

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

This document contains responses to the letters from the Chair of the Compliance Committee received by **October 17, 2025**. Replies received after this deadline will be presented as the **Addendum 1 to COC-309**.

Appendix 1: Contains *Responses from CPCs to Letters sent in 2024 (and prior years) as requested from the Chair of the Compliance Committee*.

Appendix 2: Contains *Action Plans from CPCs Sent in Response to A Request from the Chair of the Compliance Committee*.

Annex 1: Contains *Letters on Issues of Compliance sent in 2025 by the Chair of the Compliance Committee*.

Annex 2: Contains *Supporting Documents from CPCs sent in response to the Letters from the Chair of the Compliance Committee*.

***Letter Type Key:**

AP = Action Plan Requested

ID = Identification

II = Implementation Issues

NA= Not Applicable

NONE = No letter sent

OH = Overharvest

RI= Reporting Issues

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Letter Type*</i>	<i>Reply Received</i>	<i>Template Completed</i>	<i>Missing Information Sent</i>	<i>Requested Action Plan Sent</i>
Albania	RI/II	14-Oct-2025	Yes	Additional discard report sent with response.	NA
Algeria	RI/II				NA
Angola	RI/AP	14-Oct-2025	Yes	Response to COC-312 submitted	Updated action plan sent 14-Oct-2025
Barbados	RI/II/OH/AP	13-Oct-2025	Yes	Action plan not submitted	Action plan requested
Belize	II	16-Oct-2025	Yes	NA	NA
Brazil	RI/II/OH	17-Oct-2025	Yes	Yes	NA
Cabo Verde	RI/II/ ID /AP				Updated action plan requested
Canada	RI/II	15-Oct-2025	Yes	NA	NA
China PR	NONE	NOT APPLICABLE			
Costa Rica	II/OH	20-Sept-2025	Yes	NA	NA
Côte d'Ivoire	RI/II/AP	14-Oct-2025	Yes	Yes	14-Oct-2025
Curaçao	RI/II				NA
Egypt	RI/II/OH				NA
El Salvador	NONE	NOT APPLICABLE			
Equatorial Guinea	RI/II				NA
European Union	RI	10-Oct-2025	Yes	NA	NA
France SPM	NONE	NOT APPLICABLE			
Gabon	RI/II				NA
The Gambia	RI/II/ ID /AP				Action plan requested
Ghana	RI/II	25-Sept-2025	Yes	Yes	NA

CPC	Letter Type*	Reply Received	Template Completed	Missing Information Sent	Requested Action Plan Sent
Grenada	RI/OH/ ID Letter: Significant recurring reporting issues.				NA
Guatemala	RI				NA
Guinea Bissau	RI/II/ ID /AP Letter: Significant recurring reporting issues.				Action plan requested
Guinea Rep.	RI/II/AP				Updated action plan requested
Honduras	RI/II/AP	18-Sept-2025	Yes	Yes	18-Sept-2025
Iceland	RI	12-Sept-2025	Yes	NA	NA
Japan	RI	30-Sept-2025	Yes	NA	NA
<i>Korea</i>	NONE	NOT APPLICABLE			
Liberia	RI/II/AP	13-Oct-2025	Yes	Yes	Updated action plan sent 13-Oct-2025
Libya	RI/II/OH	14-Oct-2025	Yes	NA	NA
Mauritania	RI/II				NA
Mexico	II	7-Oct-2025	Yes	Yes	NA
<i>Morocco</i>	NONE	NOT APPLICABLE			
Namibia	RI/OH/ ID Letter: Recurrent significant reporting issues; recurring overharvest.	15-Oct-2025	Yes	Yes	NA
Nicaragua	RI	1-Oct-2025	Yes	NA	NA
Nigeria	RI/II/AP				Action plan requested (2nd request)
<i>Norway</i>	NONE	NOT APPLICABLE			
<i>Panama</i>	NONE	NOT APPLICABLE			
<i>Philippines</i>	NONE	NOT APPLICABLE			
<i>Russia</i>	NONE	NOT APPLICABLE			
São Tomé e Príncipe	RI/II/OH/ ID Letter: Recurrent reporting issues.				NA
Senegal	RI/ ID Letter: Recurrent significant reporting issues; recurring overharvest.	12-Sept-2025	Yes	Yes	Follow up action plan sent voluntarily.
Sierra Leone	RI/II/AP				Action plan requested (2nd request)
<i>South Africa</i>	NONE	NOT APPLICABLE			
St. Vincent & Grenadines	RI/II/OH Letter: Recurrent reporting issues; recurring overharvest.				NA
Syria	RI/II				NA
Trinidad & Tobago	RI/II/AP	10-Oct-2025	Yes	Yes	10-Oct-2025
<i>Tunisia</i>	NONE	NOT APPLICABLE			
Türkiye	OH	14-Oct-2025	Yes	NA	NA
United Kingdom	RI	14-Oct-2025	Yes	NA	NA
United States	RI	15-Oct-2025	Yes	NA	NA

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Letter Type*</i>	<i>Reply Received</i>	<i>Template Completed</i>	<i>Missing Information Sent</i>	<i>Requested Action Plan Sent</i>
<i>Uruguay</i>	NONE	NOT APPLICABLE			
Venezuela	RI/II/OH	13-Oct-2025	Yes	NA	NA
<i>Bolivia</i>	NONE	NOT APPLICABLE			
<i>Chinese Taipei</i>	NONE	NOT APPLICABLE			
Suriname	II	9-Oct-2025	Yes	Yes	NA
Guyana	RI/II	15-Oct-2025	Yes	NA	NA



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRIË
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Tirana on 14/10/2025

Mr. Derek
Campbell Compliance Committee Chair
ICCAT Secretariat
Corazon de Maria, 8-28002 Madrid, Spain

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO LETTER ON COMPLIANCE ISSUE (S25-08875, ICCAT-SALIDA 2025-09-11)

Dear Mr. Derek Campbell

On behalf of the CPC Albania, I am writing to response you about the compliance issue regarding the reporting deficiencies in 2024 and listed in your letter.

Please allow me to clarify the listed deficiencies:

- Regarding Compliance tables received late. It was only a technical mistake. We have fulfilled all the information needed, but forget to submit it, as by ICCAT e-mail on 17/09/2024:

“The ICCAT Secretariat acknowledges receipt of the revised Annual Report 2024 of Albania submitted on 2024-09-13 with the registration number E24-10664.

The following sections of Albania’s 2024 Annual Report are confirmed as:

- Summary: received
- Section 1, Parts 1 and 2: received
- Section 2, Parts 1 and 2: received
- Section 3, Table 2: received and Table 1 (STATS): need to submit the information

Please note that in the Section 3, IOMS Part I is complete but you have forgotten to “submit” the information as indicated below:

- CPC Albania conducts its BFT activities with two purse seiner vessels and currently does not have a scientific observer program onboard. Conversely, since 2019, with support from GFCM, Albania has been implementing a by-catch monitoring program with observers on fishing vessels, including bottom and pelagic trawlers and purse seiners, in the Adriatic Sea. This initiative aims to gather comprehensive data on the discard portion of the total by-catch and information on the incidental capture of vulnerable species. Attached you can find Final Report 2023-2024, in the frame of GFCM MedSea4Fish Project.

I do apologize for the deficiencies and CPC Albania will continue to make all necessary efforts to be timely reporting and in full compliance with recommendations of ICCAT.

In thanking you for your support to these important matters, let me express to you the assurance of my highest consideration.

Head Delegate to ICCAT

Roland KRISTO

Compliance letter response template

2024 Commission Meeting			
CPC: ALBANIA			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENTS	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
CATEGORY A			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>	Rec. 18-07 : Compliance tables received late.	It was only a technical mistake. We have fulfilled all the information needed, but forget to submit it, as by ICCAT email on 17/09/2024: “The ICCAT Secretariat acknowledges receipt of the revised Annual Report 2024 of Albania submitted on 2024-09-13 with the registration number E24-10664. The following sections of Albania’s 2024 Annual Report are confirmed as: - Summary: received - Section 1, Parts 1 and 2: received - Section 2, Parts 1 and 2: received - Section 3, Table 2: received and Table 1 (STATS): need to submit the information Please note that in the Section 3, IOMS Part I is complete but you have forgotten to “submit” the information as indicated below:”	
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
CATEGORY B			
<i>Annual Report</i>			
<i>Statistical Data</i>	No ST09 form.	CPC Albania conducts its BFT activities with two purse seiner vessels and currently does not have a scientific observer program onboard.	
<i>Other Reports</i>			
CATEGORY C			
<i>MCS Species Related</i>			
<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14 : Observer coverage <5%.	Since 2019, with support from GFCM, Albania has been implementing a bycatch monitoring program with observers on fishing vessels, including bottom and pelagic trawlers and purse seiners, in the Adriatic Sea. This initiative aims to gather comprehensive data on the discard portion of the total bycatch and information on the incidental capture of vulnerable species. Attached you can find Final Report 2023-2024, in the frame of GFCM MedSea4Fish Project.	

<i>Port Controls</i>			
<i>Vessel Controls</i>			
OTHER			

Compliance letter response template

2024 Commission Meeting			
CPC: ANGOLA			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENTS	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
CATEGORY A			
<i>Compliance tables</i>		All compliance tables have been compiled and delivered.	15/06/2025
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>		The vessel during the fishing activity applies the Recommendation 17-03, the vessel main focus is to capture fish with above 125 cm, and release fish measuring below 125 cm.	
CATEGORY B			
<i>Annual Report</i>	Annual Report IOMS Section 2 incomplete.	Session 2 has been revised and completed, however, the missing information about some Recommendations is described here.	15/09/2025
<i>Statistical data</i>	No ST09 form.	This table has been compiled and delivered.	26/09/2025
<i>Other reports</i>			
CATEGORY C			
<i>MCS-species related</i>	Rec. 22-01 : Periodical reports for tropical species in 2023 submitted late.	Angola recently provided ICCAT the catch data for the years 2021 and 2022, and the catches for the swordfish species for the years 2022 and 2023 were recently updated and sent to the ICCAT Statistics Department as per the attached copy.	15/06/2025
	Rec. 11-09 : No CP44 Report on implementation of seabird mitigation measures.	The vessel has 1 bird scaring line installed, applied in accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 11-09 guidelines to reduce the mortality of the seabirds. The vessel uses circle hooks instead of J-hooks to reduce the rate of deep hooking and gut hooking of sea turtles, increasing post-release survival. The FAO guidelines that are implemented by the DEMERSAL 9 vessel, to ensure sustainable fishing are as follows: Conducting longline fishing at night, when many seabirds are inactive, is a highly effective method for reducing seabird bycatch. We are in talks with consultants from the Abatroz organization, which works for the conservation of seabirds, to exchange experiences regarding data collection, monitoring, and assessing the impact of fishing on marine species, as well as implementing sustainable measures to reduce the impact of fishing on seabirds.	

		This partnership will involve holding workshops, training sessions and trips to observe the results achieved by the organization in their country.	
	Rec. 22-12 No CP44 Report on implementation of seabird mitigation measures.	This Recommendation 22-12 refers to the management and preservation of sea turtles. However, this Recommendation is applied by the vessel to minimize the accidental capture of turtles. In addition to this Recommendation, the vessel received the FIP BLUES good practices manual on handling and safe release of sea turtles.	
<i>MCS general</i>	Rec. 16-14 : Observer coverage <5%.	The vessel <i>Demersal 9</i> has an observer from the Inspection Service on board the vessel to collect statistical data. Now we do not have a scientific observer, due to the reduced number of personnel and the workload they have, which makes it impossible for them to be on the vessel for three months, the time that the vessel spends carrying out fishing activities.	
<i>Port controls</i>	Rec. 18-09 : No information on in-port transshipment.	The vessel <i>Demersal 9</i> does not perform transshipment at the Port, the only type of operation that the vessel <i>Demersal 9</i> is authorized to perform is the unloading of the product at the discharge port.	
<i>Vessel controls</i>		The <i>Demersal 9</i> vessel has VMS equipment installed. The National Fisheries Inspection Service has been conducting maritime patrols to monitor the vessels' fishing activities. Control of product discharges at the Port is carried out by agents of the National Maritime Fisheries Inspection Service. Mandatory submission of fishing logs to the Marine Resources Directorate. Verification of quantities requested for export against quantities caught. Periodic inspections of the vessels to ensure that ICCAT recommendations are being effectively implemented.	
OTHER	Response to Chair Letter (2023 and 2022). Action plan submitted.		



