INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQ

ICCAT CICTA CICAA

COMISIÓN INTERNACIONAL PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DEL ATÚN ATLÁNTICO

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

Madrid, 17 May 2018

Mr. Arian Palluqi
Fisheries Directorate
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development,
Blv . "Dëshmoret e Kombit", Nr. 2, kp.1001
Tiranë, Shqipëri
REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

SUBJECT: LETTER REGARDING REPORTING DEFICIENCIES IN 2017

Dear Mr. Arian Palluqi,

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 improvement in reporting, expressed its concerns about continued deficiencies in Albania's fulfilment 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 Albania:

- In Albania's 2017 Annual Report there are no explanations in the fields where Albania has responded "Not applicable" or "N/A".
- The Task I fishing fleet characteristics (ST01 form) was not submitted.
- The Task II catch & effort data were not submitted, in the forms available here.
- The shark check sheet, required under Rec. 16-13, was submitted late, during the Commission meeting. (Note that compliance with this reporting requirement and ICCAT shark measures will be specifically reviewed in 2018.)
- Lack of specific explanation in Annual Report fields BYC 8001 to 8003 concerning implementation of turtle by-catch mitigation measures and other measures to mitigate by-catch and discards. Please refer to the Guidelines to complete the Annual Report (Ref. 12-13 here).

In addition, the Committee noted that Albania, as in 2014 and 2015, did not reply to the COC Chair's letter of April 2017, to which a response at least 30 days before the Commission meeting was requested.

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.

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.

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

The Commission would like to remind you that Albania 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 Albania 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 Chair*