

**JOINT IATTC AND WCPFC-NC WORKING GROUP  
FIFTH CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME TECHNICAL MEETING  
(CDS-05)**

Kushiro, Japan  
09:00 – 12:30, 10 July 2024

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**Working Draft CMM/Resolution for Pacific bluefin tuna Catch Documentation Scheme**

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**IATTC-NC-CDS05-2024/04**

**Small Working Group under the CDS Technical Meeting**

## **Background**

In 2019 and 2020, a virtual working group established under the CDS Technical Meeting discussed draft CMM/Resolution for Pacific bluefin tuna Catch Documentation Scheme. The draft CMM/Resolution received many comments and suggestions from the members of the virtual working group. In June 2022, Japan circulated the 3<sup>rd</sup> draft of the CMM/Resolution among members of virtual working group, with all comments and suggestions tentatively incorporated. However, since the text became quite busy with those comments and suggestions, the 3<sup>rd</sup> draft was not submitted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> CDS Technical meeting. It is noteworthy that the draft text contained several suggested provisions related to traceability and monitoring, controlling and surveillance measures.

In July 2022, the participants to the 3<sup>rd</sup> CDS Technical meeting agreed that “the scope and functions of the draft CMM for the development of CDS would: i) not include seafood traceability and not go beyond the scope of the bluefin tuna CDSs utilized by the CCSBT and ICCAT, and ii) not include specific monitoring, controlling and surveillance measures.”

In July 2023, the participants to the 4<sup>th</sup> CDS Technical meeting tentatively agreed to use resources from the CCSBT e-CDS as a basis for system development of ePBCD. This choice may have some implication to the Draft CMM/Resolution.

Since the 3<sup>rd</sup> CDS Technical meeting held in July 2022, a small working group was established under the CDS Technical meeting to review administrative and budgetary considerations for the development of ePBCD. As noted above, the 4<sup>th</sup> CDS Technical meeting had some progress on administrative and budgetary consideration, including the choice of CCSBT e-CDS as a basis of system development of ePBCD. However, there are several pending issues that needs further discussion and decisions at the CDS Technical meeting, such as demarcation between IATTC and WCPFC.

In light of these progress and constraints observed last a couple of years, the small working group wishes to submit the working draft CMM/Resolution as attached. This draft CMM/Resolution is developed (1) based on the 3<sup>rd</sup> draft that were circulated among virtual working group in 2022; (2) by simplifying some of the text to reflect the agreement in 2022 to narrow the scope and functions of the draft CMM.

This working draft has not received any authorization from the virtual working group or small working group established under the CDS Technical meeting. Rather, this document was created for the purpose of having a basis for further discussion at the 5<sup>th</sup> CDS Technical meeting and thereafter.

## Part I: General Provisions

1. The objective of Pacific bluefin tuna Catch Documentation (PBCD) program is to identify the origin and movement of Pacific bluefin tuna in order to support the implementation of Conservation and Management Measure (CMM)/Resolution for Pacific bluefin tuna, including by providing a tool to assist in combating IUU fishing. [Pacific bluefin tuna captured in sport and recreational fisheries for which sale is prohibited is not subject to this program.]
2. For the purpose of this program:
  - a) “Artificial fry” means:

Fry of Pacific bluefin tuna raised from fertilized eggs spawned by adult fish that are in an artificially controlled environment.
  - b) “Catch” means:

Commercial wild capture of Pacific bluefin tuna resources.
  - c) “Caging” means:

The relocation of live Pacific bluefin tuna from the transport cage, fishing vessel or trap to the farming or fattening cages.
  - d) “Export” means:

[Any movement of Pacific bluefin tuna [in its harvested or processed form] from the territory of the Commission Member, Cooperating Non-member and participating Territory (CCM)/Member and Cooperating Non-Member (CPC) where the fishing vessel is flagged or where the trap or farm is established to the territory of another CCM/CPC or non-member/non-CPC of the Commission, or from the fishing grounds to the territory of a CCM/CPC which is not the flag CCM/CPC of the fishing vessel or to the territory of a non-member/non-CPC of the Commission.]

