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. Joylyn Nestor-Burrowes
Permanent Secretary (Acting)
Ministry of Agriculture
Regent and Vlissegen Roads
P.O. Box 1001-Georgetown
GUYANA

SUBJECT: LETTER REGARDING REPORTING DEFICIENCIES IN 2017

Dear Mrs. Nestor-Burrowes,

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 Guyana's significant reporting deficiencies.

During the 2017 Compliance Committee meeting (COC), 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 Guyana:

- No statistical data were submitted and, in particular, no Task 1 fleet characteristics data (form ST01) were submitted;
- The summary tables of the annual report (part I and part II) were not submitted;
- The Compliance tables were submitted two months after the deadline of Rec. 16-16 (15 August);
- No shark measures implementation check sheet, as required by Rec. 16-13, was transmitted. Please take into account that compliance with this reporting requirement and ICCAT shark measures will be specifically reviewed in 2018.

In addition, the Committee noted that Guyana did not reply to the COC letter reporting deficiencies 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.

Furthermore, as was noted by the Commission in the letters on compliance issues sent to Guyana in 2015, 2016 and 2017, complete reporting is an important requirement under ICCAT Rec. 03-20 in order for Guyana to maintain its status as a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party in the future. If Guyana continues to fail with ICCAT reporting requirements, its status in ICCAT might not be renewed by the Commission in 2018.

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

Please note that any continued non-compliance by Guyana identified at the 2018 ICCAT Annual meeting will have a bearing on ICCAT's decision in 2018 on whether to renew Guyana's Cooperating Non-Party status.

If Guyana 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*