Responses from CPCs to Letters from the Chair of the Compliance Committee

This document contains responses and action plans sent in answer to letters from the Chair of the Compliance Committee received by **October 16, 2026.** Replies received after this deadline are contained in ***Addendum 1 to COC-309*.**

Annex 1: *Letters on Issues of Compliance sent in 2026 by the Chair of the Compliance Committee*.

Annex 2: *Additional information submitted by Angola.*

Annex 3: *Additional information submitted by Costa Rica.*

Annex 4: *Additional information submitted by Suriname.*

***Letter Type** (based on Ref. 22-18 and ***COC_308_App_2A/2025*):**
AP = Action Plan: As requested by the COC Chair in consultation with the Friends of the Chair Group.
ID = Identification: Considerable non-compliance for two consecutive years or longer.
II = Implementation Issues: Mainly regarding implementation of Rec. 11-09, Rec. 16-14, and Rec. 22-12.
NA = Not Applicable
NONE/NO ACTION = No letter sent. No noted actions.
OH = Overharvest: PNC regarding overharvest.
RI = Reporting Issues: PNC regarding required reporting.

CPC	***Letter Type****	***Response Received***	***Template(s) Completed Y/N***	***Action Plan***
Albania	RI/II/AP	13-October	Y	Action plan requested. Date sent: 13 October
Algeria	RI/II/AP	15-October	N	Action plan requested. Date sent: Not received
Angola	RI/II/AP	15-October	Y	***Updated*** action plan requested. Date sent: 15 October
Barbados	RI/II/OH/AP			***Updated*** action plan requested. Date sent:
Belize	RI	16-October	Y	NA
Brazil	RI/II/AP	**19-October**	**Y**	Action plan requested. Date sent: **19 October**
Cabo Verde	**ID**/RI/II/AP			***Updated*** action plan requested. Date sent:
Canada	II/AP	16-October	Y	Action plan requested. Date sent: 16 October
China PR	RI	13-October	Y	NA
Costa Rica	II/OH/AP	14-October	Y	Action plan requested. Date sent: 14 October
Côte d'Ivoire	RI/II/AP			***Updated*** action plan requested. Date sent:
Cuba	**NONE**	**NO ACTION**		
Curaçao	**NONE**	**NO ACTION**		
Egypt	RI/II/OH/AP	16-October	Y	Action plan requested. Date sent: 16 October
El Salvador	**NONE**	**NO ACTION**		
Equatorial Guinea	RI/II/AP			Action plan requested. Date sent:
European Union	RI	16-October	Y	NA
France SPM	**NONE**	**NO ACTION**		
Gabon	RI/II/AP	18-September	Y	Action plan requested. Date sent: 18 September
The Gambia	**ID**/RI/II/AP	**17-October**	**Y**	Action plan requested. Date sent: 17 October

CPC	***Letter Type****	***Response Received***	***Template(s) Completed Y/N***	***Action Plan***
Ghana	RI/II/AP	16-October	Y	Action plan requested. Date sent: 16 October
Grenada	**ID**/RI/AP			Action plan requested. Date sent:
Guatemala	RI/AP			Action plan requested. Date sent:
Guinea Bissau	**ID**/RI/II/AP	1-October	Y	Action plan requested. Date sent: 1 October
Guinea Rep.	RI/II/AP			***Updated*** action plan requested. Date sent:
Honduras	RI/II/AP			***Updated*** action plan requested. Date sent:
Iceland	**NONE**	**NO ACTION**		
Japan	**NONE**	**NO ACTION**		
Korea	**NONE**	**NO ACTION**		
Liberia	RI/II/AP	16-October	Y	***Updated*** action plan requested. Date sent: 16 October
Libya	RI/II/OH/AP			Action plan requested. Date sent:
Mauritania	RI/II/AP			Action plan requested. Date sent:
Mexico	**NONE**	**NO ACTION**		
Montenegro	**NONE**	***Not included in COC-308/2025***		
Morocco	**NONE**	**NO ACTION**		
Namibia	RI/II/OH/AP	15-October	Y	Action plan requested. Date sent: 15 October
Nicaragua	RI/AP			Action plan requested. Date sent:
Nigeria	RI/II/AP	15-October and 16-October	Y	Action plan requested (3rd request). Date sent: 16 October
Norway	**NONE**	**NO ACTION**		
Panama	**NONE**	**NO ACTION**		
Philippines	RI	16-October	Y	NA
Russia	**NONE**	**NO ACTION**		
São Tomé e Principe	**ID** RI/II/OH/AP			Action plan requested. Date sent:
Senegal	RI/OH	15-October	Y Responses sent in letter format.	NA
Sierra Leone	RI/II/AP			Action plan requested (3rd request). Date sent:
South Africa	RI	1-October	Y	NA
St. Vincent & Grenadines	RI/II/OH/AP	16-October	Y	***Updated*** action plan requested. Date sent: 16 October
Syria	RI/II/AP			Action plan requested. Date sent:
Togo	**NONE**	***Not included in COC-308/2025***		
Trinidad & Tobago	RI/II/AP			***Updated*** action plan requested. Date sent:
Tunisia	**NONE**	**NO ACTION**		
Türkiye	RI	22-September	Y	NA
United Kingdom	II/AP	15-October	N Responses sent in letter format.	Action plan requested. Date sent: Not received (see letter)
United States	RI	16 October	Y	NA
Uruguay	**NONE**	**NO ACTION**		
Venezuela	RI/II/OH/AP	**24-October**	**N**	Action plan requested. Date sent: Not received
Bolivia	**NONE**	**NO ACTION**		

CPC	*Letter Type**	*Response Received*	*Template(s) Completed Y/N*	*Action Plan*
Chinese Taipei	OH	23-September	Y	NA
Suriname	RI/II/AP	15-October	Y	Action plan requested. Date sent: 15 October
Guyana	RI/II/AP			Action plan requested. Date sent:

Compliance Letter Response Template

2025 COMMISSION MEETING			
CPC: ALBANIA			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	**SPECIFIC ELEMENTS**	**REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN***	**DATE MISSING/REQUESTED DATA & INFORMATION WAS SENT** *(if applicable)*
CATEGORY A			
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07: Compliance tables received late.	During the 2024 reporting year, all Statistics and Compliance-related submissions were transmitted through IOMS within the required deadlines. However, the final Annual Report was submitted late due to a misunderstanding regarding certain functionalities of the portal. To prevent similar issues in the future, Albania has provided training to newly appointed staff involved in the preparation and submission of information to ICCAT through IOMS, thereby strengthening institutional capacity and ensuring timely reporting.	
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions			
CATEGORY B			
Annual Report			
Statistical Data	No ST09 form sent (Rec. 16-14, national scientific observer programme).	During the reporting done in 2026 (reference year 2025) no ST09 form has been sent explaining the Observer program is focused on discards, by-catch or incidental catch of vulnerable species in the Albanian fleet of trawlers and small pelagic purse seiners in Adriatic Sea. Albania does not have the national BFT observer programmes in its two purse seiners for catching BFT (no ST09 form for reference year 2024 has been transmitted in IOMC at 13.10.2026. Reference nr. I26-001509)	No ST09 form for reference year 2024 has been transmitted in IOMC at 13.10.2026. Reference nr. I26-001509
Other Reports			
CATEGORY C			
MCS-Species Related			
MCS General	Rec. 16-14 (Paras 4 and 10): No information on the domestic observer programme in place was	During the reporting done in 2026 (reference year 2025) no ST09 form has been sent explaining the Observer program is focused on	No ST09 form for reference year 2024 has been transmitted in IOMC at 13.10.2026. Reference nr. I26-

	submitted through ST09. Some information in the Annual Report (under requirement S:GEN11 of *Part 1, Section 3 of the Annual Report ("Online Reporting") in IOMS* or in the Annual Report Word file under *Section 1.2 Research and statistics.*	discards, bycatch or incidental catch of vulnerable species in the Albanian fleet of trawlers and small pelagic purse seiners in Adriatic Sea. Albania does not have the national BFT observer programmes in its two purse seiners for catching BFT (no ST09 form for reference year 2024 has been transmitted in IOMC at 13.10.2026. Reference nr. I26-001509)	001509
Port Controls			
Vessel Controls			
OTHER	Vessel sighting without response (Rec. 19-09). See COC_303_Appendix5/25.	Following inspections carried out by the Albanian authorities, it was confirmed that the three vessels identified in the sighting report are Albanian fishing vessels duly registered in the ICCAT Record and holding valid authorizations to conduct bluefin tuna (BFT) fishing activities or supporting operations (tug vessels) during the fishing season. Based on these findings, no further action is required from Albania.	

* Relevant remedial actions should be applied broadly, to include actions taken or planned to address the matter identified by the COC and may include actions initiated by the CPC prior to COC raising the matter. Actions could include, inter alia, changes to applicable laws and regulations, policies, organizational structures, and enforcement priorities, as strengthening institutions such as through increased funding and seeking/participating in capacity building and technical assistance.

Action Plan Response Template
2025 Commission Meeting

CPC (Contracting Party/Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity):

Albania

Date of submission or revision *(Day/Month/Year)*: **13/10/2026**

DEFICIENCES TO BE ADDRESSED
Rec. 18-07 - Compliance tables received late. Statistical Data - No ST09 form sent (Rec. 16-14, national scientific observer programme). Rec. 16-14 (Paras 4 and 10) - No information on the domestic observer programme in place was submitted through ST09. Some information in the Annual Report (under requirement S:GEN11 of Part 1, Section 3 of the Annual Report ("Online Reporting") in IOMS or in the Annual Report Word file under Section 1.2 Research and statistics. Other - Vessel sighting without response (Rec. 19-09)
SUMMARY INTRODUCTION
This Action Plan has been developed to address the deficiencies identified during the 2025 ICCAT Compliance Committee review. The issues concern the late submission of the Annual Report through IOMS, the absence of the ST09 observer programme form, and the delayed response regarding a vessel sighting report. Albania has already taken corrective measures to address these matters and is committed to strengthening internal reporting procedures, improving staff capacity, and ensuring full compliance with ICCAT reporting and monitoring obligations.
ACTION ITEMS
Albania has strengthened its internal procedures for ICCAT reporting by designating responsible staff and providing additional training on the use of the IOMS platform to ensure timely and accurate submissions. The missing ST09 form for the national observer programme has been submitted, and observer programme reporting will be systematically included in future annual reporting exercises. Furthermore, internal coordination and follow-up mechanisms have been reinforced to ensure that compliance-related communications, including vessel sighting reports and requests from the ICCAT Secretariat, are reviewed and addressed without delay. These measures aim to prevent the recurrence of administrative shortcomings and ensure full compliance with ICCAT obligations.
PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
The Directorate for Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy will coordinate implementation of the Action Plan. Reporting responsibilities have been assigned to designated officers responsible for compliance, statistics, and international fisheries obligations. A compliance monitoring checklist has been developed before each ICCAT reporting deadline. Internal quality control procedures will ensure that all required forms, are completed and submitted through IOMS within the established deadlines. Resources required for implementation will be covered through existing administrative and human resources.
TIMELINE / INCREMENTAL BENCHMARKS FOR COMPLETION

Action	Timeline
Designation of responsible officers and backup staff	Completed
Training on IOMS reporting procedures	Completed during 2025-2026
Submission of missing ST09 form for reference year 2024	Completed on 13 October 2026 (Ref. I26-001509)
Establishment of internal reporting calendar	Immediate and ongoing
Submission of all ICCAT reports within deadlines	Immediate and ongoing
Response procedure for vessel sighting reports operational	Immediate and ongoing

EXPECTED IMPROVEMENTS / OUTCOMES IN THE NEXT YEAR

- **Full compliance with ICCAT reporting deadlines.**
- **Timely submission of all mandatory forms, including ST09.**
- **Improved institutional capacity and staff familiarity with IOMS.**
- **Enhanced internal coordination for compliance-related communications.**
- **Timely responses to ICCAT requests and vessel sighting reports.**
- **Reduction of administrative errors and reporting omissions.**

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED / ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS TAKEN

The late submission of the Annual Report resulted from a misunderstanding regarding certain functionalities of the IOMS portal rather than from a lack of information. To address this issue, Albania provided training to newly appointed staff and strengthened internal coordination mechanisms.

Regarding the observer programme reporting, the national observer programme focuses primarily on discards, by-catch and incidental catches of vulnerable species in the Adriatic Sea fleet. The omission of the ST09 form was due to a misunderstanding of reporting requirements. The missing ST09 form for reference year 2024 was submitted through IOMS on 13 October 2026 (Reference No. I26-001509).

Concerning the vessel sighting report, inspections conducted by the Albanian authorities confirmed that the vessels concerned were duly authorized and registered in the ICCAT Record. No infringement was identified and no further action was required.

CONCLUDING SUMMARY

Albania remains fully committed to fulfilling its obligations under the ICCAT Convention and Recommendations. The deficiencies identified are primarily administrative in nature and have already been addressed through corrective actions, including staff training, submission of the missing ST09 form, and strengthening internal reporting and compliance procedures. Albania is confident that these measures will ensure timely reporting and prevent the recurrence of similar issues in future reporting cycles.

LIST OF APPENDICES AND ATTACHMENTS

[If applicable, list appendices or attachments with additional information, such as copies or excerpts of relevant laws, regulations, administrative actions, procedures, and policies]

Compliance Letter Response Template

2025 COMMISSION MEETING			
CPC: ALGERIA			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	**SPECIFIC ELEMENTS**	**REMEDIAL ACTION BY THE CPC***	**DATE MISSING/REQUESTED DATA & INFORMATION WAS SENT** *(if applicable)*
CATEGORY A			
Compliance Tables			
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions			
CATEGORY B			
Annual Report			
Statistical Data	Form ST01 received late (Rec. 66-01 and Rec. 05-09).	Form ST01, submitted via the IOMS platform.	Form processed on 14-07-2026 with number (I26-001008).
	Form ST06 not submitted (Rec. 22-08 and Rec. 24-05).	Algeria did not take part in the fattening of the bluefin tuna during the year indicated.	No form submitted / not applicable.
	Form ST09 not submitted (Rec. 16-14 domestic scientific observers programme).	Algeria did not take part in the fattening of the bluefin tuna during the year indicated.	No form submitted / not applicable.
Other Reports	Rec. 18-06 Shark check sheet received late.	Action was taken to complete and update the check sheet, even for the species without direct or commercial interaction with the Algerian fishery.	11 September 2024, an update will be submitted if necessary.
CATEGORY C			
MCS-Species Related	Rec. 23- 21: BCD annual reports for 2022-2025 received late.	Action was taken to resent all the eBCD annual reports.	All reports (2022-2025) resent on 15/10/2026.
MCS General	Rec. 16-14 (paragraphs 4 and 10): Observer coverage <5%. No information on the domestic observers programme in place has been communicated through form ST09 or the Annual Report (in accordance with requirement S:GEN11 of Part 1, Section 3 of the Annual Report ("online reporting" in the IOMS). Some	Compliance with the requirement for on board scientific observers, as provided for in Recommendation 16-14, is hampered by practical constraints linked to the configuration of the fleet targeting swordfish. The main difficulty stems from the small size of artisanal fishing vessels (less than 15 metres, as recorded on form SWO-CP01), whose dimensions and conditions do not allow for the embarkation of scientific personnel. In view of this constraint, Algeria has implemented an alternative approach to scientific monitoring, aimed at ensuring data collection comparable to	

	information is contained in the Word file of the Annual Report.	that which would be provided by an onboard observer programme. This approach is based on two complementary components: 1. The deployment of scientific personnel at landing ports. Researchers from the National Centre for Fisheries and Aquaculture Research and Development (CNRDPA), as well as those assigned to regional stations, carry out catch sampling at the main landing sites. 2. Coverage provided by fisheries administration staff. Fisheries and aquaculture inspectors stationed in ports collect data in accordance with a programme established in consultation and coordination with the research centre. These staff are present at all landing sites, ensuring extensive coverage of the relevant fleet. The results of this sampling are reported annually to ICCAT in Algeria's Annual Report. They include, in particular, the biological analysis of catches, specifically the size structure and size-weight relationship of the species sampled.	
Port Controls			
Vessel Controls			
OTHER	No response received to COC Chair letter.		Response submitted on 15/10/2026.

Compliance Letter Response Template

2025 COMMISSION MEETING			
CPC: ANGOLA			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	**SPECIFIC ELEMENTS**	**REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN***	**DATE MISSING/REQUESTED DATA & INFORMATION WAS SENT** *(if applicable)*
CATEGORY A			
Compliance Tables	Rec. 22-11: Overharvest of SMA-S: -0.15 t.	– MINPERMAR maintains close monitoring of catch records and quota compliance to prevent recurrence. Law No 6-A/04 considers, among other things, the violation of international provisions and measures for the management and conservation of high seas resources - including those set forth in applicable legislation - to be a serious offense (Article 234 (2)(b); – The vessel concerned was not authorized to catch SMA in 2025, as a corrective measure. – The operators are obliged to present to the SNFPA the catch, bycatch including those of prohibited species that must be released, specifying the conditions in which these species are released;	15 October 2026
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions			
CATEGORY B			
Annual Report			
Statistical Data	No ST01 form sent (Rec. 66-01 and Rec. 05-09).	– The form ST01 for 2024 was reviewed and successfully submitted together with STO1 2025. Data for the years 2015 – 2020 from the artisanal fishery has also been submitted (now under analysis by IOMS). – The internal regulations of the Ministerial departments are under review and this is seen as an opportunity to incorporate the TUNA UNIT in the appropriate and specific section.	15 October 2026
	No ST09 form sent (Rec. 16-14, national scientific observer programme).	– Information on the national scientific observer program was compiled, gaps identified and the required ST09 for 2024 was successfully submitted and	

		accepted by ICCAT COC; • To prevent future shortcomings, training and capacity building will be scheduled.	
Other Reports			
CATEGORY C			
MCS-Species Related			
MCS General	Rec. 16-14 (Paras 4 and 10): No information on the domestic observer programme in place was submitted through ST09 or in the Annual Report (under requirement S:GEN11 of *Part 1, Section 3 of the Annual Report ("Online Reporting") in IOMS.* Some information in the Annual Report Word file under *Section 1.2 Research and statistics.*	• This information has been reviewed and consolidated. The program is missing only a scientific capacity building. Missing information on the domestic observer program implementation was consolidated. • 4. The technicians who have benefited from ICCAT capacity building program are encouraged to continue with the task of training others to increase the number of skilled technicians at a national level; • Such actions are envisioned to start from December 2026 and onwards depending on the available financial and logistical conditions	15 October 2026
Port Controls			
Vessel Controls			
OTHER			

* Relevant remedial actions should be applied broadly, to include actions taken or planned to address the matter identified by the COC and may include actions initiated by the CPC prior to COC raising the matter. Actions could include, inter alia, changes to applicable laws and regulations, policies, organizational structures, and enforcement priorities, as strengthening institutions such as through increased funding and seeking/participating in capacity building and technical assistance.

Action Plan Response Template
2025 Commission Meeting

CPC (Contracting Party/Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity):

ANGOLA

Date of submission or revision *(15/10/2026)*:

DEFICIENCES TO BE ADDRESSED
[List the specific issues identified by the COC in its letter to the CPC] 1. Rec. 22-11: Overharvest of SMA-S: -0.15 t. 2. Statistical Data: No ST01 form sent (Rec. 66-01 and Rec. 05-09). 3. No ST09 form sent (Rec. 16-14, national scientific observer programme). 4. The Secretariat noticed that no domestic observer programme in place was submitted through ST09 or in the Annual Report; 5. *Section 3 of the Annual Report ("Online Reporting") in IOMS*. Some information in the Annual Report Word file under *Section 1.2 Research and statistics.*
SUMMARY INTRODUCTION
[Provide a brief context on the issues and the purpose of this Action Plan] 1. Angola had a quota of 2 tons of shortfin mako in 2024 (SMA) and reported 2.145 tons. 2. Statistical Data form ST01(Rec. 66-01 and Rec. 05-09) for 2024 was sent but some information was incomplete. 3. ST09 form for 2024 was sent late (Rec. 16-14, national scientific observer programme). 4. Missing information on the domestic observer programme implementation was incomplete that is why it was not reflected neither in STO9 nor the Annual Report. 5. For Research and Statistics section, Angola has been submitting information on catch, effort and size but only for one single industrial vessel (registered at the time). Limitations on this is related to artisanal and sport fishery data. There is no national scientific program directed specifically to tuna and tuna-like species yet.
ACTION ITEMS
[List and describe the concrete steps the CPC will implement, including where applicable the legally binding nature of the action] 1. MINPERMAR maintains close monitoring of catch records and quota compliance to prevent recurrence. Law no 6-A/04 considers, among other things, the violation of international provisions and measures for the management and conservation of high seas resources—including those set forth in applicable legislation—to be a serious offense (Article 234 (2)(b); 2. The form ST01 for 2024 was reviewed and successfully submitted together with STO1 2025. Data for the years 2015 – 2020 from the artisanal fishery has also been submitted (now under analysis by IOMS). 3. Information on the national scientific observer programme was compiled, gaps identified and the required ST09 for 2024 was successfully submitted and accepted by ICCAT COC; 4. This information has been reviewed and consolidated. The program is in place missing only a scientific capacity building. Missing information on the domestic observer programme implementation was consolidated. 5. Currently, a scientific program is being drafted to address this limitation and start collecting the necessary data in the near future.
PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
[Describe how each action will be executed, responsible parties, and resource allocation]
1. MINPERMAR as the implementing Agent in close collaboration with the responsible Directorates or Institutions such as the National Directorate of Marine Resources (DNRM) and National Surveillance Services of Monitoring of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SNFPA) has taken some actions which include: • The vessel concerned was not authorized to catch SMA in 2025, as a corrective measure. • The operators are obliged to present to the SNFPA the catch, bycatch including those prohibited species that must be released, specifying the conditions in which these species are released;

2. Assess the establishment of a dedicated statistical unit or team within MINPERMAR, taking into account the Ministry's current legal and organizational structure. Strengthen the collection of small tuna biological data (catches and size measurements).
3. To prevent future shortcomings, training and a capacity building will be scheduled.
4. The technicians who have benefitted from ICCAT capacity building program are encouraged to continue with the task of training others in order to increase the number of skilled technicians at a national level;
5. MINPERMAR, DNRM, SNFPA, INIPM and IPA are entitled for the implementation of the plan.

TIMELINE / INCREMENTAL BENCHMARKS FOR COMPLETION

[Outline the schedule with milestones for each corrective action, including where applicable dates that planned actions will enter into effect]

1. For this specific issue, actions stated on February 2025 and still ongoing. Capacity building for the technicians has been scheduled for the second term of November 2026 for the collection of more robust data.
2. The establishment of the aforementioned unit or team is envisioned to be between October 2026 – March 2027
3. Under the supervision of the competent Ministerial Agents, training and capacity building are predicted as from January 20277 and onwards with the possible support of Blue Economy-Angola Initiative
4. Such actions are envisioned to start from December 2026 and onwards depending on the available financial and logistical conditions
5. Scheduled for the year 2027

EXPECTED IMPROVEMENTS / OUTCOMES IN THE NEXT YEAR

[Specify measurable improvements expected as a result of the plan]

1. Better control of fishing activities and improved data
2. A specific team dealing with ICCAT issues. Improved statistical information and timely response to ICCAT requests.
3. Improve data collection methods and statistical information
4. Technicians are habilitated to perform accurately the required tasks
5. More scientific information on stocks status such as reproduction, recruitment and growth and other important parameters. This will also bring improvements on quality data to be used in tuna and tuna-like species groups.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED / ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS TAKEN

[Describe any challenges faced during implementation and adjustments made]

1. Lack of appropriate information on ICCAT species-specific recommendations (SMA-S).
2. A budget directed to attend the demands of activities related to tuna and tuna-like species is a challenge that needs attention.
3. Reduced number of scientific researchers available to work onboard the vessels. Financial limitations for technical capacity building.
4. Limited financial and logistical resources
5. Limited financial and logistical resources, scientific capacity building and research equipment.

CONCLUDING SUMMARY

[Summarise the overall approach and commitment to resolving the deficiencies]

1. Continuous training, capacity building and workshops for the technicians and operators on ICCAT Regulations and Recommendations.
2. The internal regulations of the Ministerial departments are under review and this is seen as an opportunity to incorporate the TUNA UNIT in the appropriate and specific section.
3. Timely submission of the required information;
4. Most of the challenges are tied to better financial capabilities, technical and scientific knowledge necessary to carry out the activities;

LIST OF APPENDICES AND ATTACHMENTS

[If applicable, list appendices or attachments with additional information, such as copies or excerpts of relevant laws, regulations, administrative actions, procedures, and policies]

Compliance Letter Response Template

2025 COMMISSION MEETING			
CPC: BELIZE			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	**SPECIFIC ELEMENTS**	**REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN***	**DATE MISSING/REQUESTED DATA & INFORMATION WAS SENT** *(if applicable)*
CATEGORY A			
Compliance Tables			
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions			
CATEGORY B			
Annual Report			
Statistical Data	No ST07 form sent (Rec. 24-01).	Belize has updated and submitted its ST07 data report via IOMS on 16 October 2026. Belize is also coordinating a virtual meeting with ICCAT's Scientific staff, to further discuss Belize's data gaps and a strategy for improving data submission.	
	No ST08 form sent (Rec. 24-01).	Belize is coordinating a virtual meeting on with ICCAT's scientific staff to further discuss this report and obtain guidance to address the missing data and subsequently submit to ICCAT.	
	No ST09 form sent (Rec. 16-14, national scientific observer programme).		
Other Reports			
CATEGORY C			
MCS-Species Related			
MCS General	Rec. 16-14 (Paras 4 and 10): No information on the domestic observer programme in place was submitted through ST09. Some information in the Annual Report (under requirement S:GEN11 of *Part 1, Section 3 of the Annual Report ("Online Reporting") in IOMS* or in the Annual Report Word file under *Section 1.2 Research and statistics.*	Belize acknowledges that it did not meet the required human observer coverage for its purse seine fleet during the reporting period, and that the associated data submission was incomplete. During this period, some of Belize's purse seine vessels supplemented human observer coverage with electronic monitoring systems from service providers that are not contracted under Belize's national Electronic Monitoring Program. Because these systems fall outside the national program, Belize was unable to verify the data collected or count it toward its observer coverage obligations. Belize is working with the vessel owners concerned to align their	

		monitoring arrangements with the requirements of the national EM Program and the at-sea observer program.	
Port Controls			
Vessel Controls			
OTHER			

* Relevant remedial actions should be applied broadly, to include actions taken or planned to address the matter identified by the COC and may include actions initiated by the CPC prior to COC raising the matter. Actions could include, inter alia, changes to applicable laws and regulations, policies, organizational structures, and enforcement priorities, as strengthening institutions such as through increased funding and seeking/participating in capacity building and technical assistance.

