kg, 8-30 kg, >30 kg)
6. **Harvest from Farms information**  
Harvest description  
 Date of harvest\*  
 Number of fish, total (round) weight, and average weight\*  
 Tag numbers (if applicable)
7. **Trade information**  
Product description  
 (F/FR; RD/GG/DR/FL/OT)  
 Total weight (NET)  
Exporter/Seller information  
 Point of export or departure\*  
 Export company name, address, signature and date  
 Description of transportation (relevant documentation to be attached)  
Importer/buyer information  
 Point of import or destination\*  
 Import company name, address, signature and date
8. **Government validation**  
 Name of authority and signatory, title, address, signature, seal and date

ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH DOCUMENT #									
<b>CATCH INFORMATION</b>									
VESSEL/TRAP		NAME			FLAG		ICCAT RECORD NO.		
CATCH DESCRIPTION		DATE (ddmmyy)			AREA		GEAR		
				NO. FISH		TOTAL WT (KG)		AVG WT (KG)	
				TAG NOS. (if applicable)					
GOVT VALIDATION		NAME OF AUTHORITY AND SIGNATORY					TITLE		
		SIGNATURE					DATE		SEAL
<b>TRANSFER INFORMATION</b>									
TOWING VESSEL DESCRIPTION		NAME			FLAG		ICCAT RECORD NO.		
TOWING CAGE DESCRIPTION		NUMBER							
<b>TRANSSHIPMENT INFORMATION</b>									
CARRIER VESSEL DESCRIPTION		NAME			FLAG		ICCAT RECORD NO.		
		DATE			PORT (NAME AND COUNTRY)/ POSITION (LAT/LONG)				
PRODUCT DESCRIPTION		F/FR (circle one)			RD/GG/DR/FL/OT (circle one)		NET WT (kg)		
GOVT VALIDATION		NAME OF AUTHORITY AND SIGNATORY					TITLE		
		SIGNATURE					DATE		SEAL
<b>FARMING INFORMATION</b>									
FARMING FACILITY DESCRIPTION		NAME			FLAG		ICCAT FFB NO.		
		LOCATION							
		NATIONAL SAMPLING PROGRAM? YES or NO (circle one)							
CAGE DESCRIPTION		DATE (ddmmyy)			CAGE NO				
FISH DESCRIPTION		NO. OF FISH		TOTAL WT (kg)			AVG WT (kg)		
		SIZE COMPOSITION		<8 kg		8-30 kg		>30 kg	
OBSERVER INFORMATION		NAME			TITLE		SIGNATURE		
GOVT VALIDATION		NAME OF AUTHORITY AND SIGNATORY					TITLE		
		SIGNATURE					DATE		SEAL
<b>HARVEST FROM FARM INFORMATION</b>									
HARVEST DESCRIPTION		DATE (ddmmyy)			NO. FISH		TOTAL ROUND WT (kg)		
		AVG WT (kg)							
		TAG NOS. (if applicable)							
GOVT VALIDATION		NAME OF AUTHORITY AND SIGNATORY					TITLE		
		SIGNATURE					DATE		SEAL
<b>TRADE INFORMATION</b>									
PRODUCT DESCRIPTION		F/FR (circle one)			RD/GG/DR/FL/OT (circle one)		NET WT (kg)		
EXPORTER/ SELLER		PT OF EXPORT/DEPARTURE			COMPANY		ADDRESS		
		SIGNATURE			DATE				
TRANSPORTATION DESCRIPTION		(RELEVANT INFORMATION TO BE ATTACHED)							
GOVT VALIDATION		NAME OF AUTHORITY AND SIGNATORY					TITLE		
		SIGNATURE					DATE		SEAL
IMPORTER/ BUYER		PT OF IMPORT/DESTINATION			COMPANY		ADDRESS		
		SIGNATURE							
		DATE							

