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

Valerie Lanza
Director of the BHSFU
Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit
Ministry of Finance, Government of Belize
Suite 204, Marina Towers, Newtown Barracks
Belize City,
BELIZE

SUBJECT: LETTER REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF ICCAT REQUIREMENTS IN 2018

Dear Ms. Lanza,

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 Belize regarding ICCAT requirements, which are listed below and are 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:

- Statistics and other reporting requirements may be incomplete as it was unclear if catches taken in Belize's waters, including from recreational and artisanal fisheries, and information on Belize's implementation of ICCAT requirements with respect to fishing in Belize's waters are included, as a number of Belize's responses in its Annual Report refer to implementation on the high seas.

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 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 Belize 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 Belize 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 Belize 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: BELIZE			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	**SPECIFIC ELEMENT**	**REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN**	**DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)**
Statistical data reporting	Statistics and other reporting may be incomplete as unclear as to whether catches and implementation of ICCAT requirements in fisheries in Belize's waters are included.		