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. Hyacinth Anebi Okpe
Assistant Director
Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture,
Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Division,
Area 11, Garki Abuja
NIGERIA

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

SUBJECT: LETTER REGARDING COMPLIANCE ISSUES IN 2017

Dear Mr. Okpe,

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, Morocco), the Commission expressed its concerns regarding deficiencies in Nigeria's fulfilment of 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 Nigeria:

- No shark implementation check sheet, as required by Rec. 16-13, was submitted.
  Please note that compliance with this reporting requirement and ICCAT shark measures will be specifically reviewed in 2018.

The Commission requests Nigeria 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 Nigeria to address the issue raised in this letter. Nigeria's response will be reviewed by the Compliance Committee at its 2018 meeting to determine if Nigeria 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.

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 Compliance Chair notes that in 2017, Nigeria explained that it does not have tuna fishing vessels or a quota allocation. Nigeria is reminded that even if tuna are not targeted by its vessels, other ICCAT measures may apply to Nigeria fishing activities that interact with ICCAT species, as ICCAT measures generally are not limited to only directed fishing, rather they also apply in the case of non-target fish and other species. Moreover, ICCAT requirements are not limited to tuna; ICCAT also has measures governing fishing activities for other ICCAT species, including billfish (e.g. marlins, sailfish). Please note also that ICCAT reporting requirements generally apply to all fisheries for ICCAT species, including in waters under national jurisdiction as well as the high seas, and including recreational, sport, and artisanal vessels, in addition to commercial fishing vessels. The Compliance Chair encourages Nigeria, an ICCAT coastal State in whose territorial sea and EEZ ICCAT requirements apply, to indicate, in its reply to this letter, whether there are any vessels subject to Nigeria's jurisdiction that interact with ICCAT species directly or indirectly.

If Nigeria 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: Mr. R. Delgado, *Commission Chair*