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

Ms. Elizabeth Mohammed
Fisheries Division
Ministry of Agriculture, Land & Marine Resources
St. Claire Circle
St. Claire, Port-of-Spain
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

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

SUBJECT: LETTER REGARDING COMPLIANCE ISSUES IN 2017

Dear Ms. Mohammed,

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 lift the identification to Trinidad & Tobago and noted improvement on the management of marlin catches. However, the Commission decided to express its concerns regarding deficiencies in Trinidad & Tobago's fulfilment of certain 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 Trinidad & Tobago:

- In Trinidad & Tobago's 2017 Annual Report there are no explanations in the fields where Trinidad & Tobago has responded "Not applicable" or "N/A".
- No report on bycatch/discards or turtle mitigation were submitted, as required under Rec 11-10 (requirement BYC S42) or Rec. 10-09 (requirement BYC S38);
- No designated list of authorised ports that may be entered by foreign fishing vessels or contact points were submitted, in accordance with paragraphs 7 and 9 of Rec. 12-07, nor is there any indication in Trinidad & Tobago's Annual Report (GEN 0011) of a specific prohibition on entry of foreign fishing vessels.
- Incomplete (2nd semester 2016) or late submission (1st semester 2017).of the bi-annual statistical reports under Rec. 01-21 and Rec. 01-22.

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

If Trinidad & Tobago 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. R. Delgado, *Commission Chairman*