[US suggested text: *Any movement of Pacific bluefin tuna in its harvested or processed form from the territory of the [CCM/CPC] to the territory of another CCM/CPC or non-member/non-CPC of the Commission for further processing or consumption.*]<sup>1</sup>
  - e) “Farming/fattening” means:

Caging of Pacific bluefin tuna in farms and subsequent feeding aiming to fatten and increase their total biomass.
  - f) “Harvest [from cages]” means:

The [taking] [capture] of Pacific bluefin tuna in [farms] [for consumption, processing or export, or other purposes that result in the death of the animal].
  - g) “Import” means:

[Any introduction of Pacific bluefin tuna into the territory of a CCM/CPC, which is not the CCM/CPC where the fishing vessel is flagged or where the trap or the farm is established, [in its harvested or processed form.]]

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<sup>1</sup> Product that enters a CPC’s territory for transportation purposes and does not clear the Custom’s territory of that CPC shall not be considered an import, export, or re-export.

*[Any introduction of Pacific bluefin tuna into the territory of a CCM/CPC in its harvested or processed form from another CCM/CPC or non-member/non-CPC of the Commission.]*

h) “Landing” means:

[Pacific bluefin tuna catches unloaded [from fishing vessels] at port.]

[The initial movement of fish from a vessel to a port or free-trade zone. The transfer of fish in port from a vessel to a container is landing.]

i) “Re-export” means:

Any movement of Pacific bluefin tuna from the territory of a CCM/CPC where it has been previously imported to the territory of another CCM/CPC or non-member/non-CPC.

j) “Transfer” means:

- any transfer of live Pacific bluefin tuna from the fishing vessel, its net, or the trap to the transport cage or other fishing vessels;
- any transfer of live Pacific bluefin tuna from the transport cage to another transport cage;
- any transfer of the cage with live bluefin tuna from a towing vessel to another towing vessel;
- any transfer of live Pacific bluefin tuna from one farm to another, or between different cages in the same farm;

k) “Transshipment” means:

The unloading of all or any of the dead fish on board a fishing vessel that was not previously landed to another fishing vessel either at sea or in port.

3. For the implementation of the PBCD program, an interoperable electronic Pacific bluefin tuna Catch Documentation (ePBCD) system will be developed. [WCPFC and IATTC should coordinate and consider cooperating to hire a consultant to provide expertise on budgetary and administrative aspects of different options for establishing an ePBCD system and deliver recommendations related to the design and operation of the system.] WCPFC and IATTC Secretariat should formulate the Terms of Reference for an open tender for the system development before [the end of 20XX] [July of the following year when CMM/Resolution adopted], or as soon as possible thereafter. Such Terms of Reference shall be approved by both WCPFC and IATTC. The Secretariat shall report to the Commission the result of tenders and progress on the system development thereafter.
4. A pilot testing phase will be undertaken at least for X years. The pilot testing will be with CCMs/CPCs on a voluntary basis across the range of actions required in the PBCD program.
5. The completion and full implementation of the ePBCD system will be before 20XX, after which the use of the ePBCD system shall be mandatory for all CCMs/CPCs.
6. Notwithstanding paragraph 5, paper PBCDs and Pacific Bluefin Tuna Re-export Certificates, whose formats are attached as Annex X and Y, may be used in the following cases:
  - a) Technical difficulties with the ePBCD system as specified in Annex YY;
  - b) Landing of quantities of Pacific bluefin tuna less than [1] metric ton or [3] fish in accordance

with paragraph 13;

c)