Compliance Letter Response Template

2025 COMMISSION MEETING			
CPC: CANADA			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	**SPECIFIC ELEMENTS**	**REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN***	**DATE MISSING/REQUESTED DATA & INFORMATION WAS SENT** *(if applicable)*
CATEGORY A			
Compliance Tables			
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions			
CATEGORY B			
Statistical Data	Annual Report IOMS *Section 1 (STATs)* received late.	Due to a clerical oversight in its initial annual reporting, Canada did not submit Section 1 (STATs) within IOMS. Upon identifying the error, Canada promptly provided the required information to the ICCAT Secretariat and would like to clarify that the data was submitted through the Annual Report by 15 September as required. Responsibilities between DFO teams for the IOMS submissions have been clarified and, in 2026, Annual Report IOMS Section 1 (STATs) was submitted on time.	Submission was completed once flagged by the Secretariat, two days after the deadline, on 17 September. Now that the requirements have been clarified, this error is not expected to recur.
Other Reports			
CATEGORY C			
MCS-Species Related			
MCS General	Rec. 16-14 (Paras 4 and 10): Observer coverage <5% (LL 3.00% Ntrip).	Canada recognizes the importance of meeting ICCAT observer coverage requirements and remains committed to strengthen its capacity to fulfill these obligations. Over the past several years, a number of factors have affected observer coverage levels. First, the COVID-19 pandemic led to a significant loss of experienced at-sea observers, many of whom transitioned to other sectors during periods when observer deployments were limited. While observer companies have worked to rebuild capacity, recruiting, training, and retaining qualified sea-going observers continues to present challenges. These circumstances have placed sustained pressure on Canada's observer program and have affected	

		coverage levels in certain fisheries. The challenge is further compounded by Canada's responsibility to meet observer requirements not only under ICCAT, but also across a range of domestic fisheries and other international management frameworks, all of which rely on a finite pool of qualified observers. Canada has taken steps domestically for the third consecutive year to address these challenges and improve monitoring and compliance outcomes. This has included ongoing engagement with observer service providers, industry representatives, scientists, and enforcement officials to reinforce the importance of observer coverage and identify practical measures to maximize deployment opportunities. In 2026, Canada reduced ASO coverage targets in other fisheries to make more observers available to Canada's pelagic longline fleet fishing for ICCAT species. In 2025, Canada also explored complementary monitoring approaches, including a pilot initiative involving the use of onboard cameras and electronic monitoring technologies. While these measures are not intended to replace existing observer obligations, they reflect Canada's continued efforts to strengthen fisheries monitoring, improve data collection, and support long-term program resilience. In the future, Canada would like to explore ways through which EMS systems could be considered as an equivalent solution to scientific observers. More information on actions taken to resolve the issue can be found in Canada's plan of action. Through regular consultations and collaborative problem-solving with stakeholders, Canada has sought to identify operational efficiencies, improve logistical coordination, and support observer companies in addressing staffing constraints. These efforts are part of a broader commitment to rebuild observer capacity, enhance monitoring programs, and improve coverage levels over time. Sustained efforts in recent years are starting to yield results as Canada's coverage for 2025 has increased to 4.8% from 3% the	

		previous year. Canada remains fully committed to achieving compliance with ICCAT requirements and continues to pursue both immediate and longer-term measures to address observer shortages. Restoring observer capacity and strengthening fisheries monitoring remain priorities, and Canada will continue working closely with industry, service providers, and relevant authorities to support sustainable and effective implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures.	
Port Controls			
Vessel Controls			
OTHER			

* Relevant remedial actions should be applied broadly, to include actions taken or planned to address the matter identified by the COC and may include actions initiated by the CPC prior to COC raising the matter. Actions could include, inter alia, changes to applicable laws and regulations, policies, organizational structures, and enforcement priorities, as strengthening institutions such as through increased funding and seeking/participating in capacity building and technical assistance.

Action Plan Response Template
2025 Commission Meeting

CPC (Contracting Party/Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity):

CANADA

Date of submission or revision: 16/10/2026

DEFICIENCES TO BE ADDRESSED
[List the specific issues identified by the COC in its letter to the CPC]
1. Scientific observer coverage <5% (LL 3.00% Ntrip) in 2024.
SUMMARY INTRODUCTION
[Provide a brief context on the issues and the purpose of this Action Plan]
- In recent years, observer coverage levels have been affected by several factors, including the loss of experienced observers following the COVID-19 pandemic, and challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified personnel. - The purpose of this action plan is to present concrete actions taken by Canada to increase its scientific observer coverage to 5% in pelagic longline fisheries.
ACTION ITEMS
[List and describe the concrete steps the CPC will implement, including where applicable the legally binding nature of the action]
- Canadian vessels subject to ICCAT requirements for scientific observers continue to be obligated, through the conditions on fishing licences, to take observers on board when directed to do so by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), subject to the ability of observer providers to make an observer available. - In 2025, DFO arranged four collaborative meetings with stakeholders and partners and the at-sea observer (ASO) provider in Atlantic Canada, a private entity. The purpose of these meetings was to articulate the ASO needs for these large pelagic fisheries, to monitor ASO progress against targets, and to support the ASO company in gaining the necessary level of ASO coverage. - In 2025, the Pelagic Longline (PLL) fleet, with the support of DFO, piloted electronic monitoring systems (EMS) using two different vessels. A three-camera system per vessel monitored the catch, both retained and released, from these vessels. The results of the pilot are still pending. While EMS does not resolve Canada's immediate need to meet the minimum ICCAT ASO requirements, Canada would like to explore ways through which EMS systems could be considered as an equivalent solution in the future. - In 2026, DFO reduced the ASO coverage target on domestic groundfish fisheries from 100% to 50% and requested that coverage of the PLL fleet be prioritized during the peak period of the large pelagic fishery. - In 2026 for the PLL fleet, DFO increased the ASO vessel pick rate to 100% from July to the end of the large pelagic season in November, which means that every PLL vessel is asked to take an ASO on board during that period.
PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
[Describe how each action will be executed, responsible parties, and resource allocation]
- DFO will continue to engage with all relevant parties to ensure that at-sea observers are made available for the pelagic longline fleet. - DFO will continue to consider opportunities to shift observer capacity from non-ICCAT fisheries to make observers available for the pelagic longline fleet to meet ICCAT standards. - In late 2026, DFO will meet with the major Atlantic Canada fishing organizations to establish an industry-government working group to identify a path forward to improving observer availability and monitoring capacity generally. In addition to approaches to increase observer availability, technological solutions such as electronic monitoring and artificial intelligence will be explored. - DFO managers and scientists will continue analysis on the use of EMS to help meet scientific observer coverage standards to inform future initiatives.
TIMELINE / INCREMENTAL BENCHMARKS FOR COMPLETION
[Outline the schedule with milestones for each corrective action, including where applicable dates that planned actions will enter into effect]

In 2025, Canada's efforts to increase at-sea observer coverage yielded results as the coverage for that year reached 4.8 percent, compared to 3 percent the previous year. Canada hopes that the reduction of coverage requirements in other Atlantic fisheries in 2026 will have allowed our scientific observer coverage to reach 5% for that year.

The outcomes of the industry–government working group on fisheries monitoring referenced above are expected to become available by 2028, at which time DFO will assess the output and consider next steps. Furthermore, Canada wishes to explore standards to have EMS as an option to replace scientific observers in the coming years, including at the EMS-WG.

EXPECTED IMPROVEMENTS / OUTCOMES IN THE NEXT YEAR

[Specify measurable improvements expected as a result of the plan]

See above.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED / ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS TAKEN

[Describe any challenges faced during implementation and adjustments made]

While DFO has taken many initiatives to increase scientific observer coverage in ICCAT pelagic longline fisheries, the systemic nature of the issue, namely that observers left the profession during the pandemic, slows down the progress made as a result of these initiatives.

CONCLUDING SUMMARY

[Summarise the overall approach and commitment to resolving the deficiencies]

Since first being identified for non-compliance related to scientific observer coverage in 2023, Canada has engaged with all relevant parties to increase the availability of observers for our ICCAT pelagic longline fleet. Despite concerted efforts by all, there is no quick solution to this issue as there are not enough observers to cover all fisheries in Atlantic Canada. This effort has nonetheless shown progress with a coverage of 4.8% in 2025. We hope that the reduction of observer coverage requirements in other fisheries for 2026 will mark Canada's return above the 5% threshold this year.

LIST OF APPENDICES AND ATTACHMENTS

[If applicable, list appendices or attachments with additional information, such as copies or excerpts of relevant laws, regulations, administrative actions, procedures, and policies]

Compliance Letter Response Template

2025 COMMISSION MEETING			
CPC: CHINA			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	**SPECIFIC ELEMENTS**	**REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN***	**DATE MISSING/REQUESTED DATA & INFORMATION WAS SENT** *(if applicable)*
CATEGORY A			
Compliance Tables			
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions			
CATEGORY B			
Annual Report			
Statistical Data			
Other Reports			
CATEGORY C			
MCS-Species Related	Rec. 11-09: CP44 form (seabirds) received late. Information in Annual Report.	Enhance the internal cooperation between data team and compliance team. Cross check the data and relevant forms Standardized the reporting procedure to accelerate the reporting process	
MCS General			
Port Controls			
Vessel Controls			
OTHER			

* Relevant remedial actions should be applied broadly, to include actions taken or planned to address the matter identified by the COC and may include actions initiated by the CPC prior to COC raising the matter. Actions could include, inter alia, changes to applicable laws and regulations, policies, organizational structures, and enforcement priorities, as strengthening institutions such as through increased funding and seeking/participating in capacity building and technical assistance.

Compliance letter response template

2025 COMMISSION MEETING			
CPC: COSTA RICA			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	**SPECIFIC ELEMENTS**	**REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN**	**DATE MISSING/REQUESTED DATA & INFORMATION WAS SENT** *(if applicable)*
CATEGORY A			
Compliance Tables	Rec. 24-10, and Rec. 19-05: Overharvest >5 years SWO-N (no quota, 2024: -338.08 t) and BUM (2024 balance: -365.31 t).	**SWO-N:** 1. Submission of scientific document SCRS/2022/161 (attached) with historical SWO-N statistics to the Meeting of the Subcommittee on Statistics, hybrid, 2022. 2. Submission of Statement to Panel 4 by Costa Rica and Development or Fisheries/Management Plan for Northern Swordfish (Apendice9_Anexo8_2024_SPA /Appendix9_Annex8_2024 _ENG of the *Report for the biennial period 2024-25 Part I (2024) – Vol. 1*, attached) to the Meeting of Panel 4, Limassol, 2024. 3. Payback of overharvest in 2025 through adoption of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on conservation and management measures, including a management procedure, for North Atlantic swordfish* (Rec. 24-10), at the 24th Special Meeting of the Commission, Limassol, 2024. This Recommendations allocates a catch limit of 75 t to Costa Rica and a transfer from the United States of 300 t. 4. Adoption of national standard AJDIP/037-2026 (attached) that establishes an annual catch limit of 75 t and a minimum size of 25 kg. **BUM:** 1. Submission of scientific document SCRS/2022/161 with historical BUM statistics to the Meeting of the Subcommittee on Statistics, hybrid, 2022. 2. Submission of the draft Recommendation by ICCAT	

		(PA4_806/2025, attached) to pay back overharvest with transfers to the Meeting of Panel 4, Seville, 2025 (not adopted). 3. Submission (in conjunction with other CPCs) of Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to grant provisional measures to developing coastal ICCAT CPCs for extenuating circumstances resulting from Recommendation 19-05 (25-06, attached) to the Meeting of Panel 4 and 29th Regular Meeting of the Commission, Seville, 2025. This Recommendation was adopted and ceases application of the 125% penalty for the years 2024 and 2025 and increases the landing limit to 20 t in 2025 and 2026. 4. Express request for waiver of overharvest for Costa Rica at the Meeting of Panel 4 and 29th Regular Meeting of the Commission, Seville, 2025. 5. Adoption of national standard AJDIP/035-2026 (attached) that establishes a landing limit of 7.5 t. 6. Adoption of national standard AJDIP/036-2026 (attached) that establishes the obligation to release live individuals and the adoption of the Minimum Standards for safe handling and release procedures for live specimens. 7. Adoption of a new interpretation of the penalty of Rec. 19-05, paragraph 3 (b), in the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4, online, 2026. This new interpretation penalizes CPCs with overharvest with 25% of the overharvest incurred in a given year, after two consecutive years of overharvest. 8. Submission of Costa Rica on its particular situation in relation to BUM through document PA4_07_SPA /PA4_07_ENG (attached), in the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4, online, 2026. 9. Express request for waiver of overharvest for Costa Rica at the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4, online, 2026 (not adopted).	

		10. Support for proposals to modify Rec. 19-05, submitted by the United States and Belize at the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4, online, 2026. The intention is also to support them at the 25th Special Meeting of the Commission, Vilamoura, 2026.	
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions			
CATEGORY B			
Annual Report			
Statistical Data	No data in ST04 form (Rec. 66-01 and Rec. 05-09).	See actions described in Category C, MCS General.	
	No data in ST09 form (Rec. 16-14, national scientific observer programme).	See actions described in Category C, MCS General.	In official letter S26-07729 it was indicated that Costa Rica did not send form ST09, but it was sent on 07/10/2025.
Other Reports			
CATEGORY C			
MCS-Species Related			
MCS General	Rec. 16-14 (Paras 4 and 10): No information on the domestic observer programme in place was submitted through ST09. Some information in the Annual Report (under requirement S:GEN11 of *Part 1, Section 3 of the Annual Report ("Online Reporting") in IOMS* or in the Annual Report Word file under *Section 1.2 Research and statistics*.	1. Development and implementation of a fishing set registration form to obtain discard information (attached). 2. Implementation of a pilot plan for onboard observers (human and electronic) (attached document INCOPESCA-PE-0402-2026 and corresponding template, with description of progress). 3. Development and implementation of the Onboard Observer (human and electronic) Programme of the Costa Rican Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture through standard AJDIP/229-2026 (attached), with the collaboration of the FAO.	
Port Controls			
Vessel Controls			
OTHER			

Action Plan Response Template
2025 Commission Meeting

CPC (Contracting Party/Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity):

Costa Rica

Date of submission or revision: 15/10/2026

DEFICIENCES TO BE ADDRESSED
1. Rec. 24-10, and Rec. 19-05: Overharvest >5 years SWO-N (no quota, 2024: -338.08 t) and BUM (2024 balance: -365.31 t). 2. No data in ST04 form (Rec. 66-01 and Rec. 05-09). 3. No data in ST09 form (Rec. 16-14, national scientific observer programme). 4. Rec. 16-14 (Paras 4 and 10): No information on the domestic observer programme in place was submitted through ST09. Some information in the Annual Report (under requirement S:GEN11 of Part 1, Section 3 of the Annual Report ("Online reporting") in the IOMS or in the Annual Report Word file under Section 1.2 Research and statistics.
SUMMARY INTRODUCTION
Costa Rica has historically caught North Atlantic swordfish (SWO-N) and Atlantic blue marlin (BUM) within its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in the Caribbean Sea, with artisanal longline vessels less than 20 metres in length, with the first landing records dating from 1999. When Costa Rica joined ICCAT as a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party in 2016, it began to be attributed an overharvest for SWO-N as it did not have an allocated catch limit, and for BUM, as it was only allocated a landing limit of 10 t under Rec. 19-05; these have been insufficient to cover the country's historical catch. Both species are of great importance for the country's food security. As regards the onboard observer requirement, the size of vessels has hindered implementation, as they are very small and lack adequate space, safety, and sanitation conditions to accommodate a human onboard observer. It is therefore considered appropriate to implement an alternative approach to human onboard observers, such as electronic monitoring. The aim of this plan is to implement a series of measures designed to gradually ensure compliance with ICCAT Recommendations.
ACTION ITEMS
Item 1. **SWO-N:** 1. Submission of scientific document SCRS/2022/161 (attached) with historical SWO-N statistics to the Meeting of the Subcommittee on Statistics, hybrid, 2022. 2. Submission of Statement to Panel 4 by Costa Rica and Development or Fisheries/Management Plan for Northern Swordfish (Appendice9_Anexo8_2024_SPA /Appendix9_Annex8_2024 _ENG of the *Report for the biennial period 2024-25 Part I (2024) – Vol. 1*, attached) to the Meeting of Panel 4, Limassol, 2024. 3. Payback of overharvest in 2025 through adoption of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on conservation and management measures, including a management procedure, for North Atlantic swordfish* (Rec. 24-10), at the 24th Special Meeting of the Commission, Limassol, 2024. This Recommendations allocates a catch limit of 75 t to Costa Rica and a transfer from the United States of 300 t. 4. Adoption of national standard AJDIP/037-2026 (attached) that establishes an annual catch limit of 75 t and a minimum size of 25 kg. **BUM:** 1. Submission of scientific document SCRS/2022/161 with historical BUM statistics to the Meeting of the Subcommittee on Statistics, hybrid, 2022. 2. Submission of the draft Recommendation by ICCAT (PA4_806/2025, attached) to pay back overharvest with transfers to the Meeting of Panel 4, Seville, 2025 (not adopted).

3. Submission (in conjunction with other CPCs) of Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to grant provisional measures to developing coastal ICCAT CPCs for extenuating circumstances resulting from Recommendation 19-05 (25-06, attached) to the Meeting of Panel 4 and 29th Regular Meeting of the Commission, Seville, 2025. This Recommendation was adopted and ceases application of the 125% penalty for the years 2024 and 2025 and increases the landing limit to 20 t in 2025 and 2026.
4. Express request for waiver of overharvest for Costa Rica at the Meeting of Panel 4 and 29th Regular Meeting of the Commission, Seville, 2025.
5. Adoption of national standard AJDIP/035-2026 (attached) that establishes a landing limit of 7.5 t.
6. Adoption of national standard AJDIP/036-2026 (attached) that establishes the obligation to release live individuals and the adoption of the Minimum Standards for safe handling and release procedures for live specimens.
7. Adoption of a new interpretation of the penalty of Rec. 19-05, paragraph 3 (b), in the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4, online, 2026. This new interpretation penalizes CPCs with overharvest with 25% of the overharvest incurred in a given year, after two consecutive years of overharvest.
8. Submission of Costa Rica on its particular situation in relation to BUM through document PA4_07_SPA /PA4_07_ENG (attached), in the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4, online, 2026.
9. Express request for waiver of overharvest for Costa Rica at the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4, online, 2026 (not adopted).
10. Support for proposals to modify Rec. 19-05, submitted by the United States and Belize at the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4, online, 2026. The intention is also to support them at the 25th Special Meeting of the Commission, Vilamoura, 2026.

Items 2, 3 and 4.

Onboard observers:

1. Development and implementation of a fishing set registration form to obtain discard information (attached).
2. Implementation of a pilot plan for onboard observers (human and electronic) (attached document INCOPESCA-PE-0402-2026 and corresponding template, with description of progress).
3. Development and implementation of the Onboard Observer (human and electronic) Programme of the Costa Rican Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture through standard AJDIP/229-2026 (attached), with the collaboration of the FAO.

Note: All ICCAT Recommendations and national AJDIP (Management Board Agreement) regulations are legally binding.

PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION

Item 1.

SWO-N:

1. The Costa Rica delegation will submit scientific document SCRS/2022/161 with historical SWO-N statistics to the Meeting of the Subcommittee on Statistics, hybrid, 2022.
2. The Costa Rica delegation will submit a Statement to Panel 4 and Development or Fisheries/Management Plan for Northern Swordfish (Apendice9_Anexo8_2024_SPA /Appendix9_Annex8_2024 _ENG of the *Report for the biennial period 2024-25 Part I (2024) – Vol. 1*, attached) to the Meeting of Panel 4, Limassol, 2024.
3. The Costa Rica delegation will support the adoption of a draft Recommendation submitted by the United States for the payback of overharvest in 2025 at the 24th Special Meeting of the Commission, Limassol, 2024. This Recommendations allocates a catch limit of 75 t to Costa Rica and a transfer from the United States of 300 t.
4. INCOPESCA will adopt national standard AJDIP/037-2026 that establishes an annual catch limit of 75 t and a minimum size of 25 kg.

BUM:

1. The Costa Rica delegation will submit scientific document SCRS/2022/161 with historical BUM statistics to the Meeting of the Subcommittee on Statistics, hybrid, 2022.
2. The Costa Rica delegation will submit the draft Recommendation by ICCAT (PA4_806/2025), with a view to opening up the possibility of paying back overharvest with transfers from other CPCs to the Meeting of Panel 4, Seville.

3. The Costa Rica delegation will submit (in conjunction with other CPCs) Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to grant provisional measures to developing coastal ICCAT CPCs for extenuating circumstances resulting from Recommendation 19-05 to the Meeting of Panel 4 and 29th Regular Meeting of the Commission, Seville, 2025. This Recommendation stops the application of the 125% penalty for the years 2024 and 2025 and increases the landing limit to 20 t in 2025 and 2026.
4. The Costa Rica delegation will make an express request for waiver of BUM overharvest for Costa Rica at the Meeting of Panel 4 and 29th Regular Meeting of the Commission, Seville, 2025.
5. INCOPESCA will adopt national standard AJDIP/035-2026 that establishes a landing limit of 7.5 t.
6. INCOPESCA will adopt national standard AJDIP/036-2026 that establishes the obligation to release live individuals and the adoption of the Minimum Standards for safe handling and release procedures for live specimens.
7. The Costa Rica delegation will support the proposal from the United States regarding a new interpretation of the penalty of Rec. 19-05, paragraph 3 (b), in the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4, online. This new interpretation penalizes CPCs with overharvest with 25% of the overharvest incurred in a given year, after two consecutive years of overharvest.
8. The Costa Rica delegation will submit information on its particular situation in relation to BUM through document PA4_07_SPA /PA4_07_ENG, in the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4, online, 2026.
9. The Costa Rica delegation will make an express request for waiver of BUM overharvest for Costa Rica at the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4, online, 2026.
10. The Costa Rica delegation will support the proposals to modify Rec. 19-05, submitted by the United States and Belize at the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4, online, 2026. The intention is also to support them at the 25th Special Meeting of the Commission, Vilamoura, 2026.

Items 2, 3, and 4.

Onboard observers:

1. INCOPESCA will develop and implement a fishing set registration form to obtain discard information.
2. INCOPESCA will implement a pilot plan for onboard observers (human and electronic).
3. INCOPESCA will adopt a national standard to develops and implements an Onboard Observer (human and electronic) Programme of the Costa Rican Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture, with the collaboration of the FAO.

TIMELINE / INCREMENTAL BENCHMARKS FOR COMPLETION

Item 1.

SWO:

1. Submission of scientific document SCRS/2022/161 with historical SWO-N statistics to the Meeting of the Subcommittee on Statistics, hybrid, 2022 (2022).
2. Submission of Statement to Panel 4 by Costa Rica and Development or Fisheries/Management Plan for Northern Swordfish (Apendice9_Anexo8_2024_SPA /Appendix9_Annex8_2024 _ENG of the *Report for the biennial period 2024-25 Part I (2024) – Vol. 1*, attached) to the Meeting of Panel 4, Limassol, 2024 (2024).
3. Adoption of *Recommendation by ICCAT on conservation and management measures, including a management procedure, for North Atlantic swordfish* (Rec. 24-10), at the 24th Special Meeting of the Commission, Limassol, 2024. This Recommendations allocates a catch limit of 75 t to Costa Rica and a transfer from the United States of 300 t (2024).
4. Adoption of national standard AJDIP/037-2026 that establishes an annual catch limit of 75 t and a minimum size of 25 kg (2024-2026).

BUM:

1. Submission of scientific document SCRS/2022/161 with historical BUM statistics to the Meeting of the Subcommittee on Statistics, hybrid, 2022 (2022).

2. Submission of the draft Recommendation by ICCAT (PA4_806/2025) to pay back overharvest with transfers to the Meeting of Panel 4, Seville, 2025 (2025), with a view to opening up the possibility of paying back overharvest with transfers from other CPCs to the Meeting of Panel 4, Seville.

3. Recommendation by ICCAT to grant provisional measures to developing coastal ICCAT CPCs for extenuating circumstances resulting from Recommendation 19-05 (25-06) (2025).
4. Express request for waiver of BUM overharvest for Costa Rica at the Meeting of Panel 4 and 29th Regular Meeting of the Commission, Seville, 2025 (2025).
5. Adoption of national standard AJDIP/035-2026 that establishes a landing limit of 7.5 t (2024-2026).
6. Adoption of national standard AJDIP/036-2026 that establishes the obligation to release live individuals and the adoption of the Minimum Standards for safe handling and release procedures for live specimens (2024-2026).
7. Support for the proposal from the United States regarding a new interpretation of the penalty of Rec. 19-05, paragraph 3 (b), in the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4, online, 2026 (2026).
8. Submission of Costa Rica on its particular situation in relation to BUM through document PA4_07_SPA /PA4_07_ENG, in the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4, online, 2026 (2026).
9. Express request for waiver of BUM overharvest for Costa Rica at the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4, online, 2026 (2026).
10. Support for proposals to modify Rec. 19-05, submitted by the United States and Belize at the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4, online, 2026. The intention is also to support them at the 25th Special Meeting of the Commission, Vilamoura, 2026 (2026).

Items 2, 3, and 4.

Onboard observers:

1. Development and implementation of a fishing set registration form to obtain discard information (2022 onwards).
2. Implementation of a pilot plan for onboard observers (human and electronic) (2025-2026).
3. Development and implementation of the Onboard Observer (human and electronic) Programme of the Costa Rican Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture through standard AJDIP/229-2026 (attached), with the collaboration of the FAO (2026 onwards).

EXPECTED IMPROVEMENTS / OUTCOMES IN THE NEXT YEAR

Item 1.

