INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

ICCAT CICTA CICAA

COMISIÓN INTERNACIONAL PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DEL ATÚN ATLÁNTICO

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

Madrid, 17 May 2018

Mrs. Ghada Shalaby
Director General of Agreement Department
General Authority for Fish Resources Development
4 Tayaran St., Nasr City
EGYPT

SUBJECT: LETTER REGARDING REPORTING DEFICIENCIES IN 2017

Dear Mrs. Shalaby,

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, while noting positively reporting improvements since 2016, expressed its concerns concerning Egypt's reporting deficiencies of ICCAT requirements.

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 Egypt:

- In Egypt's 2017 Annual Report there are no explanations in the fields where Egypt has responded "Not applicable" or "N/A",
- The Task I data (ST01 form) on fleet characteristics was submitted late,
- The shark measures implementation check sheet (Rec. 16-13) was submitted late,
- Egypt's Annual Report [under BIL 5002; SHK 7004, SHK 7006] contained no information about Egypt's implementation of domestic observer programs for fisheries other than bluefin tuna. Egypt is reminded that the requirements of *Recommendation 16-14 by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Program* apply to all ICCAT fisheries. For example, pursuant to paragraph 4, each ICCAT CPC "shall ensure the following with respect to its domestic observer programs: … *A minimum of 5% observer coverage of fishing effort in each of the pelagic longline, purse seine, and, as defined in the ICCAT glossary, baitboat, traps, gillnet and trawl fisheries...*
- Egypt's Annual Report [under BYC 8001] contained no details on actions taken by Egypt to implement the requirements of *Recommendation by ICCAT on the By-catch of Sea Turtles in ICCAT Fisheries* [Rec. 10-09]. Egypt is reminded that prohibition on trade in, the absence of fishing for, and the absence of recorded by-catch of, sea turtles, as indicated in Egypt's written response to the Compliance Committee, does not alleviate Egypt of its obligations to take measures to implement the requirements of 10-09 in its ICCAT fisheries,
- With respect to sharks, Egypt's Annual Report [refer to SHK 7001 to SHK 7007] and its subsequent written responses to ICCAT's COC at the 2017 Annual meeting contain insufficient information to assess Egypt's compliance with ICCAT shark recommendations.

In addition, the Commission encouraged Egypt to remove vessels included on Med-SWO list of vessels authorized to actively fish for Med-SWO in order to align this list with the fishing possibilities of Egypt under Recommendation 16-05, under which Egypt does not have a quota for Med-SWO.

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 Egypt 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 Egypt to address each of the issues raised in this letter. Egypt's response will be reviewed by the Compliance Committee at its 2018 meeting to determine if Egypt has taken sufficient and appropriate steps to address these issues.

Please note that all the ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions, as well as the information related to the reporting requirements, and the deadlines and formats for data submission can be downloaded from the ICCAT web site or are available on request from the ICCAT Secretariat. ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions are available here.

If Egypt 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. Delgado, *Commission Chairman*