7. An ePBCD shall be completed for each Pacific bluefin tuna in accordance with Annex XX. Any landing, transfer, harvest, transshipment, import, export or re-export of Pacific bluefin tuna without a completed and validated ePBCD shall be prohibited. Following the recording and validation of catch [and first sale or export/import] in the ePBCD system in accordance with part II of this CMM/Resolution, the recording of information on internal sales of Pacific bluefin tuna in the ePBCD (i.e. sales occurring within one CCM/CPC) [or intra-farm transfers] is not required. Nevertheless, if the imported PBF is re-exported, the re-exporting CCM/CPC shall ensure that PBF is accompanied by a validated ePBRC as required in Part III.
8. Import, export or re-export of fish parts other than the meat or collars (i.e., heads, eyes, roes, guts and tails) shall be exempted from the requirement of this CMM/Resolution.
9. [At the time of caging, relevant ePBCDs may be grouped as a “Grouped ePBCD” with a new ePBCD number in the case of multiple catches made by the same vessel, provided that caging of all the fish is conducted in the same fishing year and that all the fish is caged in the same farming cage. The Grouped ePBCD shall replace all the related original ePBCDs and be accompanied by the list of all the associated ePBCD numbers.]

## **Part II: Validation of ePBCDs**

10. (i) The [catching [or carrier]][fishing] vessel master or trap operator, or (ii) its authorized representative, or (iii) the operator of farms, or (iv) the authorized representative of the flag, farm, or trap CCM/CPC shall complete the ePBCD by providing the required information in appropriate sections and request validation for the ePBCD for catch landed, transferred, harvested, transhipped or exported on each occasion that it lands, transfers, harvests, transships or exports Pacific bluefin tuna. Notwithstanding this, when none of Pacific bluefin tuna in a cage are exported, sections of the ePBCD for transfer to the cage and/or harvest from the cage may be validated at the end of each farming season.
11. The ePBCD must be validated by an authorized government official, or other authorized individual or institution, of the flag CCM/CPC of the catching vessel, the CCM/CPC of the seller/exporter, or the trap or farm CCM/CPC that caught, harvested or exported the Pacific bluefin tuna<sup>2</sup>.
12. The ePBCD shall be validated only when;
  - a) all the information provided in the ePBCD has been established to be accurate;
  - b) the accumulated amounts of Pacific bluefin tuna are within the catch limit of relevant CCMs/CPCs for each management year; and,
  - c) other relevant provisions of WCPFC CMMs/IATTC Resolutions are complied with.
13. Where the Pacific bluefin tuna quantities caught and landed are less than XX metric ton or YY fish, the logbook or the sales note may be used as a temporary PBCD, pending conversion to the ePBCD and the validation within a period of Z working days or prior to export, whichever is first.

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<sup>2</sup> A timing of validation after landing, transfer to cages, harvest, transshipment or export will be considered later, taking into account of specifications of the ePBCD system.

CCMs/CPCs are encouraged to ensure that a copy of the logbook or the sales note used as a temporary PBCD accompany the corresponding Pacific bluefin tuna until conversion to the ePBCD.

14. Validation shall not be required in the event that all Pacific bluefin tuna available for sale are tagged by the flag CCM/CPC of the catching vessel or the trap CCM/CPC that fished the Pacific bluefin tuna in a manner to meet the following criteria:
  - a) All Pacific bluefin tuna in the ePBCD concerned are individually tagged;
  - b) Minimum information associated with the tag includes:
    - Identifying information on the catching vessel or trap;
    - Date of capture or landing;
    - The area of harvest of the fish in the shipment;
    - The gear utilized to catch the fish;
    - The type of product and individual weight of the tagged Pacific bluefin tuna;
    - Information on the exporter and importer (where applicable);
    - The point of export (where applicable).
  - c) Information on tagged fish is compiled by the responsible CCM/CPC and made available to the Secretariat upon its request.
  
15. CCMs/CPCs may require their catching 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 ePBCD and a summary of the implementation of the tagging program shall be submitted to the Secretariat by the CCM/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 III: Validation of electronic Pacific Bluefin Tuna Re-export Certificate**

16. Each CCM/CPC shall ensure that each bluefin tuna consignment which is re-exported from its territory be accompanied by a validated electronic Pacific Bluefin Tuna Re-export Certificate (ePBRC). A re-export without a re-export certificate shall be prohibited. In cases where bluefin tuna is imported live for farming purposes, the ePBRC shall not apply to export of such farmed Pacific bluefin tuna.
  
