

Original: French

**LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF THE WORKING GROUP ON SPORT AND RECREATIONAL FISHERIES**

Mr. Raul Delgado  
ICCAT Chairman

Chairman,

We can see from the documents, in particular the draft recommendation presented by Canada "to further strengthen the recovery plans for blue and white marlin stocks, to request that the SCRS develop an inventory of sport fishing activities in collaboration with organisations such as IGFA and the Billfish Foundation so as to establish a list of countries and, if possible, ports located in the area of the ICCAT Commission, where sport fishing activities are known to interact with billfish".

We should also recall that a working group for this fishery was established following the regular meeting of the Commission held in 2009, in Recife, Brazil.

In addition, last year, at the Commission meeting held in Marakesh, Morocco, CPCs strongly supported revival of this group, and the decision was taken.

It would be useful, Mr. Chair, to also recall that during its first meeting the working group proposed the programme and guidelines below:

- Collect from CPCs detailed, complete and reliable data on sport fisheries for all the species managed by ICCAT.
- Development of a standardised methodology for data collection on a proposal from the SCRS.
- Development of a definition for sport and recreational fisheries.
- Record mechanisms implemented by CPCs nationally to oversee and monitor their sport and recreational fisheries.
- Review the different management measures and controls which could be adapted at ICCAT level.

It is also important to note that from an economic and environmental point of view, this fishery, in which several hundred million fishers participate, is vitally important.

Sound functioning of this working group could contribute significantly to ICCAT management.

Please accept the assurances of our highest considerations.

Dubrovnik, 14 November 2018

Chair of the working group

Mr. Abdoulaye DIOUF

(signed)