13 October 2025

Chair
Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
Corazón de María, 8. 28002
Madrid, SPAIN

Dear Dr. Campbell:

Re: Barbados' Responses to Compliance Issues

Greetings from the Fisheries Division. I hope this communication finds you well and in good health.

We are writing to formally respond to the three compliance issues included in the attached table created with the template supplied. However, through this letter we would like to more fully respond specifically to the request for additional information on actions being implemented and submission of an action plan for the payback of the reported overharvesting of Blue and White marlins.

As you will recall in our response dated 9 October 2024, we reported that on 1st July 2024, the powerful storm surge generated by the passage of category 4 Hurricane Beryl to the South of Barbados severely damaged the breakwater at the Bridgetown Fishing Harbour, where the majority of the island's pelagic fishing vessels including the entire longline fleet were berthed. More than 200 fishing vessels of various kinds suffered major damage as a result of this one incident, with more than 70 being completely destroyed. Of that number, one longliner was lost entirely and 38 were damaged. Even though some of vessels were repaired and put back into service before the end of the year, this incident led to an overall significant decline in fishing activity for the rest of the year, including that of the longliner fleet. Recovery efforts are ongoing, and a vessel replacement project will be launched in the coming weeks.

This in turn resulted in a substantial reduction in the catches of all fish species including marlins. As such the landings of white and blue marlins for 2024 was much lower for any previous year and below the respective 10 t quota/limit set for these species.

It must be noted that even though Barbados catches of blue and white marlin have been kept below the respective allocated 10t catch limit/quota, in 2022 through 2024, the 25% penalty, triggered by the catch overages up to 2021, has left the island burdened with a significant accrued catch overage, which represents biomass that were never actually taken from the stock in the first place and thus in no way contributed to the status of the stock. In this context, even despite remaining below the annual quotas over the last three years, Barbados still remains mired in significant catch overages for the marlin species, for which there is no apparent workable means of "payback" within a reasonable timeframe.

In this regard it must be reiterated that most marlin catches are taken incidentally by the local longline fleet, which primarily targets yellowfin and bigeye tunas in fishing areas also abundantly inhabited by marlins. For this reason, the likelihood of incidentally catching marlins is high and it is only an overall reduction in fishing effort that could perceivably significantly reduce marlin catches. This is obviously untenable as it would result in making the fishery economically unviable, further resulting in significant losses in employment and the island's food supply. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that marlins are only sold and consumed locally and as such these species intrinsically contribute to the island's food security and the livelihoods of fisherfolk, especially now so against the backdrop of the significant diminution in catches of Barbados' keystone flyingfish and dolphinfish fisheries as a result of the annual incidences of sargassum inundations of the island's fishing areas and the continued post-Beryl reduction in size of the fishing fleet.

Given the above, Barbados is in no position at the moment to present a cogent short-term payback plan for the existing overages of marlin catches. Further in this context noting the inherent uncertainties in the degree and rate of recovery of its fishing fleet and the overarching food security imperatives.

Nevertheless, it should be noted that Barbados and other Caribbean small island developing states will be tabling a Recommendation in Panel 4 at this year's meeting seeking rationalization and relief of the treatment of marlin overages. However, ICCAT is urged to note the commitment by Barbados to continuing efforts to reduce marlin catches to the extent reasonably possible inter alia through legislation. In this context I am happy to report that the Sustainable Fisheries Management and Development Act, 2025 and the sister Sustainable Fisheries Management and Development (Seafood Markets and Business) Act, 2025 came into force on May 12th, 2025. Along with subsidiary regulations, this body of legislation will effectuate comprehensive regulation of the harvest and post-harvest sectors. The subsidiary Sustainable Fisheries Management and Development Regulations to the Sustainable Fisheries Management and Development Act, 2025 are currently undergoing the final processes for commencement.

In the context of catch reduction of marlins, the regulations mandate (a) that longlines are not to be deployed, set or used with specialized fishing tackle; specific bait; or fishing technology, to target billfish (b) that only circle hooks of a size greater than 16/0, and not offset; or 18/0, with an offset no greater than 10 degrees are to be used on longlines (c) that any billfish incidentally taken on longlines that are alive at haulback are to promptly released in a manner that maximizes their survival accordance or if already dead, a percentage of the fish as specified by the Chief Fisheries Officer may be retained and disposed of in accordance with such conditions as she specifies.

In this context it should be noted that circle hooks are already being used by some longliners and that an experimental fishing exercise started in October 2025 to test the relative efficacy of these hooks in reducing unwanted bycatch. Another study testing the impact of water depth on catch composition will follow to advise on the possible introduction of legislation to regulate fishing depth ranges to reduce incidental by-catch catch rates of a number of species including marlins.

We hope that the narrative above sufficiently conveys our concerns and commitment to promoting sustainable fisheries for all Barbadians.

For more information, please contact yours truly at Shelly-Ann.Cox@barbados.gov.bb or (246) 535-5803/249-6227.

Please accept assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours in sustainable fisheries,

.....
Dr. Shelly-Ann Cox
Chief Fisheries Officer

Compliance letter response template

2025 Commission Meeting			
CPC: ALBANIA			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENTS	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
CATEGORY A			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>	Rec. 18-07/ Rec. 19-05: Recurrent overharvest of BUM (2023: -54.62) and WHM (2023: -6.08 t)	The Sustainable Fisheries Management and Development Act, 2025 and Fisheries Management Regulations discussed in the National Report mandate (a) that longlines are not to be deployed, set or used with specialized fishing tackle; specific bait; or fishing technology, to target billfish (b) that only circle hooks of a size greater than 16/0, and not offset; or 18/0, with an offset no greater than 10 degrees are to be used on longlines (c) that any billfish incidentally taken on longlines that are alive at haulback are to promptly released in a manner that maximizes their survival accordance or if already dead, a percentage of the fish as specified by the Chief Fisheries Officer may be retained and disposed of in accordance with such conditions as he specifies. While these methods are aimed at curbing catches of billfish including marlins in an effort to comply with the current set quotas, the Commission is reminded that billfish are eaten in Barbados and contribute to the island's food security in addition to being an important component of the catches of the island's longline fleet and thus the economic viability of that fishery and the livelihoods of fisherfolk. It should also be noted that longliners are targeting yellowfin and bigeye tunas in fishing areas abundantly inhabited by marlins. For this reason, marlins are caught incidentally but are consumed and contribute to food security. It should also be noted that the fishing fleet is still recovering from the passage of hurricane Beryl which damaged 160 vessels and completely destroyed over 70 vessels after further assessment was carried out. Of this number 38 longliners were damaged and 1 completely lost. The fishing activity of the longliner fleet has not yet fully recovered from this impact which has led to a concomitant reduction in fish catches inclusive of marlins.	
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			

CATEGORY B			
<i>Annual Report</i>			
<i>Statistical Data</i>			
<i>Other Reports</i>			
CATEGORY C			
<i>MCS Species Related</i>	Rec. 22-12: No information on implementation of sea turtles measures.	In the Sustainable Fisheries Management and Development Act (2025) (SFMDA), Section 18. Protection of endangered species states that: “(1) No person shall hunt, capture, possess, trade in, intentionally kill, injure or harass any endangered species. (2) A person shall report to the Chief Fisheries Officer any accidental catches of species prohibited under subsection (1). (3) Any endangered aquatic species caught, either intentionally or unintentionally shall be released immediately and returned to the water from which it was taken with the least possible injury. (4) The Chief Fisheries Officer shall maintain lists of endangered species and threatened species.” Expanded operational details pertaining to this clause are articulated in the subsidiary Sustainable Fisheries Management Regulations which duly lists sea turtles as endangered species and mandates that “No person shall fish for; take; endanger, harass, harm or kill; land; possess without the written permission of the Chief Fisheries Officer; sell or expose for sale; or purchase, any species of fish considered endangered any species of fish considered endangered listed in Part II of the Second Schedule”. Additionally, the regulations mandate that in relation to listed endangered species (such as turtles “The master of a commercial or sport fishing vessel shall promptly release fish, to which this paragraph applies, incidentally caught or entangled in fishing gear and still alive at haul-back in (a) a manner that causes the least harm to the fish and maximizes the possibility of survival; and (b) in accordance with such instructions as the Minister, on the advice of the Chief Fisheries Officer ”. Furthermore, the regulations stipulate that “the master of a commercial or sport fishing vessel shall ensure that the equipment required for the purpose of release of fish of a size and design approved by the Minister and as the Minister, on the advice of the Chief Fisheries Officer, may specify by notice; such equipment must be kept on board the vessel for the duration of every	

	Rec. 22-01: Periodical reports received late.	fishing trip, be maintained in good working order and the master and the crew are trained in the safe and effective use of the equipment.” In the case of turtles, the instructions referred to above in the context of both the size and type of equipment and best practices to be used to release turtles will be articulated in Fisheries Notices subsidiary to this regulation and will be advised by the “FAO Guidelines to reduce sea turtle mortality in fishing operations (2009)” in the context of longline gear and for resuscitation of sea turtles on board as detailed in appendix 2 of ICCAT Rec. 22-12. In relation to reporting obligations re incidental fishing encounters with turtles, the regulations also mandated that “A person shall report to the Chief Fisheries Officer any accidental catches of prohibited species” (including turtles) and to this end “The master of a commercial or sport fishing vessel shall maintain records of all fishing activities for every fishing trip” and this includes “the incidental catch, injury or killing of fish of any species listed....[this includes turtles]...” for which fishing is prohibited” In compliance with Rec. 22-12 Para 1 (a) the SFMDA regulations also mandate that for horizontal longlines, “Only circle hooks of a size greater than (a) (b) 16/0, and not off set; or 18/0, with an off set no greater than 10 degrees.” may be used. Barbados apologizes for the delay in submissions and is trying to remedy the situation through the onboarding of an additional Fisheries Biologist and Data Analyst to support the necessary collation and analysis of landings statistics to facilitate timely submissions of reports. This will be further facilitated through the introduction of a bespoke Fisheries Information Platform with Intergen Technology which includes a robust database, Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) for integration, and a user-friendly dashboard that will collectively allow for immediate collation, summarisation and reporting of directly inputted fisheries related data from various sources including from digitised fish landings data collected from conventional market records as well as fish catches, fishing trip details, and economic information collected by data collectors through and directly digitized through the KoboToolbox. Platform, vessel tracking information collected from the Vessel Monitoring systems (VMS) currently installed on nearly all	
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		longliners, noting that under the SFMDA(2025) all fishing vessels will by law have to carry remote tracking devices, detailed information on on-board fishing activities including AI monitoring of the catches allowing for species identification and estimation of catch weights etc. with Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) being installed initially on longliners, as well as catches landed at key market sites using Smart Scales that will inter alia identify species, conduct digital biological sampling, determine catch location, calculate fishing effort, analyse landings and begin the traceability certification process.	
<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14: Implementation of scientific observer programme unclear. Observer coverage <5%.	An observer program has not been implemented in Barbados yet. However, PART X of the SFMDA (2025) is devoted with the requirements for the Chief Fisheries Officer to establish an observer program and includes the duties of an observer and responsibilities of the owner of the vessel or facility in which a fisheries observer is placed. The SFMDA regulations adds more details for the observer programs including that; the master of both a commercial or sport fishing vessel shall fully participate in any observer program authorised by the Chief Fisheries Officer including accommodating and this includes the installation of any on board electronic surveillance equipment deemed necessary to allow the unimpeded observation of all on board fishing and related activities. In this context, under the Strategies, technologies, and social solutions to manage bycatch in tropical Large Marine Ecosystem Fisheries (REBYC-III CLME+) project, Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) from the company Shellcatch have been implemented on the longliner fleet. Approximately 10% of the longline fleet have EMS to monitor by-catch of the endangered, threatened and protected (ETP) such as marine turtles, marine mammals, sharks and rays. The AI imbedded into this system is being trained on the identification of ETP species relevant to Barbados and ICCAT landed by the longline fleet.	
<i>Port Controls</i>			
<i>Vessel Controls</i>			
OTHER			

Compliance letter response template

2024 Commission Meeting			
CPC: BELIZE			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENTS	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN SINCE	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
CATEGORY A			
<i>Compliance tables</i>			
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
CATEGORY B			
<i>Annual Report</i>			
<i>Statistical data</i>	No ST09 form.	Due to incomplete, inconsistent and delayed reports from our vessels, the data submission was delayed. We are actively working to consolidate these data and anticipate submitting them before the annual meeting.	
<i>Other reports</i>			
CATEGORY C			
<i>MCS-species related</i>			
<i>MCS general</i>	Rec. 16-14: Implementation of scientific observer programme unclear.	Belize's At-Sea Scientific Observer Program is implemented as mandated by our Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Regulation S.I. No. 39 of 2014, and is further supported by our At-Sea Observer Policy. The program is currently contracted to Capricorn Fisheries, who are conducting this service on behalf of Belize in accordance with the recommendations of the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs). Our policy is currently under review for amendment.	
<i>Port controls</i>			
<i>Vessel controls</i>			
OTHER			



**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE
NATIONAL SECRETARIAT FOR REGISTRATION, MONITORING AND RESEARCH OF FISHERIES AND
AQUACULTURE**

OFICIO - MPA NQ 1634/2025/SERMOP - MPA/MPA

Brasilia/OF, October 17, 2025.

