



Madrid, 17 May 2018

Dr. Abdel Latif Ali
General Director
General Commission for Fisheries Resources,
Ministry of Agriculture & Agrarian Reform
Latakia, Jableh
SYRIA

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

SUBJECT: LETTER REGARDING REPORTING DEFICIENCIES IN 2017

Dear Mr. Latif Ali,

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 regarding deficiencies in Syria's fulfilment of certain ICCAT reporting and data 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 Syria:

- The Annual Report was submitted late (but before the previous deadline),
- The Task I form for fleet characteristics data (ST01-T1FC) was not submitted,
- No shark measures implementation check sheet, required under Rec. 16-13, was submitted (note that compliance with this reporting requirement and ICCAT shark measures will be specifically reviewed in 2018),
- No monthly BFT catch report received, as required under paragraph 67 of Rec. 14-04.

The Commission stressed the importance of these data and requested Syria 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, 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 Syria 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 Syria to address each of the issues raised in this letter. Syria’s response will be reviewed by the Compliance Committee at its 2018 meeting to determine if Syria has taken sufficient and appropriate steps to address these issues.

If Syria 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*