

Original: English

## LETTER FROM COC CHAIR TO ALL CPCs

Dear Distinguished Delegates and Observers,

I am looking forward to working with all participants at the 2018 meeting of the ICCAT Compliance Committee (COC).

To ensure our discussions are constructive and efficient, I would like to take this opportunity to inform the Commission about how I intend to structure the meeting, subject to further input from CPCs and adoption of the tentative agenda (attached). I would also like to provide additional information relevant to certain agenda items, to ensure that all CPCs submit and review relevant information in advance and come prepared to actively engage in the COC discussions.

### Meeting structure

Pursuant to paragraph 6 of the [Resolution by ICCAT to Facilitate an Effective and Efficient Compliance Process \(16-22\)](#), the COC meetings will include two full day sessions on November 10 & 11 to allow for a more in-depth CPC by CPC compliance review, followed by three sessions later in the annual meeting. Consistent with the intent of Res. 16-22, I plan to treat all sessions as one COC meeting. My goal is to use the first two days to conclude the first CPC by CPC review (item 8), spending more time on each CPC than in past annual meetings, and to conclude most other agenda items. The remaining sessions would be devoted primarily to the compliance tables (item 11), development of recommendations of actions to address issues of non-compliance (item 12), and development of recommendations to the Commission to improve compliance (item 15).

### Meeting attendance

It is critical that all CPCs attend the full day sessions on November 10 & 11, in addition to those the following week. Time for the initial CPC review under agenda item 8 will not be available in the later sessions. As a result, the COC's determination on the compliance status of any CPCs that are not present for the early sessions will be based on information available to the COC at the time, without the benefit of any clarifications the CPC may have been able to provide had the CPC been present for their compliance review.

### Request for advance input on potential compliance issues

To facilitate a fulsome discussion during the CPC by CPC compliance review, I strongly encourage CPCs to review the Annual Reports and other compliance-related documentation of other CPCs when these are made available to the Commission, and to submit any questions or concerns regarding potential non-compliance to me in writing no later than Monday, November 5. I will in turn consider this input as I develop a list of additional matters for discussion during the CPC by CPC review.

Additionally, pursuant to paragraph 2 of [Rec. 16-22](#), I am working with the Secretariat to develop and circulate the first draft of the COC-308 Compliance Summary Tables on or around October 20, three weeks prior to the first COC session, after which point CPCs are invited to submit "initial, written explanations of inaccuracies or additional information to the Secretariat on their own compliance information as reflected in the Draft Summary Compliance Tables and any supplementary tables at least five days before the start of the first session of the COC" (Monday, November 5).

### Annual Report format and other submissions

As of the date of this letter, a number of CPCs have not submitted certain required data, reports, or other documents, such as Part I or Part II of the Annual Report, compliance tables, or Task I and Task II data. Lack of timely reporting undermines ICCAT's ability to carry out its mandate and the COC's ability to assess compliance. In the case of a number of CPCs, failure to submit these documents by the deadline (or at all) is a recurring issue. In order to address this matter, I intend to recommend that the COC consider taking more significant actions at the 2018 meeting in the case of CPCs that repeatedly fail in this respect, including

possible identification under [ICCAT's Recommendation on Trade Measures \(06-13\)](#). Missing information will be noted in the draft version of COC-308, as indicated above. Guidelines for Submitting Information and Data Required by ICCAT are available at: <https://www.iccat.int/en/SubmitCOMP.html> and <https://www.iccat.int/en/submitSTAT.html>. For any such late submissions, please ensure that the latest forms are downloaded from the ICCAT web site or request these from the ICCAT Secretariat.

Additionally, a number of CPCs that received a letter of identification or on compliance issues from the COC Chair following the 2017 meeting, to which a response was requested by October 10, have not yet provided a written response. Written CPC responses are essential for the Commission to conduct a meaningful review of actions taken by CPCs to address compliance issues identified by the Commission. I encourage those CPCs that have not already responded to provide a written response as soon as possible in advance of the 2018 Commission meeting. At this meeting, I intend to devote greater attention to the response letters, allowing time for the COC's consideration of the sufficiency of each response.

### **Friends of the Chair Group**

This very useful process was formalized in Res. 16-22. Thank you to those delegations that represented their geographical area in this group. If there are any changes to CPCs representing these areas, please inform me and the Secretariat prior to the first COC session. I will be in touch with these representatives to discuss my proposed work plan for this group in more detail.

