

RESPONSES FROM CONTRACTING PARTIES TO LETTERS OF
THE COC CHAIR RECEIVED BEFORE 15 OCTOBER 2016

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Letter regarding reporting deficiencies received by</i>	<i>Letter of identification or of prohibition received by</i>	<i>Date of reply</i>
Albania	X		
Algeria			
Angola	X		
Barbados	X		
Belize	X		19/07/2016
Brazil	X		
Canada			
Cape Verde			
China PR			
<u>Côte d'Ivoire</u>	X		<u>14/10/2016</u>
Curaçao			
Egypt	X		
El Salvador			
European Union			
France SPM			
Gabon	X		
Ghana			
Guatemala			
Guinea Ecuatorial	X		
Guinea Rep			
Honduras	X		
Iceland			
Japan			
Korea			
Liberia	X		13/09/2016
Libya	X		15/10/2016
Mauritania	X	X	
Mexico			
Morocco			
Namibia			
Nicaragua	X	X	
Nigeria			
Norway			
Panama			
Philippines	X		
Russia			
Sao Tome e Principe	X		
Senegal			
Sierra Leone	X		
South Africa	X		
St Vincent & Grenadines	X		
Syria			
Trinidad & Tobago		X	14/10/2016
Tunisia			
Turkey			
UKOT			
United States			

Uruguay			
Vanuatu	X		
Venezuela	X		13/10/2016

**RESPONSES FROM COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES, ENTITIES OR FISHING ENTITIES
TO LETTERS OF CONCERN**

Flag	Letter regarding reporting deficiencies received by	Date of reply
Bolivia		
Chinese Taipei		
Guyana	X	
Suriname		

Letters from the Secretariat were sent informing these CPCs that their cooperating status had been renewed and reminding them of obligations under Rec. 03-20.

BELIZE

Subject: Letter of Concern regarding compliance issues in 2015

Dear Mr. Campbell,

Thank you for your letter dated February 12th 2016 in regards to the subject matter. In response thereto, please note the following:

a. The reporting summary of the Annual Report Part II was received late

Based on our records, our Annual Reports part I and II and annexes were submitted on 7th August and 27th July 2015 respectively, well in advance of the required deadline. The late submission of the Part II Summary Table was an administrative oversight on our part and once notified of its non-submission we immediately submitted the report on 27th October. We appreciate the importance of submitting reports on time so that they can be consolidated and assessed by the Secretariat. Belize have always submitted these reports in a timely manner and will ensure that all future reports are submitted on or before their deadline dates.

b. The Task II data were submitted in an incorrect format

Similar to the above this was an administrative error on our part. With the changes to the ICCAT reporting forms, we had neglected to update these forms in our system. We have ensured that the correct forms have been utilized in our subsequent submissions.

c. The North Swordfish management plan was not submitted in accordance with par.3 of Rec. 13-02

As there were no changes to our management plan since its previous submission, we did not deem it obligatory to re-submit the same document. As a result of the identification of non-compliance regarding this matter we acknowledge that regardless of changes made to the document or any document thereto, same should still be submitted. As such we have since submitted this document and will ensure its future annual submission.

d. Information on several vessels was submitted to the Secretariat for inclusion in the JC CAT regard of vessels with an authorization period that included dates more than 45 days prior to the date of submission.

As a result of the changes to the vessel reporting requirements and how vessels are included on the ICCAT website, there were some misunderstanding on our part which resulted in this non-compliance. However, with guidance from the Secretariat we were able to sort out this matter and have since made all our vessel submissions in accordance with Rec 13-13 and Rec 14-10.

We hope that the above address all the Committee's concerns. If any further clarification is required please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned. This Administration avails itself of the opportunity to renew the assurances of its highest consideration.

Sincerely,
(signed and stamped)
Valarie Lanza
Director of High Seas Fisheries
ICCAT Commissioner and Head Delegate

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Subject: Response from Côte d'Ivoire to the ICCAT Letter of Concern

Dear Compliance Committee Chair,

In the name of the Delegation of Côte d'Ivoire, I am writing this letter in response to your Letter of Concern transmitted to Côte d'Ivoire on 12 February 2016.

In the name of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, I note the data reporting deficiencies reported in 2014.

The internal measures implemented by my country to remedy these deficiencies are as follows:

- The team who processes ICCAT files has been strengthened with a statistician and more implication on behalf of two scientists for a better follow-up. This provision will allow to transmit a full report.
- As regards the Letter of prohibition due to the non-reporting of data for Task I in 2013, this issue was resolved at the 24th Regular meeting of the Commission, which was held in St. Julians (Malta) in 2015.
- Recommendation 13-02 applies to CPCs whose vessels actively fish for swordfish in the North Atlantic, and given that Côte d'Ivoire does not have vessels that target this species since 2010, and that this was clearly stated at the Commission meeting in Istanbul in 2011, we considered that it was not useful to draft a development plan which applied to this species.