To ICCAT's Compliance Committee
Mr. Derek Campbell
Compliance Committee Chair
ICCAT Secretariat Calle Corazon de María, 8-6 28002
Madrid Spain
E-mail: info@iccat.int

SUBJECT: EXPLANATION LETTER TO ICCAT # S25-08877

Mr. Derek Campbell,

1. Brazil acknowledges the receipt of your letter on compliance issues addressed, dated September 11th, 2025. We are grateful for your attention to these concerns and for the opportunity to provide the necessary clarifications. Accordingly, we present below some clarifications on the issues raised for the Compliance Committee's consideration.
2. Under the ICCAT conservation and management program for tropical tunas adopted by the Commission (Rec 21-01; Rec 22-01; Rec 23-01), Brazil recognizes the recurrent overharvest of bigeye tuna (BET) in 2023. This led the country to submit - and had approved at the last Commission meeting - a new payback plan (Rec. 24-03). Under this recommendation, Brazil committed to repaying, over a four-year period (2025-2028), the remaining overharvest of 1,232 t from 2022 and 922.03 t from 2023. of 922.03 t from 2023.
3. Following consecutive years of BET overharvest, Brazil has made significant efforts to address these issues by improving the regulatory framework and encouraging stakeholders to take practical actions to enhance compliance. In September 2023, Brazil forbidden the BET landings for its hand-line fisheries and on December 15 all the fisheries interacting with BET were closed, reopening them on January 1, 2024.
4. The result of the closure of fishing in 2023 was that schools of BET that had been monitored for years by the Brazilian fleet were lost, leading to a reduction in catches of the species in 2024 compared to previous years. For 2024, the Brazilian tuna and tuna-like fisheries did not record any BET overharvest.
5. Brazil continued to strengthen its systems to monitor and control tuna and tuna-like fishing by ordinances, as the Interministerial Rule MPA/MMA N2 10, 26 of March of 202 which established the catch limit of tropical tunas and the Interministerial Rule MPA/MMA NQ 12, 02 of August of 202 that established a catch limit controlling system for BET for 2024.
6. This strengthening is also related to monitor port landings for tuna fisheries at end of the 2023. On January 1, 2024, Brazil implemented the national long-term research and data collection program (PMPA - Tuna and tuna-like fish monitoring program in Brazil), which will surveil onboard observers and port monitoring all tuna and tuna-like fishing fleets across the country's coastline. This program, registered under number has a total budget of 2 million euros over its four-year duration.

7. However, since 2024 was the first year of implementation of this rebuilding program, it was not yet possible to achieve the observer coverage defined in Recommendation 16-14. Therefore, the available ST09 data was insufficient for submission. Brazil acknowledges this shortcoming and reaffirms its commitment to reaching the required observer coverage as soon as possible, through the consolidation of the PMPA.
8. Regarding the no information on implementation of sea turtles measures as defined on the Brazil has established since 2017 by the Interministerial Rule N2 74, 1st November 2017 which establishes the mandatory use of circle hooks by all longline fishing vessels. This measure defines as mandatory use of some equipment and mitigation measures to reduce bycatch mortality, this includes billfish and turtles. Examples of equipment include: I - hook unhookers; II - line cutter; III - hook cutter, as well as protocols for its use.
9. In addition, Brazil would like to highlight that it currently establishing and formalizing internal deadlines for data delivery, consolidation, and reporting to prevent delays in future submissions.
10. Finally, Brazil continues to strengthen transparency of information. As a monitoring and control measure, Brazil has made publicly available a dashboard showing the catch limits for species in 2024 ([Access the dashboard here](#)). In 2025, this initiative was continued and expanded to also include the Blue Shark ([Access the dashboards here](#) - BSH and

Annexe - BRAZIL RESPONSE S25-08877

Respectfully,
(Electronically signed)
CAROLINA RODRIGUES DA COSTA DORIA
Brazil's Head delegate
National Secretariat of Registration, Monitoring and Research Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Compliance letter response template

2024 Commission Meeting			
CPC: BRAZIL			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENTS	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN SINCE	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
CATEGORY A			
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07: Compliance tables received late.	Brazil recognizes the late submission of the COC Reporting Tables on September 1, 2025. This delay occurred due to the extended process of organizing and validating statistical data. Brazil is currently establishing and formalizing internal deadlines for data delivery, consolidation, and reporting to prevent delays in future submissions.	
	Rec. 22-01: Recurrent overharvest of BET (2023: -922.03 t) despite a payback plan approved in 2023.	Brazil recognizes the recurrent overharvest of bigeye tuna (BET) in 2023, which is why the country submitted - and had approved at the last Commission meeting - a new payback plan (Rec. 24-03). Under this Recommendation, Brazil committed to pay back, over a four-year period (2025–2028), the remaining overharvest of 1,232 t from 2022 and 922.03 t from 2023. of 922.03 t from 2023. Following consecutive years of BET overharvest, Brazil has been strengthening its national capacity for fisheries monitoring and control. In September 2023, Brazil forbidden the BET landings for its handline fisheries and on December 15 all the fisheries interacting with BET were closed, reopening them on January 1, 2024. As a result, schools of BET that had been monitored for years by the Brazilian fleet were lost, leading to a reduction in catches of the species in 2024 compared to previous years. In 2024, the Brazilian tuna and tuna-like fisheries did not record any BET overharvest.	
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions			

CATEGORY B			
<i>Annual Report</i>			
<i>Statistical Data</i>	No ST09 form.	Brazil increased its efforts to monitor port landings for tuna fisheries at end of the 2023. On January 1, 2024, Brazil implemented the national long-term research and data collection program (PMPA - Tuna and tuna-like fish monitoring program in Brazil), which will surveil onboard observers and port monitoring all tuna and tuna-like fishing fleets across the country's coastline. This program, registered under number TED n° 14/2023 - MPA/UFRPE, has a total budget of 2 million euros over its four-year duration. However, despite all the efforts undertaken in 2024, the available ST09 data was insufficient for submission. Brazil acknowledges this shortcoming and reaffirms its commitment to resubmit the ST09 information next year.	
<i>Other Reports</i>			
CATEGORY C			
<i>MCS Species Related</i>	Rec. 22-12 : No information on implementation of sea turtles measures.	Brazil established from 2017 by the Interministerial Rule N° 74, 1st November 2017, establishes the mandatory use of circle hooks by all longline fishing vessels. This measure defines as mandatory use of some equipment and mitigation measures to reduce bycatch, this includes billfish and turtles. Examples of equipment include: I - hook unhookers; II - line cutter; III - hook cutter.	

<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14 : Observer coverage <5%.	Brazil increased its efforts to monitor port landings for tuna fisheries at end of the 2023. On January 1, 2024, Brazil implemented the national long-term research and data collection program (PMPA - Tuna and tuna-like fish monitoring program in Brazil), which will surveil onboard observers and port monitoring all tuna and tuna-like fishing fleets across the country's coastline. This program, registered under number TED n° 14/2023 - MPA/UFRPE, has a total budget of 2 million euros over its four-year duration. However, considering that 2024 was the first year of implementation of this rebuilding program, it was not yet possible to achieve the observer coverage defined in Recommendation 16-14. Brazil acknowledges this shortcoming and reaffirms its commitment to reaching the required observer coverage as soon as possible, through the consolidation of the PMPA.	
<i>Port Controls</i>			
<i>Vessel Controls</i>			
OTHER			

Compliance letter response template

2024 Commission Meeting			
CPC: CANADA			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENTS	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN SINCE	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
CATEGORY A			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>			
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
CATEGORY B			
<i>Annual Report</i>			
<i>Statistical Data</i>			
<i>Other Reports</i>			
CATEGORY C			
<i>MCS Species Related</i>	Rec. 18-07 : Data from ICCAT statistical document programs received late	Due to internal administrative issues, data from SDPs were submitted late. The issue has now been resolved and going forward SDP data will be submitted on time.	
	Rec. 22-12 : information on implementation of sea turtle measures received late	Due to internal administrative issues, information was submitted late. Canada submitted the information on November 07, 2024. Canada's letter to the Secretariat was posted as annual meeting document COC_308D_Annex_2. The issue has now been resolved and going forward information will be submitted on time.	

<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14: Observer coverage <5%. (LL 3.00% Ntrip)	A recent transition in Canada's observer program service provider leadership marked the departure of a long-serving Observer Coordinator with significant institutional knowledge and operational experience that has introduced a shift in program continuity and oversight capacity. Further mitigating circumstances stem from the COVID-19 pandemic, which triggered an exodus of experienced at-sea Observers, many of whom transitioned to other sectors for employment due to unavailability of work because of pandemic prevention measures. This loss of long-term personnel has had lasting impacts on Canada's observer program, and post-pandemic recovery efforts continue to face persistent challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified sea-going observers. The resulting shortage has directly affected Canada's ability to meet the observer coverage targets mandated by ICCAT in key fisheries over the last couple of years. In addition to ICCAT obligations, Canada is also responsible for meeting observer coverage requirements in non-ICCAT fisheries, including those under domestic and other international frameworks. These concurrent obligations place further strain on an already limited pool of qualified observers, complicating efforts to maintain adequate coverage across all mandated programs. In response, Canada has been diligently working to address this issue and has held regular consultations with observer service providers, fleet representatives, scientists, and enforcement officials to reinforce the critical and mandatory nature of observer coverage within the longline fleet. These meetings have also served to identify actionable support, whether through improved data sharing, logistical coordination, or departmental assistance that could help Observer companies optimize coverage levels despite reduced staffing. Restoring observer capacity and meeting ICCAT commitments remains a priority for Canada, with sustained collaboration and targeted support central to Canada's recovery efforts.	
<i>Port Controls</i>			
<i>Vessel Controls</i>			
OTHER			

COSTAN RICAN INSTITUTE OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE
Executive Chairship
COSTA RICA

19 September 2025, INCOPESCA-PE-1266-2025

Page 1 of 1

Mr
Camille Jean Pierre Manel, Executive
Secretary
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
ICCAT, Madrid - Spain
info@iccat.int

Dear Executive Secretary,

I have the honour to address you and to submit the compliance letter response template, with Costa Rica's corresponding responses, as requested in Circular S25-08826, of 11 September 2025.

I am at your disposal to clarify any questions or provide any additional information that may be required.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate Costa Rica's commitment to compliance with the management and conservation measures for the species within the remit of the Commission.