SWO-N:

1. With the submission of scientific document SCRS/2022/161 with historical SWO-N statistics to the Meeting of the Subcommittee on Statistics, hybrid, 2022, it is expected that CPCs will be made aware that Costa Rica has historically fished this species, which is of great importance to the country's food security, with artisanal longline vessels less than 20 metres in length.
2. With the submission of Statement to Panel 4 by Costa Rica and Development or Fisheries/Management Plan for Northern Swordfish (Appendice9_Anexo8_2024_SPA /Appendix9_Annex8_2024 _ENG of the *Report for the biennial period 2024-25 Part I (2024) – Vol. 1*, attached) to the Meeting of Panel 4, Limassol, 2024, it is expected that other CPCs will recognise Costa Rica's particular situation and the country's need for an allocated catch limit to continue its historical fishing of this species.
3. Through the adoption of *Recommendation by ICCAT on conservation and management measures, including a management procedure, for North Atlantic swordfish* (Rec. 24-10) at the 24th Special Meeting of the Commission, Limassol, 2024, with a catch limit of 75 t for Costa Rica and a transfer of 300 t from the United States to Costa Rica, the catch was paid back in 2025. Therefore, it is anticipated that, in the coming years, Costa Rica will have a positive adjusted catch limit and will not overharvest again.
4. With the adoption of national standard AJDIP/037-2026 that establishes an annual catch limit of 75 t and a minimum size of 25 kg, it is anticipated that Costa Rica will not overharvest, but rather maintain a positive balance within the adjusted limit.

BUM:

1. With the submission of scientific document SCRS/2022/161 with historical BUM statistics to the Meeting of the Subcommittee on Statistics, hybrid, it is expected that CPCs will be made aware that Costa Rica has historically fished this species, which is of great importance to the country's food security, with artisanal longline vessels less than 20 metres in length.
2. With the submission of the draft Recommendation by ICCAT (PA4_806/2025, attached) to pay back overharvest with transfers to the Meeting of Panel 4, Seville, 2025, it was hoped that the possibility of paying back overharvest with transfers from other CPCs would be opened up, but this draft Recommendation was not adopted.

3. With the adoption of *Recommendation by ICCAT to grant provisional measures to developing coastal ICCAT CPCs for extenuating circumstances resulting from Recommendation 19-05* (25-06), it is expected that the excessive burden placed on developing Caribbean CPCs by Rec. 19-05 will be mitigated, as it ceases application of the penalty in 2024 and 2025 and increases the landing limit to 20 t in 2025 and 2026.
4. With the express request for waiver of BUM overharvest for Costa Rica at the Meeting of Panel 4 and 29th Regular Meeting of the Commission, Seville, 2025, it was hoped that Costa Rica's overharvest would be waived, at least for the years prior to its accession to ICCAT as a Contracting Party, but this request was not adopted.
5. With the adoption of national standard AJDIP/035-2026 that establishes a landing limit of 7.5 t, it is expected that Costa Rica will not exceed the annual landing limit of 10 t established as per Rec. 19-05.
6. With the adoption of national standard AJDIP/036-2026 that establishes the obligation to release live individuals and the adoption of the Minimum Standards for safe handling and release procedures for live specimens, it is expected that specimens that are alive at haulback are released in accordance with the minimum standards established in Rec. 19-05.
7. With the support for the proposal of the United States on a new interpretation of the penalty of Rec. 19-05, paragraph 3 (b), in the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4, online, 2026, which was adopted by Panel 4, it is expected that Costa Rica's overharvest will fall to less than half in 2025, from around 456 t to 185.62 t. Furthermore, in subsequent years this overharvest is not expected to increase at the same rapid and disproportionate rate as under the previous interpretation of the penalty.
8. With the submission of Costa Rica on its particular situation in relation to BUM through document PA4_07_SPA /PA4_07_ENG in the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4, online, 2026, it is expected that other CPCs will be made fully aware of and understand Costa Rica's particular situation regarding this species, which has historically been caught by the artisanal longline fleet of vessels less than 20 metres in length and which is of great importance for the country's food security. Furthermore, it is expected that the CPCs will understand that Recommendation 19-05 has led Costa Rica to accumulate an overharvest that cannot be paid back unless new management measures are adopted, as it will be impossible for the country to pay back its accumulated overharvest with an allocated annual landing limit of only 10 t per year.
9. With the express request for waiver of BUM overharvest for Costa Rica at the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4, online, 2026, it was hoped that Costa Rica's overharvest would be waived, at least for the years prior to its accession to ICCAT as a Contracting Party, but this request was not adopted.
10. With the support for proposals to modify Rec. 19-05, submitted by the United States and Belize at the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4, online, 2026, it is hoped that an amendment to Rec. 19-05 will be adopted at the 25th Extraordinary Meeting of the Commission, to be held in Vilamoura in 2026. This amendment will be favourable to developing coastal CPCs and will help Costa Rica to resolve its accumulated overharvest.

Items 2, 3, and 4.

Onboard observers:

1. With the development and implementation of a fishing set registration form to obtain discard information, it is expected that Costa Rica will be able to collect information on live and dead discards.
2. With the implementation of a pilot plan for onboard observers (human and electronic), it is expected that a framework will be established for the implementation of an onboard observer programme (both human and electronic).
3. With the adoption of national standard AJDIP/229-2026, it is anticipated that, from 2026, the Costa Rican Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture will begin developing and implementing an onboard observer programme (involving both human and electronic observers), in collaboration with the FAO.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED / ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS TAKEN

It has been difficult to pay back the SWO-N and BUM overharvests as Costa Rica's artisanal longline fleet operating in the Caribbean has historically caught these species, which are of great importance for food security and job creation in the Caribbean region of Costa Rica - one of the country's most impoverished areas. Furthermore, these species are frequently caught due to gear selectivity and the fact that they are relatively common within the EEZ, the sole operating area of Costa Rica's Caribbean longline fleet.

Regarding the onboard observer requirement, size of vessels has hindered implementation, as they are very small (less than 20 metres) and lack adequate space, safety, and sanitation conditions to accommodate a human onboard observer. In this regard, it is considered appropriate to implement an alternative approach to human onboard observers, such as electronic monitoring. To this end, a pilot plan for onboard observers (human and electronic) has been introduced, and an Onboard Observer (human and electronic) Programme has been adopted via AJDIP/229-2026, which will be developed and implemented by the Costa Rican Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture (INCOPESCA), in collaboration with the FAO.

CONCLUDING SUMMARY

The overall approach is to seek alternative solutions for paying back the SWO-N and BUM overharvests and to address the lack of onboard observers in the artisanal fleet operating in the Costa Rican Caribbean, within the scope of INCOPESCA's capabilities. Since 2022, a series of measures have been implemented, resulting in the full payback of the SWO-N overharvest in 2025 and a reduction of the BUM overharvest by more than half. Furthermore, significant progress has been made regarding onboard observers, with the ongoing implementation of a pilot plan for onboard observers (both human and electronic), and the adoption of national standard AJDIP/299-2026, which formalises the development and implementation of an Onboard Observer (human and electronic) Progamme, to be managed by INCOPESCA in collaboration with the FAO.

Costa Rica reaffirms its commitment to the sustainable use and conservation of species of fisheries interest, as well as its willingness and readiness to comply with the management measures adopted by ICCAT.

LIST OF APPENDICES AND ATTACHMENTS

1. Scientific document SCRS/2022/161.
2. Apendice9_Anexo8_2024_SPA.
3. Appendix9_Annex8_2024_ENG.
4. National standard AJDIP/037-2026.
5. Draft Recommendation PA4_806/2025.
6. Recommendation by ICCAT to grant provisional measures to developing coastal ICCAT CPCs for extenuating circumstances resulting from Recommendation 19-05 (25-06).
7. National standard AJDIP/035-2026.
8. National standard AJDIP/036-2026.
9. Document PA4_07_SPA.
10. Document PA4_07_ENG.
11. Set registration form.
12. INCOPESCA-PE-0402-2026.
13. IATTC_C-19-08-Anexo-A-Plantilla.
14. National standard AJDIP/229-2026.

Compliance Letter Response Template

2025 COMMISSION MEETING			
CPC: EGYPT			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	**SPECIFIC ELEMENTS**	**REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN***	**DATE MISSING/REQUESTED DATA & INFORMATION WAS SENT** *(if applicable)*
CATEGORY A			
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07, Rec. 24-08, and Rec. 16-05: Compliance tables received late. Overharvest of ALB-MD (2023 balance: -13.73 t, 2024 balance: -8.73 t) and SWO-MD [no quota, 2024 catches (100 t) > reserve (39.35 t).	As indicated in the annual report we suffer from limited capacity in our department, we are trying to enhance our compliance with all ICCAT requirements. Regarding the comment on Egypt's status in document COC_308 concerning the 'Overharvest of ALB-MED (2023: -13.73 t)', we would like to provide essential context. During the 23rd Special Meeting of ICCAT (Vale do Lobo, Portugal, 13–21 November 2022), Egypt's initial Mediterranean albacore (ALB-MED) quota was allocated at 177.27 tonnes. In a spirit of cooperation to assist Türkiye, Egypt voluntarily agreed to reduce its allocation to 150.27 tonnes, despite the high abundance of ALB-MED in our territorial waters. This quota reduction continues to pose significant challenges for our local artisanal fishers, who frequently request higher catch limits as albacore is constantly taken as bycatch during their regular fishing operations. We kindly ask to take these socioeconomic constraints into consideration. During the season, the overall (CPUE) increased significantly, resulted in catches exceeding assigned limits. Given that Mediterranean albacore is frequently harvested as incidental catch within other species, controlling landings in this fishery is especially challenging due to the frequent incidental capture of albacore alongside other species, combined with the socioeconomic pressures fishers face under tight quota restrictions. We continue to strengthen our regulatory efforts to address these operational constraints.	12/09/2023

		Egypt does not have a specific catch limit for Mediterranean swordfish, though it has been permitted to catch limited amounts under the "Others" category. Egypt has consistently reported its catches from 2018 to 2023, with figures increasing to some extent. Egypt has repeatedly reaffirmed its historical rights and interest in obtaining a fair catch limit for SWO-Med at various ICCAT meetings (2017 Madrid, 2018 Croatia, 2019, 2022 Portugal, and 2023 Egypt), given the abundance of swordfish in its territorial waters and its large-scale fishing fleet operating in the Mediterranean. Egypt includes swordfish bycatch data in its Annual Reports, noting that catches are limited due to domestic inspection and restrictions aimed at complying with ICCAT recommendations and conserving the stock. In 2023, despite the absence of a rightful catch limit, Egypt issued Resolution 291/2023 on a Multiannual Recovery Plan for SWO-Med based on Rec. 16-05, and submitted a fishing plan including 75 tons of SWO catch before the deadline, with no comments received. Egypt renewed its request for a fair catch limit at the 28th Regular Meeting in 2023, observing that the difference between the total allowable catch and the total catch over 2021–2023 may exceed 1,500 tons per year (considered unused catch), in addition to the reserve advised by the Scientific Committee, which reflects that Egypt's catch of 73 tons does not passively affect the stock.	
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions			
CATEGORY B			
Annual Report			
Statistical Data	No ST03 form sent (Rec. 66-01and Rec. 05-09).	ST03 was submitted within the specified deadline; however, it was missing the geographic data, as it was not available at the time. Once it becomes available, we will send it immediately.	15/07/2025
	No ST04 form sent (Rec. 66-01 and Rec. 05-09).	ST04 was submitted within the specified deadline; however, it was missing the geographic data, as it was not available at the time. Once it	15/07/2025

		becomes available, we will send it immediately.	
	No ST09 form sent (Rec. 16-14, national scientific observer programme).	Egypt has financial constraints to cover scientific activities.	
Other Reports			
CATEGORY C			
MCS-Species Related			
MCS General	Rec. 16-14 (Paras 4 and 10): No information on the domestic observer programme in place was submitted through ST09. Some information in the Annual Report (under requirement S:GEN11 of *Part 1, Section 3 of the Annual Report ("Online Reporting") in IOMS* or in the Annual Report Word file under *Section 1.2 Research and statistics*.	Scientific activities face significant financial and logistical challenges due to the high costs required to cover extensive field operations, onboard observer deployment, and sampling. Active coordination with online reporting technical team should be done to address and overcome any obstacles we face regarding the ST09 submission process.	
Port Controls			
Vessel Controls			
OTHER	Reply to COC Chair's letter received late *(2025-10-29)*.	As highlighted in the Annual Report, our department currently operates under capacity constraints. Nevertheless, we remain fully dedicated to improving our compliance with all ICCAT requirements. We sincerely regret any shortcomings in our previous submissions.	29/10/2025

***** Relevant remedial actions should be applied broadly, to include actions taken or planned to address the matter identified by the COC and may include actions initiated by the CPC prior to COC raising the matter. Actions could include, inter alia, changes to applicable laws and regulations, policies, organizational structures, and enforcement priorities, as strengthening institutions such as through increased funding and seeking/participating in capacity building and technical assistance.

Action Plan Response Template
2025 Commission Meeting

CPC (Contracting Party/Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity):

EGYPT

Date of submission or revision *(16/10/2026)***:**

DEFICIENCES TO BE ADDRESSED

[List the specific issues identified by the COC in its letter to the CPC]

Category A – Compliance Tables (Rec. 18-07, Rec. 24-08, Rec. 16-05):

1. Compliance tables received late.
2. Overharvest of ALB-MD (2023 balance: -13.73 t; 2024 balance: -8.73 t).
3. SWO-MD: no quota allocated; 2024 catches (100 t) and reserve (39.35 t).

Category B – Annual Report / Statistical Data (Rec. 66-01, Rec. 05-09):

1. No ST03 form sent (missing geographic data).
2. No ST04 form sent (missing geographic data).
3. No ST09 form sent (Rec. 16-14, national scientific observer programme).

Category C – MCS / Species Related: Rec. 16-14 (Paras 4 and 10):

1. No information on the domestic observer program submitted through ST09.
2. Some information in the Annual Report (under requirement S:GEN11 of Part 1, Section 3 of the Annual Report ("Online Reporting") in IOMS or in the Annual Report Word file under Section 1.2 Research and statistics.

Other:

Reply to COC Chair's letter received late (2025-10-29).

SUMMARY INTRODUCTION

[Provide a brief context on the issues and the purpose of this Action Plan]

To address feedback and compliance reviews from the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), Egypt has outlined a targeted Action Plan. This plan provides clear, corrective actions and actionable implementation steps across three key compliance areas:

- **Category A (Governance & Quota Compliance):** Addresses timeline delays, administrative quota deductions for Mediterranean albacore (ALB-MED) overharvest, and stricter catch oversight/quota negotiation for Mediterranean swordfish (SWO-MD).
- **Category B (Reporting & Statistical Data):** Corrects geographic reporting deficiencies (forms ST03 and ST04) and resolves missing statistical submissions (ST09) through capacity building and academic partnerships.
- **Category C (Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance - MCS):** Eliminates reporting deficiencies and ensures full compliance with ICCAT data requirements by addressing both field-level operational constraints and system-level technical barriers.
- **Other (Reply to COC Chair's letter received late):** Enhances annual performance reviews to systematically eliminate operational delays, thereby guaranteeing that all official ICCAT inquiries are answered well within specified deadlines

ACTION ITEMS

[List and describe the concrete steps the CPC will implement, including where applicable the legally binding nature of the action]

Category A

Issue 1: Compliance Tables Received Late

Establishing a permanent schedule to ensure data completion prior to ICCAT's annual reporting deadline.

- Establish a national internal date to aggregate data, landing site records well ahead of ICCAT's
- Assign a designated compliance officer responsible for compiling and reviewing data.

Issue 2: Overharvest of ALB-MD (Mediterranean Albacore)

In-Season Catch Monitoring

- Deduct the overharvest balances from the upcoming annual allocation
- Strictly monitor the closed period for longline vessels targeting Med-ALB

Issue 3: Unallocated SWO-MD Catches & Reserve Management

Strengthening Fisheries Management

- Request a fair quota to adjust fishing opportunities during Commission annual meetings
- Publish a strict list of vessels authorized to retain SWO-MD bycatch
- Restrict SWO-MD landings exclusively to designated ports, while intensifying monitoring and tightening supervision in other ports

Category B – Annual Report / Statistical Data (Rec. 66-01, Rec. 05-09):

Issue 1: No ST03 form sent (missing geographic data).

Geographic Data Collection

- Conduct training workshops for vessel captains, fisheries officers, and port inspectors on how to record geographical data accurately

Issue 2: No ST04 form sent (missing geographic data).

Geographic Data Collection

- Conduct training workshops for vessel captains, fisheries officers, and port inspectors on how to record geographical data accurately

Issue 3: No ST09 form sent

Enhancing Scientific Data Collection

Addressing human resource shortages by engaging academic researchers to perform periodic field visits at landing sites during the fishing season, allowing for the collection of available samples within the limits of allocated funding.

Category C – MCS / Species Related:

Issue 1: No information on the domestic observer programme submitted through ST09.

Enhancing Scientific Data Collection

- leverage researchers and academic personnel, addressing domestic human resource deficits in fishery monitoring.
- Conduct field visits to designated landing sites at intervals throughout the fishing season to collect available biological samples and landing data, subject to available funding.

Issue 2: Some information in the Annual Report (under requirement S:GEN11 of Part 1, Section 3 of the Annual Report ("Online Reporting") in IOMS or in the Annual Report Word file under Section 1.2 Research and statistics.

Transition from data entries in general sections to full compliance via direct entry into the dedicated form within the IOMS .

- Initiate immediate technical consultations with the IOMS online support team to review specific error logs.
- Map all required parameters directly against internal data collection templates to ensure complete data compatibility before upload.
- validate data accuracy and closely coordinate the uploading process with the technical team prior to the deadline to ensure correct and complete submission.

Other: Reply to COC Chair's letter received late (2025-10-29).

Implementation of strict internal timelines for issues of highest priority to guarantee that all official inquiries are answered well within specified deadlines.

- Formalize fast-track procedure, defining high-priority criteria) and mandatory timeline.
- Technic and data teams compile requested data, justifications, and draft responses.
- Conduct an annual performance review of response times to resolve operational bottlenecks.

PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION

[Describe how each action will be executed, responsible parties, and resource allocation]

Action	Responsible Party	Resource Allocation
Establishing a permanent schedule to ensure data completion prior to ICCAT's annual reporting deadline.	Administrative staff with the support of fisheries officers	Administrative staff time, dedicated management database, and internal budget.
In-Season Catch Monitoring	Administrative staff with the support of Coastal Guards and port inspection teams	Port inspection team time and internal budget. VMS units (if available)
Strengthening Fisheries Management	Administrative staff with the support of Coastal Guards and port inspection teams	Publication and dissemination costs for vessel registries, and port inspection personnel resources.
Geographic Data Collection	Administrative staff with the support of local captains and port inspectors	Workshop venues, printed training manuals, and trainer rewards.
Enhancing Scientific Data Collection	Administrative staff with the support of port inspection teams in collaboration with Academic/Research Institutions and available funds	Field allowance and travel expenses, and sampling kits.
Transition from data entrie in general sections to full compliance via direct entry into the dedicated form within the IOMS.	Administrative staff with the support of IOMS technical team	Staff and IOMS team time
Implementation of strict internal timelines	Administrative staff	Administrative hours assigned specifically for continuous inbox monitoring, legal review, and priority drafting.

TIMELINE / INCREMENTAL BENCHMARKS FOR COMPLETION

[Outline the schedule with milestones for each corrective action, including where applicable dates that planned actions will enter into effect]

Corrective Action	Milestones	Date of Entry into Force
Establishing a permanent schedule to ensure data completion prior to ICCAT's annual reporting deadline.	Establish a national internal date to aggregate data, landing site records, well ahead of ICCAT's	
	Assign a designated Compliance Officer responsible for compiling and reviewing data	
In-Season Catch Monitoring	Deduct the overharvest balances from the upcoming annual allocation	
	Strictly monitor the closed period for longline vessels targeting Mediterranean albacore	
Strengthening Fisheries Management	Request a fair quota to adjust fishing opportunities during Commission annual meetings.	

	Publish a strict list of vessels authorized to retain SWO-MD bycatch. Unlisted vessels must be prohibited from landing or marketing SWO-MD.	
	Restrict SWO-MD landings exclusively to designated ports, while intensifying monitoring and tightening supervision in other ports to prevent any unauthorized landings.	
Geographic Data Collection	Conduct training workshops for vessel captains, fisheries officers, and port inspectors on how to record geographical data accurately.	
Enhancing Scientific Data Collection	leverage researchers and academi personnel, addressing domestic human resource deficits in fishery monitoring	
	Perform periodic field visits at landing sites during the fishing season	
Transition from data entries in general sections to full compliance via direct entry into the dedicated form within the IOMS.	Initiate immediate technical consultations with the IOMS onlin support team to review specific error logs.	
	Map all required parameters directly against internal data collection templates to ensure complete data compatibility befor upload.	
	Validate data accuracy and closely coordinate the uploading process with the technical team prior to th deadline to ensure correct and complete submission.	
implementation of strict internal timelines for issues of highest	Formalize fast-track procedure, defining high-priority criteria) and mandatory timeline.	
	Technic and data teams compile requested data, justifications, and draft responses.	
	Conduct an annual performance review of response times to resolve operational bottlenecks.	

EXPECTED IMPROVEMENTS / OUTCOMES IN THE NEXT YEAR

[Specify measurable improvements expected as a result of the plan]

- Guarantee the timely submission of all required compliance tables, statistical forms, and official responses to Compliance Committee (COC) communications well within specified deadlines.
- Strengthen catch monitoring mechanisms and enforce strict management measures to systematically reduce overharvest incidents, particularly for quota-managed species.
- Establish a framework for a national scientific observer program, upon availability of financial resources, to ensure reliable biological sampling and data collection.
- Elevate overall institutional alignment with ICCAT requirements and management measures, demonstrating strong compliance capabilities despite ongoing resource and capacity constraints.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED / ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS TAKEN

[Describe any challenges faced during implementation and adjustments made]

Challenge 1: Limited financial resources and dedicated staff within the fisheries agency to execute full-time field observer coverage and comprehensive biological sampling.

Adjustments:

- Engage university researchers to act for field sampling personnel at designated landing sites.
- Allocate dedicated scientific research stipends timed to the fishing seasons to maximize sample collection within available financial resources.

Challenge 2: Lack of familiarity with requires data

Adjustments:

- Conduct practical, localized training sessions for vessel captains, port officers, and fisheries inspectors focused on simplified spatial logbook completion.

Challenges 3: High seasonal Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) combined with tight quota restrictions creates operational tension for artisanal fishers facing unavoidable bycatch of albacore and swordfish.

Adjustments:

- Apply the overharvest balance deduction to upcoming allocations and strictly enforce closed fishing seasons.
- Restrict SWO-MD landings exclusively to designated primary ports
- Re-affirm historical catch rights and allocate for a fair, dedicated SWO-MD quota allocation during annual ICCAT meetings.

Challenge 4: Administrative bottlenecks due to cross-departmental coordination can create, threatening deadlines for high-priority inquiries.

Adjustments:

- Enforce a strict internal correspondence procedure featuring for example, a 5-day drafting timeline, and an annual performance review to resolve inter-departmental delays.

CONCLUDING SUMMARY

[Summarise the overall approach and commitment to resolving the deficiencies]

Despite technical, financial, and administrative challenges, the fisheries agency remains fully committed to upholding international management standards and ICCAT compliance. By leveraging academic partnerships, strengthening localized capacity, strictly enforcing landing and reporting procedures, and streamlining internal operations, the agency is taking decisive action to resolve existing deficiencies. Moving forward, these coordinated efforts will ensure reliable data collection, sustainable stock management, and fair representations of regional fishing rights on the international stage. Egypt respectfully requests the support and understanding of the COC and ICCAT CPCs as we work to overcome these challenges and fulfill our obligations.

LIST OF APPENDICES AND ATTACHMENTS

[If applicable, list appendices or attachments with additional information, such as copies or excerpts of relevant laws, regulations, administrative actions, procedures, and policies]

Due to ongoing leadership and administrative restructuring within the agency, supporting documents—including detailed timelines for the implementation of the outlined procedures and measures—will be officially submitted in due course to fully back and complement this plan.

EUROPEAN UNION

Compliance Letter Response Template

2025 COMMISSION MEETING			
CPC: EUROPEAN UNION			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	**SPECIFIC ELEMENTS**	**REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN***	**DATE MISSING/REQUESTED DATA & INFORMATION WAS SENT** *(if applicable)*
CATEGORY A			
Compliance Tables			
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions			
CATEGORY B			
Annual Report			
Statistical Data			
Other Reports			
CATEGORY C			
MCS-Species Related	Rec. 01-21 and Rec. 01-22: Imports of both bigeye and swordfish from unknown flag and/or unknown area.	The issue raised refers to some statistical documents originally submitted on 30 September 2025 for which catch-related information (such as Fishing Flag, Fishing Area, Fishing Gear) were omitted. Those were statistical documents relating to bigeye tuna from the Indian Ocean and swordfish re-exported by one EU-Member State. The EU is retrieving that information with the intention to submit revised CP16 forms.	
	Rec. 24-01: No info on carrying capacity of PS for TROP (all MS).	This reporting issue was due to a lack of clarity between fishing capacity vs. fish carrying capacity for PS and the metrics to be used to report this data. As discussed during the COC and PA1 meetings in 2025, the EU raised the issue of ambiguity regarding the units to be used for reporting of carrying capacity for purse seiners. Since then, the template for the tropical tuna fishing plan was revised (ref. ICCAT Circular # 06839 / 2026) to update the capacity table. The EU provided comments and suggestions to remove all ambiguity in the metrics to be used. This issue has been resolved for the reporting year 2026.	

