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

Madrid, 17 May 2018

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Mrs. Kadijatu Jalloh
Acting Director of Fisheries
Office of the Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
Youyi Building, 7th Floor
Freetown Brookfields
REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

SUBJECT: LETTER OF IDENTIFICATION

Mrs. Jalloh,

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 decided to renew the identification to Sierra Leone pursuant to *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Rec. 06-13] due to Sierra Leone's failure to submit an Annual Report to the Commission for at least six years in a row (since 2012) as well as other data and reports as required under 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 significant deficiencies for Sierra Leone:

- The Annual Report was not submitted (Part I nor Part II),
- No Task I and Task II data were submitted,
- The shark measures implementation check sheet, required by Rec. 16-13, was not submitted. Please note that compliance with this reporting requirement and ICCAT shark measures will be specifically reviewed in 2018,
- The Compliance tables were submitted late, after the deadline of 15 August (Rec. 16-16).

In addition, the Committee was concerned that, as in 2015 and in 2016, Sierra Leone did not provide a reply to the Chair's letter of April 2017, to which a response at least 30 days before the Commission meeting was requested.

The Commission stressed the importance of the submission of required reports and data by all CPCs, regardless of whether or not they have ICCAT fisheries, and requested Sierra Leone to make the necessary efforts to collect these data and provide them to the Commission. Late or incomplete reporting causes difficulties for the Secretariat in preparing documents for the Commission and its Panels and Committees, reduces the effectiveness of the Compliance Committee, and undermines the Commission's ability to carry out its mandate.

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

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

Based on the actions taken by Sierra Leone in response to this identification letter, the Compliance Committee will recommend appropriate actions at the next meeting in order to resolve any persistent data deficiencies as well as any other failure to rectify the deficiencies in compliance.

This may include identification under the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Rec. 06-13], which could lead to more severe actions, such as reductions in quota and prohibitions related to trade. Therefore, the Commission urges Sierra Leone to revise its data collection and reporting procedures with regard to the ICCAT requirements.

The Commission would like to remind you that Sierra Leone can request assistance in data collection and reporting from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), from other ICCAT CPCs and from the ICCAT Secretariat, including a request for financial assistance from the Data Funds established by the *Resolution by ICCAT on Improvements in Data Collection and Quality Assurance* [Res. 03-21], and from other available funds.

If Sierra Leone 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: R. Delgado, *Commission Chairman*