INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE

COMISIÓN INTERNACIONAL PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DEL ATÚN ATLÁNTICO

ICCAT-SALIDA
Nº 6574
DATE 18 SEPT 2019

Madrid, 18 September 2019

Hon. Emma Metieh Glassco
Director General
National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA)
P.O. Box 10-90100
1000 Monrovia 10
LIBERIA

SUBJECT: LETTER ON COMPLIANCE ISSUES

Dear Ms. Metieh,

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 Liberia 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:

- Statistical data were submitted late.
- Rec. 16-14: No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) were received.
- Rec. 17-08: No response to provided regarding the requirement to submit N-SMA catch data.
- Rec. 15-05: Response may be insufficient.
- Rec. 16-13: Contradiction in response - no vessels targeting sharks but small-scale fishers target sharks. No legally binding domestic measures adopted to implement species specific measures.
- Rec. 16-15: Transhipment report received late.
- Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports submitted.
- Overharvest of BUM in Task I data but no Compliance table (Rec. 11-11) was submitted.

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 Liberia 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 Liberia 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 Liberia 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: LIBERIA			
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	Statistical data submitted late.		
	Rec. 16-14: No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.		
MCS Measures	Rec. 17-08: No response to request for SMA catches.		
	Rec. 15-05: Response may be insufficient.		
	Rec. 16-13: Contradiction in response - no vessels targeting sharks but small-scale fishers target sharks. No legally binding measures taken to implement species specific measures.		
	Rec. 16-15: Transhipment report received late.		
	Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports.		
Catch limits/quotas	Overharvest of BUM in Task I data but no Compliance table (Rec. 11-11) submitted.		
Other issues			