MCS General	Rec. 16-14 (Paras 4 and 10): Information on the domestic observer programme in place was submitted through ST09 and in the Annual Report Word file under *Section 1.2 Research and statistics*. No information in the Annual Report (under requirement S:GEN11 of *Part 1, Section 3 of the Annual Report ("Online Reporting") in IOMS.*	Nothing, this does not constitute a compliance issue. The observer programme is implemented as required and the reporting was done through ST09 and in *Section 1.2 Research and statistics* of the Annual Report as prescribed in Rec. 16-14. The EU indicated in section 3 of the Annual Report that S:GEN 11 is applicable to the EU. There was nothing else that could have been reported in this section 3.	
Port Controls			
Vessel Controls			
OTHER			

* Relevant remedial actions should be applied broadly, to include actions taken or planned to address the matter identified by the COC and may include actions initiated by the CPC prior to COC raising the matter. Actions could include, inter alia, changes to applicable laws and regulations, policies, organizational structures, and enforcement priorities, as strengthening institutions such as through increased funding and seeking/participating in capacity building and technical assistance.

Compliance Letter Response Template

2025 COMMISSION MEETING			
CPC: GABON			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	**SPECIFIC ELEMENTS**	**REMEDIAL ACTION BY THE CPC***	**DATE MISSING/REQUESTED DATA & INFORMATION WAS SENT** *(if applicable)*
CATEGORY A			
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07: Compliance tables received after the established deadlines.		10 September 2026
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions			
CATEGORY B			
Annual Report	Annual Report (Word and IOMS) received late.	Crews have been strengthened to collect, process and submit data by the deadlines.	30 June 2026
Statistical Data	Statistical data received late.		30 June 2026
Other Reports	Rec. 18-05 Billfish check sheet received late.		30 June 2026
	Rec. 18-06 Shark check sheet received late.		30 June 2026
CATEGORY C			
MCS-Species Related	Rec. 22-12 (paragraph 8): No information provided on implementation of turtle measures, nor under requirement M:BYC01 of Part 2, Section 3 of the Annual Report ("Online Reporting") in the IOMS, nor in the Word file of the Annual Report, under section 2.1 "Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures".	No information submitted. A report on historical data will be submitted in 2027.	
MCS General	Rec. 16-14 (paragraphs 4 and 10): No information	No information. Domestic observers programme did not operate in 2025.	

	on the domestic observer programme in place has been communicated via form ST09 or in the Annual Report (as per requirement S:GEN11 of Part 1, Section 3 of the Annual Report ("Online Reporting") in the IOMS). Incomplete information in the Annual Report Word file, in section 1.2 "Research and Statistics".		
Port Controls	Rec. 24-15 (Appendix 3, paragraph 6): No information on in-port transhipment.	No control carried out in 2025. No national tuna fishery and we did not record any landings or transhipments of foreign vessels in 2025.	
Vessel Controls			
OTHER	Response to COC Chair letter received late (15/11/2025).		11 September 2026

Action Plan Response Template
2025 Commission Meeting

CPC (Contracting Party/Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity):
GABON

Date of submission or revision *(Day/Month/Year)*: 18/09/2026

DEFICIENCES TO BE ADDRESSED
[List the specific issues identified by the COC in its letter to the CPC] No information regarding the national observer programme in place was provided via form ST09 or in the Annual Report (in accordance with requirement S:GEN11 in Part 1, Section 3 of the Annual Report ('Online Declaration') in the IOMS). Incomplete information in the Word file of the Annual Report, in section 1.2 'Research and statistics'.
SUMMARY INTRODUCTION
[Provide a brief context on the issues and the purpose of this Action Plan] Due to financial and human resource constraints, the programme is unable to cover national fisheries. As a result, we have not recorded any observations since 2022.
ACTION ITEMS
List and describe the concrete steps the CPC will implement, including where applicable the legally binding nature of the action] - - *Submission of a request for financial support from the national budget.* - - *Planning of boardings*
PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
[Describe how each action will be executed, responsible parties, and resource allocation]
-Assessment of requirements for the year 2027; -Statement of requirements to the Directorate-General for Fisheries and Aquaculture; -Notification to fishing vessel operators of the resumption of boardings.

TIMELINE / INCREMENTAL BENCHMARKS FOR COMPLETION
[Outline the schedule with milestones for each corrective action, including where applicable dates that planned actions will enter into effect] **December:** **-**official notification to the Directorate-General for Fisheries; -notification to the National Budget; -notification to shipowners. **January:** **-**programming and scheduling of boardings
EXPECTED IMPROVEMENTS / OUTCOMES IN THE NEXT YEAR
[Specify measurable improvements expected as a result of the plan] -Obtaining a specific budget for the national observer programme; -Purchase of work equipment; -Effective boarding of Observers; -Submission of data the following year.
DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED / ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS TAKEN
[Describe any challenges faced during implementation and adjustments made]
CONCLUDING SUMMARY
[Summarise the overall approach and commitment to resolving the deficiencies]
LIST OF APPENDICES AND ATTACHMENTS
[If applicable, list appendices or attachments with additional information, such as copies or excerpts of relevant laws, regulations, administrative actions, procedures, and policies]

Compliance letter response template

2025 COMMISSION MEETING			
CPC: GHANA			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	**SPECIFIC ELEMENTS**	**REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN***	**DATE MISSING/REQUESTED DATA & INFORMATION WAS SENT** *(if applicable)*
CATEGORY A			
Compliance Tables			
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions			
CATEGORY B			
Annual Report			
Statistical Data	No ST04 form sent (Rec. 66-01 and Rec. 05-09).	Ghana acknowledges the submission of Form ST04 to ICCAT.	Registration number: I26-001098-F008, I26-001098-F009, I26-001098-F010
	No ST07 form sent (Rec. 24-01).	Ghana wishes to clarify that Form ST07 was considered not applicable because Ghana did not operate vessels falling within the relevant tropical tuna support-vessel reporting category during the reporting period. This information was indicated in the applicable IOMS reporting requirement, S:TR004. Ghana respectfully requests that the Secretariat verify the corresponding IOMS declaration and confirm whether any additional nil-reporting requirement applies.	
	No ST09 form sent (Rec. 16-14, national scientific observer programme).	Ghana acknowledges the non-submission of Form ST09 and recognizes the importance of the national scientific observer programme in supporting ICCAT's scientific and conservation objectives. The principal challenge, however, has been the structure of the existing observer database, in which records are maintained in separate Microsoft Excel worksheets on a trip-by-trip basis. This arrangement has constrained the timely consolidation and validation of the detailed information required under ST09. Ghana has initiated technical	

		collaboration with IRD under the ICCAT/JCAP-3 framework to improve fisheries data management, including the development of more standardized and integrated databases. In the interim, Ghana will review and consolidate the available observer records to facilitate preparation of the outstanding ST09 submission. Ghana will also develop standardized data-entry and validation procedures to improve the completeness, consistency and timeliness of future observer reporting.	
Other Reports			
CATEGORY C			
MCS-Species Related			
MCS General	Rec. 16-14 (Paras 4 and 10): No information on the domestic observer programme in place was submitted through ST09 or in the Annual Report (under requirement S:GEN11 of *Part 1, Section 3 of the Annual Report ("Online Reporting") in IOMS*. Some information in the Annual Report Word file under *Section 1.2 Research and statistics*.	Ghana acknowledges the non-submission of the ST09 form and recognizes the importance of timely and complete statistical reporting to ICCAT. As indicated, the principal challenges relate to limitations in the organization, processing and validation of the underlying fisheries data. Ghana has initiated collaborative work with IRD in 2025, supported through ICCAT/JCAP-3, to strengthen its fisheries databases, data-processing systems and technical capacity. As an immediate corrective measure, Ghana will undertake a review of the available historical records to determine the completeness of the information required for ST09 and identify data gaps. Where sufficient information exists, Ghana will compile and submit the outstanding data using the prescribed ICCAT reporting format. The longer-term database modernization programme will support more efficient processing, validation and timely submission of future statistical reports.	

Port Controls			
Vessel Controls			
OTHER			

* Relevant remedial actions should be applied broadly, to include actions taken or planned to address the matter identified by the COC and may include actions initiated by the CPC prior to COC raising the matter. Actions could include, inter alia, changes to applicable laws and regulations, policies, organizational structures, and enforcement priorities, as strengthening institutions such as through increased funding and seeking/participating in capacity building and technical assistance.

Action Plan Response Template
2025 Commission Meeting

CPC (Contracting Party/Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity):

GHANA

Date of submission or revision *(Day/Month/Year)*: **16/10/2026**

DEFICIENCES TO BE ADDRESSED
Form ST09 - Non-submission of national scientific observer programme information.
SUMMARY INTRODUCTION
Ghana acknowledges the reporting deficiency relating to the non-submission of national scientific observer programme information under Form ST09. The deficiency was primarily due to challenges associated with fisheries data management, including the maintenance of observer records in multiple standalone spreadsheets and limited capacity for timely data validation and consolidation. This Action Plan outlines the corrective measures that will be implemented to strengthen data management processes, improve data quality assurance, and ensure the complete submission of observer programme information during the 2027 reporting year through the appropriate ICCAT reporting forms.
ACTION ITEMS
The short term the following will steps will be implemented: 1. Consolidate observer records into a centralized database. 2. Validate observer data. 3. Submit required observer programme information during the 2027 reporting year. However, the long term objective includes: 1. Develop standard data-entry and quality-control procedures. 2. Migrating historical datasets into a modernized database. 3. Provide targeted training on observer data management and reporting requirements.
PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
The Fisheries Scientific Survey Division (FSSD) will lead data consolidation, validation, coordinate reporting activities and submit of the required ICCAT reports. Technical collaboration and capacity-building support will be utilized to strengthen database management systems and reporting efficiency.
TIMELINE / INCREMENTAL BENCHMARKS FOR COMPLETION
Q1 2027: Complete consolidation and validation of 2025 observer datasets. Q2 2027: Finalize validated datasets, conduct staff training, and prepare reports 2027 Reporting Year: Submit required information using relevant ICCAT reporting forms.
EXPECTED IMPROVEMENTS / OUTCOMES IN THE NEXT YEAR
Improved completeness, accuracy, and accessibility of observer programme data; enhanced capacity for timely data compilation and validation; timely submission of ICCAT reports; strengthened internal data management systems; and reduced risk of future reporting deficiencies.
DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED / ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS TAKEN

Historical records remain dispersed across multiple files. Limited technical capacity affects data processing. Interim data-verification procedures are being applied while database improvements are implemented. Approved funding for specialized technical assistance, training and database migration.

CONCLUDING SUMMARY

Ghana remains fully committed to addressing the identified reporting deficiency and strengthening compliance with ICCAT reporting requirements. Through improved data management systems, enhanced quality assurance procedures, capacity building, and stronger institutional coordination, Ghana expects to successfully compile and submit the required observer programme information during the 2027 reporting year.

LIST OF APPENDICES AND ATTACHMENTS

Compliance Letter Response Template

2025 COMMISSION MEETING			
CPC: GUINEA-BISSAU			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	**SPECIFIC ELEMENTS**	**REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN***	**DATE MISSING/REQUESTED DATA & INFORMATION WAS SENT** *(if applicable)*
CATEGORY A			
Compliance Tables	No	Not applied	01-10-2026
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions	No	Not applied	01-10-2026
CATEGORY B			
Annual Report	Annual Report in Word	Done	18-09-2026
Statistical Data	No ST09 form sent (Rec. 16-14 national scientific observer programme)	In process	01-10-2026
Other Reports	Rec. 18-05: Billfish Check Sheet	Not applied	01-10-2026
	Rec. 18-06: Shark Check Sheet	Not applied	01-10-2026
CATEGORY C			
MCS-Species Related	No	Not applied	01-10-2026
MCS General	Rec. 16-14 (Paras 4 and 10): No information on the domestic observer programme in place was submitted through ST09. Some information in the Annual Report (under requirement S:GEN11 of *Part 1, Section 3 of the Annual Report ("Online Reporting") in IOMS* or in the Annual Report Word file under *Section 1.2 Research and statistics*.	Not applied	01-10-2026
Port Controls	Not applied	Not applied	01-10-2026
Vessel Controls	Not applied	Not applied	01-10-2026
OTHER	Reply to COC Chair's letter received late	In process	01-10-2026

* Relevant remedial actions should be applied broadly, to include actions taken or planned to address the matter identified by the COC and may include actions initiated by the CPC prior to COC raising the matter. Actions could include, inter alia, changes to applicable laws and regulations, policies, organizational structures, and enforcement priorities, as strengthening institutions such as through increased funding and seeking/participating in capacity building and technical assistance.

Action Plan Response Template
2025 Commission Meeting

CPC (Contracting Party/Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity):

Guinea-Bissau

Date of submission or revision *(29/09/2026)*:

DEFICIENCES TO BE ADDRESSED
The issues identified by the COC in its letter are: - Lack of an implementation schedule (Rec. 11-11); - Lack of an annual report; - Lack of statistical data; - Lack of a checklist (Rec. 18-06); - Lack of information on the implementation of measures regarding sea turtles (Rec. 22-12); - Lack of information on transshipment in ports (Rec. 18-09).
SUMMARY INTRODUCTION
Guinea-Bissau does not have a tuna fishery action plan; instead, it conducts annual research campaigns on demersal and small pelagic resources, thereby enabling the annual preparation of a fisheries management plan for these resources.
ACTION ITEMS
Not applicable, as there is no Action Plan for tuna and tuna-like species.
PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
Not applicable, as there is no Action Plan for tuna and tuna-like species.
TIMELINE / INCREMENTAL BENCHMARKS FOR COMPLETION
Not applicable, as there is no Action Plan for tuna and tuna-like species.
EXPECTED IMPROVEMENTS / OUTCOMES IN THE NEXT YEAR
Not applicable, as there is no Action Plan for tuna and tuna-like species.
DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED / ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS TAKEN
Not applicable, as there is no Action Plan for tuna and tuna-like species.
CONCLUDING SUMMARY
The absence of an Action Plan for the fishery of tuna and tuna-like species hinders the country's implementation of ICCAT measures and recommendations. **Therefore, the country will take steps in the near future to develop an Action Plan aimed at complying with all ICCAT recommendations regarding the fishery of tuna and tuna-like species.**
LIST OF APPENDICES AND ATTACHMENTS
Not applicable, as there is no Action Plan for tuna and tuna-like species.

Compliance Letter Response Template

2025 COMMISSION MEETING			
CPC: LIBERIA			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	**SPECIFIC ELEMENTS**	**REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN***	**DATE MISSING/REQUESTED DATA & INFORMATION WAS SENT** *(if applicable)*
CATEGORY A			
Compliance Tables			
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions			
CATEGORY B			
Annual Report	Annual Report IOMS Section 1 (STATs) received late.	This has been ratified in the current report. The current Annual Reports were submitted on time.	
Statistical Data	No ST03 form sent (Rec. 66-01 and Rec. 05-09).	Liberia did not submit data under STO3, as the country does not currently operate any flag vessels targeting tuna or tuna-like species. Nevertheless, in accordance with reporting requirements, Liberia has submitted a "zero form" for the current year. This submission ensures full compliance with ICCAT statistical obligations by formally documenting the absence of national flag vessel activity in these fisheries. The zero reporting also reinforces transparency and provides continuity in Liberia's annual data series, thereby maintaining the integrity of the statistical record.	
	No ST04 form sent (Rec. 66-01 and Rec. 05-09).	This has been ratified, and for this year reporting period, the STO4 form was sent.	
	No ST09 form sent (Rec. 16-14, national scientific observer programme).	We were previously confused as to whether we were obligated to report STO9 since we don't have flagged tuna vessels. However, the Secretariat informs us that even in the absence of flagged, we are obligated to report STO9. We have submitted said report.	
Other Reports			
CATEGORY C			
MCS-Species Related	Rec. 24-01 (Paras 13-16): Task 1 for tropical species in 2024 but no corresponding	Liberia was unable to submit quarterly or monthly reports on tropical tuna because the country does not operate any flagged	

	periodical reports submitted (Tropical tuna quarterly/monthly catches are reported through CP50-TROP_MQcRp, and weekly BET catches after reaching 80% of the catch limit through CP59-BET_WcRp. Both forms are available here).	vessels targeting tuna or tuna-like species. Liberia's fisheries sector is composed exclusively of artisanal operations, for which data are collected through a scientifically recognized sample-based methodology. These samples are subsequently extrapolated at the end of the year to generate national estimates of total catch per species on an annual basis. Given the structure of the fishery and the statistical approach employed, it is not practically feasible for Liberia to disaggregate, and report catch data by species on a monthly or quarterly basis. Annual reporting therefore remains the only scientifically valid and operationally consistent method for Liberia's fisheries data submission.	
MCS General	Rec. 16-14 (Paras 4 and 10): No information on the domestic observer programme in place was submitted through ST09 or in the Annual Report (under requirement S:GEN11 of *Part 1, Section 3 of the Annual Report ("Online Reporting") in IOMS.* Some information in the Annual Report Word file under *Section 1.2 Research and statistics*.	Information on the domestic observer program and the coverage was reported in the annual report but no STO9 was submitted. However, these issues have been resolved in the current reporting period.	
Port Controls			
Vessel Controls			
OTHER			

***** Relevant remedial actions should be applied broadly, to include actions taken or planned to address the matter identified by the COC and may include actions initiated by the CPC prior to COC raising the matter. Actions could include, inter alia, changes to applicable laws and regulations, policies, organizational structures, and enforcement priorities, as strengthening institutions such as through increased funding and seeking/participating in capacity building and technical assistance.

Action Plan Response Template
2025 Commission Meeting

CPC (Contracting Party/Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity):

Liberia

Date of submission or revision *(16/10/2026)*:

DEFICIENCES TO BE ADDRESSED
[List the specific issues identified by the COC in its letter to the CPC] The issues raised in the COC chair letter are as follow: 1. Annual Report IOMS Section 1 (STATs) received late. 2. No ST03 form sent (Rec. 66-01 and Rec. 05-09). 3. No ST04 form sent (Rec. 66-01 and Rec. 05-09). 4. No ST09 form sent (Rec. 16-14, national scientific observer programme). 5. Rec. 24-01 (Paras 13-16): Task 1 for tropical species in 2024 but no corresponding periodical reports submitted (Tropical tuna quarterly/monthly catches are reported through CP50-TROP_MQcRp, and weekly BET catches after reaching 80% of the catch limit through CP59-BET_WcRp. Both forms are available here). 6. Rec. 16-14 (Paras 4 and 10): No information on the domestic observer programme in place was submitted through ST09 or in the Annual Report (under requirement S:GEN11 of *Part 1, Section 3 of the Annual Report ("Online Reporting") in IOMS.* Some information in the Annual Report Word file under *Section 1.2 Research and statistics*.
SUMMARY INTRODUCTION
[Provide a brief context on the issues and the purpose of this Action Plan] The issues raised by the COC are mainly delay in reporting as listed above. To remedy this situation, this plan is developed purposely to provide corrective actions that Liberia expect to take with timelines and strategy to achieve them.
ACTION ITEMS
[List and describe the concrete steps the CPC will implement, including where applicable the legally binding nature of the action] The actions that will be implemented to remedy the current late reporting issues are catalogue below: 1. Regarding of statistical data (forms) through the IOMS, the statistical correspondent and the lead responsible for coordinating Liberia reports were trained by the ICCAT Secretariat and are now prepared to submit these reports ten (10) days before the deadline for each report, allowing time for corrections if any. 2. Liberia submitted this 2026 and will continue to send Zero STO9 form until we develop our fisheries sector and flag tuna vessels for which fisheries observers will be deployed on providing 100% coverage as mandated in the 2019 Fisheries and Aquaculture Management and Development Law of Liberia. 3. Regarding the monthly and quarterly reporting obligations, Liberia is currently working on devising means to estimate the monthly and quarterly reports.
PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
[Describe how each action will be executed, responsible parties, and resource allocation] Actions to be executed: 1. Report Liberia-ICCAT statistical data by 15 June of each year, starting with 2027 reporting period by the Statistical Correspondence- Nasi T. Broh, Associate Director for Statistics-NaFAA and supervise by Austin Saye Wehye- Director of Research and Statistics-NaFAA. 2. Submit all of the sections of the Annual Report by 15 August each year, starting the 2027 reporting period by the Liberia ICCAT Focal Person- Austin Saye Wehye, Director of Research and Statistics- NaFAA. 3. Commence submission of quarterly in 2027 and later monthly report when we shall have flagged tuna vessels in 2028, by the Statistical Correspondence- Nasi T. Broh, Associate Director for Statistics-NaFAA and supervise by Austin Saye Wehye- Director of Research and Statistics-NaFAA.

TIMELINE / INCREMENTAL BENCHMARKS FOR COMPLETION

[Outline the schedule with milestones for each corrective action, including where applicable dates that planned actions will enter into effect]

Corrective actions:

1. Report Liberia-ICCAT statistical data by June 15 of each year, starting with 2027 reporting period.
2. Submit all of the sections of the annual report by August 15 each year, starting the 2027 reporting period.
3. Commence submission of quarterly in 2027 and later monthly report when we shall have flagged tuna vessels in 2028.

EXPECTED IMPROVEMENTS / OUTCOMES IN THE NEXT YEAR

[Specify measurable improvements expected as a result of the plan]

By 2027:

1. All statistical reports will be submitted by 15 June 2027.
2. All annual reports will be submitted by 15 August 2027.
3. Submit four quarterly reports by 2027.
4. Liberia will endeavor to start reporting monthly by January 2028.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED / ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS TAKEN

[Describe any challenges faced during implementation and adjustments made]

The challenges Liberia will have during implementation are:

1. Difficulty in monthly reporting starting January 2027 due to end of the extrapolation of the sample data collected from the artisanal fisheries. To mitigate this challenge, Liberia will increase the sample size for collection of ICCAT related data and start monthly reporting by January 2028.
2. The transition from paper-based reporting to the IOMS had been a challenge. An extra session on reporting statistical forms on IOMS was conducted for Liberia technicians exclusively.

CONCLUDING SUMMARY

[Summarise the overall approach and commitment to resolving the deficiencies]

Liberia is committed to achieving the commitment herein based on the prescribed timelines and the proposed methodologies to achieving them. Monitoring on progress will be done quarterly until all the proposed actions are achieved.

LIST OF APPENDICES AND ATTACHMENTS

[If applicable, list appendices or attachments with additional information, such as copies or excerpts of relevant laws, regulations, administrative actions, procedures, and policies]

Not applicable

Compliance Letter Response Template

2025 COMMISSION MEETING			
CPC: NAMIBIA			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	**SPECIFIC ELEMENTS**	**REMEDIAL ACTION BY THE CPC**	**DATE MISSING/REQUESTED DATA & INFORMATION WAS SENT** *(if applicable)*
CATEGORY A			
Compliance Tables	Rec. 19-05: Recurrent overharvest >5 years BUM (2024 balance: -441.11 t).	Remedial actions implemented and further measures Namibia acknowledges the recurrent overharvest reported for Atlantic blue marlin (Makaira nigricans) and is committed to strengthening implementation of ICCAT Recommendation 19-05. As a corrective measure, Namibia has completed the redesign of its landing forms to improve the separate identification and recording of blue marlin and other billfish species. This measure addresses a potential source of misclassification in catch reporting and is intended to improve the accuracy and reliability of the data submitted to ICCAT. To consolidate this improvement and address the outstanding overharvest, Namibia will undertake the following additional measures: Verification of catch data: Review and reconcile historical and current blue marlin catch records against landing declarations, fishing logbooks and available observer information to establish whether the reported deficit reflects actual catches, species misclassification or other reporting discrepancies. Any necessary corrections will be documented and submitted through the applicable ICCAT data revision procedures. Implementation monitoring: Assess the effectiveness of the redesigned landing forms through	

		landing inspections, cross-checking of catch declarations and verification of species identification. Relevant fisheries personnel and industry stakeholders will be informed of the revised reporting requirements. Strengthened catch monitoring and control: Maintain regular monitoring of cumulative blue marlin catches against the applicable catch limit, with an early-warning mechanism to identify potential exceedances and enable timely management intervention. Corrective measures for confirmed overharvest: Following reconciliation of the reported 2024 balance of −441.11 tonnes, Namibia will assess and implement appropriate measures within its national mandate and applicable ICCAT requirements to prevent further exceedances and address any confirmed non-compliance. Ongoing evaluation and reporting: Namibia will monitor the effectiveness of these interventions and provide ICCAT with updated catch information and evidence of progress through the relevant compliance reporting processes. Namibia considers the completion of the landing-form redesign an important step towards improving species-specific catch reporting. Further verification, effective catch-limit monitoring and appropriate management intervention will be used to strengthen compliance and prevent recurrence of overharvest.	
	Rec. 22-11: Overharvest SMA-S (2024 balance: -260.88 t).	Namibia acknowledges the matters raised by the ICCAT Compliance Committee concerning catch limits, overharvest and the implementation of relevant conservation and management measures. Namibia remains committed to fulfilling its obligations under the ICCAT Convention and to cooperating constructively with the	

		Commission in addressing the identified matters. Namibia wishes to emphasise that considerable efforts have already been made to reduce shortfin mako catches, improve live-release outcomes, strengthen incidental catch monitoring and improve the management of its large pelagic fishery. These efforts should be considered alongside Namibia's domestic legal framework, the operational realities of its fishery and the ongoing processes to align national legislation with applicable ICCAT recommendations. 1. Corrective Measures Relating to Catch Limits and Overharvest 1.1 Shortfin Mako Shark – Catch Reductions and Corrective Measures Namibia acknowledges the historical overharvest of shortfin mako shark and recognises the need to address the outstanding catch balance in accordance with applicable ICCAT requirements. Nevertheless, Namibia wishes to highlight the considerable and measurable efforts undertaken since mid-2023 to reduce shortfin mako catches. The measures introduced have resulted in a substantial reduction in retained landings compared with the 2023 level. Namibia's reported shortfin mako landings were as follows: Year Landings (tonnes) Change compared with 2023 2023 522.00 Baseline 2024 250.88 51.9% reduction 2025 260.62 50.1% reduction 2026, January–September Approximately 140.00 tonnes Partial-year figure Namibia's 2024 landings of 250.88 tonnes were within the applicable catch limit of 256 tonnes. Although landings increased slightly to 260.62 tonnes in 2025, this remained approximately 50.1% below the 2023 level. This demonstrates that the reductions achieved since the introduction of mitigation measures have been largely maintained.	

