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

Mr. Ramon Chong
Ministry of Economic Development
Amidos Building, 4th floor
Pletterijweg 43 A
Willemstad
CURAÇAO

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

SUBJECT: LETTER REGARDING REPORTING DEFICIENCIES IN 2017

Dear Mr. Chong,

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 since 2016, expressed its concerns about deficiencies in Curaçao's fulfilment of certain ICCAT reporting 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 Curaçao:

- In Curaçao's 2017 Annual Report there are no explanations in the fields in which Curaçao has responded "Not applicable" or "N/A".
- No report on Curaçao's sailfish data collection program or its implementation of the ICCAT sailfish measures as required by Rec. 16-11, para. 4, was made in Curaçao's Annual Report.
- Insufficient responses in summary tables (Sections 1 and 2) of Part I of Curaçao's Annual Report to determine compliance with Recommendation 15-05 (Blue Marlin and White Marlin). In Section 1, form fields S27 and S28, Curaçao responded "Not applicable, Curaçao don't target billfish." In Section 2, form fields 5001-5002, Curaçao simply responded "N/A" without explanation. Curaçao is reminded that the requirements of Recommendation 15-05 (and successor Recommendation 16-10) to which these reporting requirement correspond apply regardless of whether or not Curaçao has vessels targeting these billfish. If Curaçao has any fisheries (including artisanal, sport, or recreational) that interact with billfish, even as a bycatch species, a number of the requirements of these measures are applicable (this is generally the case for other ICCAT managed species as well). Cursory research on the internet indicates there is fishing in Curaçao for marlin, e.g., the Curaçao Yacht Club's Annual Marlin Tournament, which would appear to be subject to ICCAT requirements under 15-05. Curaçao is requested to provide information on fisheries that interact with marlin and measures it has in place to ensure the fulfilment of applicable ICCAT requirements.

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 (www.iccat.int) 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 Curaçao 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 Curaçao to address each of the issues raised in this letter. Curaçao's response will be reviewed by the Compliance Committee at its 2018 meeting to determine if Curaçao has taken sufficient and appropriate steps to address these issues.

If Curaçao 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

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Derek Campbell
Compliance Committee Chair

cc: M. Delgado, *Commission Chair*