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

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Ms. Liling Zhao
Ministry of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries
Nº 11 Nongzhanguan Nanli,
Chaoyang District
100125 Beijing
CHINA

SUBJECT: LETTER REGARDING COMPLIANCE ISSUES IN 2017

Dear Ms. Liling,

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 about deficiencies in China's fulfilment of ICCAT requirements, in particular Recommendation 12-07, while noting positively certain steps taken by China relating to control landings of ICCAT species.

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 China:

- No list of designated ports that may be entered by foreign fishing vessels or contact points were submitted, in accordance with paragraphs 9 & 7 of Rec. 12-07, nor is there any indication in China's Annual Report (GEN 0011) of a specific prohibition on entry of foreign fishing vessels. China is reminded that Rec. 12-07 applies to all ports, including those outside the Convention area. As the Compliance Committee Chair explained at the 2017 meeting of the Committee, although some CPCs sought a carve-out of non-Convention Area ports when the measure was negotiated in 2012, no such carve out was ultimately agreed to by the Commission, as reflected in Rec. 12-07, in contrast to port inspection measures in certain other RFMOs such as IOTC that are specifically limited to ports located within the RFMO's convention area. Moreover, in response to a question from China about application to foreign flagged carrier vessels with ICCAT species that had been transhipped at sea by Chinese vessels, the Chair emphasized that Rec. 12-07 applies to all foreign flag vessels, including these, expressing concern that such a derogation would significantly undermine ICCAT's port inspection scheme. No concerns were raised by the Committee about the Chair's articulation of both the geographical and vessel scope of Rec. 12-07.
- No submission of list of BFT designated ports, as required under Rec. 14-04, paragraphs 59 and 63.

The Commission requests China 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 China to address each of the issues raised in this letter. China's response will be reviewed by the Compliance Committee at its 2018 meeting to determine if China 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.

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

If China 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

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Derek Campbell
Compliance Committee Chair

cc: M. Delgado, *Commission Chair*