### **Streamlining ICCAT requirements**

Ensuring that ICCAT requirements, including reporting requirements, are clear, precise, and not redundant facilitates both member compliance and ICCAT's review of member compliance. In this regard, I would like to draw your attention to document [STF-205/2018](#), Streamlining of ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures, which is intended to form the basis of Commission decisions to remove or modify current measures pursuant to the process recommended by STACFAD and endorsed by the Commission in 2014. Please come to the meeting prepared to help the Commission make decisions on what measures remove or modify.

### **Review of Shark Check Sheets and development of a Billfish Check Sheet**

At its 2017 meeting, the COC decided to defer review of shark check sheets submitted pursuant to [Rec. 16-13](#) until 2018, as many CPCs had not submitted a check sheet as required in 2017. CPCs that have not yet submitted their check sheet are encouraged to do so as soon as possible, unless they have received confirmation from SCRS that they qualify for an exemption to this requirement pursuant to para. 2 of 16-13. Additionally, I would like to encourage CPCs to review check sheets submitted to date by other CPCs and come to the meeting prepared to actively participate in the review of these submissions. Shark check sheets submitted by CPCs on implementation of shark measures will be posted as [Appendix 3 to COC-303/2018](#). Finally, pursuant to the COC's 2017 recommendation, we will consider whether to recommend to the Commission to convert this measure to an annual requirement, such as a requirement to update earlier submissions with any changes.

Additionally, please come prepared to discuss a draft billfish check sheet developed pursuant to the COC's 2017 recommendation that the COC Chair coordinate with the Panel 4 Chair and ICCAT Secretariat to prepare a draft billfish check sheet modelled on the shark check sheet for consideration at the 2018 meeting (available as [COC-307/2018](#)).

### **Compliance table submission, review, and formatting**

In accordance with [Rec. 11-11](#) as amended by [Rec. 16-16](#), the deadline for submitting compliance tables to the Secretariat was August 15. Any changes to the compliance tables to reflect updated information must be submitted in writing to the Secretariat **before Monday, November 10 at 18:00**. Unfortunately, last year the COC was again plagued with the submission of numerous changes to the compliance tables throughout the week of the meeting, which was very disruptive to the COC's work. I do not intend to show the same leniency this year in accepting late updates.

Timely submission of compliance tables is even more critical this year, because pursuant to the COC's 2017 recommendation to the Commission, agendas for Panels 1-4 now include an item early on for the consideration of compliance tables for species under their purview, after which point the Panels will refer the tables to the Compliance Committee for appropriate action in accordance with [Rec. 11-11](#).

Additionally, CPCs are encouraged to come prepared to discuss potential ways to improve compliance table formats, in furtherance of the COC's 2017 recommendation to review the format to improve the effectiveness of these tables. In this regard, any proposals for format changes are welcome in writing in advance of the meeting.

#### **Further implementation of the ICCAT Schedule of Actions (Res. 16-17)**

At the 2017 meeting, the COC recommended that steps be taken "to further consider how to progressively implement the [Resolution by ICCAT Establishing an ICCAT Schedule of Actions to Improve Compliance and Cooperation with ICCAT Measures \(Res. 16-17\)](#)." I encourage CPCs to review Res. 16-17 and come prepared to suggest steps that ICCAT could take in furtherance of this decision.

#### **Consideration of modification of reporting deadlines**

[Rec. 16-16](#) paragraph 3 provides "The Commission shall review this Recommendation at the 2018 meeting of the Commission to consider further modifying the deadline for the Compliance Reporting Tables and, as appropriate, other deadlines relevant to the Compliance Committee's work." Based on my experience working with the new deadlines over the past two years, I recommend that the Commission consider amending [Ref. 12-13](#) so that the deadline for all parts of the Annual Report is changed to September 15. Currently, Part I is to be submitted to the SCRS one week before the start of the SCRS Plenary Session, and the complete Annual Report (Parts I and Part II) is to be submitted by October 1. The current due date does not provide sufficient time to the Compliance Chair and Secretariat staff to compile and review these extensive documents and in turn prepare and circulate the Compliance Summary Tables by the deadline of three weeks before the Annual Meeting as called for in Rec. 16-22. Additionally, synching up the deadline for both parts of the Annual Report will help reduce the administrative delays that can be caused by the piecemeal submission of the reports, which is common under the current deadlines.

#### **Other priority matters**

If CPCs have recommendations on other areas for the COC to prioritize, I welcome that input as far in advance of the meeting as possible. I also look forward to input on prioritization from the Friends of the Chair representatives.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.



Derek Campbell