The person responsible for preparing this information is Mr Bernald Pacheco Chaves, who can be contacted at bpacheco@incopesca.qo.cr

Yours faithfully,

(signed and sealed)

Engineer Nelson Peña Navarro MSc
Executive Chair
INCOPESCA

Cc. Archive DMU

Compliance letter response template

2024 Commission Meeting			
CPC: COSTA RICA			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENTS	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
CATEGORY A			
Compliance Tables	Rec. 22-03 and Rec. 19-05 : Reoccurring overharvest of SWO-N (2023: -299.52 t) and BUM (2023: -282.18 t).	Costa Rica has provided fisheries statistics data that have been used for stock assessments of SWO-N and blue marlin. In recent years, there has been a decline in the number of medium-scale (up to 40 nm of autonomy) and larger (autonomy greater than 40 nm) longline vessels operating in the Atlantic, all of which operate exclusively within Costa Rica's Exclusive Economic Zone and are less than 20 m in length. In 2020, 12 of these longline vessels were recorded as having landings on the Atlantic coast; in 2021, there were 11; and from 2022 to 2024, only 7 vessels per year were recorded. Management measures have been implemented, such as: record of vessels closed (no new licences are issued), mandatory satellite tracking with VMS, inspections of 100% of landings from both fleets, and the implementation of Fishing Operation Logbooks completed by captains. A proposed regulation limiting blue marlin landings to 10 t is currently under review. Under Recommendation 24-10, Costa Rica has an allocated catch limit for SWO-N of 75 t per year for 2025, 2026 and 2027. It also authorises a transfer of 300 t from the United States to Costa Rica in 2025. The total available for 2025 is therefore 375 t. With this, it intends to pay back the accumulated excess catch and continue to catch this species, as has been done historically. A proposed regulation limiting catches of this species to 10 t is currently under review. A proposed regulation limiting catches of this species to 75 t is currently under review. At the same time, Costa Rica has expressed its interest to the SCRS in participating in the SWO-N biology programme and collaborating on ICCAT research projects in the Caribbean.	10 July 2025 12 July 2024 28 July 2023 29 July 2022
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions			
CATEGORY B			
Annual Report			
Statistical Data			
Other Reports			

CATEGORY C			
<i>MCS Species Related</i>			
<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14: <5 % observer coverage	Costa Rica has had difficulty implementing a human observer programme, as it has small vessels with limited capacity to carry a human observer (<20m in length), fishing operations are carried out with continuous working hours, and national labour regulations make it difficult to hire an observer. For these reasons, INCOPESCA is implementing a pilot programme for human and electronic observers, with the support of a non-governmental organisation and the fishing sector. Since 2023, we have been implementing this pilot programme, which will serve as the basis for the design of the national programme for onboard observers. To date, three cameras have been installed on a vessel, crews and a human observer have been trained, and two fishing trips have been made with an onboard human observer and cameras on the same vessel simultaneously. The intention is to analyse the data collected by both the human observer and the electronic monitoring system and, with this, determine whether electronic monitoring can be a substitute or a complement for compliance with reporting requirements. At the same time, with the support of the Costa Rican Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and the FAO, terms of reference for the design of the national onboard observer programme have been drawn up and steps are being taken to develop it.	
<i>Port Controls</i>			
<i>Vessel Controls</i>			
OTHERS			

Compliance letter response template

2024 Commission Meeting			
CPC: CÔTE D'IVOIRE			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENTS	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
CATEGORY A			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>	Rec. 11-11 : Difference between Compliance tables and Task 1.	Côte d'Ivoire has worked with the Secretariat to harmonise the figures of the Compliance tables and Task 1.	
	Rec. 18-07 : Compliance tables received late.	Organisational arrangements have been introduced to ensure better monitoring of requirements. This year, the different compliance tables were submitted by the deadlines.	14/08/2025
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
CATEGORY B			
<i>Annual Report</i>	Annual Report in Word received late. IOMS sections 1 and 2 not received.	Organisational arrangements have been introduced to ensure better monitoring of requirements, in particular submission of the Annual Report. This year, the Annual Report was submitted by the deadline. However, we still have some difficulties with submitting sections 1 and 2 through the IOMS.	15/09/2025
<i>Statistical Data</i>			
<i>Other Reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 : Billfish (BIL) check sheet received late.	Organisational arrangements have been introduced to ensure better monitoring of requirements. This year, the billfish (BIL) check sheet was submitted by the deadline.	15/09/2025
	Rec. 18-06 : Shark (SHK) check sheet received late.	Organisational arrangements have been introduced to ensure better monitoring of requirements. This year, the shark (SHK) check sheet was submitted by the deadline.	15/09/2025
CATEGORY C			
<i>MCS Species Related</i>	Rec. 11-09 : Absence of CP44 report on implementation of mitigating measures for sea birds.	No specific measure has been adopted. However, we are taking the necessary steps to develop a national action plan aiming to reduce bycatch of sea birds in the longline fishery. This plan will enable Côte d'Ivoire to collect and provide information to the Secretariat including the measures implemented to reduce bycatch of sea birds. For 2025, the report CP44 was submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat.	14/10/2025
<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14 : Implementation of the scientific observers programme is not clear. <5% observer coverage.	Côte d'Ivoire has a tuna fishery with a single longliner to date. Each year, an observer mission covers the activities of the longline fishery. A schedule with a vessel owner has been established to ensure that each year a minimum of 10% coverage from 2026.	

<i>Port Controls</i>	Rec. 21-15: Information on in-port transhipments was received late.	Organisational arrangements have been introduced to ensure better monitoring of requirements. Information on in-port transhipment was submitted for this year 2025 by the established deadline.	
<i>Vessel Controls</i>			
OTHER			
	No response to the Chair's letter has been provided.	Organisational arrangements have been introduced to ensure better monitoring of requirements.	



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

International Ocean Governance and Sustainable Fisheries
Regional Fisheries Management Organisations

Brussels,
MARE.B.2/LM

Dr. Derek Campbell,
Compliance Committee Chairman
ICCAT
Corazón de María, 8-6°/7
28002 Madrid
SPAIN

Subject: European Union reply to the letter on compliance issues (S25-08881)

Dear Dr. Campbell,

Thank you for your letter of 11 September 2025. The European Union has carefully considered the issues raised during the 2024 decision making process regarding its performance. Please find attached our response to the letter of compliance issues informing on the specific remedial actions taken.

I trust that our reply provides a satisfactory response to all the points raised in your letter and I wish to reaffirm the strong commitment of the European Union to ensure full compliance with the ICCAT measures.

Yours faithfully,

Stijn BILLIET
Head of Delegation

Annex: Response to the letter of compliance issues

c.c.: Camille Jean-Pierre Manel, Laura Marot, Fernando Miranda, Seamus Howard, Fabio Galletti, Laura Rull, Benoit Marcoux

Compliance Letter Response Template

2024 Commission Meeting			
CPC: EUROPEAN UNION			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENTS	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN SINCE	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
CATEGORY A			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>			
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
CATEGORY B			
<i>Annual Report</i>			
<i>Statistical Data</i>			
<i>Other Reports</i>			
CATEGORY C			
<i>MCS Species Related</i>	Rec. 18-13 and Rec. 23-21 : Late reporting of BCD Annual Report for some MS.	The EU acknowledges the delayed submission of the report and has implemented new procedures and extraction methods to ensure that similar situations do not occur in the future.	
	Rec. 11-09 : Late submission of CP44 Report on implementation of seabird mitigation measures.	The EU acknowledges the delayed submission which was due to administrative oversight and has implemented new procedures to ensure that similar situations do not occur in the future.	
<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14 : Observer coverage levels submitted possibly incomplete	Data submitted in 2025 should be in line with the prescribed data requirement. It should be noted this is not a structural issue but a one-year shortcoming. More systematic informal feedback from the secretariat to the concerned CPC could allow to identify those issues more quickly for a rectification before the SCRS meeting.	
<i>Port Controls</i>			

<i>Vessel Controls</i>	Rec. 22-08 : Late reporting of BFT fishing vessels, i.e., not 15 days in advance.	The EU acknowledges the delayed submission which was due to administrative oversight and has implemented new procedures to ensure that similar situations do not occur in the future.	
OTHER			

Compliance Letter Response Template

2024 Commission Meeting			
CPC: GHANA			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENTS	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
CATEGORY A			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>			
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
CATEGORY B			
<i>Annual Report</i>	Annual Report IOMS Section 2 received late.	This was submitted together with other parts of the Annual Report on the same day (IOM Section 1)	Submitted 2024-09-13 Registration number E24-10647: Omission of date for requirement M:GEN45 in Part 2 for Management. (Notified on 2024-09-17: Updated 2024-9-18)
<i>Statistical Data</i>			
<i>Other Reports</i>			
CATEGORY C			
<i>MCS Species Related</i>	Additional information needed on implementation of requirements regarding the retention of hammerhead and silky sharks (Rec. 10-08 and Rec. 11-08)	The Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, 2025 (Act 1146) Wildlife Resources Management 2023, (Act 1115) Fisheries Regulations 2010, (LI 1968) and Fisheries (PSM) Regulations 2024 (LI 2490) contains provisions for protecting and managing endangered, threatened and protected species (Section 45), gravid and juvenile crustaceans, and any other fish species as may be determined by the Commission (Section 46). The Wildlife Resources Management, Act 1115 also set up systems for the management of the CITES species which include Sharks. These species are released alive or dead in commercial fleet. Monitored with national observer program. Artisanal fisheries land their catches whole and consumed locally. Monitored by enumerators at stationed at these landing sites. A JCAP funded species identification training took place in Ghana from 16 -18 January 2025. Particular attention was paid to shark identification and observers and fisheries officers can now identify the sharks.	

<i>MCS General</i>			
<i>Port Controls</i>			
<i>Vessel Controls</i>			
OTHER			

**AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK/ FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE
SAG – DIGEPESCA
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS**

Tegucigalpa, 17 September 2025

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

Dear Mr Campbell,

On behalf of the General Directorate for Fisheries and Aquaculture (DIGEPESCA) of Honduras, we extend our warmest greetings and best wishes for success in your work. We appreciate the communication received on 11 September 2025 (Ref. S25-08884), indicating deficiencies related to Honduras' compliance with its ICCAT commitments. In response to this, and as requested, I am pleased to forward our country's official response.

Section 1: Deficiencies identified

1. Rec. 18-07 – Confirmation of zero catch:

We acknowledge that the confirmation was submitted late due to internal data consolidation processes. Honduras has established an updated administrative procedure that ensures the timely submission of this information within the established deadlines.

2. IOMS Annual Report received late

Corrective measures have been implemented to strengthen coordination between the technical units responsible for collecting and validating information, in order to ensure that reports are submitted within the established deadlines.

3. Rec. 18-05 – Billfish check sheet / Rec. 18-06 – Shark check sheet

Billfish and shark check sheets were submitted late.

4. Rec. 22-12 – Implementation of measures relating to sea turtles: Honduras has made progress in implementing actions aligned with ICCAT and FAO guidelines to reduce the incidental capture of sea turtles. These efforts are documented in the attached response form and reinforced in the national action plan submitted with this letter.

Section 2: Action plan

In compliance with the Commission's request, Honduras has developed a National Action Plan, attached to this letter, which describes in detail:

- The institutional, technical and administrative measures adopted to correct recurring reporting deficiencies.
- Schedule of actions (2025-2026)
- Commitment to strengthen cooperation with the ICCAT Secretariat in the areas of training and technical assistance.

Honduras reiterates its firm commitment to complying with ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions, as well as to strengthening transparency in data reporting and the implementation of conservation and management measures.

We also express our willingness to work closely with the Secretariat and with CPCs that can provide technical assistance and capacity-building programmes, in particular for the improvement of data collection systems and bycatch monitoring.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this communication. I take this opportunity to reiterate the assurances of my highest consideration.

Regards,

(signed)

Kaina Alvarado M.Sc.
General Director of Fisheries and Aquaculture
General Director of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DIGEPESCA)

Compliance letter response template

2024 Commission Meeting			
CPC: HONDURAS			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENTS	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
CATEGORY A			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>	Rec. 18-07 : Confirmation of zero catch received late.	Honduras acknowledges late submission of the information for 2024. This was due to an administrative procedure for staff changes.	
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
CATEGORY B			
<i>Annual Report</i>	IOMS Annual Report received late	Honduras acknowledges late submission of the information for 2024. This was due to an administrative procedure for changes in staff.	
<i>Statistical Data</i>	Statistical data / confirmation of zero catch received late.	Honduras acknowledges late submission of the information. Work is ongoing for development of an internal mechanism to comply with what is established in the information submission schedule.	
<i>Other Reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 : Billfish check sheet received late.	Honduras acknowledges late submission of the information for 2024. This was due to an administrative procedure for changes in staff.	
	Rec. 18-06 : Shark check sheet received late.	Honduras acknowledges late submission of the information for 2024. This was due to an administrative procedure for staff changes.	

