



ICCAT
Catch Documentation Scheme

Alberto Thais Parrilla Moruno

ICCAT Secretariat

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Background of the introduction of the CDS

- 2007: ICCAT adopted a catch documentation program.
- Bluefin catch document (BCD) objective: Tracking from catch to end-market distribution of all Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus thynnus*) operations. It applies to all catches in the ICCAT Convention area.
- 2009-2010: Paper-based BCD shortcomings which were discussed.
- The IMM Working Group recommended an electronic version.
- 2015: The Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document Program (eBCD) was online. Both versions were available: paper-based and electronic.
- 2016: Only electronic BCDs are allowed. There are still paper-based operations for old BCDs



Outline and benefit of CDS system

- The BCD improves the sustainable management of Atlantic bluefin tuna, the quality and reliability of statistical data and helps prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.
- Each BCD is composed of different sections: catch, transfer, farming, harvesting, trade.
- Every section must be completed by relevant operators and subsequently validated by their flag and/or farm States.
- By validating, FS authorities confirm that the products referred to in each section of the BCD have been caught and transferred in accordance with the appropriate conservation and management measures as agreed by the ICCAT Commission.



Any special treatment/exception for artisanal fisheries

- The eBCD does not make any distinction between industrial or artisanal fisheries. Recreational catches and bluefin not subject to trade are exempted.
- All vessels registered for performing this activity have been reported by their flagging CPC according to the applicable Recommendations.
- The system is also prepared for registering by-catch fisheries.



CDS design: Comparison between paper-CDS and e-CDS: strengths, weaknesses

- Paper-CDS main problems:
 - Delays in validation.
 - Traceability.
 - Security / confidentiality of information.
 - Errors and unreadable entries.
- The BFTCD electronic system solved most of the mentioned shortcomings.



Initial costs: Budget, time and effort required for the establishment of CDS system

- 2012: ICCAT signed a contract with a consortium on the Implementation of the Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (eBCD).
- This initial contract finalized by the end of 2014.

Year	Euros (€)
2012	224,297.04
2013	201,699.75
2014	437,684.24



Running costs: Budget, time and effort required for implementation and maintenance of CDS system already in place (I)

- The initial contract was extended in December 2014 and has been extended on an annual basis since then.
- The extensions include: Data base maintenance, user support, infrastructure and time / cost analysis for possible development.
- The development of new modules/functionalities is contemplated but has additional costs.

Year	Euros (€)
2015	323,605.68
2016	364,860.79
2017	300,000.00
2018	403,194.44



Running costs: Budget, time and effort required for implementation and maintenance of CDS system already in place (II)

- It is expected that the total in 2019 will be in excess of €400,000
- The cost for 2020 will depend very much on the changes required to the system each year.
- The 2020 budget also includes a new hire at the Secretariat, and it is hoped that in future years this will be offset by a gradual reduction in maintenance costs charged by the external company as some functions are gradually absorbed in house.



Any other issues/challenges

- Project Handover to the ICCAT
- The Secretariat aims to integrate the functions of the consortium into the Secretariat within the next few years, depending on budget availability.
- The initial costs during this period will be very high, nor can it guarantee that savings will be substantial in the long term.
- The advantage is that control would be retained by the Secretariat and not by a third party outside ICCAT.



Situation of introduction of CDS to Bigeye tuna and Swordfish

- Scalability of the system:
 - Volume of data.
 - Functionality.
- With some modifications / adaptation:
 - The current architecture is ready for the incorporation of other species.
 - The system could be connected to other ICCAT databases.



Any advice for possible CDS introduction to the IOTC (I)

- Limited duration of the Working Group.
- Clear Requirements.
- Link VMS data to CDS (Geographical position, date of the catch, date of the CD creation).
- Avoid any exemption. All catches must be included in the system.
- The hiring of at least one “in-house” technical expert.



Any advice for possible CDS introduction to the IOTC (II)

- Main issues from the technical point of view:
 - To develop an integrated system with auxiliary modules.
 - To house the software system in order to:
 - Maximize use and performance for users
 - Provide maximum security and reliability to the system
 - To provide technical administrative training and end-user training
 - To extend maintenance and service support to accommodate future modifications or improvements in the system.



Questions

