

**RESPONSES TO COC CHAIR LETTERS  
RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE**

**RÉPONSES AUX LETTRES DU PRÉSIDENT DU COC REÇUES HORS DÉLAI**

**RESPUESTAS A LAS CARTAS DEL PRESIDENTE DEL COC  
RECIBIDAS DESPUÉS DE LA FECHA LÍMITE**

This addendum contains the responses, in original language only, received after 15 October 2016 from:

Cet addendum contient les réponses reçues après le 15 octobre 2016 dans la langue originale uniquement de :

Este addendum incluye las respuestas, sólo en su idioma original, recibidas después del 15 de octubre 2016 de:

- Santa Lucia: concerning the request made by the COC for information regarding billfish fisheries and further cooperation with ICCAT.



GOVERNMENT OF SAINT LUCIA

Communications on this subject should be addressed to:

**THE HONOURABLE MINISTER**  
and the following Number quoted:

# Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Co-operatives

5th Floor, Sir Stanislaus James Building  
Castries, Saint Lucia



**October 19, 2016**

**Mr. Driss Meski**  
**Executive Secretary**  
**International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Secretariat**  
**Madrid,**  
**SPAIN**

Dear Mr. Meski,

Reference is made to your correspondence dated February 18, 2016 expressing concerns about Saint Lucia's reported 2014 catches of 111mt of blue marlin and requesting supplemental information about the fisheries and management of marlins in Saint Lucia. I deeply regret the delay in response, which was primarily due to change in a Government in June 2016.

The Government of Saint Lucia reaffirms its commitment to the long-term sustainability of marine resources for food security and to support livelihood opportunities. Due to the multispecies nature of the fisheries in Saint Lucia, the management plans are in effect for the offshore large pelagic fisheries, which include blue marlin. As such, establishing a catch limit of one large pelagic species is a challenge. However, considering the plan to rebuild blue and white marlin stocks and cognisant of the challenges to stabilise catch and fishing effort in multispecies fisheries, the Government of Saint Lucia outlined additional management measures for the large pelagic fishery with the objective of stabilising landings of blue marlin for each catch year 2014 to 2018:-

1. Establish purchasing limit for Fish Processing Plants;
2. Prohibit Fish Aggregating Devices in areas known to improve blue marlin catchability;
3. Prohibit the net increase in the number of Fish Aggregating Devices depending on various indicators;
4. Implement outreach programs;
5. Implement marketing strategy to increase value-added capacity of blue marlin.

The additional measures are intended to improve management and controls of blue marlin catches. Saint Lucia recorded a decline in blue marlin landings to 53.76mt in 2015 and will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the plan.


Given that the offshore large pelagic fisheries is the main income earner for fishers and the households their livelihood supports, the main management objectives have been:-

1. To promote the sustainable development of the artisanal fisheries for large pelagic species.
2. To maintain and improve on the net incomes of the operators in the fishery at a level above the current income levels. To establish management linkages with international regulatory bodies, such as ICCAT, in order to access vital information to properly manage these fishes.

Reiterating Articles 63 (2) and 64 of UNCLOS, the Agreement provides that obligation of States to cooperate for the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks shall be discharged either directly or through the appropriate subregional or regional fisheries management. For this reason, the Government of Saint Lucia will be giving consideration to becoming a cooperating Party or a Contracting Party to ICCAT. Given the economic vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States and the heavy reliance on living natural resources for its economic development it is important that the views of SIDS are adequately represented in the decisions of ICCAT.

The Ministry is happy to provide any additional information required, and I take this opportunity to offer the assurance of my highest regard.

Sincerely,



**HON. EZECHIEL JOSEPH**  
**MINISTER**

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