		The updated information for January to September 2026 records approximately 140 tonnes of landings against the retention allowance of 166.95 tonnes applicable to Namibia for 2026 under ICCAT Recommendation 25-08. This represents approximately 83.9% of the annual allowance at the end of September. Namibia will continue monitoring catches closely for the remainder of the year to limit further landings and remain within the applicable limit. Since June and July 2023, Namibia has introduced and implemented the following measures to reduce shortfin mako interactions and mortality: - Mandatory release of live shortfin mako: All live shortfin mako sharks brought alongside during fishing operations are released back into the sea. - Avoidance of high-encounter areas: Licensed vessels have been instructed to avoid areas where higher shortfin mako catches are experienced. - Deeper longline fishing: Vessels have been instructed to set their lines deeper in the water column to reduce interactions with shortfin mako, which are frequently encountered at shallower depths in Namibian waters. - Voluntary prohibition of wire traces: Namibia introduced a voluntary prohibition on wire traces in its longline fishery in 2023 as an additional measure to reduce shortfin mako mortality. - Continued monitoring: Catch and landing data are monitored to assess the effectiveness of the measures and guide further corrective action. These measures were introduced partway through 2023, meaning their full effect could not be reflected in the landings for that year. The increase in reported live releases provides further evidence of the changes in fishing practices. Namibia's recorded live releases increased from 97.75 tonnes in	

		2023 to 181.96 tonnes in 2024 and 224.65 tonnes in 2025. This represents a substantial increase in the quantity of shortfin mako released alive and supports Namibia's position that its mitigation measures have contributed to reducing retained catches. Namibia recognises that the outstanding catch balance must still be addressed. The country will therefore continue implementing and reviewing its mitigation measures, monitoring catches against the applicable limits, and reconciling catch and landing records to assess progress towards addressing the historical overharvest. 1.2 National Legislation and the Prohibition on Discarding Dead Fish A significant consideration in Namibia's management of shortfin mako is the current domestic legal framework. Namibian legislation prohibits the discarding of dead fish, including shortfin mako sharks. Consequently, all dead fish caught during fishing operations must be retained and landed. This creates a legal and practical constraint in implementing measures that require dead shortfin mako to be discarded at sea. Namibia cannot implement such a requirement in contravention of its binding national legislation. Namibia acknowledges the importance of aligning its domestic legislation with applicable ICCAT conservation and management measures. Processes are currently underway to amend the existing national legislation to address this matter and improve alignment with the relevant ICCAT recommendations. However, legislative amendments require appropriate legal review, consultation and the completion of established national procedures. These processes take time and cannot be implemented immediately. The current legal position should therefore be considered in the	

		context of the legislative amendments underway and the mitigation measures already implemented by Namibia. The prohibition on discarding dead fish should not be interpreted as an unwillingness to improve compliance. Rather, it demonstrates the need for a legally sound transition that enables Namibia to meet its international obligations while ensuring that the necessary amendments to national law are properly completed. In the interim, Namibia will continue requiring the release of live shortfin mako, implementing measures to reduce encounters, promoting appropriate fishing practices and monitoring catches and landings. The legislative amendment process remains an important component of Namibia's corrective action plan. 1.3 SMA-S Balance and Blue Marlin Catch Management With regard to the SMA-S balance, Namibia will continue reviewing and reconciling the relevant catch and landing information to establish the outstanding balance accurately. The applicable catch records and reporting information will be assessed to identify discrepancies and determine the corrective measures required. Namibia will strengthen the monitoring of catch utilisation and improve verification of reported catches and landings. The outstanding balance, the measures already introduced and the further actions required to prevent recurrence will be addressed through the accompanying action plan. Regarding blue marlin, Namibia acknowledges the importance of effective monitoring against the applicable catch limits. Namibia will continue reviewing the management and monitoring arrangements for the species, including reconciliation of catch and landing information, regular assessment of catch utilisation and timely identification of potential overharvest.	

		These measures are intended to strengthen oversight, facilitate timely management intervention and prevent recurrence. 2. Implementation of ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures Namibia acknowledges the importance of submitting complete, accurate and timely information demonstrating the implementation of applicable ICCAT conservation and management measures. Namibia is undertaking improvements to its monitoring, data collection and reporting arrangements to strengthen compliance and the quality of information submitted to the Commission. 2.1 Sea Turtle Mitigation Measures – Recommendation 22-12 Namibia recognises the importance of implementing appropriate mitigation measures for sea turtles and providing the required information on the implementation of Recommendation 22-12. Namibia is reviewing its national fisheries regulatory framework to strengthen the legal requirements relating to incidental catches and the mitigation of interactions with protected marine species, including sea turtles, seabirds and marine mammals. The national review is intended to provide a stronger legal basis for implementing mitigation measures across the fishing fleet. Existing monitoring arrangements, including fisheries observer reports, vessel logbooks and a newly introduced incidental catch form has been developed to improve the recording and reporting of interactions with bycatch species across all fleets. Namibia will continue consolidating information on the measures implemented, monitoring procedures and any additional requirements arising from the regulatory review. The objective is to improve the completeness of future reporting and ensure that national	

		arrangements progressively align with applicable ICCAT requirements. 2.2 Monthly Landings Reports for South Atlantic Shortfin Mako – Recommendation 22-11 Namibia acknowledges the requirement for complete and timely monthly reporting of South Atlantic shortfin mako catches and landings under Recommendation 22-11. The substantial reduction in reported landings compared with 2023 demonstrates Namibia's commitment to reducing retained catches and addressing the historical overharvest. However, Namibia recognises that effective management must be supported by accurate, verifiable and timely reporting. Namibia will continue reconciling vessel logbooks, landing declarations and catch records to improve the consistency of reported information. Internal verification procedures will be reviewed to identify and address discrepancies and support the timely submission of required monthly information. Monitoring catch utilisation against the applicable retention allowance will remain a priority, particularly in light of the reduced allowance applicable to Namibia in 2026. Namibia will also continue assessing the effectiveness of the measures already introduced and identify further practical interventions where necessary to reduce shortfin mako interactions and retained catches. 2.3 Methodology for Estimating Dead Discards and Live Releases Namibia acknowledges the importance of transparent and scientifically credible information on dead discards and live releases. As explained above, Namibia's current domestic legislation prohibits the discarding of dead fish. Consequently, dead shortfin mako caught during fishing operations must be retained and landed. Namibia is pursuing amendments to the national	

		legislative framework to address alignment with applicable ICCAT recommendations. Until the relevant legislative process is completed, the current legal requirements remain applicable. Namibia will continue improving the recording of catches through observer reports, vessel logbooks and incidental catch forms. These monitoring tools provide information on whether individuals are alive, dead or injured at haulback and whether they are retained or released alive. Namibia's preliminary incidental catch monitoring work has demonstrated the value of integrating these information sources. However, the current datasets remain limited in vessel coverage and reporting periods. Namibia will therefore continue strengthening and expanding these arrangements to improve data completeness, consistency and reliability. The methodology used to estimate and report dead discards and live releases will be documented and clarified, including the relevant data sources, calculation methods, assumptions and limitations, as applicable. This will assist in distinguishing recorded landings from live releases and other incidental catch information and provide a clearer basis for future submissions to ICCAT. Preliminary analysis of live release catch rates has already been presented (SCRS/2026/135) earlier this year (2026) at the SCRS Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM) by Namibian scientists and a refined document with the statistical methodology will be presented next year at the Shark Species Group as per SCRS Plenary Resolutions. Namibia will continue working towards a more comprehensive monitoring framework that supports transparent reporting and the effective implementation of conservation and management measures.	

		3. Continued Commitment and Corrective Action Plan Namibia reiterates its commitment to the conservation and sustainable management of ICCAT-managed species and to addressing the matters identified by the Compliance Committee. The measures already introduced demonstrate that Namibia has taken concrete steps to reduce shortfin mako catches and improve live-release outcomes. Landings declined from 522 tonnes in 2023 to 250.88 tonnes in 2024 and remained substantially below the 2023 level at 260.62 tonnes in 2025. The increase in reported live releases further demonstrates the changes in fishing practices and the continued implementation of mitigation measures. Namibia recognises, however, that further work is required to address the outstanding catch balance, strengthen catch monitoring and reporting, and complete the necessary legislative amendments. The accompanying action plan will set out the corrective measures to be undertaken, including: 1. Continued reconciliation and monitoring of catch and landing data, including the outstanding SMA-S balance and the management of blue marlin catches. 2. Continued implementation and review of shortfin mako mitigation measures, with the objective of reducing catches and addressing the historical overharvest. 3. Continued monitoring of catch utilisation against applicable ICCAT limits and retention allowances. 4. Progression of the national legislative amendment process to improve alignment with relevant ICCAT recommendations, including requirements relating to dead discards. 5. Strengthening of observer reporting, incidental catch records and the documentation of dead	

		discards and live releases. 6. Improvement of the completeness, accuracy and timeliness of information submitted to ICCAT, including monthly shortfin mako landing reports, quarterly reports of tropical tuna and information relating to sea turtle and seabird mitigation measures. Namibia remains committed to cooperating with the ICCAT Secretariat and the Compliance Committee in addressing the identified matters. Namibia respectfully requests that the measures already implemented, the substantial reduction in shortfin mako landings compared with 2023, the increase in live releases and the ongoing legislative reform process be taken into consideration when assessing the country's response. Namibia's objective is to achieve effective and sustainable compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures through practical mitigation, improved monitoring, transparent reporting and the progressive alignment of national legislation with its international obligations.	
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions			
CATEGORY B			
Annual Report			
Statistical Data	ST09 received late.		
Other Reports	Rec. 18-06: SHK check sheet received late.		17/09/2026
CATEGORY C			
MCS-Species Related	Rec. 22-12 (Para 8): No information on the implementation of the turtle measures, either under requirement M:BYC01 of *Part 2, Section 3 of the Annual Report ("Online Reporting") in IOMS* or in the Annual Report Word file under *Section 2.1 Implementation of ICCAT conservation*	Response to Non-Compliance: Reporting on Sea Turtle Conservation Measures Namibia acknowledges the omission of information on the implementation of sea turtle conservation and bycatch mitigation measures under requirement M:BYC01 of Part 2, Section 3 of the Annual Report ("Online Reporting") in IOMS, as well as in Section 2.1, "Implementation of ICCAT	

	and management measures.	Conservation and Management Measures," of the Annual Report Word file. Namibia recognises the importance of reporting comprehensively on the implementation of applicable ICCAT conservation and management measures, including those relating to the mitigation of sea turtle bycatch in fisheries under its jurisdiction. As a corrective action, Namibia will ensure that the relevant information on the implementation of applicable sea turtle mitigation measures is compiled, verified and submitted through the appropriate reporting channels. The information will cover the measures applicable to the relevant fisheries, their implementation status, and any available information on monitoring, crew awareness and training, and the handling and release of incidentally caught sea turtles, as applicable. To prevent recurrence, Namibia will strengthen its internal review and verification procedures for annual compliance reporting to ensure that all applicable ICCAT reporting requirements are addressed in both the IOMS online reporting system and the accompanying Annual Report Word file before submission. Namibia remains committed to improving the completeness and accuracy of its compliance reporting and to implementing applicable ICCAT measures for the protection of sea turtles and the mitigation of incidental bycatch	
	Rec. 24-01: Task 1 for tropical species in 2024 but no corresponding periodical reports submitted.		09/09/2026
	Rec. 01-21 and Rec. 01-22: Non-existent ALB-S statistical document issued.		resolved

	Rec. 22-11 (Para 11): No SMA-S monthly landings report. Request information on the statistical methodology used to estimate dead discards and live releases.		09/09/2026
	Rec. 11-09 (Para. 7): No submission of form CP44 – Implementation of Seabird Bycatch Mitigation Measures.	Response to Non-Compliance: Non-submission of Form CP44 – Implementation of Seabird Bycatch Mitigation Measures Namibia acknowledges the non-submission of Form CP44 on the implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation measures and recognises the importance of fulfilling ICCAT's reporting requirements relating to the conservation of seabirds and the mitigation of incidental bycatch in applicable fisheries. As a corrective action, Namibia will review the applicable ICCAT reporting requirements, compile and verify the relevant information on seabird bycatch mitigation measures implemented in its fisheries, and ensure that Form CP44 is completed and submitted through the prescribed reporting channel. To prevent recurrence, Namibia will strengthen its internal compliance-reporting procedures by incorporating Form CP44 into the annual reporting checklist, assigning responsibility for its completion and review, and conducting a final verification of all applicable ICCAT reporting obligations before submission. Namibia remains committed to improving the completeness and timeliness of its compliance reporting and to implementing applicable ICCAT conservation and management measures for the mitigation of seabird bycatch.	
MCS General			
Port Controls	Rec. 24-15 (Appendix 3, Para 6): No information on in-port transhipment.		No in port transhipment was done

Vessel Controls			
OTHER			

***** Relevant remedial actions should be applied broadly, to include actions taken or planned to address the matter identified by the COC and may include actions initiated by the CPC prior to COC raising the matter. Actions could include, inter alia, changes to applicable laws and regulations, policies, organizational structures, and enforcement priorities, as strengthening institutions such as through increased funding and seeking/participating in capacity building and technical assistance.

Action Plan Response Template
2025 Commission Meeting

CPC (Contracting Party/Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity):

Namibia

Date of submission or revision (Day/Month/Year): To be confirmed by Namibia

DEFICIENCES TO BE ADDRESSED
This Action Plan addresses the deficiencies identified in Namibia's response to the ICCAT Compliance Committee for the 2025 Commission Meeting: • Recommendation 25-08 / shortfin mako shark (SMA): historical overharvest and the need to monitor catches against the applicable retention allowance, reconcile catch records and document corrective measures. • Recommendation 19-05: recurrent Atlantic blue marlin (BUM) overharvest; reported 2024 balance −441.11 t. • Recommendation 22-11: shortfin mako (SMA-S) overharvest; reported 2024 balance −260.88 t. • Category B: late submission of ST09 statistical data and the shark (SHK) check sheet under Recommendation 18-06. • Category C: missing sea turtle measures information under Recommendation 22-12, paragraph 8; missing periodic reports for tropical species under Recommendation 24-01 Task 1 for 2024; missing SMA-S monthly landings reporting and requested methodology for estimating dead discards and live releases under Recommendation 22-11, paragraph 11; and non-submission of seabird bycatch mitigation Form CP44 under Recommendation 11-09, paragraph 7. • Port controls: missing information on in-port transhipment under Recommendation 24-15, Appendix 3, paragraph 6. Namibia's compliance response states that no in-port transhipment was conducted. • The ALB-S statistical-document issue under Recommendations 01-21 and 01-22 is recorded as resolved in the compliance response. Note: the applicable shortfin mako recommendation number and wording should be confirmed against the latest ICCAT Compliance Committee correspondence before formal submission.
SUMMARY INTRODUCTION
Namibia submits this Action Plan to address the deficiencies recorded in its compliance response and to strengthen the accuracy, completeness and timeliness of fisheries data and ICCAT compliance reporting. The plan incorporates measures already reported, including the redesign of landing forms to distinguish Atlantic blue marlin and other billfish, measures introduced since 2023 to reduce shortfin mako interactions and retained catches, and the confirmation that no in-port transhipment was conducted. For shortfin mako, Namibia reports a substantial reduction in landings from 522 tonnes in 2023 to 250.88 tonnes in 2024 and 260.62 tonnes in 2025. Approximately 140 tonnes were landed between January and September 2026 against a reported 2026 retention allowance of 166.95 tonnes. These figures are to be verified against official catch and landing records before submission. The historical overharvest remains to be reconciled and addressed; reduced recent landings do not, by themselves, clear the outstanding balance. The actions below combine catch-data reconciliation, monitoring and mitigation with a documented reporting workflow, assigned institutional responsibilities and quality control before submission. Proposed deadlines are expressed relative to formal adoption of this plan and should be confirmed by the responsible Namibian authorities.
ACTION ITEMS
1. Shortfin mako shark (SMA) — catch overharvest and corrective measures a. Reconcile historical and current shortfin mako catch and landing records against vessel logbooks, landing declarations, observer information and incidental-catch forms. Document the historical overharvest balance, the methodology used and any discrepancies requiring correction.

b. Verify reported landings of 522.00 t in 2023, 250.88 t in 2024, 260.62 t in 2025 and approximately 140.00 t for January–September 2026 against official records. Confirm the applicable 2026 retention allowance of 166.95 t under ICCAT Recommendation 25-08 before formal submission.

c. Continue monitoring cumulative catches and landings against the applicable retention allowance, with regular internal updates, an early-warning threshold and escalation to the responsible management authority when catch utilisation approaches the limit.

d. Continue implementing and documenting measures introduced since 2023: release of live shortfin mako brought alongside; instructions to avoid areas of high encounters; deeper longline setting; and the voluntary prohibition on wire traces. Assess their effectiveness using verified catch, landing, observer and live-release information.

e. Record and review live releases separately from retained landings. The reported live-release quantities of 97.75 t in 2023, 181.96 t in 2024 and 224.65 t in 2025 should be verified against the underlying data and the applicable reporting method.

f. Namibia's domestic legislation currently prohibits discarding dead fish, which means dead shortfin mako caught during fishing operations must be retained and landed. Progress the national legislative review and amendment process to improve alignment with applicable ICCAT measures. Do not treat the amendments as enacted until the required national procedures have been completed.

g. Strengthen monthly reporting and document the methodology, data sources, assumptions and limitations used to report catches, dead fish retained and live releases. Expand and improve the consistency of observer and incidental-catch information where practicable.

2. Atlantic blue marlin (BUM) — Recommendation 19-05

a. Reconcile historical and current catch records with landing declarations, logbooks and available observer information.

b. Document whether the reported −441.11 t balance reflects actual catches, species misclassification or other reporting discrepancies; submit any justified revisions through applicable ICCAT data-revision procedures.

c. Apply the redesigned landing forms, verify species identification during landing inspections and cross-check declarations.

d. Monitor cumulative catches against the applicable limit and establish an early-warning and escalation process.

3. Shortfin mako (SMA-S) Recommendation 22-11

a. Document the management measures already introduced and provide available catch data to demonstrate the current position. Reconcile the reported 2024 balance of −260.88 t with verified catch and landing records; do not present the historical balance as resolved without evidence.

b. Maintain monthly landings reporting and document the statistical methodology used to estimate dead discards and live releases, including data sources, assumptions and calculation steps.

c. Continue monitoring catches and record management follow-up.

4. Timeliness of statistical and other reports — Category B

a. Record the ST09 and SHK check-sheet submission dates and retain evidence of submission. The compliance response records the SHK check sheet as sent on 17/09/2026; confirm and document the ST09 submission status and date.

b. Maintain a central reporting calendar, named report owners, internal deadlines and an escalation process for late or incomplete inputs.

5. Sea turtle measures — Recommendation 22-12, paragraph 8

Compile, verify and report applicable sea turtle mitigation measures in IOMS requirement M:BYC01 and Section 2.1 of the Annual Report Word file. Include implementation status and, where available and applicable, monitoring, crew awareness/training, and handling and release of incidentally caught turtles.

6. Tropical species periodic reports — Recommendation 24-01, Task 1
Confirm the reporting requirements and reporting periods for the 2024 task, compile relevant information and submit any outstanding periodic reports through the prescribed channel. Retain submission evidence. Confirm the exact item recorded as submitted on 09/09/2026.

7. Seabird mitigation Form CP44 — Recommendation 11-09, paragraph 7
Compile and verify information on seabird bycatch mitigation measures applicable to Namibia's fisheries, complete and submit Form CP44, and add the form to the annual reporting checklist with a designated preparer and reviewer.

8. In-port transhipment — Recommendation 24-15, Appendix 3, paragraph 6
Report that no in-port transhipment was conducted for the relevant period, as stated in the compliance response. Verify the reporting period and retain supporting administrative or port records. If activity occurs in a future period, record and report it in accordance with applicable ICCAT requirements.

9. Cross-cutting quality assurance
Use a single compliance matrix covering every applicable recommendation and reporting obligation. Before submission, a reviewer not responsible for preparing the report should verify completeness, consistency between IOMS and the Annual Report, deadlines, supporting evidence and final submission receipts.

Legal status: these are administrative, data-verification, monitoring and reporting actions. Any new legally binding restrictions or regulatory amendments must be identified and adopted separately by the competent Namibian authority where required. This draft does not assert that proposed legislative amendments have already been enacted.

PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION

Lead institution: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform (MAFWLR), through the fisheries directorate/unit responsible for fisheries management, statistics, monitoring, control and surveillance, and ICCAT reporting. The Ministry will designate responsible officers internally; individual names and titles are to be inserted by the Ministry.

Shortfin mako catch data and controls: the responsible fisheries statistics/data staff will lead reconciliation of historical and current catches and landings. Fisheries inspectors and relevant monitoring, control and surveillance personnel will verify landing declarations and species identification. Available observer information, vessel logbooks and incidental-catch forms will be used where relevant. The responsible management unit will monitor cumulative catches against the applicable retention allowance, document the measures already introduced and assess their effect using verified catch and live-release information.

Legislative alignment: the responsible Ministry unit, in consultation with the relevant legal and policy authorities, will progress the national legislative review concerning the prohibition on discarding dead fish. Until any amendment is duly adopted and brought into force, the current national legal requirements remain applicable.

Blue marlin and shortfin mako (SMA-S): the responsible fisheries statistics/data staff will lead the BUM and SMA-S reconciliations. Fisheries inspectors and relevant MCS personnel will verify landing declarations and species identification. The responsible management unit will review potential exceedances and document the measures introduced for shortfin mako (SMA-S) and the available evidence of current catch utilisation.

Annual and periodic reporting: the designated ICCAT reporting coordinator will coordinate IOMS, the Annual Report, ST09, the SHK check sheet, tropical-species periodic reports, SMA-S monthly landings information and Form CP44. Relevant technical staff will provide sea turtle and seabird mitigation information. A supervisor or other designated reviewer will conduct the final quality check.

Port controls: the responsible port-control or fisheries monitoring unit will confirm the reporting period and verify the statement that no in-port transhipment occurred against available records.

Resources: implementation will be carried out using existing Ministry staff and systems. The plan does not currently rely on additional funding or external technical assistance. Any resource constraints identified during implementation will be documented and referred to Ministry management.

TIMELINE / INCREMENTAL BENCHMARKS FOR COMPLETION

Implementation period: within 60 days of formal approval/adoption of this Action Plan. The Ministry will sequence the actions as follows:

Days 1–15 — Designate an accountable lead and report owners; establish the master compliance matrix and reporting calendar; gather submission receipts and confirm the status of ST09, the SHK check sheet, tropical-species reports, SMA-S monthly landings information, Form CP44 and the in-port transhipment statement. Confirm the applicable shortfin mako recommendation, the official 2026 retention allowance and the verified catch position through September 2026.

Days 1–30 — Reconcile shortfin mako historical and current catch and landing records; verify the reported annual landings and live-release figures; document the outstanding historical balance and any data discrepancies. Establish or confirm the routine catch-utilisation monitoring and early-warning process. Document the mitigation measures already implemented and the available evidence of their effectiveness. Confirm the methodology for distinguishing retained dead fish, live releases and other incidental-catch information. Continue reconciliation of BUM and SMA-S records and determine whether data corrections are justified.

Days 15–45 — Review progress on the national legislative amendment process relating to dead-fish discarding and record the procedural steps still required. Compile and verify sea turtle and seabird mitigation information; prepare or complete Form CP44; check consistency between IOMS and the Annual Report; and confirm whether any periodic tropical-species reports remain outstanding.

By Day 60 — Complete the planned corrective and reporting actions; submit the Action Plan and Form CP44 together as indicated by Namibia; submit any other outstanding reports or supporting information; and retain submission receipts and supporting records. Where a catch-balance reconciliation, legislative process or corrective decision cannot reasonably be concluded within 60 days, document the work completed, outstanding steps, responsible officer and target completion date.

Monthly thereafter — Review cumulative shortfin mako, BUM and SMA-S catches and landings against applicable limits; document catch alerts, management decisions and corrective follow-up; and check the timeliness and completeness of monthly reporting where applicable.

Before each annual or periodic ICCAT deadline — Complete the reporting checklist, reconcile IOMS and Annual Report entries, conduct independent review and retain proof of submission.

At 6 and 12 months — Review action completion, reporting timeliness, data discrepancies, legislative progress and catch-monitoring performance, and update the plan through the applicable ICCAT compliance process.

EXPECTED IMPROVEMENTS / OUTCOMES IN THE NEXT YEAR

Within the first year of implementation, Namibia expects to achieve the following measurable outcomes:

- A documented reconciliation of shortfin mako historical and current catch and landing records, with the outstanding overharvest balance and any justified data corrections clearly recorded.
- Verified records of shortfin mako retained landings and live releases, supported by documented data sources, assumptions and methodology.
- Routine monitoring records for cumulative shortfin mako catches against the applicable retention allowance, with documented alerts and management follow-up where thresholds or potential exceedances are identified.

• Evidence of continued implementation and review of shortfin mako mitigation measures, including live release, avoidance of high-encounter areas, deeper longline setting and the voluntary prohibition on wire traces.
• Documented progress on the national legislative amendment process concerning dead-fish discarding, without implying that amendments are in force before completion of the required procedures.
• A documented reconciliation of BUM and SMA-S catch records, including explanations of reported balances and data revisions where justified.
• A defined monthly SMA-S landings reporting process and written, reproducible methodology for estimating dead discards and live releases.
• Complete and consistent sea turtle information in IOMS and the Annual Report, and submission of Form CP44 for seabird mitigation, as applicable.
• Submission of all required periodic tropical-species reports and documented evidence of ST09 and SHK check-sheet submission status.
• A verified statement and supporting records for the absence of in-port transhipment during the relevant period.
• A reporting calendar and checklist with assigned owners and reviewers, and a target of 100% on-time submission of applicable ICCAT reports during the next reporting cycle.
• Evidence that the ALB-S statistical-document issue remains resolved, subject to routine checks.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED / ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS TAKEN

The compliance response identifies several reporting omissions and late submissions but does not describe the underlying causes. Namibia should confirm the causes during implementation rather than assume them. Potential operational risks to assess include fragmented data sources, late receipt of inputs from relevant units, inconsistent completion of parallel online and Word reporting formats, and limitations in observer coverage or incidental-catch reporting.

For shortfin mako, the current national prohibition on discarding dead fish constrains the implementation of any measure requiring dead shortfin mako to be discarded at sea. Namibia will continue applying the current law while progressing the required national legislative review and amendment process. In the interim, measures include release of live shortfin mako, avoidance of high-encounter areas, deeper longline setting, the voluntary prohibition on wire traces, and strengthened monitoring and reporting.

