INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

COMMISSION INTERNATIONA 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

Dr. Abdel Latif Ali
General Director
General Commission for Fisheries Resources,
Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform
Lattakia - Jableh
SYRIA

SUBJECT: LETTER ON COMPLIANCE ISSUES

Dear Dr. Latif Ali,

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 Syria 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. 16-14: No national scientific observer programme data (through form ST09) were received.
- Rec. 17-07: Minor delay in submitting authorised BFT port list.
- Recs. 15-05, 10-09, and 11-10: Responses appear insufficient.
- Rec. 16-13: No legally binding domestic measures adopted to implement shark requirements.
- Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports has been submitted.

Lack of full implementation of ICCAT requirements can undermine the work of the Commission in fulfilling the Convention's objectives. And 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 the annual report), 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 Syria 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 Syria 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 Syria 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: SYRIA			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	**SPECIFIC ELEMENT**	**REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN**	**DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)**
Response to COC Chair letter from previous year: **replied**			
Annual Report			
Statistical data reporting	Rec. 16-14: No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.		
MCS Measures	17-07: Minor delay in submitting authorised BFT port list.		
	Recs. 15-05, 10-09 and 11-10: responses may be insufficient.		
	Rec. 16-13: No legally binding measures to implement shark requirements.		
	Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports.		