INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

COMMISSION INTERNATIONAL 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. Benjamin F.S. Jr Tabios
Assistant Director for Administrative Servicies
Bureau of Fisheries & Aquatic resources
3/F PCA Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman
Quezon City
THE PHILIPPINES

SUBJECT: LETTER ON COMPLIANCE ISSUES

Dear Mr. Tabios,

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 Philippines regarding ICCAT requirements, which are listed below and attached in the 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 was received.
- No Statistical data were received
- Rec. 16-13: Shark check sheet was submitted late (during 2018 Annual meeting), and responses appeared insufficient in some cases.
- Rec. 17-08: Response to request for SMA catches sent late (during meeting).
- Rec. 16-01: BET quarterly reports submitted late (during meeting).
- Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports has been submitted.

Furthermore, the Commission supported implementation of the provisions of Rec. 11-15 to the Philippines which entails that the Philippines is prohibited from retaining any ICCAT species from 11 January 2019 which is the date of the letter of the ICCAT Secretariat communicating to the Philippines the prohibition [ICCAT Salida nº 199 of 11 January 2019].

In addition, the Committee noted that the Philippines did not reply to its letter of concern of 2017, to which a response at least 30 days before the Commission meeting was requested.

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 the Philippines 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 the Philippines 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 the Philippines 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: THE PHILIPPINES			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	**SPECIFIC ELEMENT**	**REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN**	**DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)**
Response to COC Chair letter from previous year: **did not reply**			
Annual Report	No Annual Report received.		
Statistical data reporting	No Statistical data received.		
MCS Measures	Rec. 16-13: Shark measures implementation check sheet submitted late (during meeting), and responses may be insufficient in some cases.		
	Rec. 17-08: Response to request for SMA catches sent late (during meeting).		
	Rec. 16-01: BET quarterly reports submitted late (during meeting).		
	Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports.		