Alternative and preventive measures include earlier internal deadlines, a central reporting calendar, named preparers and reviewers, written procedures for catch reconciliation and discard/release reporting, and a final cross-check of IOMS against the Annual Report. Where information is unavailable, the responsible unit should document the limitation, steps taken to obtain the data and a dated plan to resolve the gap. Where staffing, training or system resources are insufficient, the lead authority should document the need and consider targeted training or technical assistance.

Namibia, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform, will use this Action Plan to improve catch-data integrity, strengthen species-specific catch monitoring and ensure that required ICCAT reports are complete, consistent and submitted on time. For shortfin mako, Namibia will continue implementing and reviewing mitigation measures, monitor catches against the applicable retention allowance, reconcile the historical overharvest balance, strengthen the recording of live releases and retained dead fish, and progress the national legislative amendment process concerning dead-fish discarding. Namibia will also continue work to address the reported BUM balance and reconcile the historical SMA-S balance against verified catch records.

Namibia intends to complete the planned reporting and corrective actions within 60 days of formal approval of the plan, using existing Ministry staff and systems. Where a catch reconciliation or legislative process requires longer, the responsible unit will document progress, outstanding steps and a target completion date. Namibia will retain evidence of implementation and conduct periodic internal reviews to identify and correct gaps before future ICCAT submissions.

CONCLUDING SUMMARY

The following supporting records should be attached where available and relevant:
1. Revised landing-form template for separate identification of blue marlin and other billfish.
2. Shortfin mako catch and landing reconciliation, verified annual and partial-year figures, historical balance assessment and any ICCAT data-revision submissions.
3. Shortfin mako catch-monitoring/early-warning procedure and relevant inspection, logbook, observer or incidental-catch records.
4. Records supporting reported shortfin mako live releases and the methodology used to distinguish live releases from retained catches.
5. Documentation of shortfin mako mitigation measures already introduced and available evidence of implementation.
6. Status note or relevant records on the national legislative amendment process concerning dead-fish discarding.
7. BUM and SMA-S catch reconciliation summaries and any ICCAT data-revision submissions.
8. SMA-S monthly landings reports and written methodology for estimating dead discards and live releases.
9. Submission receipts or correspondence for ST09, the SHK check sheet, tropical-species periodic reports and Form CP44.
10. Completed sea turtle and seabird mitigation reporting information, including relevant procedures or training records where available.
11. Records supporting the statement that no in-port transhipment occurred during the relevant period.
12. Internal reporting calendar, checklist and review/approval procedure.

Only documents actually available and approved for disclosure should be listed as attached. Namibia should update this list to reflect the final submission package.

LIST OF APPENDICES AND ATTACHMENTS

[If applicable, list appendices or attachments with additional information, such as copies or excerpts of relevant laws, regulations, administrative actions, procedures, and policies]

RESPONSE TO LETTER ON COMPLIANCE ISSUES – NIGERIA'S COMMITMENT TO ADDRESSING REPORTING DEFICIENCIES, CLOSING DATA-REPORTING GAPS AND STRENGTHENING IMPLEMENTATION OF ICCAT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, through the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, I acknowledge receipt of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) letter dated 4 September 2026, reference **ICCAT-SALIDA S26-07374**, concerning reporting deficiencies and implementation issues identified during the Commission's 29th Regular Meeting held from 17 to 24 November 2025.

The Government of Nigeria appreciates the Commission's continued engagement, guidance and support in strengthening compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures, statistical reporting obligations, scientific monitoring requirements and associated administrative procedures.

Nigeria recognises the importance of timely, complete and accurate reporting in supporting the Commission's mandate to conserve and manage tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas. We acknowledge the deficiencies identified in the Commission's assessment and reaffirm Nigeria's commitment to addressing the outstanding matters through coordinated administrative, technical and institutional interventions.

Nigeria wishes to emphasise that the designated ICCAT Desk Officer/ Statistical Correspondent responsible for coordinating the country's ICCAT reporting obligations are actively engaged and working assiduously with the ICCAT Secretariat to close the outstanding data-reporting gaps. This ongoing engagement includes reviewing outstanding reporting requirements, reconciling available fisheries data, clarifying technical reporting issues, improving data quality and completeness, and facilitating the preparation and submission of the required reports.

Nigeria considers this collaboration an important step towards resolving the identified deficiencies, regularising outstanding reporting obligations and establishing a more effective and sustainable national ICCAT reporting framework.

The Government acknowledges that these efforts must be accompanied by strengthened internal coordination, improved documentation, timely submission of reports and verifiable implementation of the applicable conservation and management measures. Accordingly, Nigeria provides the following detailed response and outlines the corrective actions being pursued.

1. General acknowledgement of the identified compliance deficiencies

Nigeria acknowledges the Commission's concerns regarding the late submission of compliance tables, Annual Reports in Word format and through the Integrated Online Management System (IOMS), and the shark check sheet. Nigeria also acknowledges the absence of information on sea turtle bycatch mitigation measures, the domestic scientific observer programme and in-port transhipment reporting.

Furthermore, Nigeria has taken note of the Commission's determination concerning the absence of Annual Reports for 2023, 2024 and 2025, the implementation of Recommendations 16-14 and 22-12, the outstanding responses to the 2023 and 2024 Compliance Committee Chair's letters, and the need for a comprehensive action plan.

The Government recognises that these shortcomings can affect the Commission's ability to evaluate national implementation, compile reliable fisheries statistics, assess compliance and make informed conservation and management decisions.

Nigeria does not seek to diminish the importance of these deficiencies or to present existing administrative and technical challenges as a justification for non-compliance. Rather, the Government is committed to resolving the outstanding matters through practical corrective measures, improved reporting coordination and sustained engagement with the Secretariat.

In this regard, the designated ICCAT Desk Officers are working directly with the Secretariat to identify and address the data-reporting gaps. Their ongoing efforts are intended to ensure that the information submitted by Nigeria is accurate, complete, consistent with applicable ICCAT reporting formats and supported by available national records.

Nigeria will continue to strengthen institutional oversight of this process to ensure that the ongoing technical work translates into the timely completion of outstanding submissions and improved compliance in subsequent reporting cycles.

2. Response to the specific deficiencies identified

2.1 Recommendation 18-07: Late submission of compliance tables

Nigeria acknowledges the observation that compliance tables were received after the prescribed deadline. The Government recognises that compliance tables are essential for demonstrating the national implementation status of applicable ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions. Their timely submission enables the Secretariat and the Compliance Committee to evaluate the extent to which relevant conservation and management obligations have been implemented.

To address this deficiency, Nigeria will strengthen its internal reporting calendar, assign clear responsibilities for compiling compliance information and establish earlier internal deadlines for technical review and administrative approval.

The designated desk officer will coordinate the collection of relevant information from the responsible technical units, while the data analyst will provide support where statistical verification or data reconciliation is required.

Where information is incomplete, unavailable or not applicable, Nigeria will endeavour to provide an appropriate explanation in accordance with ICCAT reporting requirements rather than leave the relevant fields unanswered.

These measures are intended to improve the completeness and timeliness of future compliance tables and prevent recurrence of the identified deficiency.

2.2 Late submission of Annual Reports in Word format and through IOMS

Nigeria acknowledges the Commission's concerns regarding the late receipt of the Annual Reports in Word format and through IOMS, as well as the recurring reporting issues identified for the 2023, 2024 and 2025 reporting cycles.

The Government recognises the Annual Report as a principal instrument for documenting the implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures, national fisheries activities, research programmes, statistical developments and monitoring arrangements.

Nigeria is treating the outstanding Annual Report requirements as a priority. The designated ICCAT desk officer and data analyst are working assiduously with the Secretariat to review the reporting gaps, clarify outstanding requirements and improve the quality and consistency of the information required for submission.

This process includes reviewing available fisheries statistics, identifying missing information, reconciling relevant records and ensuring that the Word-format Annual Report corresponds with the information entered into IOMS.

Nigeria will review the outstanding requirements for 2023, 2024 and 2025 in consultation with the Secretariat, where necessary, to establish the precise information required for each reporting year and the appropriate procedures for submitting outstanding or corrective information.

The Department will also strengthen its internal review process to ensure that the relevant sections are completed, supporting explanations are included where necessary and the reports receive the required technical and administrative approval before submission.

Nigeria respectfully requests the Secretariat's continued guidance on any outstanding reporting requirements and the appropriate procedures for regularising previous submissions.

2.3 Recommendation 18-06: Late submission of the shark check sheet

Nigeria acknowledges the observation concerning the late submission of the shark check sheet.

The Government recognises the importance of accurate shark-related fisheries information in monitoring catches, incidental capture and the implementation of applicable ICCAT conservation measures.

To address this deficiency, Nigeria will improve the coordination and verification of available information relating to shark catches, bycatch, relevant landings and fisheries monitoring records.

The designated desk officer will coordinate the reporting process, with support from the data analyst in reviewing available records and identifying any outstanding information required for submission.

Nigeria will incorporate the shark check sheet into its annual reporting calendar and ensure that any identified data limitations are appropriately documented and communicated in accordance with ICCAT requirements.

2.4 Recommendation 22-12, Paragraph 8: Sea turtle bycatch mitigation measures

Nigeria acknowledges the Commission's observation that no information was submitted on the implementation of applicable sea turtle measures under requirement M of Part 2, Section 3 of the Annual Report in IOMS or the corresponding section of the Annual Report in Word format.

The Government recognises the importance of reducing incidental interactions between fishing operations and sea turtles and of reporting accurately on the implementation of applicable mitigation measures.

Nigeria will review the applicability and implementation status of the relevant provisions of Recommendation 22-12, including any applicable requirements relating to fishing gear, bycatch mitigation, handling and release procedures, awareness programmes and reporting arrangements.

The review will consider relevant information from fisheries officers, vessel operators, landing sites, scientific institutions and other competent authorities, as appropriate.

Where measures have been implemented, Nigeria will compile and verify the supporting information for inclusion in the appropriate ICCAT reporting instruments. Where implementation is incomplete or information is unavailable, the Government will provide a factual account of the situation and identify the steps required to address any outstanding gaps.

The designated desk officer will coordinate the reporting requirements with the Secretariat, while the data analyst will assist in identifying, consolidating and validating the available supporting data.

Nigeria will also strengthen awareness among relevant fisheries personnel and operators concerning applicable turtle bycatch mitigation and reporting requirements.

The Government acknowledges that the absence of information in a report does not, by itself, establish whether the relevant measures have been implemented. Nigeria will therefore ensure that its response accurately reflects the verified implementation status and does not make unsupported claims.

2.5 Recommendation 16-14, Paragraphs 4 and 10: Domestic scientific observer programme

Nigeria acknowledges the Commission's observation that information on its domestic observer programme was not submitted through ST09 or reported under requirement S of Part 1, Section 3 of the Annual Report in IOMS or the corresponding section of the Annual Report in Word format.

The Government recognises the importance of scientific observer programmes in collecting reliable information on fishing activities, catch composition, bycatch, fishing operations, gear characteristics and other parameters required for fisheries science and management.

Nigeria will undertake a review of its existing observer-related arrangements to establish their status, operational scope, institutional responsibilities and relevance to the applicable requirements of Recommendation 16-14.

The review will distinguish between existing observer activities, programme elements that require strengthening and any requirements that have yet to be implemented. This approach will enable Nigeria to provide an accurate account of its current position.

Where relevant programmes or activities exist, the Department will compile available supporting information, including programme objectives, responsible institutions, coverage, deployment arrangements and outputs, as appropriate.

Where programme elements are absent or inadequate, Nigeria will identify the necessary measures for strengthening observer coverage, training, data collection and coordination with relevant scientific and fisheries management institutions.

The designated ICCAT desk officer and data analyst will work with the Secretariat to clarify the reporting requirements, improve the completeness of ST09 and the corresponding Annual Report entries, and ensure that the information submitted reflects Nigeria's verified observer programme status.

Nigeria recognises that effective observer coverage may require trained personnel, adequate funding, appropriate deployment arrangements and sustained institutional coordination. The Government will therefore pursue a practical, phased approach to strengthening its observer-related capacity in line with applicable ICCAT requirements.

2.6 Recommendation 24-15, Appendix 3, Paragraph 6: In-port transhipment reporting

Nigeria acknowledges the Commission's observation that no information was submitted concerning in-port transhipment and that requirement M in Part 2, Section 3 of the Annual Report in IOMS was not answered. The Government recognises the importance of accurately reporting transhipment activities and complying with applicable ICCAT requirements, including submission of CP37-TransRep where required.

Nigeria will review available fisheries administration, port, vessel and relevant monitoring records to establish the status of any in-port transhipment activities falling within the scope of the applicable Recommendation during the reporting period.

Where the relevant activity did not occur and the requirement is not applicable, Nigeria will provide a detailed justification through IOMS in accordance with the Secretariat's guidance.

Where the activity occurred or reporting is otherwise required, Nigeria will complete and submit the appropriate CP37-TransRep form and enter the submission date in IOMS, together with any necessary clarification.

The designated desk officer will coordinate this process with the Secretariat, supported by the data analyst in verifying available records and identifying any outstanding information.

Nigeria will also strengthen coordination among the relevant fisheries authorities and port-related stakeholders to improve the identification and documentation of activities subject to ICCAT reporting requirements.

The Government emphasises that the appropriate reporting response will be based on verified records and the applicable ICCAT requirements rather than an assumption that no transhipment activity occurred.

2.7 Late response to the Chair of the Compliance Committee

Nigeria acknowledges that its response to the Chair of the Compliance Committee was recorded as having been received late on 22 November 2025.

The Government regrets the delay and recognises the importance of responding promptly to formal correspondence from the Compliance Committee and the Secretariat.

To prevent recurrence, the Department will strengthen its correspondence tracking procedures for ICCAT-related communications. Incoming correspondence will be registered, assigned to the responsible officer and monitored against internal and official deadlines.

The designated desk officer will coordinate the preparation of responses, while the relevant technical officers and data analyst will provide the information required to address statistical and implementation-related questions.

Supervisory review arrangements will be strengthened to ensure that responses are submitted within the prescribed timeframes and that outstanding correspondence receives appropriate follow-up.

Nigeria is committed to improving the timeliness, completeness and consistency of its communications with ICCAT and its subsidiary bodies.

3. Response to the Commission's determination in COC_308_Appendix2a/25

Nigeria has taken note of the determination recorded in COC_308_Appendix2A/25, including the Commission's concerns regarding recurring reporting deficiencies, the absence of Annual Reports for 2023, 2024 and 2025, the implementation of the scientific observer programme under Recommendation 16-14, sea turtle bycatch measures under Recommendation 22-12, the absence of replies to the 2023 and 2024 Compliance Committee Chair's letters and the outstanding request for an action plan.

Nigeria also acknowledges the Commission's recognition of the steps taken during the 2025 Annual Meeting to work with the Secretariat to address these issues and improve future compliance, as well as the submission of the capacity-building questionnaire on 21 November 2025.

The Government appreciates this recognition and considers its continued engagement with the Secretariat an important foundation for resolving the outstanding deficiencies.

Nigeria wishes to emphasise that the designated ICCAT desk officer and data analyst are currently working assiduously with the Secretariat to close the identified data-reporting gaps. This work is directed towards reviewing outstanding requirements, clarifying technical issues, reconciling available fisheries information and facilitating the completion of pending reports.

Nigeria recognises that submitting the capacity-building questionnaire and maintaining communication with the Secretariat are important steps, but that these actions must be complemented by the actual completion of outstanding reporting requirements and implementation of applicable measures.

Accordingly, Nigeria will maintain a documented corrective-action process identifying each outstanding requirement, the responsible officer or institution, the information required, the target completion date and the evidence necessary to demonstrate completion.

Progress will be monitored through periodic internal reviews, with outstanding issues escalated to the appropriate authorities where necessary. The designated desk officer will also maintain communication with the Secretariat to clarify any unresolved requirements and provide updates on progress as appropriate.

Nigeria respectfully requests that the Commission take note of these ongoing efforts and the Government's commitment to translating them into measurable improvements in reporting and compliance.

4. Nigeria's tuna fisheries context and improvement of data systems

Nigeria recognises that its obligations under ICCAT must be fulfilled in accordance with the applicable requirements, irrespective of the size or structure of its national tuna fishery.

Nigeria's tuna-fisheries context presents particular statistical and monitoring challenges. Historically, some tuna-related information has been associated with catches taken incidentally by vessels primarily engaged in other fisheries, including shrimp trawling. Artisanal fisheries data collection has also faced challenges relating to manpower, species identification and systematic recording of catches.

Nigeria's fisheries administration has been working to improve data collection formats, reporting procedures and the coordination of information required for international fisheries reporting.

Furthermore, Nigeria has reported the chartering of four vessels in 2025 targeting tropical tunas. This development underscores the importance of ensuring that relevant vessel information, fishing activity, catch data and other applicable reporting obligations are properly documented and assessed under the relevant ICCAT measures.

Nigeria will review the available records relating to these chartered vessels and other relevant fishing operations to determine the applicable reporting requirements and ensure that information is incorporated into the appropriate national and ICCAT reporting processes.

The review will include, as relevant, vessel authorisation and registration details, fishing activity, catch and effort information, species identification, landings, transhipment records and observer or monitoring information.

The designated desk officer and data analyst are central to these efforts and are working with the Secretariat to identify outstanding data requirements, reconcile available records and improve the quality and consistency of the information submitted.

Nigeria recognises that closing historical data-reporting gaps requires careful verification of records and coordination among fisheries statistics, scientific research, licensing and authorisation, monitoring, control and surveillance, and reporting functions.

The Government will continue to strengthen these systems, including through standardised reporting formats, improved data validation and clearer institutional responsibilities. These efforts are intended to improve the reliability of Nigeria's fisheries statistics and support the Commission's conservation and management objectives.

5. Nigeria's corrective action plan

Nigeria proposes the following corrective measures to address the identified deficiencies. The proposed timelines are planning targets subject to internal approval, access to the necessary information and, where appropriate, coordination with the ICCAT Secretariat.

5.1 Strengthening ICCAT compliance coordination

The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture will strengthen its internal coordination arrangements for ICCAT reporting, with the designated desk officer serving as the focal point for reporting coordination and communication with the Secretariat.

The data analyst will support the review, reconciliation and validation of relevant statistical information. Other responsible technical units will provide information on implementation of conservation measures, observer programmes, bycatch mitigation and other applicable requirements.

Proposed target: Within 30 days of approval of the action plan.

Expected evidence: Designation of responsible officers, reporting calendar, allocation of responsibilities and documented follow-up procedures.

5.2 Closing outstanding Annual Report and statistical reporting gaps

Nigeria will review the outstanding Annual Report requirements for 2023, 2024 and 2025 and work with the Secretariat to clarify the information required and the appropriate procedures for submitting outstanding or corrective reports.

The designated desk officer and data analyst will continue their ongoing engagement with the Secretariat to reconcile available fisheries statistics, identify missing information, address technical reporting issues and facilitate completion of pending submissions.

Proposed target: Initial review within 30 days, followed by submission according to an agreed schedule established with the Secretariat.

Expected evidence: Completed reports, IOMS submission records, validated data and correspondence confirming the status of outstanding requirements.

5.3 Timely submission of compliance tables and the shark check sheet

Nigeria will introduce a consolidated reporting checklist covering compliance tables, shark check sheets and other applicable reporting instruments.

The checklist will identify responsible officers, supporting information requirements, internal deadlines and supervisory review arrangements.

Proposed target: Within 30 days for establishment of the checklist, with application to subsequent reporting cycles.

Expected evidence: Completed checklist, internal review records and submission confirmations.

5.4 Verification and reporting of sea turtle bycatch mitigation measures

Nigeria will assess the implementation status of applicable provisions of Recommendation 22-12, compile relevant information and complete the appropriate Annual Report fields.

Any identified implementation gaps will be documented, with corrective measures proposed according to the applicable requirements.

Proposed target: Initial assessment within 60 days, followed by submission and implementation actions according to the applicable requirements and agreed schedule.

Expected evidence: Implementation-status assessment, supporting records and completed Annual Report entries.

5.5 Review and strengthening of the domestic scientific observer programme

Nigeria will review existing observer-related arrangements and determine the additional measures required to meet applicable provisions of Recommendation 16-14.

The review will cover programme status, personnel, training, deployment arrangements, data collection, reporting responsibilities and resource requirements.

Proposed target: Initial assessment within 60 days, with subsequent milestones established according to the findings and available resources.

Expected evidence: Observer programme status report, identified capacity gaps and documented implementation plan.

5.6 Resolution of in-port transhipment reporting

Nigeria will verify the status of relevant transhipment activities and determine whether CP37-TransRep is required or whether a detailed justification of non-applicability should be provided through IOMS.
The designated desk officer and data analyst will coordinate the review of available information and communicate with the Secretariat where clarification is necessary.

Proposed target: Within 30 days, subject to access to relevant records and any technical guidance required.

Expected evidence: Verified activity records, completed CP37-TransRep where applicable, or documented justification for non-applicability and the corresponding IOMS entry.

5.7 Strengthening correspondence and deadline management

Nigeria will establish a central register for ICCAT correspondence, reporting deadlines, requests for clarification and outstanding corrective actions.

The designated desk officer will monitor deadlines, coordinate responses and ensure that relevant technical inputs are obtained in sufficient time for submission.

Proposed target: Within 30 days.

Expected evidence: Correspondence register, reporting calendar and documented review procedure.

5.8 Improvement of tuna-fisheries statistics and data validation

Nigeria will review available information on tuna and tuna-like catches, including information relating to relevant chartered vessels, incidental catches, landings and artisanal fisheries, as applicable.

The designated desk officer and data analyst will continue working with the Secretariat to close identified data-reporting gaps, improve species identification and data completeness, and strengthen the consistency of national submissions.

Proposed target: Initial review within 90 days, with continuing improvements thereafter.

Expected evidence: Data-gap assessment, validated reporting records and documented procedures for future data collection and submission.

5.9 Periodic monitoring and reporting of progress

The Department will periodically assess progress against the corrective-action plan, identify completed and outstanding tasks, document delays or resource constraints and determine where further technical assistance is required.

The designated desk officer will maintain an updated record of progress and continue appropriate engagement with the Secretariat. Internal supervisory reviews will be undertaken to ensure that the ongoing work results in completed submissions and demonstrable improvements.

Proposed target: Quarterly internal reviews, with progress updates provided to the relevant national authorities and the Secretariat as appropriate.

Expected evidence: Progress reports, updated corrective-action tracker and records of follow-up communications.

6. Request for technical guidance and capacity-building support

Nigeria recognises that addressing the identified deficiencies requires sustained institutional coordination, technical expertise and improved administrative systems.

The Government appreciates the engagement of the ICCAT Secretariat with Nigeria's designated desk officer and data analyst and requests that this technical collaboration be sustained until the outstanding data-reporting gaps have been adequately addressed.

Nigeria respectfully requests continued guidance on:

1. The outstanding Annual Report requirements for 2023, 2024 and 2025 and the appropriate procedures for submitting or correcting the relevant information.
2. The completion of IOMS fields relating to sea turtle bycatch mitigation measures and the domestic scientific observer programme.
3. The applicable requirements for ST09 reporting and the documentation necessary to demonstrate the status of Nigeria's domestic observer programme.
4. The appropriate procedure for reporting in-port transhipment activities, including the circumstances in which CP37-TransRep is required and the information necessary to justify a non-applicable response.
5. Opportunities for technical training on ICCAT statistical reporting, species identification, observer data collection, compliance-table preparation and IOMS.
6. Relevant capacity-building opportunities to strengthen Nigeria's tuna-fisheries monitoring, scientific data collection, data validation and reporting systems.

Nigeria is particularly interested in practical technical assistance that will enable designated officers to improve the quality of submissions, maintain consistent reporting procedures and fulfil applicable requirements within prescribed deadlines.

The Government considers sustained cooperation with the Secretariat an important means of addressing existing capacity gaps, resolving outstanding issues and preventing recurring reporting deficiencies.

7. Commitment to future compliance

The Government of Nigeria reiterates its commitment to the conservation and sustainable management of tuna and tuna-like species and to fulfilling its obligations under the ICCAT Convention and applicable conservation and management measures.

Nigeria acknowledges that timely reporting, reliable fisheries statistics, adequate monitoring arrangements and transparent communication with the Commission are essential components of effective international fisheries governance.

The Government is therefore committed to strengthening its national reporting procedures, improving coordination among responsible institutions, addressing the outstanding matters identified by the Commission and establishing a more effective mechanism for monitoring future compliance.

Nigeria wishes to reiterate that the designated ICCAT desk officer and data analyst are actively and assiduously working with the Secretariat to close the outstanding data-reporting gaps. Their ongoing work represents an important component of Nigeria's current corrective efforts and is intended to improve the completeness, accuracy and consistency of the country's reporting.

The Government will continue to provide the necessary administrative oversight and institutional coordination to support this process, facilitate access to relevant information and ensure that outstanding requirements receive appropriate attention.

Nigeria is mindful of the potential implications of persistent non-compliance, including the concerns identified by the Commission regarding possible trade-restrictive measures in accordance with Recommendation 06-13. The Government will therefore give appropriate priority to resolving outstanding issues and maintaining constructive engagement with the Secretariat and the Compliance Committee.

Nigeria respectfully requests that the Commission take note of this response, the ongoing work of the designated officers in collaboration with the Secretariat, and the proposed corrective measures as evidence of the Government's commitment to resolving the identified deficiencies.

The Government further requests the Secretariat's continued assistance in confirming the status of outstanding submissions, clarifying any unresolved technical requirements and advising on additional information necessary to demonstrate Nigeria's progress.

The Federal Republic of Nigeria remains committed to constructive cooperation with ICCAT and to the continuous improvement of its national fisheries management, scientific monitoring, statistical reporting and compliance systems.

Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.

