Madrid, 17 May 2018

Ms. Kylie Bamford
Head of Marine Conservation
Polar Regions Department, Overseas Territories Directorate
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
K2.55 King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH
UNITED KINGDOM

ICCAT - SALIDA
Nº 3236 / 2018
17/05/2018

SUBJECT: LETTER REGARDING REPORTING DEFICIENCIES IN 2017

Dear Ms. Kylie Bamford,

On behalf of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), I am writing to inform you that, at the 25th Regular meeting of ICCAT (14-21 November 2017, Marrakech, Morocco), the Commission expressed its concerns that, as in 2016, the UK-OT had not submitted completely or in a timely manner certain data and reports required by ICCAT Recommendations.

During the 2017 Compliance Committee meeting, Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) were assessed for compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures and reporting requirements. Based on the review of the Secretariat Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research and the 2017 Secretariat's Report to the Compliance Committee and other available information, the Committee noted the following deficiencies for the UK-OT:

- The Part II of the Annual Report was submitted late,
- The BCD annual report was also submitted late;
- No plan for improving data collection for sharks on a species specific level was presented;
- No list of designated ports that may be entered by foreign fishing vessels or contact points were submitted, in accordance with paragraphs 9 and 7 of Rec. 12-07, nor is there any indication in UKOT's Annual Report (GEN 0011) of a specific prohibition on entry of foreign fishing vessels.

Late or incomplete reporting causes difficulties for the Secretariat in preparing documents for the Commission and its Panels and Committees, and reduces the effectiveness of the Compliance Committee.

The list of SCRS reporting requirements are available here and the list of Commission reporting requirements are available here.

The Commission requests the UK-OT to reply to this letter before **10 October 2018**, i.e. at least 30 days before the COC special session that shall be held in accordance with the "*Resolution by ICCAT to facilitate an effective and efficient Compliance process*" [Res. 16-22] prior to the ICCAT Commission 21st Special meeting (scheduled to be held from 12-19 November 2018 in Croatia). The response should indicate all the progress and plans made by the UK-OT to address each of the issues raised in this letter. UK-OT's response will be reviewed by the Compliance Committee at its 2018 meeting to determine if UK-OT has taken sufficient and appropriate steps to address these issues.

If UK-OT has any questions about the issues raised in this letter or about ICCAT requirements, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat at info@iccat.int

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

Derek Campbell
Compliance Committee Chair

cc: M. R. Delgado, *Commission Chairman*