CATEGORY C			
<i>MCS Species Related</i>	Rec. 22-12 : Rec. 22-12 – Implementation of measures relating to sea turtles:	Honduras has implemented several actions in line with ICCAT guidelines to reduce sea turtle mortality associated with fishing activities. Vessel owners have played an essential role in this process, actively contributing to adoption of good practices. Efforts have been developed for conservation, protection and recovery of populations of sea turtles that may interact with vessels operating in the Honduras exclusive economic zone, promoting the use of suitable fishing equipment and techniques. In addition, compliance with FAO recommendations on sea turtle protection during fishing sets has been strengthened, in compliance with Recommendation C 22-12. In this context, work is being carried out together with the fishers of the national fleet to ensure compliance with the current regulations, both national and international, related to the use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs). Similarly, period checks are carried out to verify installation and effective use of TEDs by vessel owners holding commercial fishing licenses for coastal shrimp. These actions seek to reduce incidental catch and to prevent injury or mortality of sea turtles, thereby contributing to the sustainability of the fisheries and conservation of the marine biodiversity.	
<i>MCS General</i>			
<i>Port Controls</i>			
<i>Vessel Controls</i>			
OTHERS			
	Response to the Chair's letter received late.	The letter of response was sent on 13 November 2024.	

Compliance Letter Response Template

2024 Commission Meeting			
CPC: ICELAND			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENTS	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
CATEGORY A			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>			
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
CATEGORY B			
<i>Annual Report</i>			
<i>Statistical Data</i>			
<i>Other Reports</i>	Rec. 18-06: SHK Check Sheet received late.	This matter was already dealt with and explained in the annual meeting last year 2024. The file was resubmitted 30 Oct. 2024. Now in 2025 File 26_ISL_SHK_2025_ENG was submitted to info@iccat.int 20 August 2025. Deadline is 15 September 2025.	
CATEGORY C			
<i>MCS Species Related</i>	Rec. 18-13 and Rec. 23-21: BCD Annual Report received late.	This matter was already dealt with and explained in the annual meeting last year 2024. The file was resubmitted 31 Oct. 2024. Now in 2025 File CP30-BCD 2024 was submitted to info@iccat.int 22 August 2025. Deadline is 15 September 2025.	
<i>MCS General</i>			
<i>Port Controls</i>			
<i>Vessel Controls</i>			
OTHER			



FISHERIES AGENCY

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES, GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8907, Japan

30 September, 2025

Mr. Derek Campbell
Compliance Committee Chair
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

Dear Mr. Campbell,

I refer to your letter dated 11 September 2025, regarding Japan's compliance deficiencies with ICCAT requirements. Japan has addressed the compliance deficiencies through the appropriate domestic process to prevent a recurrence.

Please find attached our response indicating the remedial action.

Sincerely,

Shingo OTA
Japan's Commissioner to ICCAT

Compliance Letter Response Template

2024 Commission Meeting			
CPC: JAPAN			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENTS	REMEDIAL ACTION	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
CATEGORY A			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>	Rec. 11-11: Differences between compliance tables and Task 1.	As Japan repeatedly mentioned, Japan believes this difference should not be regarded as a non-compliance because this is the matter of methodology. Data gaps have occurred because Japan aggregates Task1 data by calendar year (January 1 to December 31) and compliance tables by fishing year (August 1 to July 31 of the following year), and Japan also manages fishing quotas on a fishing year basis. In fact, such difference is seldom found on Eastern or Western bluefin tuna since the fishery operations usually do not cross calendar years, i.e. September-December. Japan has consistently aggregated and reported information using this same method for years. We intend to continue submitting data in the same manner as before, maintaining consistency.	
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
CATEGORY B			
<i>Annual Report</i>	Annual Report IOMS Sections 1 & 2 received late.	The people in charge in FAJ were unfamiliar with operating the IOMS, which caused delays in the work. This year, they have participated in IOMS training sessions and submitted the Annual report Section 1 and 2, and filled out Section 3 by the deadline. Recognizing and appreciating the Secretariat's efforts to improve the IOMS, Japan would like the secretariat to continue to make the IOMS more user friendly.	

<i>Statistical Data</i>			
<i>Other Reports</i>			
CATEGORY C			
<i>MCS Species Related</i>	Rec. 18-07: Data from ICCAT statistical document programs received late.	Due to the oversight caused by a personnel transfer in the Agency, the data of the statistical document for the period of July 1 to December 31, 2023 was not submitted by the deadline, April 1, 2024. The data was submitted to the Secretariat on April 23, 2024. Since required data and their deadlines are shared among FAJ staff responsible for data submission, the data for 2024 was submitted by the deadline.	
<i>MCS General</i>			
<i>Port Controls</i>			
<i>Vessel Controls</i>			
OTHER			

Compliance Letter Response Template

2024 Commission Meeting			
CPC: LIBERIA			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENTS	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
CATEGORY A			
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07: Compliance tables received late.	We have taken every step to report in time. This year, we submitted the COC report on July 4, 2024.	
	Rec. 22-03 and Rec. 19-05: Recurrent overharvest of SWO-N (2023: -115.28 t) and BUM (2023: 2023: -117.58 t).	Liberia has developed management plan for SWO-N and submitted same to ICCAT. Moreover, we have engaged our fishermen that catch this species as bycatch to reduce it by live release. We have seen reduction in the catches over the years.	
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions			
CATEGORY B			
Annual Report	Annual Report Word received late.	The late submission of Part One of the annual report was due to migration to the IOMS. This has been ratified and the 2025 annual reports were submitted before the deadline.	September 18, 2024
Statistical Data	No ST03 (catch and effort) or ST09 (observer data) received.	Liberia has no flag vessel.	
Other Reports			
CATEGORY C			
MCS Species Related	Rec. 22-01: Task 1 for tropical species in 2023 but no corresponding periodical reports submitted.	Liberia has no flag vessel	
MCS General	Rec. 16-14: Unclear as to whether minimum standards of the scientific observer programme are being met, more information is required. Observer coverage <5%.	Liberia has no flag vessel. However, pursuant to the 2019 Fisheries and Aquaculture Management and Development Law, 100% observer coverage is mandatory for all flag Liberian vessels.	
Port Controls			
Vessel Controls			
OTHER			

Compliance Letter Response Template

2024 Commission Meeting			
CPC: LIBYA			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENTS	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
CATEGORY A			
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07: Compliance tables received late.		CP13 Sent on 12/09/2024
	Rec. 22-05 and Rec. 16-05: Overharvest of ALB-MD (2022: - 67, 2023: -194 t) and SWO-MD [no quota, 2023 catches (250 t) > reserve (39.35 t)].	In accordance with Regulation (14/1989) is specifying the time of SWO fishing season and the size limits as well. In this regard Libya recognizes that reported catches exceeded the reserve. Steps are being taken to ensure that all future fishing activities remain strictly within the limits established by ICCAT. In light of the above in 2024 ICCAT Annual Meeting Libya had requested a quota for SWO and it was resulted In Rec. 24-11 with (125 tons) to be controlled by the Libyan authorities.	IN ICCAT 28 Meeting 15/11/2024 Panel 4 Sessions
	Differences between compliance tables and Task 1.	First submission sent on 12/09/2024 correspondences due to the differences found and corrected version sent on 05/10/2024.	12/09/2024 05/10/2024
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions			
CATEGORY B			
Annual Report	Annual Report Word received late.	Annual Report (sec 1, 2) was sending by IOMS on 11/09/2024, Section 3 sent on 05/10/2024 due to corrections in statistics.	11/09/2024 05/10/2024
Statistical Data	No ST09 received.		No Data to submit.
Other Reports	Rec. 18-05: BIL check sheet received late.	BIL check sheet and Shark Check Sheet data were submitted via IOMS While CPC LIBYA has no new Data for shark sheet. Para 2 of Rec. 18-06.	
	Rec. 18-06: SHK check sheet received late.	BIL check sheet and Shark Check Sheet data were submitted Via IOMS While CPC LIBYA has no new Data for shark sheet. Para 2 of Rec. 18-06)	
CATEGORY C			
MCS Species Related			

<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14: No scientific observer programme. Observer coverage <5%.	National observers covered all towing vessels. -Purse seiners were totally covered by ROP. - All data collected by National Observer Program were sent to ICCAT. - No BFT farms in Libya.	
<i>Port Controls</i>			
<i>Vessel Controls</i>			
OTHER			

Compliance letter response template

2024 Commission Meeting			
CPC: MEXICO			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENTS	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
CATEGORY A			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>			
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
CATEGORY B			
<i>Annual Report</i>			
<i>Statistical Data</i>			
<i>Other Reports</i>			
CATEGORY C			
<i>MCS Species Related</i>	Request for additional information on implementation of Rec. 09-07 , Rec. 10-07 and Rec. 10-08 .	For the purpose of compliance with the request for information formulated, we inform that on 2 October 2025, the Agreement to establish several provisions on shark bycatch in the tuna fishery taken by large longline vessels in the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea and the Convention area of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) was published in the Official Daybook of the Federation (DOF). This regulatory instrument strengthens national compliance with Recommendations 09-07, 10-07 and 10-08, ensuring full compliance. The main provisions include the Agreement to prohibit retaining onboard, storing, transshipping and landing, specimens, either whole or in parts, of the following species bycaught in the ICCAT Convention area: - Bigeye shark (<i>Alopias supercilliosus</i>). - Oceanic whitetip shark (<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>) shark of the genus <i>Sphyrna</i> ("hammerhead" or "horned" shark), except for the species <i>Sphyrna tiburo</i>. - Silky shark (<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>).	7 October 2025

		The Agreement also establishes that the specimens of shark indicated therein, as well as other non-target species subject to the special protection regime that are caught, must be released in the best conditions of survival, thereby strengthening the conservation measures and fishery sustainability. The provisions are mandatory for concession and fishing permit holders, as well as for fishing captains or skippers, driver or operations, fishers and crew of these vessels and any other individuals that carry out tuna fishing activities in the federal waters of the United Mexican States of the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea and the Convention area of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Similarly, it is provided that persons who do not comply with these provisions will be subject to the sanctions established in the General Law on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture and related applicable legal provisions. With these actions, Mexico reiterates its commitment to strict compliance with the international obligations on conservation and responsible management of highly migratory species, and continues to strengthen the national mechanisms to ensure traceability, legal origin and sustainability of the fisheries under its jurisdiction. (The Agreement published in the DOF is appended).	
<i>MCS General</i>			
<i>Port Controls</i>			
<i>Vessel Controls</i>			
OTHERS			



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, WATER AND LAND REFORM

Tel: +264612053007
Fax: 224566
Enquiries: Mr. U. Kauaria

Private Bag 13355
Windhoek
Republic of Namibia

14 October 2025

Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel
ICCAT Executive Secretary
Corazon de Maria 8
28002 Madrid,
SPAIN

Derek Campbell
Compliance Committee Chair

CC: Mr. Penas Lado, Commission Chair

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO IDENTIFICATION UNDER ICCAT'S TRADE MEASURES RECOMMENDATION

Dear Executive Secretary,

Namibia acknowledges the recent identification by ICCAT concerning the overharvest of Blue Marlin (*Makaira nigricans*) and appreciates the opportunity to provide a formal response outlining the measures taken to address this matter and enhance our compliance with ICCAT conservation objectives.

1. Acknowledgment of Overharvest

Namibia regrets acknowledging the continued overharvest of Blue Marlin in previous years and takes this matter seriously. One of the biggest challenges we face is the accurate identification of Blue Marlin. We are of the opinion, having engaged fisherman from different vessels that are recording Blue Marlin catches that fisherman including skippers and Observers do not agree on the accurate identification of Blue Marlin. We are committed to ensuring sustainable fisheries management and aligning our national measures with ICCAT's conservation and management requirements.

2. Measures Implemented to Address Non-Compliance

To address the issue of Blue Marlin overharvest, Namibia has implemented a number of control and compliance measures, including:

- **Enhanced Industry Engagement:** Regular consultations have been conducted with right holders and the fishing industry to raise awareness about Blue Marlin catch limits and the importance of adherence to ICCAT conservation measures.
- **Improved Reporting Systems:** A structured reporting mechanism requiring weekly, monthly, and quarterly submissions from fishing operators has been implemented to closely monitor Blue Marlin catches.

