

Original: English

**ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES POSITION STATEMENT TO PANEL 3**

**Fisheries Division**

Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Transformation,  
Industry, Forestry & Fisheries Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Mr. Driss Meski  
Executive Secretary  
ICCAT  
Calle Corazón de María, 8, Sixth Floor,  
28002 Madrid  
Spain


Dear Sir,

The Fisheries Division, St. Vincent and the Grenadines is requesting an increase in quotas for the Northern Albacore and Southern Albacore Fishery. For the past four (4) years, St. Vincent and the Grenadines has been catching close to the catch limits afforded for both the Northern and Southern Albacore species. With the balance of quota available being less in 2015 than it was in 2014, this indicates that St Vincent and the Grenadines' vessels have the capacity to fish beyond the given quotas.

The Division is therefore requesting an increase in Northern Albacore from 200MT to 500MT and in Southern Albacore from 100MT to 300 MT.

Assessments for the SCRS stock 2016 indicated that both Albacore Species are not being overfished with no indication of overfishing taking place. Therefore, with the current management measures in place, there is no viable reason why St. Vincent and the Grenadines should be denied an increase quota.

Grateful for your consideration.

  
Jennifer Centok-Shore-Howard  
Chief Fisheries Officer  
Fisheries Division

The signature is a blue ink scribble that overlaps the circular stamp. The stamp contains the text: FISHERIES DIVISION, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Transformation, and FORESTRY, FISHERIES & INDUSTRY. The bottom half of the stamp is partially obscured by the signature.