INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

COMMISSION INTERNATIONAL POUR LA CONSERVATION DES THONIDES

ICCAT CICTA CICAA

COMISIÓN INTERNACIONAL PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DEL ATÚN ATLÁNTICO

ICCAT-SALIDA
Nº 6574
DATE 18 SEPT 2019

Madrid, 18 September 2019

Mr. A. Jessen
Head of Unit, European Commission
DG Mare B 2
Rue Joseph II, 99
1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

SUBJECT: LETTER ON COMPLIANCE ISSUES

Dear Mr. Jessen,

On behalf of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), I am writing to inform you that, at its 21st Special meeting (12-19 November 2018, Dubrovnik, Croatia), the Commission noted certain reporting and implementation deficiencies for the European Union regarding ICCAT requirements, which are listed below and in the attached response template.

Specifically, based on Compliance Committee (COC) review of the Secretariat Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research, the 2018 Secretariat's Report to the Compliance Committee, and other available information, the Committee noted the following:

- Rec. 16-05: Late submission of SWO-MED vessel list for EU-Croatia.
- Rec. 17-07: Deadline of one week for caging declarations often not respected. Some caging carried out after 15 August.
- Rec. 11-20: Some BCD Annual Reports received late.
- Rec. 17-09: Some eBCD requests are followed-up late by EU-Administrators entailing pending requests for several days in the eBCD system.
- Rec. 17-07, 16-05 and 12-07: Inspection reports received late.
- Rec. 14-07: No Access agreements reported, but previous reports show agreements until 2020 and also reported by Liberia, Morocco and Senegal.
- Rec. 17-07: EU-Portugal BFT Other vessels over 15 m did not report any VMS messages.
- Rec. 17-07: Possible overharvest of bluefin tuna.

Lack of full implementation of ICCAT requirements can undermine the work of the Commission in fulfilling the Convention's objectives. Late or incomplete reporting causes difficulties for the Secretariat in preparing documents for the Commission and reduces the effectiveness and efficiency of the COC and other ICCAT bodies. The lists of reporting requirements, the relevant reporting forms (such as ST09 or the Guidelines for Annual Reports), and ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions are published annually on the ICCAT web site at:

https://www.iccat.int/en/SubmitCOMP.html
https://www.iccat.int/en/submitSTAT.html
https://www.iccat.int/en/RecRes.asp

The Commission requests the European Union to reply to this letter no later than **18 October 2019,** and that the attached template be included (preferably submitted as an MS Word document) to indicate the actions taken by the European Union to rectify the deficiencies indicated.

If you have any questions about the issues raised in this letter, including a request for a more detailed explanation of the issues, please do not hesitate to contact me and the Secretariat at info@iccat.int.

I would also like to express my regret that due to serious health issues, I was unable to send this letter sooner. However, my recovery is going well and I remain fully committed, and am now fully available, to help ensure that the COC continues to build on its recent progress at this year's annual meeting.

In thanking you for your attention to these important matters, let me express to you the assurances of my highest consideration.

Derek Campbell
Compliance Committee Chair

cc: M. Delgado, *Commission Chair*

COMPLIANCE LETTER RESPONSE TEMPLATE

2018 Commission Meeting			
CPC:EUROPEAN UNION			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	**SPECIFIC ELEMENT**	**REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN**	**DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)**
Response to COC Chair letter from previous year: **Yes**			
MCS Measures	Rec. 16-05: Late submission of SWO-MED vessel list for EU-Croatia.		
	Rec. 17-07: Deadline of one week for caging declarations often not respected. Some caging carried out after 15 August.		
	Rec. 11-20: Some BCD reports received late.		
	Rec. 17-09: Some eBCD requests are followed-up late by EU-Administrators entailing pending requests for several days in the eBCD system.		
	Rec. 17-07; 16-05 and 12-07: Inspection reports received late.		
	Rec. 14-07: No Access agreements reported, but previous reports show agreements until 2020 and also reported by Liberia, Morocco and Senegal.		

	EU-Portugal BFT Other vessels over 15 m did not report any VMS messages.		
Catch limits/quotas	Possible overharvest of bluefin tuna.		
Other issues	E-BFT issues under investigation		