- **Observer and Inspector Monitoring:** Fisheries observers have been instructed to specifically monitor Blue Marlin catch rates at sea, while fisheries inspectors carry out landing inspections at ports to verify compliance.
- **Impact of Measures:** As a result of these interventions, Namibia has recorded a **significant reduction in Blue Marlin catches during the last fishing year**, demonstrating positive progress towards compliance.

3. Additional Measures for Species Conservation

Namibia has also taken steps to mitigate the impact on other ICCAT species, particularly the Shortfin Mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*), through the following actions:

- **Live Release Policy:** All live Shortfin Mako sharks brought onboard are released back into the ocean, while only dead individuals are retained and landed in accordance with Namibia's anti-discard legislation.
- **Avoidance Measures:** Fishing vessels have been instructed to avoid areas with high Shortfin Mako bycatch.

Please note that these measures were implemented in June –July 2023, and therefore, only partial results are currently visible. However, initial trends indicate a **notable decline in Shortfin Mako catch rates**.

4. Data Reconciliation and Task 1/2 Reporting Improvements

Namibia recognizes discrepancies between Task 1 and Compliance Tables and has adopted corrective measures, including:

- Training of data-capturing staff;
- Cross-verification and reconciliation of data between fishing vessels and the Ministry before submission to ICCAT;
- Reduction in the number of vessels operating under Namibian quotas;
- Suspension of all foreign-flagged fishing operations within Namibia's EEZ;
- The catch data are monitored frequently; measures are in place to limit the overharvest of national ICCAT quotas.

5. Observer Coverage

Despite the provision in Namibian Law for all Namibian Licensed Fishing Vessels to have an Observer onboard, our observer coverage regrettably remains under 50%. Efforts are ongoing to improve Observer coverage and data collection.

Conclusion

Namibia remains fully committed to the sustainable use of marine resources and the objectives of ICCAT. We respectfully request that our recent efforts and demonstrated improvements be duly taken into consideration. Namibia will continue to work closely with the Commission to ensure ongoing compliance and effective fisheries management.

Should further clarification or documentation be required, we stand ready to provide it.

Yours sincerely
 Mr. Teofilus Nghitila
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (Water & Marine Resources)

Appendix 1

Compliance Letter Response Template

2024 Commission Meeting			
CPC: NAMIBIA			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENTS	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN SINCE	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
CATEGORY A			
<i>Compliance tables</i>	Rec. 18-07: Late reporting.		15/09/2025
	Rec. 19-05: Recurrent overharvest BUM (2023: -352.38 t) due to negative balance from previous years.	Namibia regrets the continued overharvest of blue marlin (BUM) in previous years and takes this issue very seriously. One of the biggest challenges we face is the accurate identification of blue marlin. We are of the opinion, having engaged fisherman from different vessels that are recording blue marlin catches that fisherman including skippers and Observers do not agree on the accurate identification of Blue Marlin. To address this noncompliance some control measures was put in place such as regular industry consultations to sensitize right Holder to comply with the conservation measure and limit the catches of blue marlin in their fishing operations. submitting weekly, monthly quarterly reporting system to track and control our BUM catches. This is further enhanced by sensitizing our fisheries observers on board the fishing vessels to monitor the catch rates of these species and in port monitoring of landings by fisheries inspectors. In addition, the fishing industry are compliant and thus Namibia has noted that all these measures had a positive effect with a drastic reduction of blue marlin catches for the last year in compliance with the conservation measure.	
	Rec. 22-11: overharvest SMAS (2023: -266 t).	To comply with ICCAT's objectives, Namibia instituted specific measures: All live Shortfin Mako sharks hauled back during fishing operations are released back into the sea;	

		Only dead individuals are retained and landed, in adherence to Namibian anti-discard laws Additionally, the vessels licensed by Namibia has been instructed to avoid areas where they encounter higher catches of shortfin mako; It should be noted that these measures were only implemented by Namibia in Jun/Jul of 2023, therefore the impact of the measures only reflects half of the reduced catch effort implied by Namibia; The expected live releases for 2024 are to be higher than that of 2023. Namibia has made consistent efforts since the adoption of recommendation (22-11) to minimize landings of shortfin mako by adhering to this selective retention approach.	
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
CATEGORY B			
<i>Annual Report</i>	Annual Report, IOMS Part 1, received late.		15/09/2025
<i>Statistical data</i>	Rec. 11-11: Differences between Task 1 and Compliance tables. ST09 received late.	As a means to mitigate the state of affairs; a number of measures have been put in place and include: Training for data capturing staff, reconciliation of captured data between the Ministry and fishing vessels before Task 1& 2 data is submitted to the ICCAT, reduction of fishing vessels on Namibia's quotas; suspension of all foreign fishing vessels in the Namibian EEZ. The catch data are monitored frequently; measures are in place to limit the overharvest of national ICCAT quotas.	
<i>Other reports</i>			

CATEGORY C			
<i>MCS-species related</i>			
<i>MCS general</i>	Rec. 16-14: Observer coverage <5%.	Despite the provision in Namibia Law for all Namibian Licensed Fishing Vessels to have an Observer onboard, our observer coverage regrettably remains under 50%. Efforts are ongoing to improve both observer coverage and data collection capacity.	
<i>Port controls</i>			
<i>Vessel controls</i>			
OTHER			

Compliance letter response template

2024 Commission Meeting			
CPC: NICARAGUA			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENTS	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
CATEGORY A			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>	Rec. 18-07 : Statistical data / confirmation of zero catch received late.	It was intended to comply with the submission dates established by ICCAT.	They were submitted on 30 September 2025.
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>		There is no change since the last report submitted by Nicaragua.	
CATEGORY B			
<i>Annual Report</i>	IOMS Annual Report Section 2 received late.	It was intended to comply with the submission dates established by ICCAT.	It was submitted by email on 30 September 2025.
<i>Statistical Data</i>		There is no change since the last report submitted by Nicaragua.	
<i>Other Reports</i>	Rec. 18-06 : Shark check sheet received late.	It was intended to submit it by the date established by the Commission.	The report was submitted by email on 30 September 2025.
CATEGORY C			
<i>MCS Species Related</i>		There is no change since the last report submitted by Nicaragua.	
<i>MCS General</i>		There is no change since the last report submitted by Nicaragua.	
<i>Port Controls</i>		There is no change since the last report submitted by Nicaragua.	
<i>Vessel Controls</i>		There is no change since the last report submitted by Nicaragua.	
OTHERS			
	Response to the COC Chair's letter received late.	It was intended to comply with the date indicated by the COC Chair.	It was submitted by email on 30 September 2025.



MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, MARITIME AND PORT INFRASTRUCTURES
DIRECTORATE OF MARITIME FISHERIES

Dakar, 12 September 2025

Director

Subject: Letter of identification under the Recommendation by ICCAT concerning trade measures

REF: V/L ICCAT-SALIDA N° S25-08117/2025 of 21/08/2025

Executive Secretary,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter referred to above informing me of Senegal's identification, in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT concerning trade measures* (Rec. 06-13), was maintained during the 24th Special Meeting of the Commission, held from 11 to 18 November 2024, for reporting deficiencies.

In reply, I hereby transmit the response table for the points raised and the following comments:

1. Rec.11-11: Differences between Task 1 and Compliance tables.
These differences were corrected in 2024.
2. Rec. 22-01 Bigeye tuna overharvest (2023: -41 t).
The bigeye tuna overharvest for 2020 was resolved with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Senegal's bigeye tuna payback plan* (Rec. 23-03) was adopted by the Commission in November 2023. The ST09 for 2024 was submitted to the Secretariat within the deadline. For 2023, there was no overharvest.
3. Rec. 18-06: Shark (SHK) check sheet received late. Neither ST03 (catch and effort) nor the ST09 (observer data) was received.
The 2024 shark check sheet was submitted one day late (16/09/2025), ST03 and ST09 were submitted by the deadlines for 2024 and 2025.
4. Rec. 22-01: Task 1 relating to tropical tuna species was submitted in 2023, but no corresponding periodic report was submitted.
Task 1 was submitted by the deadline for 2024. The periodic reports on tropical tunas species data were not submitted. This situation was remedied through the introduction of electronic logbooks on board tuna vessels within the context of implementation of the 2024-2025 action plan, submitted by Senegal to COC in April 2024. In 2025, tropical tuna data (quarterly, monthly) for the first two quarters have already been submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat by the deadlines.

With the objective of improving compliance, an action plan, clearly describing the measures that will be taken to resolve the matters referred to above, was submitted. The progress on its implementation is presented in the table in the Annex.

As regards the issues raised by the European Union within the context of the process contained in Rec. 08-09 and the subject of ICCAT Circular S25-0792 of 18 July 2025, Senegal intends to provide a response, by 16 October 2025, as indicated in that circular.

Senegal reiterates its commitment to improve its compliance with Recommendations and ICCAT reporting requirements.

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

(signed)

Mamadou Seye

Head of the Fisheries Management Division P.O.

Compliance letter response template

2024 Commission meeting			
CPC: SENEGAL			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENTS	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
CATEGORY A			
Compliance Tables	Rec. 11-11: Difference between Task 1 and Compliance tables.	These differences were corrected in 2024 (refer to the revised compliance table submitted on 11/09/2025).	11/09/2025
	Rec. 22-01: Bigeye tuna overharvest (2023: - 0.41 t).	The bigeye tuna overharvest for 2020 was resolved with the <i>Recommendation by ICCAT on Senegal's bigeye tuna payback plan</i> (Rec. 23-03) was adopted by the Commission in November 2023. The ST09 for 2024 was submitted to the Secretariat by the deadline. In 2023, there was no overharvest (refer to revised compliance table submitted on 11/09/2025).	11/09/2025
Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions			
CATEGORY B			
Annual Report	The Annual Report, Word and IOMS Part 1, was received late.	The Annual Report, Word and IOMS Part 1, was submitted late in 2024.	19/09/2024
Statistical Data			
Other Reports	Rec. 18-06: Shark (SHK) check sheet received late.	The shark check sheet was submitted one day late in 2024 and by the deadline in 2025.	16/09/2024 (2024) 25/08/2025 (2025)
CATEGORY C			
MCS Species Related	Rec. 22-01: Task 1 relating to tropical tuna species was submitted in 2023, but no corresponding periodic report was submitted.	Task 1 was submitted by the deadline in 2024. The periodic reports on tropical tunas species data were not submitted. This situation was remedied through the introduction of electronic logbooks on board tuna vessels within the context of implementation of the 2024-2025 action plan, submitted by Senegal to COC in April 2024. In 2025, the quarterly tropical tunas data for the first two quarters have already been submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat.	08/07/2025 18/08/2025
MCS General			
Port Controls			
Vessel Controls			
OTHER	Response to Chair's letter. Action plan submitted.	COC_312 (EU)	Response to Chair's letter 08/10/2024. Action plan submitted 18/04/2024. Response to the EU on 13/11/2024. Response to Chair for 2025 submitted on 12/09/2025.

Progress on implementation of Senegal's action plan to COC 2024-2025 (11 September 2025)

<i>Area</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Actions</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Achievements</i>
Management of quotas	Swordfish and albacore overharvest from 2011 to 2021	Enquires on the quantities caught, reported and exported of these species, verify and document the facts and inform the COC intersessionally.	Carry out enquiries with the public services and vessel owners as regards these allegations.	- Request for the list of importers of the fraudulently certified products from the EU to identify the importers whose names are blurred in the certificates transmitted by the EU. But the EU has not responded favourably to this request, asserting as justification that there is no legal basis for the request. - The enquires are still ongoing.
		Implementation of a record of quotas and catch limits for the species within the remit of ICCAT.	Finalise the record of quotas of the electronic logbook.	7 purse seiners and one baitboat equipped with electronic logbooks. - Distribution of the 2025 bigeye tuna limit.
Certifications	Fraudulent exports	Implementation of a secure certification procedure for management of quotas and limits.	Improve and make secure the certification procedures for species within the remit of ICCAT.	A national reporting system is being implemented (+ the EU system). These systems allow for secure certification of catches and products.
Scientific observers	Absence of a scientific observers programme.	Creation and implementation of a scientific observers programme (training, deployment, digitalisation of observer reports) and reporting of information to ICCAT.	Run scientific observer training workshops.	- Trainings were organised for 15 scientific observers. 15 scientific observers are trained to embark vessels and carry out scientific observation work.
			Deployment of observers based on the ICCAT minimum coverage rate.	- Deployment of scientific observers started in 2024. - Use of tablets. - Establishment of an observers data processing platform.
			Make operational the observers reporting platform financed and regulate access.	The reporting platform is operational.

