INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES

November 3, 2017

Mr. Driss Meski
Executive Secretary
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas ICCAT

Dear Mr. Secretary,

The Scientific Committee of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) at its 14th Meeting noted the progress made by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) at the July 2017 meeting of its Sub-committee on Ecosystems with regards to addressing sea turtle conservation in ICCAT fisheries.

The IAC Scientific Committee would like to express its satisfaction with the progress made by ICCAT and to urge the SCRS to continue work on the conservation of species caught incidentally in ICCAT fisheries, particularly sea turtles.

The objective of the IAC is to promote the protection, conservation, and recovery of the populations of sea turtles and those habitats on which they depend. The IAC relies upon the best available data and takes into consideration the environmental, socioeconomic and cultural characteristics of the 16 member countries in the Convention.

The environmental impact of activities such as fishing and exploitation of marine resources on marine turtles in the region is, in particular, a priority in the agenda of the IAC Scientific Community. The critically endangered East Pacific leatherback turtle and the threatened loggerhead turtle have prompted the IAC to form permanent working groups to address threats to their populations and to provide scientific basis for their effective recoveries.

The IAC Scientific Committee would like to reiterate its offer to collaborate with ICCAT regarding its information and knowledge on sea turtles in general and in particular in the Atlantic Ocean area.

Kind regards,

Diego Alejandro Albareda
Chairmen IAC Scientific Committee

CC:Dr. Miguel Neves dos Santos
    Dr. Paul de Bruyn
    Dr. David Die