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

Ms. Emma Metieh Glassco
Director General
National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA)
LIBERIA

SUBJECT: LETTER REGARDING COMPLIANCE ISSUES IN 2017

Dear Ms. Metieh Glassco,

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, Marrakesh), the Commission decided to lift the identification to Liberia. However, the Commission expressed its concerns regarding certain deficiencies in Liberia'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 Liberia:

- In Liberia's 2017 Annual Report there are no explanations in the fields where Liberia has responded "Not applicable" or "N/A";
- Statistics data were not correctly reported, i.e. Task II catch & effort and Task II size data could not be processed;
- No list of designated ports that may be entered by foreign fishing vessels was submitted, in accordance with paragraph 9 of Rec. 12-07, nor is there any indication in Liberia's Annual Report (GEN 0011) of a specific prohibition on entry of foreign fishing vessels;
- The list of tropical vessels as requested under Rec. 15-01/16-01 was not transmitted;
- The transhipment-report under Rec. 12-06 was submitted late;
- The shark measures implementation check sheet, required under Rec. 16-13, was not submitted. Please note that compliance with this reporting requirement and ICCAT shark measures will be specifically reviewed in 2018.

The Commission requests Liberia to reply to this letter before **13 October 2018**, i.e. at least 30 days before the 21st Special meeting of ICCAT (scheduled to be held from 12-19 November 2018, in Croatia). The response should indicate the progress and plans made by Liberia to address each of the issues raised in this letter. Liberia's response will be reviewed by the Compliance Committee at its 2018 meeting to determine if Liberia 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.

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

In addition, in its response to this letter, Liberia is encouraged to provide additional information on progress it is making in carrying out the initiatives to strengthen its fisheries management and enforcement that it outlined in its submission to the Commission at the 2017 Annual Meeting in Marrakech, including the status of Liberia's new fisheries law and regulation, agency restructuring, and continued efforts to address the *New Bai* vessel incident. The Compliance Committee is interested in continuing to monitor how Liberia progresses on these initiatives that formed the basis for the COC's decision to remove Liberia's identification under ICCAT's Trade Measures Recommendation 06-13.

If Liberia 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*