N.B. From 19 to 21 May 2025, Senegal benefited from a capacity-building mission by the ICCAT Secretariat. Training by experts from the Secretariat on different ICCAT requirements: statistics, management, forms, reporting deadlines, annual reports, IOMS, observers. Another mission within the area of port State measures agreement had to be carried out in two stages: the first stage to evaluate needs and the other onsite training following the annual meeting in November 2025.



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

October 10, 2025

Mr Derek Campbell
Compliance Committee Chair
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
Corazon de Maria
8 – 28002 Madrid
SPAIN

SUBJECT: LETTER ON COMPLIANCE ISSUES

Dear Mr Campbell

Trinidad and Tobago conveys its commendations to the Commission and wishes to reaffirm its commitment to conservation and management of Atlantic tunas and tuna-like species for the benefit of current and future generations.

Reference is made to your letter dated 11 September 2025 which seeks a reply from Trinidad and Tobago on the following reporting and implementation deficiencies noted by the Commission during its 24th Special Meeting held 11-18 November 2024:

- Rec 18-07: Compliance tables received late.
- Annual Report, Word and IOMA, received late.
- No ST09 received.
- Rec 18-05: BIL check sheet received late.
- Rec 18-06: SHK check sheet received late.
- Rec. 22-01: Tropical Tuna Fishing plan submitted late.
- Rec. 18-07: Data from ICCAT statistical document programs (BET + SWO) received late.
- Rec. 01-21: Data from ICCAT statistical document programs (BET + SWO) received late.
- Rec. 22-12: No information on implementation of sea turtle measures.
- Rec. 16-14: Unclear as to whether minimum standards of scientific observer programme are being met, more information is required. Observer coverage <5%

Reference is also made to the Commission's determination, specifically in COC_308_APP_2B, for Trinidad and Tobago:

Letter on implementation of scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14), turtle bycatch requirements (Rec. 22-12), and recurring late reporting.

Please find attached: (1) the completed template indicating the remedial action taken and plans to address the identified deficiencies; and (2) the requested Action Plan to address the issues identified in COC_308_APP_2B.

The Action Plan updates and outlines future activities under two important initiatives, communicated in our response of 11 October 2024, aimed at addressing the above-mentioned shortcomings, namely: development of new fisheries management legislation; and activities under the 4-year GEF regional project: *Strategies, Technologies and Social Solutions To Manage Bycatch in Tropical Large marine Ecosystem Fisheries (REBYC-III CLME+)*. It also identifies those areas where Trinidad and Tobago intends to seek technical and capacity-building assistance from the ICCAT.

Trinidad and Tobago reiterates to the Compliance Committee, our commitment towards improving our conservation and management regime and implementation of measures.

I wish, Chair, to extend to you, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Mohammed
Director of Fisheries (Ag)
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO Head Delegate

cc. Mr. Penas Lado, Commission Chair

Compliance Letter Response Template

2024 Commission Meeting			
CPC: TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENTS	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
CATEGORY A			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>	Rec. 18-07: Compliance tables received late (17/09).	Late reporting is due primarily to staffing constraints which became more acute since 2024, due to the departure of the Director of Fisheries resulting in the promotion of senior technical staff to administrative positions, with the associated vacant technical positions remaining unfilled. In addition, existing technical staff were redirected to two regional projects, one of which addresses the bycatch of marine mammals and turtles in fisheries (<i>Strategies, Technologies and Social Solutions To Manage Bycatch in Tropical Large Marine Ecosystem Fisheries (REBYC-III CLME+)</i>). Vacant technical positions were advertised in August 2025 and a Note was submitted to the Cabinet in May 2025 for hire of staff on contract to conduct monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement.	28 August 2024
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
CATEGORY B			
<i>Annual Report</i>	Annual Report, Word and IOMS, received late.	Refer to remedial action under CATEGORY A: <i>Compliance Tables</i>	22 September 2024.
<i>Statistical Data</i>	No ST09 received.	Under the REBYC-III CLME+ Project Trinidad and Tobago will test the impacts of different hook types and hook sizes on the target and bycatch species of the non-artisanal longline fleet. The at-sea data collection onboard the non-artisanal longliners will serve as the pilot for the observer programme. Technical advisory support is being received from a Project Consultant to review the existing video recording equipment on board the non-artisanal longline fleet for compliance with ICCAT recommendations. The Request for Proposals to begin the tendering process for a pilot EM system on the non-artisanal longline fleet is being drafted.	

<i>Other Reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 : BIL check sheet received late.	Refer to remedial action under CATEGORY A: Compliance Tables	18 September 2024
	Rec. 18-06 : SHK check sheet received late.	Refer to remedial action under CATEGORY A: Compliance Tables	18 September 2024
	Rec. 22-01 : Tropical Tuna Fishing Plan submitted late.	Refer to remedial action under CATEGORY A: Compliance Tables	17 September 2024
CATEGORY C			
<i>MCS Species Related</i>	Rec. 18-07 ; Rec 01-21 Data from ICCAT statistical document programmes (BET + SWO) received late.	Refer to remedial action under CATEGORY A: Compliance Tables	18 September 2024
	Rec. 22-12 : No information on implementation of sea turtle measures.	A commercial fishing authorization (CFA) for a non-artisanal longliner is issued on the conditions that the vessel has installed and operational, an approved vessel monitoring system - which includes an electronic logbook - sea turtle handling and release gear - and release protocols and guidelines are carried on board. The terms and conditions of the CFA encourage the use of corrodible circle hooks and specify the use of whole finfish or squid as bait. The <i>REBYC-III CLME+</i> Project will address the requirements under Rec 22-12 para 2(a), 2(c), 2(e) and 4. Refer to remedial action under CATEGORY B: <i>Statistical Data</i>	
<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14 : No scientific observer programme. Observer coverage <5%.	Refer to remedial action under CATEGORY B: <i>Statistical Data</i>	
<i>Port Controls</i>			
<i>Vessel Controls</i>			
OTHER			



REPUBLIC OF TURKIYE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture



14 October 2025

Ref. No: 67852565-730[ICCAT]

Subject: Response by Türkiye to the Letter on Compliance Issues

To: Mr. Derek Campbell, Compliance Committee Chair

Dear Mr. Derek Campbell;

With reference to your letter dated 11 September 2025, on behalf of the Republic of Türkiye, firstly I would like to thank the Commission for its observations conveyed in the letter regarding the implementation deficiency noted during the 24th Special Meeting of ICCAT.

In response to the deficiency identified under Recommendations 18-07 and 22-08 concerning an overharvest of bluefin tuna in 2023 (-35.131 t), Türkiye wishes to provide the following explanation:

Carryover of underharvest from 2022 was inadvertently reported as higher in Türkiye's bluefin tuna fishing, inspection, and capacity plan adopted by Panel 2 in 2023. As the miscalculation made in 2023's adjusted quota could only be noticed at the end of the fishing season, a remedial action was taken in the following season by deduction of the corresponding amount of overharvest from Türkiye's 2024 national quota.

Accordingly, the amount exceeded has been fully compensated (100%) in 2024, and the necessary administrative measures have been implemented to avoid any recurrence of such an issue in the future.

I also would like to reiterate that Türkiye has provided explanations on its quota adjustments for 2023 and 2024 as footnotes in documents COC-304_Rev.2 to be discussed during 24th Special Meeting of ICCAT.

Türkiye always attaches great importance to the compliance issues and remains fully committed to the effective implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures and to maintaining close cooperation with the Secretariat and the Compliance Committee in this regard.

As requested; duly completed response template is attached to this letter.

Please accept assurances of my highest consideration.

Erdoğan GÜNEŞ
Deputy Director-General
Head Delegate of ICCAT to Türkiye.

Attachment: COMPLIANCE LETTER RESPONSE TEMPLATE (completed)

Compliance Letter Response Template

2024 Commission Meeting			
CPC: TÜRKIYE			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENTS	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
CATEGORY A			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>	Rec. 18-07 and Rec. 22-08: Overharvest of BFT (2023: -35.131 t).	Carryover of underharvest from 2022 was inadvertently reported as higher in Türkiye's bluefin tuna fishing, inspection and capacity plan adopted by Panel 2 in 2023. As the miscalculation made in 2023's adjusted quota could only be noticed in the end of the fishing season, a remedial action has been taken in the following season by deduction of corresponding amount of overharvest from Türkiye's 2024 national quota. Accordingly, the amount exceeded has been compensated for 100% in 2024 and required administrative measures have been taken to avoid repetition of the issue.	Explanations regarding Türkiye's quota adjustments for 2023 and 2024 have been provided as footnotes in COC-304_Rev2.
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
CATEGORY B			
<i>Annual Report</i>			
<i>Statistical Data</i>			
<i>Other Reports</i>			
CATEGORY C			
<i>MCS Species Related</i>			
<i>MCS General</i>			
<i>Port Controls</i>			
<i>Vessel Controls</i>			
OTHER			

Compliance Letter Response Template

2024 Commission Meeting			
CPC: UNITED KINGDOM			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENTS	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION 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. 18-07: Data from ICCAT statistical document programs received late.	Administrative protocols implemented to ensure data documented and delivered within deadlines.	Date missing: 1 April Date sent: 4 April
	Rec. 18-13 and Rec. 23-21: BCD Annual Report for UK-OT received late.	Administrative protocols implemented to ensure data documented and delivered within deadlines.	Date missing: 15 September Date sent: 14 November
MCS General			
Port Controls			
Vessel Controls			
OTHER			

Derek Campbell
Chair of the ICCAT Compliance Committee
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
Corazon de Maria, 8. 28002
Madrid, Spain

Dear Mr. Campbell:

The United States acknowledges your letter S25-08836 received on September 11, 2025 in relation to a 2024 compliance concern and would like to take the opportunity to respond.

Due to the dynamic process of U.S. vessel permitting, the United States submits monthly updates of its authorized vessels to the ICCAT Secretariat to comply with Recommendation 21-14 and Recommendation 22-01. On July 18, 2024, the United States submitted a supplemental list of 12 authorized U.S. vessels to the ICCAT Secretariat. These 12 vessels were not submitted as a part of the prior month's update due to a technical error in our domestic permit database. This resulted in these U.S. SWO-N, ALB-N, and TRO vessels having periods of authorization that included dates more than 45 days prior to the date of submission to the ICCAT Secretariat. However, these vessels were appropriately permitted and authorized domestically in line with the dates and information in the CP01 form submitted in July 2024. The technical error in the permit database was resolved in that same month. We have addressed the issue and do not expect this mistake to be repeated in the future.

I would like to thank you and the Secretariat staff for your continued hard work and effort to carry out and continuously improve the ICCAT Compliance process, which is foundational to our work as a Commission. The United States remains committed to a robust and consistent compliance process, and we are available to answer any further questions you may have.

Regards,

Andrew Lawler

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Fisheries
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
United States Department of Commerce

Compliance letter response template

2024 Commission Meeting			
CPC: UNITED STATES			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENTS	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
CATEGORY A			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>			
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
CATEGORY B			
<i>Annual Report</i>			
<i>Statistical Data</i>			
<i>Other Reports</i>			
CATEGORY C			
<i>MCS Species Related</i>			
<i>MCS General</i>			
<i>Port Controls</i>			
<i>Vessel Controls</i>	Rec. 21-14 and Rec. 22-01: Vessels added to the SWO-N, ALB-N and TRO lists more than 45 days prior to the date of submission to ICCAT.	On 18/7/24, the United States submitted a supplemental list of authorized vessels. As a result of technical error in our domestic permit database, 12 vessels were not submitted as part of previous U.S. monthly vessel list updates. However, these vessels were permitted and authorized domestically in line with the dates and information in the CP01. The technical error has been resolved.	18/7/24
OTHER		Template completed? Y	Explanation received? Y

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
Ministry of People's Power for Fisheries and Aquaculture
VPPPA-25-Nº: 0131
Caracas, 09 October 2025

Dear

Mr Derek Campbell

Compliance Committee Chair

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

It is my honour to address you and extend my warm regards to you. I would like to respond to the concerns raised in ICCAT Circular S25-08854 of 11 September 2025, on deficiencies in reporting and implementation by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in relation to the ICCAT requirements indicated during the 24th Special Meeting of the Commission, held in Limassol, Cyprus 2024.