17. The operator who is responsible for the re-export shall complete the ePBRC by providing the required information in its appropriate sections and request its validation for the Pacific bluefin tuna consignment to be re-exported. The completed ePBRC shall be accompanied by the list of all the associated ePBCD numbers relating to the bluefin tuna products previously imported.
  
18. The ePBRC shall be validated by an authorized government official or other authorized individual or institution.
  
19. The CCM/CPC shall validate the ePBRC for all Pacific bluefin tuna product only when:
  - a) all the information contained in the ePBRC has been established to be accurate;
  - b) the validated ePBCD(s) submitted in support to the ePBRC had been accepted for the importation of the products declared on the ePBRC;
  - c) the products to be re-exported are wholly or partly the same product on the validated ePBCD(s); and,

- d) the list of all the associated ePBCD numbers relating to the bluefin tuna products previously imported are accompanied.
20. The validated ePBRC shall include the information identified in Annex XX.

**[Part IV: Verification**

- 21. Each CCM/CPC shall ensure that its competent authorities, or other authorized individual or institution, take steps to identify each consignment of Pacific bluefin tuna landed in, imported into or exported or re-exported from its territory and request and examine the validated ePBCD(s) and related documentation of each consignment of Pacific 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 ePBCD and in related documents and, where necessary, shall carry out verifications with the operators concerned.
- 22. If, as a result of examinations or verifications carried out pursuant to paragraph 17 above, a doubt arises regarding the information contained in an ePBCD, the final importing State/(CCM/CPC) and the CCM/CPC whose competent authorities validated the ePBCD(s) or ePBRCs shall cooperate to resolve such doubts.
- 23. If a CCM/CPC involved in trade of Pacific bluefin tuna identifies a consignment with no ePBCD, it shall notify the findings to [the Secretariat,] the exporting CCM/CPC and, where known, the flag CCM/CPC.
- 24. Pending the examinations or verifications under paragraph 17 to confirm compliance of the Pacific bluefin tuna consignment with the requirements in the present CMM/Resolution and any other relevant CMMs/Resolutions, the CCM/CPCs shall not grant its release for import, export, nor, in the case of live bluefin tuna destined to farms, transfer to cages.
- 25. Where a CCM/CPC, as a result of examination or verifications under paragraph 17 above and in cooperation with the validating authorities concerned, determines that an ePBCD or ePBRC is invalid, the transfer into cages, import, export or re-export of the bluefin tuna concerned shall be prohibited.]

**Part V: Notification and communication**

- 26. Each CCM/CPC shall notify the 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) responsible for validating and verifying ePBCDs or ePBRCs. This notification shall indicate the date at which this entitlement comes into force.
- 27. The information on validating authorities transmitted by notifications to the Secretariat shall be handled as non-public domain data and the Secretariat shall facilitate access to this information by authorized CCM/CPC users through the secure pages of the respective Commissions website.
- 28. Each CCM/CPC shall notify to the Secretariat the points of contact (name and full address of the

organization(s)) that should be notified when there are questions related to ePBCDs or ePBRCs. The Secretariat shall facilitate access to this information through the public pages of the respective Commissions website.

29. All CCMs/CPCs concerned shall, as soon as possible for ePBCD system implementation, submit to the Secretariat the data necessary to ensure the registration of their users in the ePBCD system. Access to and use of the system cannot be ensured for those who fail to provide and maintain the data required by the ePBCD system.
30. The Commission shall request the non-CCMs/non-CPCs that are involved in import, export or re-export of PBF to cooperate with the implementation of the program and to provide to the Commission data obtained from such implementation.
31. Access to the ePBCD system shall be granted to non-CCMs/non-CPCs to facilitate trade of Pacific bluefin tuna. The Secretariat shall communicate without delay to those non-CCMs/non-CPCs known to trade in Pacific bluefin tuna to make them aware of the ePBCD system and the provisions of the PBCD program applicable to them.
32. All the data in ePBCD shall be processed in accordance with (WCPFC) Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Compiled by the Commission/(IATTC) Resolution on Confidentiality.