MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FISHERIES

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Paramaribo, October 08, 2025

Compliance Committee Chair
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
Derek Campbell
Corazón de María, 8
28002 Madrid, Spain

Subject : Response to the Letter on Compliance Issues dated 11 September 2025
Our ref.no. : **DVis - 1276**
Annex(es) : - 1 -

Dear Sir,

On behalf of Suriname, we acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 11 September 2025 (No. S25-08831) concerning compliance issues related to ICCAT conservation and management measures.

Suriname started targeting tuna and tuna-like species in July 2023 with Surinamese-flagged longline vessels. Since then, we have been actively working to identify ways to implement a National Observer Program for our tuna vessels. However, this process is challenged by limited human and financial capacity. Despite these challenges, we remain committed to establishing the program.

In support of responsible fishing practices, the tuna vessel operators have taken the initiative to install **CCTV systems** on board their vessels for their own internal monitoring purposes. While this is not yet part of a formal national observer or electronic monitoring program, these efforts contribute to improved oversight of fishing activities and demonstrate the sector's commitment to responsible fishing and compliance with ICCAT objectives. The Directorate of Fisheries can have full access to the CCTV footage.

In December 2024, we expressed our interest to the company Capricorn Fisheries Monitoring cc (Capfish) regarding the provision of observers. Please find attached the requested quotation dated 7 January 2025 from Capfish to assist in the implementation of the National Observer Program for our tuna vessels. The main obstacle in acting upon the quotation has been financial constraints, which have delayed progress. Additionally, the political transition following the general elections held on 25 May 2025, and the recent installation of the new government only two months ago, has contributed to further delays in addressing these matters in a timely manner.

In the meantime, we have also contacted Shellcatch, a company that has already installed systems on ICCAT-registered vessels; their system is therefore compatible with ICCAT's Electronic Monitoring (EM) recommendations. We aim to start the implementation of EM through Shellcatch's vessel camera system (virtual observer) by the end of the year.

Suriname appreciates ICCAT's understanding and continued support. We remain committed to fulfilling all necessary requirements and will continue to keep the Commission informed of our progress.

Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Parveen Amritpersad, LLM
The Director of Fisheries