In this regard, we very respectfully inform you of the following:

1. Rec. 18-07 and Rec. 19-05: Bigeye overharvest (2023: -1.66 t) recurrent white marlin overharvest (2023: -294.65 t) due to negative balance in previous years.

Over the past two years, our fleets have exceeded the catch limits for white marlin and blue marlin established in Recommendation 19-05. This situation, far from being deliberate, is an inevitable consequence of the biological characteristics and distribution of stocks in our national waters, where both marlin species coexist with other target species. For some years now, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has been implementing some control measures for catches of these species. These include the implementation of discards in port and the development and implementation of monitoring and awareness-raising plans for artisanal and industrial fishers through induction and training workshops.

Compliance with discards is currently governed by fisheries regulations and legal provisions (Resolution No. 048-2024 dated 15 November 2024, published in the Official Gazette of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela No. 43,033 of 20 December 2024), which encourages the use of these excessive catches for social purposes, being used in social programmes aimed at vulnerable communities, as well as in the network of school canteens and institutions dedicated to social care. Taking into account the value of the bigeye overharvest, it was reviewed and it was noted that this value corresponds to blue marlin and not to bigeye: therefore, Venezuela assumes that it is an error in the form as regards BUM.

2. Annual Report, IOMS and Word, received late: Venezuela had some difficulties in providing a timely response on some issues. However, we are working to correct the shortcomings and to improve reporting. In 2024 and 2025, Venezuela completed all the reporting requirements in the IOMS, and also participated in the training workshops to improve the use of the IOMS platform and information submission, with the objective of optimising all the processes.

3. Rec. 18-05: Billfish check sheet received late: Venezuela has been working to update some pieces of legislation including that related to billfish. In addition, it has been developing monitoring plans, fleet characterisation and training of fishers. The development of these activities had led to some delays in submission of this form, since it requires responses to specific situations that we believed at that time could be resolved. Notwithstanding, we continue to work to improve the reporting of our fisheries, updating the legislation that contain ICCAT measures, and to establish more efficient policies for the conservation of fisheries resources and the food sovereignty of our fishing communities.

4. **Rec. 18-06: Shark check sheet received late:** Venezuela has been working in all its fisheries to improve data reporting and update its legislation. For this reason, it has difficulties to respond timely to some compliance related issues. However, as in the case of the billfish check sheet, the shark sheet requires very specific responses and it was difficult to respond to some questions within the established time. Notwithstanding, Venezuela is committed and is working to improve reporting of the forms and comply with the requirements contained in the Recommendations of the Commission.
5. **Rec. 17-02: SWO-N fishing plan received late:** Venezuela acknowledges and understands that late submission of information causes delays and hinders the Secretariat's work. Notwithstanding, we have had some difficulties for development and timely submission of these requirements. During 2025, the necessary measures were taken so that the information via the different forms reach the Commission by the appropriate deadlines.
6. **Rec. 16-14: Additional information is needed on implementation of the scientific observers programme and reporting. <5% observer coverage and no ST09 received:** Over the past few years, Venezuela has expressed that it has had difficulties to develop and implement the observers programme to enable it to meet the requests of the Commission and comply with the relevant recommendations. Venezuela understands that if it does not have a programme of active observers it cannot comply with some ICCAT requirements contained in its Recommendations. For this reason, we continue to work to find solutions that will enable us to introduce a new programme and for such purpose a resolution establishing the conditions for its strengthening was developed (Resolution DM/N009-2024 published on 3 October 2024 in the Official Gazette of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela No. 42,983 of date 11/10/2024). Notwithstanding, our fleet has had some operating and logistical difficulties which has made it impossible to start the trainings of scientific observers, and to coordinate with the captains for implementation and familiarisation with Venezuela's onboard scientific observers programme for ICCAT.

Based on the foregoing, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has created a multi-disciplinary work team, whose objective it is to prepare reports and the necessary analyses to ensure compliance with the submission deadlines established by the Commission.

It should be noted that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the authorities within the fisheries administration have assumed very responsibly the implementation of management measures aimed to regulate fishing activities, to ensure the sustainability of hydrobiological resources, applying the precautionary criterion, which is based on the best available scientific evidence.

We thank you in advance for your attention in this matter, and please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Regards,

PEDRO EMILIO GUERRA CASTELLANO

Vice Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Primary Production

Ministry of People's Power for Fisheries and Aquaculture

Decree No. 5,109 of 07 March 2025, published in the Official Gazette of the

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela No. 43,082 of 07 March 2025

Compliance letter response template

2024 Commission Meeting			
CPC: VENEZUELA			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENTS	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
CATEGORY A			
Compliance Tables	Rec. 18-07 y Rec. 19-05: Bigeye overharvest (2023: - 1.66 t) recurrent white marlin overharvest (2023: - 294.65 t) due to negative balance from previous years/Improvement: first year since 2016 no ALB-N overharvest.	Over the past two years, our fleets have exceeded the catch limits for white marlin and blue marlin established in Recommendation 19-05. This situation, far from being deliberate, is an inevitable consequence of the biological characteristics and distribution of stocks in our national waters, where both marlin species coexist with other target species. In most cases, marlins are not the main species caught, but are caught incidentally, a phenomenon that is difficult for our artisanal and industrial fleets to control. For some years now, control measures have been implemented for catches of these species. These include the implementation of discards in port and the development and implementation of monitoring and awareness-raising plans for artisanal and industrial fishers through induction and training workshops. Compliance with discards is currently governed by fisheries regulations and legal provisions (Resolution No. 048-2024 dated 15 November 2024, published in the Official Gazette of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela No. 43,033 of 20 December 2024), which encourages the use of these excessive catches for social purposes, being used in social programmes aimed at vulnerable communities, as well as in the network of school canteens and institutions dedicated to social care.	

<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
CATEGORY B			
<i>Annual Report</i>	Annual Report, IOMS and Word, received late.	Venezuela had some difficulties in providing a timely response on some issues. However, we are working to correct the shortcomings and to improve reporting. In 2024 and 2025, Venezuela completed all the reporting requirements in the IOMS, and also participated in the training workshops to improve the use of the IOMS platform and information submission, with the objective of optimising all the processes.	
<i>Statistical Data</i>	No ST09 received.	Over the past few years, Venezuela has expressed that it has had difficulties to develop and implement the observers programme to enable it to meet the requests of the Commission and comply with the relevant recommendations. Venezuela understands that if it does not have a programme of active observers it cannot comply with some ICCAT requirements contained in its Recommendations. For this reason, we continue to work to find solutions that will enable us to introduce a new programme and for such purpose a resolution establishing the conditions for its strengthening was developed (Resolution DM/N009-2024 published on 3 October 2024 in the Official Gazette of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela No. 42,983 of date 11/10/2024).	

<i>Other Reports</i>	Rec. 18-05: Billfish check sheet received late.	Venezuela has been working to update some pieces of legislation including that related to billfish. In addition, it has been developing monitoring plans, fleet characterisation and training of fishers. The development of these activities had led to some delays in submission of this form, since it requires responses to specific situations that we believed at that time could be resolved. Notwithstanding, we continue to work to improve the reporting of our fisheries, updating the legislation that contain ICCAT measures, and to establish more efficient policies for the conservation of fisheries resources and the food sovereignty of our fishing communities.	
	Rec. 18-06: Shark check sheet received late.	Venezuela has been working in all its fisheries to improve data reporting and update its legislation. For this reason, it has difficulties to respond timely to some compliance related issues. As in the case of the billfish check sheet, the shark sheet requires very specific responses and it was difficult to respond to some questions within the established time. Notwithstanding, Venezuela is committed and is working to improve reporting of the forms and comply with the requirements contained in the Recommendations of the Commission.	

	Rec. 17-02: SWO-N fishing plan received late.	Venezuela acknowledges and understands that late submission of information causes delays and hinders the Secretariat's work. Notwithstanding, we have had some difficulties for development and timely submission of these requirements. During 2025, the necessary measures were taken so that the information via the different forms reach the Commission by the appropriate deadlines.	
CATEGORY C			
<i>MCS Species Related</i>			

<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14: Additional information is needed on implementation of the scientific observers programme and reporting. <5 % observer coverage	Over the past few years, Venezuela has expressed that it has had difficulties to develop and implement the observers programme to enable it to meet the requests of the Commission and comply with the relevant recommendations. Venezuela understands that if it does not have a programme of active observers it cannot comply with some ICCAT requirements contained in its Recommendations. For this reason, we continue to work to find solutions that will enable us to introduce a new programme and for such purpose a resolution establishing the conditions for its strengthening was developed (Resolution DM/N009-2024 published on 3 October 2024 in the Official Gazette of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela No. 42,983 of date 11/10/2024). Notwithstanding, our fleet has had some operating and logisticfal difficultes which has made it impossible to start the trainings of scientific observers, and to coordinate with the captains the implementation and familiarisation of Venezuela's onboard scientific observers programme for ICCAT.	
<i>Port Controls</i>			
<i>Vessel Controls</i>			
OTHERS			

Compliance Letter Response Template

2024 Commission Meeting			
CPC: GUYANA			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENTS	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
CATEGORY A			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>			
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
CATEGORY B			
<i>Annual Report</i>	No Annual Report received, neither Word nor IOMS.	This was sent on 10 October 2024 and ICCAT acknowledged receipt on 11 October 2024 but indicated it was not in the revised format. This was revised and sent back on the same day 11 October 2024. Had issues accessing the IOMS platform. I would prefer all documents be send to ICCAT as the issue of credentials makes it difficult to access.	
<i>Statistical Data</i>			
<i>Other Reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 : BIL Check Sheet received late.		
	Rec. 18-06 : SHK Check Sheet received late.		
CATEGORY C			
<i>MCS Species Related</i>	Additional information needed on implementation of requirements regarding sharks.	Please note that none of the two sharks mentioned is caught in Guyana	
<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14 : Observer coverage <5%.	Please note that Guyana do not have a tuna fisheries	
<i>Port Controls</i>			
<i>Vessel Controls</i>			
OTHER			



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FISHERIES
 Cornelis Jongbawstraat 50, Paramaribo– Suriname Telephone nr. (597)
 476741/472233 E-mail: visserijdienst@gmail.com/
 Website: www.minlvv.sr.org



Paramaribo, October 08, 2025

Compliance Committee Chair

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
 Derek Campbell
 Corazon de Maria, 8
 28002 Madrid, Spain

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

Dear Sir,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Parveen Amritpersad, LLM, The Director of Fisheries

**Compliance Letter Response Template
2024 Commission Meeting**

CPC: SURINAME			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENTS	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
CATEGORY A			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>			
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
CATEGORY B			
<i>Annual Report</i>			
<i>Statistical Data</i>			
<i>Other Reports</i>			
CATEGORY C			
<i>MCS Species Related</i>			
<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14: Additional information needed on progress of implementation of scientific observer programme. Observer coverage <5%.	Suriname initiated tuna fishing operations with national-flagged longline vessels in July 2023. The Directorate of Fisheries has been working to establish a National Observer Program for tuna vessels, but progress has been constrained by limited human and financial capacity. In December 2024, Suriname contacted Capricorn Fisheries Monitoring cc (Capfish) for observer services and received a quotation on 7 January 2025. Financial constraints and a recent government transition have delayed implementation. In the interim, tuna vessel operators have voluntarily installed CCTV systems onboard for internal monitoring purposes, with full access granted to the Directorate of Fisheries. Suriname is also in contact with Shellcatch to implement an ICCAT-compatible Electronic Monitoring (EM) system (virtual observer), targeted to begin implementation by the end of 2025. Suriname remains committed to fulfilling ICCAT requirements and will continue to update the Commission on progress.	Response compliance letter send on October 8, 2025 ref.no. DVis-1276
<i>Port Controls</i>			
<i>Vessel Controls</i>			
OTHER			