**Data to be Included in the Bluefin Tuna Re-export Certificate (BFTRC)**

- 1. Document number of the BFTRC\***
- 2. Re-export section**  
Re-exporting CPC/Entity/Fishing Entity  
Point of re-export\*
- 3. Description of imported bluefin tuna**  
Product type F/FR RD/GG/DR/FL/OT  
Net weight (kg)  
BCD number(s) and date(s) of importation\*  
Flag(s) of fishing vessel(s) or state of establishment of the trap, where appropriate
- 4. Description of bluefin tuna to be re-exported**  
Product type F/FR RD/GG/DR/FL/OT\*  
Net weight (kg)\*  
Corresponding BCD number(s) from section 3
- 5. Statement of re-exporter**  
Name  
Address  
Signature  
Date
- 6. Validation by governmental authorities**  
Name and address of the authority  
Name and position of the official  
Signature  
Date  
Government seal
- 7. Import section**  
Statement by the importer in the CPC of import of the bluefin tuna consignment  
Name and address of the importer  
Name and signature of the importer's representative and date  
Point of import: City and CPC\*

Note – Copies of the BCD(s) and Transport document(s) shall be attached



<b>DOCUMENT NUMBER</b>	<b>ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA RE-EXPORT CERTIFICATE</b>			
<b>RE-EXPORT SECTION:</b>				
<b>1. RE-EXPORTING COUNTRY/ENTITY/FISHING ENTITY</b>				
<b>2. POINT OF RE-EXPORT</b>				
<b>3. DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTED BLUEFIN TUNA</b>				
Product Type <i>F/FR RD/GG/DR/FL/OT</i>	Net Weight (Kg)	Flag CPC	Date of import	BCD No.
<b>4. DESCRIPTION OF BLUEFIN TUNA FOR RE-EXPORT</b>				
Product Type <i>F/FR RD/GG/DR/FL/OT</i>	Net Weight (kg)	Corresponding BCD number		
F=Fresh, FR=Frozen, RD=Round, GG=Gilled & Gutted, DR=Dressed, FL=Fillet, OT=Others (Describe the type of product: )				
<b>5. RE-EXPORTER STATEMENT:</b>				
I certify that the above information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>	
<b>6. GOVERNMENT VALIDATION:</b>				
I validate that the above information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.				
				Total weight of the shipment: kg
<b>Name &amp; Title</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Government Seal</b>	
<b>IMPORT SECTION</b>				
<b>7. IMPORTER STATEMENT:</b>				
I certify that the above information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.				
Importer Certification				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>	
<b>Final Point of Import: City</b>	<b>State/Province</b>	<b>CPC</b>		

BFTSD Re-Export Certificate: 2007

NOTE: IF A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH IS USED IN COMPLETING THIS FORM, PLEASE ADD THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION ON THIS DOCUMENT.

\* Valid transport document and copies of the BCDs shall be attached.

**Report on the Implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme**

Reporting CPC:

Period of reference: July 1 [2XXX] to June 30 [2XXX]

1. Information extracted from BCDs
  - number of BCDs validated:
  - number of validated BCDs received:
  - total amount of bluefin tuna products traded domestically, with breakdown by fishing areas and fishing gears,
  - total amount of bluefin tuna products imported, exported, transferred to farms, re-exported with breakdown by CPC of origin, re-export or destination, fishing areas and fishing gears,
  - number of verifications of BCDs requested to other CPCs and summary results:
  - number of requests for verifications of BCDs received from other CPCs and summary results:
  - total amount of bluefin tuna consignments subject to a prohibition decision with breakdown by products, nature of operation (domestic trade, import, export, re-export, transfer to farms), reasons for prohibition and CPCs and/or non-Contracting Parties of origin or destination.
  
2. Information on cases under Part VI paragraph 17
  - number of cases
  - total amount of bluefin tuna with breakdown by products, nature of operation (domestic trade, import, export, re-export, transfer to farms), CPCs or other countries referred to in Part VI paragraph 17 above.