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. Benjamin F.S. Tabios
Assistant Director for Administrative Services
Bureau of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources
3/F PCA Building,
Elliptical Road,
Diliman, Quezon City
THE PHILIPPINES

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

SUBJECT: LETTER REGARDING COMPLIANCE ISSUES IN 2017

Dear Mr. Tabios,

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 the Philippines'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 the Philippines:

- The Annual Report was not submitted (while it was noted that the Philippines reported to the Secretariat that it was not engaged in ICCAT fisheries, this does not alleviate an ICCAT Contracting Party from the requirement to submit an Annual Report);
- The shark measures implementation check sheet, required by 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 Committee also noted that the Philippines, as in 2016, have not replied to the COC Chair letter of April 2017 regarding 2016 reporting deficiencies.

The Commission requests the Philippines 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 the Philippines to address each of the issues raised in this letter. The Philippines' response will be reviewed by the Compliance Committee at its 2018 meeting to determine if the Philippines 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.

If the Philippines 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*