Trusting that the Compliance Committee recognises the progress carried out by my country, I would like to guarantee that Côte d'Ivoire will continue to deploy every necessary effort to comply with its obligations with respect of ICCAT.

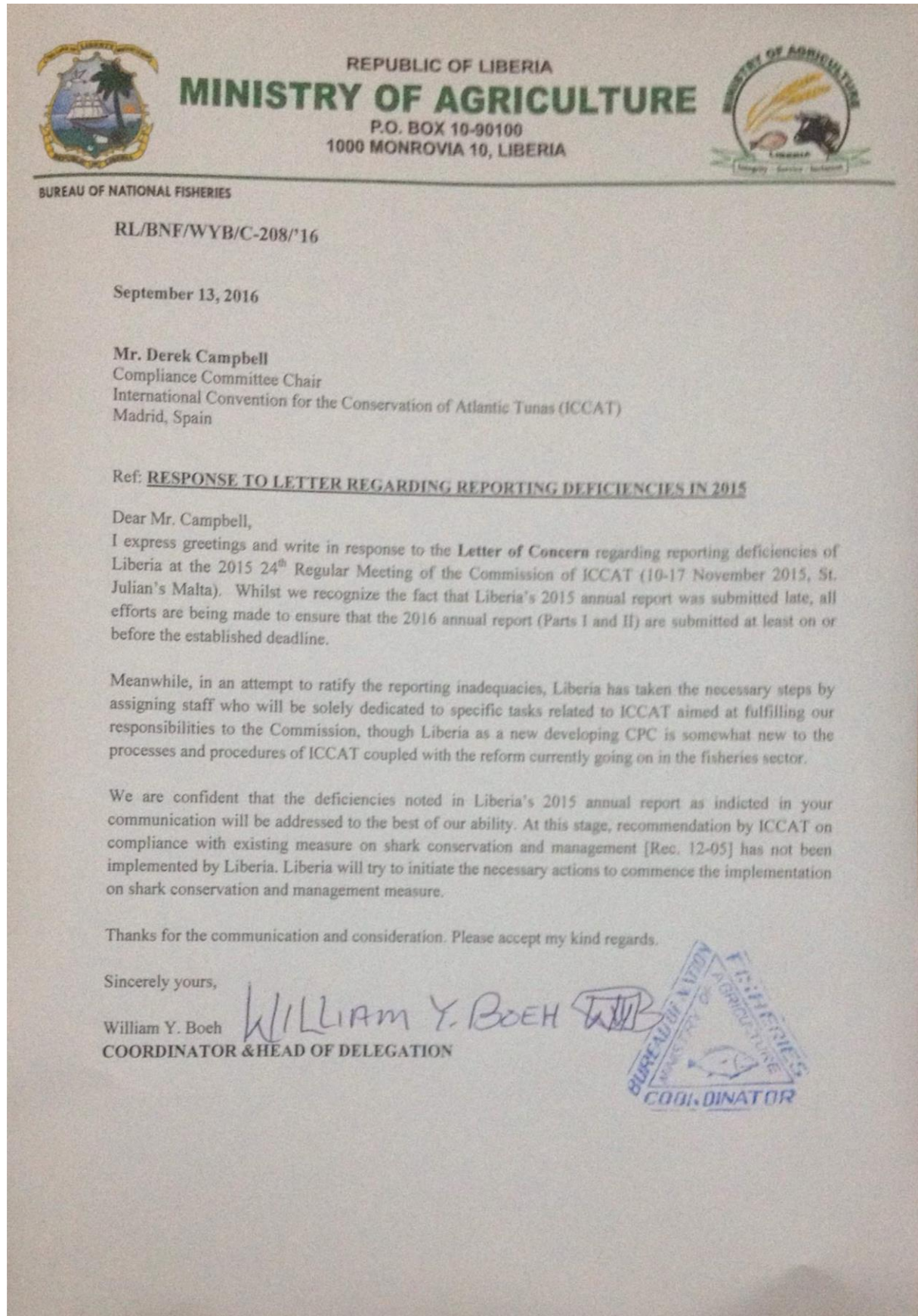
Please accept, Mr. Chair of the Compliance Committee, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Stamped and signed)

Shep Huguile

Cc: Mr. S. Depypere
Mr. D. Meski

LIBERIA



LIBYA

From: ceo@lfa.org.ly [mailto:ceo@lfa.org.ly]
Sent: 15 October 2016 00:56
To: info <info@iccat.int>
Subject: COMPLIANCE LETTER

Dear Secretariat,

We believe that the text below had been sent to you back in February 2016 by Dr. Ramadan Ali, the Head of Libyan ICCAT Counterpart team at that time.

Please inform us if any further clarification might be required.

Kind regards,
Mussab F. B. Alghawel
Coordinator in Charge
CPC Libya

"Dear Mr Campbell,

Reference is made to your letter of the 12th February.

Indeed last year was marked by several delays in submission of reports however it is comforting to note that there are no reprimands as far as the main issues are concerned and that is the regular and correct conduct of the fishing operations in line with ICCAT recommendations.