Yours faithfully,

MR. USMAN GARBA
Head of Delegate
For: Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy
Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
Federal Republic of Nigeria

Compliance Letter Response Template

2025 COMMISSION MEETING			
CPC: NIGERIA			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	**SPECIFIC ELEMENTS**	**REMEDIAL ACTION BY THE CPC**	**DATE MISSING/REQUESTED DATA & INFORMATION WAS SENT** *(if applicable)*
CATEGORY A			
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07: Compliance tables received late.	Update as appropriate	
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions			
CATEGORY B			
Annual Report	Annual Report Word & IOMS received late.	Updated	
Statistical Data			
Other Reports	Rec. 18-06: SHK sheet received late.	Updated	
CATEGORY C			
MCS-Species Related	Rec. 22-12 (Para 8): No information on the implementation of the turtle measures, either under requirement M:BYC01 of *Part 2, Section 3 of the Annual Report ("Online Reporting") in IOMS* or in the Annual Report Word file under *Section 2.1 Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures.*	Updated	
MCS General	Rec. 16-14 (Paras 4 and 10): No information on the domestic observer programme in place was submitted through ST09 or in the Annual Report (under requirement S:GEN11 *of Part 1, Section 3 of the Annual Report*	Updated	

	("Online Reporting") in IOMS or in the Annual Report Word file under *Section 1.2 Research and statistics*.		
Port Controls	Rec. 24-15 (Appendix 3, Para 6): No information on in-port transhipment.		
Vessel Controls			
OTHER	Reply to COC Chair´s letter received late *(2025-11-22)*.		

***** Relevant remedial actions should be applied broadly, to include actions taken or planned to address the matter identified by the COC and may include actions initiated by the CPC prior to COC raising the matter. Actions could include, inter alia, changes to applicable laws and regulations, policies, organizational structures, and enforcement priorities, as strengthening institutions such as through increased funding and seeking/participating in capacity building and technical assistance.

Action Plan Response Template
2025 Commission Meeting

CPC (Contracting Party/Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity):
NIGERIA

Date of submission or revision *(16/10/2026)*:

DEFICIENCES TO BE ADDRESSED
[List the specific issues identified by the COC in its letter to the CPC] Late/ Incomplete submission No information on Turtle Excluder Devices No information on domestic observer program No information on Port transshipment No reply to COC letter
SUMMARY INTRODUCTION
[Provide a brief context on the issues and the purpose of this Action Plan] The Action Plan is intended to address the outstanding compliance gaps arising from the late or incomplete submission of required information, including the lack of information on Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs), the domestic observer program, and in-port transshipment activities. In addition, no response that was received to the Compliance and Enforcement (COC) letter. The Plan outlines the corrective actions required to address these deficiencies, ensure the timely submission of complete and accurate information, improve transparency and monitoring, and strengthen compliance with applicable fisheries management and reporting requirements.
ACTION ITEMS
[List and describe the concrete steps the CPC will implement, including where applicable the legally binding nature of the action] The designated desk officer will coordinate the collection of relevant information from the responsible technical units, while the data analyst will provide support where statistical verification or data reconciliation is required. Where information is incomplete, unavailable or not applicable, Nigeria will endeavour to provide an appropriate explanation in accordance with ICCAT reporting requirements rather than leave the relevant fields unanswered Nigeria will strengthen its internal reporting calendar, assign clear responsibilities for compiling compliance information and establish earlier internal deadlines for technical review and administrative approval
PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION
[Describe how each action will be executed, responsible parties, and resource allocation] Nigeria will review the outstanding requirements for 2023, 2024 and 2025 in consultation with the Secretariat, where necessary, to establish the precise information required for each reporting year and the appropriate procedures for submitting outstanding or corrective information.
TIMELINE / INCREMENTAL BENCHMARKS FOR COMPLETION
[Outline the schedule with milestones for each corrective action, including where applicable dates that planned actions will enter into effect]

EXPECTED IMPROVEMENTS / OUTCOMES IN THE NEXT YEAR
[Specify measurable improvements expected as a result of the plan] These measures are intended to improve the completeness and timeliness of future compliance tables and prevent recurrence of the identified deficiency. Nigeria will strengthen its correspondence tracking procedures for ICCAT-related communications. Incoming correspondence will be registered, assigned to the officer responsible and monitored against internal and official deadlines.
DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED / ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS TAKEN
[Describe any challenges faced during implementation and adjustments made] **Keeping up with the different reporting deadlines** **Closely working assiduously with the Secretariat Team for guidance**
CONCLUDING SUMMARY
[Summarise the overall approach and commitment to resolving the deficiencies]
LIST OF APPENDICES AND ATTACHMENTS
[If applicable, list appendices or attachments with additional information, such as copies or excerpts of relevant laws, regulations, administrative actions, procedures, and policies]

Compliance Letter Response Template

2025 COMMISSION MEETING			
CPC: PHILIPPINES			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	**SPECIFIC ELEMENTS**	**REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN***	**DATE MISSING/REQUESTED DATA & INFORMATION WAS SENT** *(if applicable)*
CATEGORY A			
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07: Compliance tables received late.	The Philippines notified the Secretariat by email that it had been inactive in the ICCAT Convention Area since 2015 and had no catches or activities to report under Recommendation 18-07. The notification was submitted beyond the deadline. To prevent recurrence, the Philippines will strengthen monitoring of reporting deadlines and submit the required information, including nil reports, in a timely manner.	19 September 2025
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions			
CATEGORY B			
Annual Report	Annual Report Word & IOMS received late.	The Philippines has completed and submitted the Annual Report in Word format by email and completed the online submission through IOMS, although beyond the prescribed deadline. Difficulties encountered in using IOMS contributed to the delay in the online submission. The Philippines will begin preparation and submission earlier and seek timely clarification or technical assistance from the ICCAT Secretariat as needed.	Word: 19 September 2025 IOMS: 19 September 2025
Statistical Data			
Other Reports	Rec. 18-06: SHK sheet received late.	The Philippines submitted the 2025 SHK check sheet on 19 September 2025, although late and incomplete. For the subsequent reporting cycle, the Philippines completed and submitted the 2026 SHK check sheet on 19 September 2026. To prevent recurrence, the Philippines will check all required fields for completeness before submission and strengthen monitoring of reporting deadlines	19 September 2025 (incomplete) 19 September 2026 (complete)
CATEGORY C			
MCS-Species Related			
MCS General			
Port Controls			
Vessel Controls			
OTHER			

* Relevant remedial actions should be applied broadly, to include actions taken or planned to address the matter identified by the COC and may include actions initiated by the CPC prior to COC raising the matter. Actions could include, inter alia, changes to applicable laws and regulations, policies, organizational structures, and enforcement priorities, as strengthening institutions such as through increased funding and seeking/participating in capacity building and technical assistance.

SENEGAL

No. 01140

Ministry of Fisheries, Maritime and Port Infrastructures
Directorate of Maritime Fisheries

Dakar, 14 October 2026

Director

To
Mr Derek CAMPBELL
Chair of the ICCAT Compliance Committee

Subject: Letter on compliance issues
REF: V/L ICCAT-SALIDA N° S26-07727/2026/ of 11/09/2026

I acknowledge receipt of your letter, referred to above, in which you inform me that reporting and implementation deficiencies were identified at the 29th Regular Meeting of the Commission, held from 17 to 24 November 2025, on the grounds of inadequate reporting.

In response, please find attached the table setting out our response to the points raised, together with the comments below.

1. Rec. 24-05 BFT-E overharvest (2024 balance: -220 t):

Senegal recalls that it did not have a bluefin tuna quota in 2024, but rather a tonnage of 5 t for research purposes. Rec. 22-08, which was in force at the time, provided for mechanisms to pay back overharvests for CPCs holding quotas, but not for those without quotas.

From 2025 onwards, Senegal undertook to fight against overharvesting of eastern bluefin tuna by implementing the electronic logbook on board tuna vessels targeting tropical tunas and bycatching eastern bluefin tuna. Directed fishing for bluefin tuna has been prohibited in order to control the quota. ICCAT Recommendation 24-05 has been transposed by Order to strengthen its implementation at national level.

Senegal's 2026 fishing plan was approved by Panel 1 at its meeting in March 2026; it sets out mechanisms for monitoring catches, and the quotas have enabled bluefin tuna catch reports to be submitted to the Secretariat using the designated forms, in accordance with ICCAT requirements.

However, despite the legal void identified by the members of Panel 2 - who were unable to reach a consensus on whether the payback provisions apply to CPCs without a quota (Report of Panel 2, April 2026), Senegal is prepared to show goodwill and deduct 35 t from its 2026 quota for eastern bluefin tuna.

2. Rec. 19-05 Blue marlin overharvest (2024 balance: -0.66 t):

This overharvest has been deducted from the 2026 quota in the compliance table (CP13) submitted on 13 August 2026.

3. (Rec. 24-01, paragraphs 13–16) Task 2: periodic reports on quarterly/monthly catches of tropical tunas concerning tropical tunas not submitted in 2024:

In the second semester of 2025, Senegal completed implementation of the electronic logbook on board tuna vessels, in accordance with the 2023–2025 biennial action plan submitted in 2023, with a view to improving the data collection system for tropical tuna catches, complying with the quarterly and monthly reporting requirements for these species, and monitoring the bigeye tuna limit.

It should also be recalled that, from the end of 2025, quarterly and monthly reports began to be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat. The system will be fully operational in 2026.

As regards the overharvesting of bigeye tuna mentioned by the COC in 2025, this has been observed for 2021 and 2022, and Senegal undertakes to rectify the situation.
Senegal reiterates its commitment to improve its compliance with ICCAT Recommendations and reporting requirements.

Please accept, Executive Secretary, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed)
Cheikh FALL
Director – Directorate of Maritime Fisheries – Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy

Compliance Letter Response Template

2025 Commission meeting			
CPC: SENEGAL			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	**SPECIFIC ELEMENTS**	**REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN**	**DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)**
CATEGORY A			
Compliance Tables	Rec. 24-05: BFT-E overharvest (2024 balance: -220 t).	Senegal recalls that it did not have a bluefin tuna quota in 2024, but rather a tonnage of 5 t for research purposes. Rec. 22-08, which was in force at the time, provided for mechanisms to pay back overharvests for CPCs holding quotas, but not for those without quotas. From 2025 onwards, Senegal has implemented the electronic logbook on board tuna vessels targeting tropical tunas and bycatching eastern bluefin tuna. Directed fishing for bluefin tuna has been prohibited in order to control the quota. ICCAT Recommendation 24-05 has been transposed by Order to strengthen its implementation at national level. Senegal's 2026 fishing plan was approved by Panel 1 at its meeting in March 2026. Catch reports started to be submitted to the Secretariat from 2026 using the designated forms, in accordance with ICCAT requirements. However, despite the legal void identified by the members of Panel 2 on whether or not the payback provisions apply to CPCs without a quota (Report of Panel 2, April 2026), Senegal is prepared to show goodwill and deduct 35 t from its 2026 quota for eastern bluefin tuna.	
	Rec. 19-05: Blue marlin overharvest (2024 balance: -0.66 t).	This overharvest has been deducted from the 2026 blue marlin quota in the compliance table (CP13) submitted to the Secretariat.	CP13 submitted on 13 August 2026.
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions			
CATEGORY B			
Annual Report			

Statistical Data			
Other Reports			
CATEGORY C			
MCS Species Related	Rec. 24-01: Task 1 for tropical tuna species was submitted in 2024, but no corresponding periodic report was submitted.	In the second semester of 2025, Senegal completed implementation of the electronic logbook on board tuna vessels, in accordance with the 2023–2025 biennial action plan submitted in April 2024, with a view to improving the data collection system for tropical tuna catches, complying with the quarterly and monthly reporting requirements for these species, and monitoring the bigeye tuna limit and eventually taking the appropriate measures, if necessary. It should also be recalled that this point has been included. From the end of 2025, quarterly and monthly reports began to be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat. The system will be fully operational in 2026.	
MCS General			
Port Controls			
Vessel Controls			
OTHER		Senegal has established by Order a monitoring committee to carry out the data reconciliation among the relevant services for management of quotas, MCS and export certification. In addition, Senegal received in 2025 two capacity-building missions from the Secretariat, which enabled it to increase its level of compliance. The training course focused on statistics and management reporting requirements and port inspection. Senegal has carried out a review of its tropical tunas data (bigeye tuna).	

Compliance Letter Response Template

2025 COMMISSION MEETING			
CPC: SOUTH AFRICA			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	**SPECIFIC ELEMENTS**	**REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN***	**DATE MISSING/REQUESTED DATA & INFORMATION WAS SENT** *(if applicable)*
CATEGORY A			
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07: Compliance tables received late.	This was an isolated administrative oversight. South Africa's established internal processes remain in place to ensure timely, complete and accurate reporting.	Submitted on 19 August 2025 (E25-09237).
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions			
CATEGORY B			
Annual Report	Annual Report IOMS Section 1 (STATs) received late.	The underlying work was completed on time. The short delay related only to the electronic transmission or activation of the Submit function. Once notified by the ICCAT Secretariat, South Africa submitted the required information within a few days. This was an isolated administrative oversight. South Africa's established internal processes remain in place to ensure timely, complete and accurate reporting.	Submitted and validated on 17 September 2025.
Statistical Data			
Other Reports			
CATEGORY C			
MCS-Species Related	Rec. 22-11: Request information on the statistical methodology used to estimate dead discards and live releases of SMA-S.	South Africa has submitted comprehensive Task 1, Task 2 and Task 3 data, including landings, dead discards, live releases and observer-derived information. The required information has also been provided through the Shark Sheet checklist and monthly shortfin mako landings are reported in accordance with Rec. 22-11. South Africa presented the use of the Bycatch Estimator Tool (BYET) at the ICCAT Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM) in May 2026 (SCRS/2026/133, SCRS/2026/134), and the Swordfish Species Group (SCRS/2026/221). As recommending by SC-STATS in 2026, South Africa will	Presented at WGSAM in May 2026, and the submission acknowledged by the SCRS in Responses to the Commission (19.24).

		follow the checklist from WGSAM on a standardized review framework for evaluating discard estimation methodologies submitted to ICCAT (Annex I) and present the discard estimation method to the Sharks and Swordfish SG in 2027. The BYET was applied in 2026 and required estimations of dead discards and live releases from observer derived information was supplied in Task 1 Nominal Catch.	
MCS General			
Port Controls			
Vessel Controls			
OTHER			

* Relevant remedial actions should be applied broadly, to include actions taken or planned to address the matter identified by the COC and may include actions initiated by the CPC prior to COC raising the matter. Actions could include, inter alia, changes to applicable laws and regulations, policies, organizational structures, and enforcement priorities, as strengthening institutions such as through increased funding and seeking/participating in capacity building and technical assistance.

Compliance Letter Response Template

2025 COMMISSION MEETING			
CPC: SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	**SPECIFIC ELEMENTS**	**REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN***	**DATE MISSING/REQUESTED DATA & INFORMATION WAS SENT** *(if applicable)*
CATEGORY A			
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07 and Rec. 19-05: Compliance tables received late. Recurrent overharvest >5 years WHM (2024 balance: -50.92 t).	Compliance tables were submitted on 15 August 2025. Regarding recurrent white marlin overharvest, SVG joined the 2024 Caribbean statement expressing concern about cumulative penalties on SIDS artisanal fisheries. Earlier checks also identified possible marlin species misidentification. SVG respectfully seeks equitable treatment under Rec. 25-06, particularly its 125% payback exemption for 2024–2025 landings with provisions for reviewing historical compliance and data gaps.	15 August 2025 (compliance tables).
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions			
CATEGORY B			
Annual Report			
Statistical Data	No ST03 form sent (Rec. 66-01 and Rec. 05-09).	ST03 was not submitted because historical artisanal landing-site records lacked the required catch-and-effort details. Through the ICCAT regional data collection initiative, SVG is improving statistical reporting. SVG would appreciate guidance on all mandatory ICCAT forms applicable to States whose current fleets fish exclusively within their EEZ.	Not submitted.
	No ST04 form sent (Rec. 66-01 and Rec. 05-09).	ST04 was not submitted because the historical artisanal landing-site records did not consistently collect biological size-frequency data. SVG is strengthening biological sampling and data quality through the ICCAT regional data collection initiative.	Not submitted.
	No ST09 form sent (Rec. 16-14, national scientific observer programme).	ST09 was not submitted. SVG has deregistered all high-seas vessels; all vessels reported for 2024 were domestic, artisanal and under 15 m. Onboard observer deployment raises safety concerns. Domestic landing-site monitoring used random stratified sampling therefore a formal exemption request was made (see MCS General).	Not submitted.

Other Reports			
CATEGORY C			
MCS-Species Related	Rec. 24-01 (Paras 13-16): Task 1 for tropical species in 2024 but no corresponding periodical reports submitted (Tropical tuna quarterly/monthly catches are reported through CP50-TROP_MQcRp, and weekly BET catches after reaching 80% of the catch limit through CP59-BET_WcRp. Both forms are available here).	Quarterly reports for tropical tunas were submitted 14/11/2025. The omission of tropical tuna periodic reports was an administrative oversight compounded by limited human resources. SVG is strengthening reporting coordination and deadline tracking to prevent recurrence.	14 November 2025 (tropical tunas quarterly data)
MCS General	Rec. 16-14 (Paras 4 and 10): No information on the domestic observer programme in place was submitted through ST09 or in the Annual Report (under requirement S:GEN11 of *Part 1, Section 3 of the Annual Report ("Online Reporting") in IOMS* or in the Annual Report Word file under *Section 1.2 Research and statistics*.	Only SVG's domestic artisanal fleet remains operational; all vessels reported for 2024 were under 15 m, posing safety challenges for onboard observers. Domestic landing-site monitoring occurs using stratified cluster sampling where sampling in time and census in space is conducted. A formal observer-programme exemption request was submitted on 6 October 2025. At ICCAT's request, SVG is preparing a technical report on its data collection system for submission by 31 December 2026.	6 October 2025 (exemption request); technical report pending.
Port Controls			
Vessel Controls			
OTHER	Reply to COC Chair´s letter (lift ID) received late *(2025-11-03)*.	SVG acknowledges the late response submitted on 3 November 2025. Prior to submission, Fisheries Services informed the COC Chair that urgent gaps identified in its national data collection programme required further review to ensure an accurate and reliable response. SVG regrets the delay and is strengthening data validation and administrative coordination to improve future reporting timeliness.	3 November 2025 (reply received).

***** Relevant remedial actions should be applied broadly, to include actions taken or planned to address the matter identified by the COC and may include actions initiated by the CPC prior to COC raising the matter. Actions could include, inter alia, changes to applicable laws and regulations, policies, organizational structures, and enforcement priorities, as strengthening institutions such as through increased funding and seeking/participating in capacity building and technical assistance.

Action Plan Response Template
2025 Commission Meeting

CPC (Contracting Party/Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity):

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Date of submission or revision *(16/October/2026)*:

DEFICIENCES TO BE ADDRESSED

A. **Compliance Tables**

1. Late submission of compliance tables under Rec. 18-07, subsequently submitted on 15 August 2025.
2. Recurrent reported white marlin (WHM) overharvest under Rec. 19-05 (2024 balance: -50.92 t), subject to further review of species identification, historical data discrepancies and the applicable provisions of Rec. 25-06.

B. **Statistical Data**

3. Non-submission of ST03 (catch and effort data) under Recs. 66-01 and 05-09.
4. Non-submission of ST04 (size-frequency data) under Recs. 66-01 and 05-09.
5. Non-submission of ST09 (national scientific observer programme) under Rec. 16-14.

C. **MCS – Species Related**

6. Late submission of tropical tuna periodic catch reports under Rec. 24-01. The quarterly reports were subsequently submitted on 14 November 2025.

D. **MCS – General**

7. Incomplete reporting of information on the domestic scientific observer programme and existing landing-site monitoring arrangements under Rec. 16-14, through ST09 or the Annual Report.

E. **Other**

8. Late submission of the response to the COC Chair's Compliance Issues Letter, received on 3 November 2025.

SUMMARY INTRODUCTION

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) remains committed to fulfilling its obligations under the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and strengthening national fisheries management and reporting systems.

Following the deregistration of its high-seas fishing fleet, SVG's fishing operations are confined to its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), comprising predominantly small-scale artisanal vessels. Historical limitations in statistical and biological data collection, coupled with human-resource constraints and competing national responsibilities, have contributed to the identified compliance deficiencies.

This Action Plan outlines the corrective measures, implementation arrangements and anticipated improvements intended to address these deficiencies. Through its participation in the ICCAT regional data collection initiative, strengthened institutional coordination and targeted capacity building, SVG seeks to progressively improve reporting accuracy, timeliness and monitoring capacity.

Implementation will adopt a phased approach, recognising available resources and the need for continued technical guidance and support from ICCAT.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Compliance Table Submissions, Response to COC Chair's Correspondence and MCS – Species-Related Reporting:** Strengthen internal reporting procedures through improved coordination, clearly assigned responsibilities and deadline tracking. This will include maintaining a comprehensive calendar of ICCAT reporting obligations, designating responsible officers with established completion deadlines, and better integrating ICCAT requirements into existing departmental work programmes to ensure timely and consistent submissions.

2. **White Marlin Overharvest:** Continue reviewing historical white marlin landings to identify and address potential species misidentification and data discrepancies, while strengthening national capacity for the accurate identification and reporting of ICCAT species. Engage ICCAT to seek technical guidance and assistance in reviewing and addressing historical overharvest balances, taking into consideration the applicable provisions of Rec. 25-06.
3. **ST03 – Catch and Effort Data:** Through participation in the ICCAT regional data collection initiative, strengthen the national fisheries data collection system to improve the recording of catch, fishing effort and gear-specific information from the domestic artisanal fleet. Seek technical assistance and clarification from ICCAT regarding mandatory statistical reporting requirements applicable to States whose fleets operate exclusively within their EEZ.
4. **ST04 – Size-Frequency Data:** Strengthen biological sampling and data recording at landing sites, particularly species-specific size-frequency information, through capacity building and technical assistance under the ICCAT regional data collection initiative. Seek further guidance on applicable statistical reporting requirements for domestic artisanal fisheries operating exclusively within their EEZ.
5. **ST09 – Scientific Observer Programme:** Seek clarification and technical guidance from ICCAT regarding the applicability of ST09 reporting requirements to States operating exclusively within their EEZ, particularly those with small artisanal fleets. Continue engagement with ICCAT on the formal request for alternative observer arrangements, taking into consideration vessel safety, operational limitations and existing landing-site monitoring practices.
6. **MCS – General: Observer Programme Information:** Complete and submit the requested technical report on SVG's national fisheries data collection and monitoring system by 31 December 2026. Seek technical guidance and assistance, where necessary, to support the development and implementation of any additional monitoring arrangements determined to be applicable to SVG's domestic artisanal fleet.

PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION

A. Compliance Table Submissions, Response to COC Chair's Correspondence and MCS – Species-Related Reporting

Responsible: Fisheries Services – Designated ICCAT Reporting Officers, with Senior Management oversight.

Implementation Activities:

1. Establish and maintain an ICCAT reporting calendar with assigned responsibilities and deadlines.
2. Monitor reporting progress and communicate anticipated delays to ICCAT.

B. White Marlin Overharvest

Responsible: Biology and Research Unit, supported by the Data Management Unit.

Implementation Activities:

1. Review historical white marlin landing records for species misidentification and data discrepancies.
2. Strengthen species identification through staff training and identification guides.
3. Seek ICCAT's technical guidance on historical overharvest balances under Rec. 25-06.
4. Document findings and submit verified data corrections, where applicable.

C. ST03 – Catch and Effort Data and ST04 – Size-Frequency Data

Responsible: Biology and Research Unit (Lead), supported by the Data Management Uni

Implementation Activities:

1. Assess existing data collection procedures and identify gaps in ICCAT reporting requirements.
2. Improve data collection tools, biological sampling protocols and data quality-control procedures.
3. Train fisheries data collectors in catch-and-effort recording, species identification and biological sampling.
4. Pilot improved sampling procedures at selected landing sites and evaluate their effectiveness.
5. Seek ICCAT's technical guidance and clarification of mandatory reporting requirements for EEZ-only fleets.

D. ST09 – Scientific Observer Programme and MCS – General

Responsible: Biology and Research Unit, supported by the Monitoring Control and Surveillance Unit, the Data Management Unit, the Extension Unit, the Quality Assurance and Product Development Unit.

Implementation Activities:

1. Document fleet characteristics, observer safety concerns and existing landing-site monitoring arrangements.
2. Prepare and submit the technical report on SVG's national data collection and monitoring system by 31 December 2026.
3. Seek ICCAT's guidance on ST09 obligations and acceptable alternative monitoring arrangements.

Resource Allocation

Implementation will primarily utilise existing Fisheries Services personnel and resources, supported by technical assistance and capacity-building opportunities through the ICCAT regional data collection initiative. Additional support will be sought where necessary.

TIMELINE / INCREMENTAL BENCHMARKS FOR COMPLETION

Implementation will be undertaken progressively, taking into consideration available human and financial resources, existing departmental work programmes and technical assistance from ICCAT. The proposed timelines recognise the diverse statutory and operational responsibilities of Fisheries Services and the need to balance national priorities with international reporting obligations. Accordingly, implementation will be integrated into existing work programmes, with reasonable adjustments to capacity-building and technical improvement timelines where necessary, without compromising established ICCAT reporting deadlines.

Table 1. Proposed Timelines and Implementation Benchmarks

Action Area	Proposed Timeframe	Implementation Benchmarks
1. Compliance Reporting	January 2027	Establish an ICCAT reporting calendar and assign responsibilities to designated officers.
	Ongoing	Monitor reporting progress and ensure timely submissions and correspondence.
2. White Marlin Overharvest	Q1 2027 – Q3 2027	Review historical white marlin landing records and identify potential data discrepancies.
	Q1 2027 – Q3 2027	Undertake species identification training and strengthen data verification procedures.
	Q2 2027 – Q3 2027	Engage ICCAT regarding Rec. 25-06 and submit verified corrections or supporting information, where applicable.
3. ST03 – Catch and Effort / ST04 – Size-Frequency Data	Q1 2026 – Q2 2027	Assess existing data collection procedures and identify statistical and biological data gaps.
	Q2 2027 – Q3 2027	Improve data collection tools and sampling protocols and provide training to fisheries data collectors.
	Q3 2027 – Q4 2027	Pilot improved data collection procedures at selected landing sites.
	Q4 2027	Evaluate implementation and assess readiness to meet applicable ICCAT reporting requirements.
4. ST09 – Scientific Observer Programme / MCS General	Q4 2026	Complete and submit the technical report on SVG's national fisheries data collection and monitoring system.

