INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L

ICCAT CICTA CICAA

COMISIÓN INTERNACIONAL PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DEL ATÚN ATLÁNTICO

ICCAT-SALIDA
Nº 6574
DATE 18 SEPT 2019

Madrid, 18 September 2019

Mrs. Kadijatu Jalloh
Director of Fisheries and MArine Resources
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
Office of the Permanent Secretary
Youyi Building, 7th Floor
Freetown Brookfields
SIERRA LEONE

SUBJECT: LETTER LIFTING IDENTIFICATION AND ON REPORTING ISSUES REGARDING COMPLIANCE IN 2018

Dear Mrs. Jalloh,

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 decided to lift the identification of Sierra Leone under ICCAT's Trade Measures Recommendation 06-13, noting some improvement in data submission by Sierra Leone, but also noted certain reporting and implementation deficiencies for Sierra Leone 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:

- No Annual Report submitted: 2018 was the seventh year in a row this report was not submitted.
- Task I data for artisanal fisheries were received in incorrect format.
- No Task II data were submitted.
- Rec. 16-14: No national scientific observer programme data (through form ST09) received or alternative measures.
- Rec. 16-13: No shark check sheet submitted.
- Rec. 17-08: No response provided to requirement to submit N-SMA catch data.

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 would like to remind you that Sierra Leone can request assistance in data collection and reporting from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), from other ICCAT CPCs and from the ICCAT Secretariat, including a request for financial assistance from the Data Funds established by the *Resolution by ICCAT on Improvements in Data Collection and Quality Assurance* [Res. 03-21], and from other available funds.

The Commission requests Sierra Leone to reply to this letter no later than **18 October 2019** and to include the attached template (preferably submitted as an MS Word document) to indicate the actions taken by Sierra Leone 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: SIERRA LEONE			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	**SPECIFIC ELEMENT**	**REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN**	**DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)**
Response to COC Chair letter from previous year: **replied to letter of identification**			
Annual Report	No Annual Report: seven years in a row without receiving it.		
Statistical data reporting	Task I data for artisanal fisheries received in incorrect format. No Task II data received.		
	Rec. 16-14: No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received or alternative measures.		
MCS Measures	Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted.		
	Rec. 17-08: No response to request for SMA catches.		