One has to bear in mind that unfortunately Libya is passing through an uncomfortable period in its evolution, and gathering of statistics and data from the various fishing localities can be at times difficult.

However we shall make our best endeavors to rectify the situation."

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Dear Mr Campbell,

SUBJECT: LETTER OF IDENTIFICATION

The Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago conveys its compliments to the Commission and its Secretariat and reaffirms its commitment to management of the Atlantic tuna and tuna-like fisheries for the benefit of existing and future generations.

Reference is made to your Letter of Identification dated 12 February, 2016 which in the main seeks responses relating to the following deficiencies identified with regard to Trinidad and Tobago's compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures:

- Task II catch and effort or size data were not submitted,
- Continued significant overharvest of blue marlin and white marlin and lack of domestic management measures in place for these fisheries, including logbook requirements and trade monitoring.

Task II data catch and effort and size submission

Please be assured that Trinidad and Tobago is fully cognisant of the importance of data and reporting deadlines in the context of the work of the Commission, including its Panels and Committees and the Secretariat. While the limitations and constraints expressed in previous responses to the Committee continue to be evident, data collection and reporting to the extent possible continue to be highly prioritised. In this regard, we wish to register the following significant improvements in our reporting for 2016:

1. Task II size data were submitted for the first time this year, albeit preliminary and past the deadline;
2. Trade measures import and landing data were submitted for the first time this year and on time.

Trinidad and Tobago faces considerable challenge in implementation of its data collection programme to provide length-based Task II size data, due mainly to lack of staffing. In this regard, the Fisheries Division continues to bring before the administration the necessity for expansion of its human resource capacity. However, we shall continue to prioritise the collection and submission of weight-based Task II size data and shall seek to improve on its reporting in 2017 and beyond.

Overharvest of blue marlin and white marlin

With respect to the control of marlin catches, we reported to the Compliance Committee in 2015 that various actions were being taken including the use of alternative bait and the close monitoring of landings. It is noteworthy that in 2015 there was a 27% decrease in landings of blue marlin and a 17% decrease in landings of white marlin in comparison to 2014 landings although it has not been determined whether this decrease was the direct result of the use of alternative bait.

Over the past year, cognisant of the level of overharvest and with focus on conservation of the resources, additional measures have been implemented as follows:

- Prohibition of export of blue marlin and white marlin with effect from April 2016 until further notice;

- Prohibition in the landing of all marlin, whether live or dead when caught, with effect from August 2016 until further notice; and
- Vessel captains are required to record marlin catch at sea, another step towards full implementation of logbooks.

In all instances the penalty for non-compliance will be revocation of the fishing licence.

Trinidad and Tobago wishes to reassure the Compliance Committee of its dedication to improving its management regime for Atlantic tuna and tuna-like species. We again hope for the understanding and support of the Committee on these matters and wish the Committee success in its 2016 deliberations.

The Trinidad and Tobago Delegation extends assurances of its highest consideration.

Yours sincerely

Director of Fisheries/ Trinidad and Tobago Head Delegate

VENEZUELA

Dr. Derek Campbell
Compliance Committee Chair
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

Honourable Doctor, allow me to take this opportunity to greet you. The purpose of this letter is in response to your correspondence S16-00925, dated 12 February 2016, whereby the Compliance Committee requests information regarding the information deficiencies identified following your revisions.

In this regard, I would like to clarify the following issues in your letter:

- Part II of the Annual Report and the reporting summary of Part II were not submitted: Part Part II was sent on 15 October 2015 to the following address: paul.debruyne@iccat.int and stats_info@iccat.int, which also includes the reporting summary of Part II.
- No Task I fleet characteristics were submitted: Task I ST01-T1FC FORMAT, Fleet Characteristics, was sent on 31 July 2015 to stats_info@iccat.int, in a file under the name VENSTAT 2015, together with the other formats corresponding to the tasks.
- North swordfish management plan was not submitted, in accordance with par. 3 of Rec. 13-02: The swordfish management plan was sent in CP-41 NSW0 Plan format, to the same address, stats_info@iccat.int, dated 14 September 2015.
- Continued overharvest of north albacore catches [Rec. 13-05]: As regards albacore catches, since 2014 and as part of the Action plan, Venezuela implemented the discards of this species aimed at reducing overharvest. Currently, a domestic Resolution is being developed to support it and will enter into force from 2017.
- Blue marlin overharvest since 2014 [Rec. 12-04]: The Secretariat should revise the data sent on blue marlin for 2014 as Venezuela has not reported overharvest in catch levels for this species.

Taking into account the above mentioned information, we kindly request that the Committee carries out a new revision upon which these information deficiencies were detected in order to determine Venezuela's compliance regarding the information requirements stated.

With the aim of complying with the Committee's requirements, please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ángel Belisario Martínez

Admiral, Ministry of People's Power for Fishing and Aquaculture