	Q1 2027	Follow up with ICCAT on the formal request for alternative observer arrangements and seek clarification on applicable ST09 requirements.
	Q4 2027 – Q1 2028	Review ICCAT's recommendations and progressively implement any additional monitoring measures determined necessary, subject to available resources.

EXPECTED IMPROVEMENTS / OUTCOMES IN THE NEXT YEAR

The implementation of this Action Plan is expected to strengthen Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' capacity to fulfil its ICCAT obligations through improved reporting coordination, enhanced statistical and biological data collection, and more effective monitoring arrangements. By the end of 2027, SVG anticipates achieving the following measurable improvements, consistent with the proposed implementation timelines, available resources and technical assistance.

Table 2. Expected Improvements, Outcomes and Means of Verification

Action Area	Expected Improvements / Outcomes	Means of Verification
1. Compliance Reporting	Improved coordination, accountability and timeliness of ICCAT reporting through clearly assigned responsibilities, and systematic tracking of reporting obligations.	a) Operational reporting calendar with designated officers and deadlines. c) Submission records demonstrating timely reporting and documented correspondence.
2. White Marlin Overharvest	Improved accuracy and reliability of white marlin catch records through historical data verification and strengthened species identification capacity, supporting informed engagement with ICCAT on historical overharvest balances.	a) Completed review of historical landing records and identified discrepancies. b) At least one species identification training workshop for data collectors, supported by attendance records. c) Documented correspondence with ICCAT regarding Rec. 25-06 and relevant findings.
3. ST03 – Catch and Effort / ST04 – Size-Frequency Data	Improved consistency and quality of statistical and biological data collected at landing sites, strengthening SVG's capacity to meet applicable ICCAT reporting requirements.	a) Completed assessment of statistical and biological data gaps. b) Revised data collection forms and standardised reporting procedures. c) Pilot evaluation report assessing the effectiveness of improved data collection procedures at selected landing sites.
4. ST09 – Scientific Observer Programme / MCS General	Improved documentation and understanding of SVG's existing monitoring arrangements, operational limitations and applicable observer requirements, providing a technical basis for determining appropriate monitoring measures for its domestic artisanal fleet.	a) Submitted technical report on SVG's national data collection and monitoring system. b) Documented correspondence with ICCAT regarding alternative observer arrangements. c) Documented assessment of applicable monitoring requirements and any additional measures identified through ICCAT's guidance.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED / ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS TAKEN

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines faces human-resource, technical and operational constraints in fulfilling certain ICCAT obligations alongside its national fisheries management responsibilities. Despite these challenges, SVG continues to strengthen compliance through improved data collection, capacity building and engagement with ICCAT.

Table 3. Difficulties encountered and alternative actions taken

Action Area	Difficulties Encountered	Alternative Actions Taken / Proposed
1. Compliance Reporting	Limited personnel, competing responsibilities and data verification challenges.	Advance communication of delays, subsequent submission of outstanding reports and improved reporting coordination.
2. White Marlin Overharvest	Potential historical species misidentification and inaccuracies in landing records.	Review of historical data, improved species identification and engagement with ICCAT under Rec. 25-06.
3. ST03 – Catch and Effort / ST04 – Size-Frequency Data	Historical data collection systems lacked certain statistical and biological information required by ICCAT.	Participation in the ICCAT regional data collection initiative to strengthen sampling, data management and technical capacity.
4. ST09 – Scientific Observer Programme / MCS General	Safety and operational limitations of small artisanal vessels restrict onboard observer deployment.	Continued landing-site monitoring, formal request for alternative arrangements and preparation of a supporting technical report for domestic observer programme exemption.

CONCLUDING SUMMARY

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines remains committed to fulfilling its ICCAT obligations and addressing the identified compliance deficiencies. Through this Action Plan, SVG seeks to strengthen reporting procedures, improve statistical and biological data collection, and enhance national monitoring capacity.

Recognising the operational and resource limitations of its domestic artisanal fleet, SVG will pursue a phased approach to implementation, supported by continued participation in the ICCAT regional data collection initiative.

SVG welcomes continued technical guidance, capacity-building assistance and consideration of its circumstances as a Small Island Developing State in achieving sustained compliance with ICCAT requirements.

LIST OF APPENDICES AND ATTACHMENTS

None

Compliance Letter Response Template

2025 COMMISSION MEETING			
CPC: TÜRKIYE			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	**SPECIFIC ELEMENTS**	**REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN***	**DATE MISSING/REQUESTED DATA & INFORMATION WAS SENT** *(if applicable)*
CATEGORY A			
Compliance Tables			
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions			
CATEGORY B			
Annual Report			
Statistical Data			
Other Reports	Rec. 16-05: Fishing plan for Mediterranean swordfish received late.	The delay in the submission of the Fishing Plan for Mediterranean swordfish was due to the unexpectedly high workload of the relevant personnel during February and March, which resulted in the submission deadline being inadvertently overlooked. Consequently, the Fishing Plan for Mediterranean swordfish, which was due to be submitted by 15 March 2025, was transmitted on 19 March 2025. Türkiye would like to emphasize that it has consistently exercised the utmost diligence in ensuring the timely submission of all notifications required under ICCAT, including the Fishing Plan for Mediterranean Swordfish, SWO-MED Compliance Report, and quarterly catches and other required submissions. The aforementioned delay was an isolated and inadvertent occurrence, and there have been no previous instances of late submission of the Fishing Plan for Mediterranean swordfish by Türkiye.	The Fishing Plan for Mediterranean swordfish, transmitted on 19 March 2025.
CATEGORY C			
MCS-Species Related	Rec. 24-01: Task 1 for tropical species in 2024 but no corresponding periodical reports submitted (Tropical tuna quarterly/monthly	Türkiye has not authorized any vessel to participate any fishing activities towards bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) and yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) that are subject to certain TACs and allocation arrangements as to Rec. 24-01. In addition; there has been	Türkiye has submitted the list of SKJ vessels authorized for 2025 to ICCAT on 13 August 2025. Türkiye has submitted 1st and 2nd quarter catches of SKJ on 13 August 2025 and 3th quarter catches on 31 October 2025 .

	catches are reported through CP50-TROP_MQcRp, and weekly BET catches after reaching 80% of the catch limit through CP59-BET_WcRp. Both forms are available here). No information on carrying capacity of PS for TROP.	no FAD fishery or baitboat fishery targeting tropical tunas has occurred in Türkiye. Skipjack has been reported as bycatch rarely and in small quantities by longliners, gillnetters and purse seiners targeting mainly albacore and swordfish in previous seasons. Specifically, since the 2023 fishing season, a relative increase in skipjack by-catches has begun to be observed. Since no fishing activity specifically targeting skipjack conducted in previous seasons, there was no requirement for issuing a special fishing permit for skipjack fishery. Following the increase in skipjack bycatches, in order to ensure the effective management of skipjack fishery; Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has introduced a new regulation through Ministerial Notification on Regulation of Commercial Fishing (No. 6/1), covering the period 2024-2028, that oblige those fishers that are intending to fishing for skipjack tuna to have an annual special fishing permit issued by the Ministry. Starting from 2025; this administrative restructuring has made it possible to determine and monitor the authorized vessels to fish skipjack tuna. Then; duly reporting in accordance with ICCAT Rec. 24-01 has been improved. Türkiye has started to submit authorized SKJ vessel and quarterly catches of SKJ starting from August 2025. During 2026, duly submission of SKJ requirement was made properly. With respect to the deficiency concerning the lack of information on the carrying capacity of PS vessels for TRO, as the SKJ fishery and related data collection activities are new areas of work, Türkiye has been working, in coordination with the relevant institutions, on data concerning the transport or fishing carrying capacity of PS vessels, expressed in gross registered tonnage (GRT) or gross tonnage (GT). This work has not yet been completed. Upon	

		completion, the relevant data will be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat.	
MCS General			
Port Controls			
Vessel Controls			
OTHER	Response received late to JIS reports with possible infringement in COC_303_APP_4.	It is important to clarify that, the PNC/possible infringement notification on this matter was not delivered to our authority by the relevant CPC or the ICCAT Secretariat during the interim period, nor was any JIS report received. Furthermore; this matter was duly indicated by our authority in 2025 Annual Report of Türkiye (as response to M:GEN28). Following the indication in COC document No. 308" concerning "No response to JIS reports with possible infringement" correspondence was carried out with the ICCAT Secretariat, and the relevant were subsequently transmitted to our authority by the Secretariat 27 October 2025. It was considered that a technical transmission error may have affected the delivery of the reports, upon review it was understood that the JIS reports have not been sent to the designated ICCAT focal points within our authority, but instead transmitted to a different department. Upon receipt of the JIS reports from the ICCAT Secretariat, the necessary internal follow-up notifications were undertaken and the relevant notification were submitted without further delay. In this regard; I would like to remind that Türkiye has consistently cooperated constructively within the JIS framework and attached due importance to the timely follow-up of JIS reports including the communication of investigation results and any further action taken in relation to any detected or suspected infringements. The present case is therefore considered to be an isolated communication/transmission issue rather than a reflection of	Response by Türkiye to JIS reports with possible infringement (Doc. COC 303 Appendix 4) sent to ICCAT on 15 November

		Türkiye's established practice under the JIS framework. During the 2025 and 2026 bluefin tuna fishing season, Türkiye also continued its cooperation with the EU and participated in Joint Inspection Activities in the Eastern Mediterranean under the coordination of EFCA, with two Ministerial Inspectors on board the inspection vessel OPV OCEAN SENTINEL.	

* Relevant remedial actions should be applied broadly, to include actions taken or planned to address the matter identified by the COC and may include actions initiated by the CPC prior to COC raising the matter. Actions could include, inter alia, changes to applicable laws and regulations, policies, organizational structures, and enforcement priorities, as strengthening institutions such as through increased funding and seeking/participating in capacity building and technical assistance.

UNITED KINGDOM

Department for Environment and Rural Affairs

15/10/2026

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

Response to compliance issues: United Kingdom

Dear Mr. Campbell

I'm writing in response to your letter of 4 September 2026 (ICCAT Circular 7383 / 2026). I have provided a response to each of the issues that you have cited in the following paragraphs.

Firstly, the letter notes the late submission of statistical data for the UK-Virgin Islands in 2025. The cause of this delay can be attributed to financial and capacity challenges in the UK-Virgin Islands, as was explained during the Compliance Committee sessions in November 2025, as well as in the UK's 2025 Annual Report. We are pleased to confirm that the required data were submitted on time this year alongside the rest of the UK's statistical returns.

Secondly, the letter notes that the UK is not compliant with Rec. 16-14 (para 4a) as UK-St Helena's observer coverage was below 5% in 2021, and as the UK Virgin Islands did not have a domestic observer programme in place in 2023. However, UK-St Helena and UK-Virgin Islands vessels do not use the gear types referenced in paragraph 4a, meaning that this requirement does not apply to them. This issue has been discussed before at the Compliance Committee, and we believe that it being identified as a compliance issue may be due to the way in which the voluntary submission of data for UK-St Helena's observer programme has been processed upon receipt by ICCAT. To explain, it appears that the 3.14% observer coverage rate is being flagged as non-compliant for falling below the 5% requirement. However, the information has been provided by the UK voluntarily, and not in order to evidence compliance with the requirements for the gears that are within the scope of Rec. 16-14 para 4a. When UK-St-Helena reports observer data again we will endeavour to make it clear that the report is not in response to the requirement set out in Rec. 16-14 but is instead being submitted on a voluntary basis, and will clarify the gear types being used.

Thirdly, the letter notes observer coverage being below 5% for UK-Turks and Caicos at the landing locations for billfish tournaments. This was identified by the Compliance Committee in 2023, with reference to non-compliance in 2022. However, the UK has been compliant every year since, with a 50% coverage rate in 2023 and a 37.5% coverage rate in both 2024 and 2025. Additionally, the UK has continued to take steps to train observers in the UK Overseas Territories, to expand spatial and temporal observer coverage in our fisheries.

Finally, I note the request to the UK to complete and submit an action plan and completed response template. However, as the UK now considers itself fully compliant with the observer coverage requirements set out in Rec. 16-14 and 19-05, we do not consider any further steps to be necessary and equally therefore do not consider it necessary to submit these documents.

I trust that the information provided above is sufficient but please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further assistance regarding these matters.

Yours sincerely,

Jess Keedy

Head of the UK Delegation to ICCAT

Compliance Letter Response Template

2025 COMMISSION MEETING			
CPC: UNITED STATES			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	**SPECIFIC ELEMENTS**	**REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN***	**DATE MISSING/REQUESTED DATA & INFORMATION WAS SENT** *(if applicable)*
CATEGORY A			
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07, and Rec. 22-10: Compliance tables received late. Overharvest BFT-W (2024 balance: -141.18 t).	The United States can confirm that, consistent with the provisions of Recommendation 22-10 that address under- and overharvest, the United States managed its fishery domestically in 2025 to effectively repay the 2024 overage of its western Atlantic bluefin tuna (WBFT) quota within the 2025 fishing year. The total U.S. catch of WBFT in 2025 was 1,125.09 t, falling within its adjusted quota for 2025 of 1,199.96 t. Because 2024 was the first time in more than 20 years that the U.S. adjusted quota was exceeded, we wanted to proceed cautiously in our annual data submission, and this was the cause for delay in our compliance tables.	U.S. compliance tables containing 2024 catch data submitted August 28, 2025. U.S. compliance tables containing 2025 catch data demonstrating full repayment of the overharvest submitted August 14, 2026.
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions			
CATEGORY B			
Annual Report			
Statistical Data			
Other Reports			
CATEGORY C			
MCS-Species Related			
MCS General			
Port Controls			
Vessel Controls			
OTHER			

***** Relevant remedial actions should be applied broadly, to include actions taken or planned to address the matter identified by the COC and may include actions initiated by the CPC prior to COC raising the matter. Actions could include, inter alia, changes to applicable laws and regulations, policies, organizational structures, and enforcement priorities, as strengthening institutions such as through increased funding and seeking/participating in capacity building and technical assistance.

Compliance Letter Response Template

2025 COMMISSION MEETING			
CPC: CHINESE TAIPEI			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	**SPECIFIC ELEMENTS**	**REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN***	**DATE MISSING/REQUESTED DATA & INFORMATION WAS SENT** *(if applicable)*
CATEGORY A			
Compliance Tables	Rec. 22-06: Overharvest ALB-S (2024 balance: -1425.02 t).	This is due to an administrative oversight. When calculating the ALB-S quota in early 2024, the Fisheries Agency of Chinese Taipei (TFA) did not notice para 4d of Rec. 22-06, and thought all of Chinese Taipei's own underage from 2022 could be carried over, thus over-calculating the 2024 adjusted quota and allocating the individual vessel quota accordingly, leading to the overharvest. The 1,425.02 t of overage is fully deducted from Chinese Taipei's 2025 adjusted quota, and Chinese Taipei's 2025 ALB-S catch amount is within the adjusted quota, as reflected in the compliance tables submitted in 2026. TFA will keep close communication with the Secretariat when it calculates adjusted quotas for applicable species, so as to avoid recurrence of this non-compliance in the future.	
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions			
CATEGORY B			
Annual Report			
Statistical Data			
Other Reports			
CATEGORY C			
MCS-Species Related			
MCS General			
Port Controls			
Vessel Controls			
OTHER			

***** Relevant remedial actions should be applied broadly, to include actions taken or planned to address the matter identified by the COC and may include actions initiated by the CPC prior to COC raising the matter. Actions could include, inter alia, changes to applicable laws and regulations, policies, organizational structures, and enforcement priorities, as strengthening institutions such as through increased funding and seeking/participating in capacity building and technical assistance.

Compliance Letter Response Template

2025 COMMISSION MEETING			
CPC: SURINAME			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	**SPECIFIC ELEMENTS**	**REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN***	**DATE MISSING/REQUESTED DATA & INFORMATION WAS SENT** *(if applicable)*
CATEGORY A			
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07: Compliance tables received late.	The Compliance Table was submitted late to ICCAT last year due to an administrative oversight. Since then, we have taken all necessary measures to prevent a recurrence of this situation. We are pleased to confirm that the 2026 Compliance Table was submitted to ICCAT on 7 July 2026 under submission reference No. E26-07707.	
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions			
CATEGORY B			
Annual Report			
Statistical Data			
Other Reports			
CATEGORY C			
MCS-Species Related			
MCS General	Rec. 16-14 (Paras 4 and 10): Observer coverage <5%. 2023 TW 2% NDAY.	Despite the significant challenges encountered in 2024 and 2025 regarding the implementation of the National Observer Programme, which were already explained in our response letter to ICCAT dated 8 October 2025 (Ref. No. DVis-1276), we successfully commenced the implementation of the National Observer Programme in January 2026. All relevant information was submitted to ICCAT on 20 January 2026 (Ref. No. DVis-055). Suriname wishes to clarify that the reported 2% NDAY for 2023 relates to demersal trawl vessels, not tuna longline vessels (also explained in the Annual report). Demersal trawlers target demersal fish and may catch KGM (*Scomberomorus cavalla*), BRS	

		(*Scomberomorus maculatus*) and sharks as bycatch. Although monitoring these ICCAT species is not the primary objective of the demersal observer programme, relevant data are collected and reported to ICCAT through the ST09 statistical form.	
Port Controls			
Vessel Controls			
OTHER			

***** Relevant remedial actions should be applied broadly, to include actions taken or planned to address the matter identified by the COC and may include actions initiated by the CPC prior to COC raising the matter. Actions could include, inter alia, changes to applicable laws and regulations, policies, organizational structures, and enforcement priorities, as strengthening institutions such as through increased funding and seeking/participating in capacity building and technical assistance.

Action Plan Response Template
2025 Commission Meeting

CPC (Contracting Party/Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity):

Suriname

Date of submission or revision *(Day/Month/Year)*:**15/10/2026**

DEFICIENCES TO BE ADDRESSED
[List the specific issues identified by the COC in its letter to the CPC] The deficiencies identified by ICCAT are: - Rec. 18-07: Compliance tables received late. - Rec. 16-14 (Paras 4 and 10): Observer coverage <5%. 2023 TW 2% NDAY.
SUMMARY INTRODUCTION
[Provide a brief context on the issues and the purpose of this Action Plan] The action plan addresses the timely submission of Compliance Tables and the implementation and monitoring of observer coverage for the relevant fleets. The Compliance Table was submitted late to ICCAT last year due to administrative oversight. Since then, all necessary measures have been taken to prevent a recurrence of this situation. Suriname is pleased to confirm that the 2026 Compliance Table was submitted to ICCAT on 7 July 2026 under submission reference No. E26-07707. Suriname wishes to clarify that the reported 2% NDAY for 2023 relates to demersal trawl vessels targeting demersal fish, rather than to the tuna longline vessels covered by the National Observer Programme Plan for 2026. Demersal trawl vessels may catch King Mackerel (*Scomberomorus cavalla*), Atlantic Spanish Mackerel (*Scomberomorus maculatus*) and sharks (Carcharhinidae spp.) as bycatch, as also explained in the Annual Report. The observer programme for these demersal vessels is not primarily intended to collect data on ICCAT species BRS and KGM. Nevertheless, information on these species is collected and reported to ICCAT. Suriname began targeting tuna and tuna-like species with Surinamese-flagged longline vessels in July 2023. As explained in Suriname's response letter to ICCAT dated 8 October 2025 (Ref. No. DVis-1276), the implementation of the National Observer Programme faced significant human and financial capacity constraints. Despite these challenges, Suriname developed a National Observer Programme Plan for the pelagic longline fishery for 2026 and submitted it to ICCAT on 20 January 2026 under Ref. No. DVis-055. As of the date of this Action Plan update, five completed tuna longline fishing trips have already been observed in 2026.
ACTION ITEMS
[List and describe the concrete steps the CPC will implement, including where applicable the legally binding nature of the action]
- Prevent late submission of Compliance Tables in accordance with Recommendation 18-07 by maintaining an annual ICCAT reporting calendar and monitoring reporting deadlines. - Continue implementing Suriname's National Observer Programme Plan for the pelagic longline tuna fishery and work towards meeting the applicable observer coverage requirement under Recommendation 16-14. - Review the five tuna longline fishing trips observed to date in 2026 and compare the number of observed trips with the total number of fishing trips completed during the same period to determine the actual observer coverage percentage. Continue scheduling observer deployments to meet the applicable coverage requirement. - Address practical barriers to observer deployment, including challenging sea conditions in the Atlantic Ocean during early 2026, instances in which observers became ill and had to return urgently before completing their trips, and instances in which observers declined deployment during that period. Take observer safety and fitness for deployment into account and consider

contingency arrangements and alternative scheduling when planning future deployments.
- Monitor observer coverage on a quarterly basis by tracking the total number of completed fishing trips, the number of observed trips and the resulting coverage percentage. Where monitoring indicates that coverage may fall below the applicable requirement, arrange additional observer deployments on subsequent trips, as necessary.
- Ensure the timely submission and proper management of observer data. Observer data must be submitted to the Directorate within 15 days after each trip, validated and archived, and reported to ICCAT through the ST09 statistical form, as specified in the National Observer Programme Plan.
- Maintain supporting documentation at the national level, including observer reports, observer deployment records, logbooks, Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data and port records, to support verification of observer coverage and implementation of the National Observer Programme Plan.

PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION

[Describe how each action will be executed, responsible parties, and resource allocation]

The Directorate of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries is the responsible authority.

- By maintaining an annual ICCAT reporting calendar and monitoring reporting deadlines, the Compliance Table was submitted within the deadline to ICCAT on 7 July 2026 under submission reference No. E26-07707.
- To avoid practical barriers to observer deployment, including challenging sea conditions in the Atlantic Ocean, the Directorate of Fisheries will take practical and safety-related constraints into account when scheduling future deployments and considering contingency arrangements.
- The Directorate of Fisheries has contacted Shellcatch regarding an Electronic monitoring system already used on ICCAT-registered vessels. Further discussions regarding implementation will depend on technical suitability and financing issues.
- Implementation remains subject to available human and financial resources.
- Demersal trawl fleet: records and reporting should distinguish this fleet from the tuna longline fleet.

TIMELINE / INCREMENTAL BENCHMARKS FOR COMPLETION

[Outline the schedule with milestones for each corrective action, including where applicable dates that planned actions will enter into effect]

- Suriname submitted the 2026 Compliance Table to ICCAT within the established deadline under submission reference No. E26-07707.
- 20 January 2026: Suriname submitted the National Observer Programme Plan for the pelagic longline fishery to ICCAT (Ref. No. DVis-055).
- Within 15 days after each observed trip, the observers submit their data to the Directorate of Fisheries for validation and subsequent reporting.
- As of this update despite all the constraints, five tuna longline fishing trips have been observed in 2026.
- The observer data will be reported to ICCAT through the ST09 statistical form.

EXPECTED IMPROVEMENTS / OUTCOMES IN THE NEXT YEAR

[Specify measurable improvements expected as a result of the plan]

- Timely submission of Compliance Tables
- Quarterly records of total fishing trips, observed trips and observer coverage percentage, with corrective deployments planned where needed.
- Observer reports submitted to the Directorate within 15 days after each trip, with validated data archived and reported to ICCAT through the ST09 statistical form.
- Improved deployment planning that takes into account rough sea conditions, observer safety and fitness, availability and contingency arrangements.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED / ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS TAKEN

[Describe any challenges faced during implementation and adjustments made]

The principal difficulties encountered during 2024 and 2025 were limited human and financial resources for establishing the National Observer Programme. As stated in Suriname's letter to ICCAT dated 8 October 2025 (Ref. No. DVis-1276), these constraints delayed follow-up action on the quotations obtained from Capfish and Shellcatch. The political transition following the general elections held on 25 May 2025 also contributed to these delays.

Despite these challenges, Suriname developed a National Observer Programme Plan for 2026. During the early months of 2026, difficult sea conditions in the Atlantic Ocean created additional practical barriers to observer deployment. Some observers became ill and had to return urgently before completing their trips, while others were unwilling to go to sea during that period. And the implementation of the National Observer Programme continue facing significant human and financial capacity constraints. As a result of all the constraints, only five tuna longline trips had been observed as of the date of this report.

The reported 2% NDAY figure for 2023 relates to the demersal trawl fleet targeting demersal fish, rather than the tuna longline fleet. As further explained in the Annual Report, demersal trawl vessels may catch King Mackerel (*Scomberomorus cavalla*), Atlantic Spanish Mackerel (*Scomberomorus maculatus*), and sharks (*Carcharhinidae* spp.) as bycatch. Although collecting data on ICCAT species BRS and KGM is not the primary objective of the observer programme for the demersal trawl fleet, data on these species are nevertheless collected and reported to ICCAT.

CONCLUDING SUMMARY

[Summarise the overall approach and commitment to resolving the deficiencies]

Suriname remains committed to addressing both deficiencies identified by ICCAT.

Following the late submission of the previous year's Compliance Table due to an administrative oversight, measures have been taken to prevent recurrence. The 2026 Compliance Table was submitted within the established deadline, on 7 July 2026, under submission reference No. E26-07707.

As of the date of this report, five tuna longline trips have been observed in 2026. Suriname acknowledges that further observer deployments and continued monitoring are required, and that actual observer coverage must be calculated against the total number of realized fishing trips. Difficult sea conditions, observer illness, and limited observer availability have affected deployments. These factors will be taken into account in future planning.

Suriname also clarifies that the 2023 figure of 2% NDAY relates to the demersal trawl fleet, not the tuna longline fleet, as further explained in the annual report. Data on ICCAT species caught as bycatch by demersal trawl vessels are collected and reported to ICCAT, although collecting data on BRS and KGM is not the primary objective of that programme.

The Directorate of Fisheries will continue to monitor implementation, document progress, and keep ICCAT informed of further developments.

LIST OF APPENDICES AND ATTACHMENTS
[If applicable, list appendices or attachments with additional information, such as copies or excerpts of relevant laws, regulations, administrative actions, procedures, and policies] - Annex 1: Suriname's response letter to ICCAT dated 8 October 2025 (Ref. No. DVis-1276). - Annex 2: Submission letter of the National Observer Programme Plan to ICCAT on 20 January 2026 (Ref. No. DVis-055), if available. - Annex 3: National Observer Programme Plan for Pelagic Longline Fishery of Suriname 2026 (January 2026). - Annex 4: Statement of observer health condition at sea during January 2026