

REQUESTS FOR COOPERATING STATUS

Two requests for cooperating status have been received in 2019; Colombia and Georgia. In addition, Costa Rica have explicitly requested renovation of cooperating status, although such request is not required annually.

Colombia: The cooperating status of Colombia was withdrawn in 2013 due to lack of reporting and lack of response to the Chair's letters. Colombia has addressed many of these points in their attached application.

Georgia: The letter or application from Georgia is attached. The Secretariat responded to Georgia on 16 August requesting additional information as required by Rec. 03-20. At the time of writing, the information had not been received.

Costa Rica: The letter requesting renewal is attached.

Bolivia, Chinese Taipei and Suriname currently enjoy cooperating status. Although no specific request for renewal has been received, the Secretariat has received, at minimum, annual reports from these CPCs. Any missing information will be indicated in **COC_308/2019**.

1 October 2019 (2:36 PM)

COLOMBIA

S-GAE-19-037877

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Columbia – Directorate of Economic, Social and Environmental Affairs, presents its compliments to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, in connection with the “International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas”, which was adopted on 14 May 1966 and has been in force internationally from 21 March 1969.

In this respect, and in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on criteria for attaining the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity in ICCAT* (Recommendation No. 03-20), I would like to express the interest of the Colombian State in obtaining the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting party of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

For the Government of the Republic of Columbia, it is vitally important to collaborate with the different regional fisheries management organizations, in order to ensure sustainable use of fisheries resources such as tuna and tuna-like species.

Therefore, and based on the requirements established in Commission Recommendation 03-20, I have attached the communication of the National Authority of Aquaculture and Fisheries, AUNAP-DG-0171-2019 of 14 August 2019, whereby it expresses its interest in obtaining the status and submits for the consideration of the Commission the information listed below:

1. Description of Columbia’s fishery activities in the area covered by the Commission; 2. Ordering and management measures in the Caribbean Sea; 3. Commitment of the Government of Columbia with the conservation and management measures adopted in ICCAT and; 4. Commitment of the Government of Columbia to report fisheries information in the ICCAT area.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Columbia – Directorate of Economic, Social and Environmental Affairs – takes this opportunity to reiterate to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Bogota, D.C., 20 August 2019

To the Honourable
INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

1 October 2019 (2:36 PM)

AUNAP
NATIONAL AUTHORITY
OF AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES

AUNAP – DG – 0170 – 2019

BOGOTA D.C. 14 August 2019

Doctor,
Carolina Díaz Acosta
Director of Economic Social and Environmental Matters
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Subject: Request for the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party of ICCAT

Dear Director,

Regarding Columbia's participation in the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), I would like to inform you that the National Authority of Aquaculture and Fisheries (AUNAP) is interested in obtaining the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party of ICCAT.

AUNAP considers that this is a relevant request in view of the following:

1. The national tuna fleet fishes exclusively in the eastern Pacific Ocean and its activity is regulated by the IATTC. The IATTC has a regional register of vessels which is closed and while Colombia has been requesting allocation of a quota to increase its fishing capacity since 2002, this has not been possible and we do not foresee obtaining in the near future or the medium term additional capacity to increase the Colombian tuna fleet operating in the eastern Pacific Ocean.
2. Recent studies on the current state of the tropical tuna populations in the eastern Pacific Ocean suggest that in 2020 additional conservation measures will need to be adopted such as a significant increase in days of closure. At the last IATTC meeting, the Commission's scientific staff mentioned that in view of the continuous increase in planting and setting on floating objects by some fleets, it is likely that a closure of 111 days will be required from 2020. This extended closure would mean that the business would be inviable for the Colombian tuna fleet, and for the processing plants in Cartagena and Barranquilla.
3. Columbia is a coastal country of the Atlantic Ocean and as such has full rights to fish for tuna in the area covered by ICCAT. Unlike the IATTC, where fishing capacity is regulated through control on entry of vessels and closures, ICCAT regulates fishing effort mainly through quotas for yellowfin and bigeye tuna. If Colombia is granted the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party of ICCAT, national vessels would have to obtain a fishing permit and quotas to fish for tuna in the Atlantic. This would be very advantageous for our country. Not only would it allow existing vessels to fish in the Atlantic, but it would also open the door to flagging new tuna vessels in Colombia, which is not possible in the eastern Pacific Ocean.
4. At the ICCAT annual meeting which will be held in November 2019, the current overall quota scheme for bigeye and yellowfin tuna will be reviewed. Foreseeably, there will be a shift towards to a quota per country scheme, which implies that the overall quota will be distributed among the current member countries and cooperating non-members. On this basis, we consider that Columbia should actively participate in these negotiations so that Columbia is not left out of the quota distribution, as was the case in 2002 in the IATTC, since the country was not an IATTC member at that time.

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5. The status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party of ICCAT holds great benefits for the country in terms fishing activity development in the Atlantic, which are not limited to allocation of quotas for tuna fishing. ICCAT carries out many lines of research directed at fishing activity in the Atlantic and this information would be of great use to the country. In addition, it has support and institutional capacity-building programmes for developing countries which would be very useful for AUNAP and for the country.
6. The status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party does not entail the payment of annual fees to ICCAT. The country would only acquire a series of commitments to submit data on fishing effort and catch in the Atlantic, and to comply with the fisheries management regulations defined by the Commission.

Having understood the responsibilities associated with this request, and given the short time frame available for its submission, we will submit officially all the information required under paragraphs 3 and 4 of Recommendation 03-20.

In light of the above, we respectfully request that consultations with the relevant bodies of the Colombian government take place regarding the feasibility of this request, and if it is approved and is advisable, that correspondence be sent to the ICCAT Secretariat expressing Columbia's interest, with the documentation attached, for the purpose of attaining Co-operator status. This correspondence must be sent by **18 August 2019** to Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel, ICCAT Executive Secretary (camille.manel@iccat.int). In accordance with Recommendation 03-20 of this Commission, any request for obtaining the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party must be sent to the Executive Secretary 90 days before the ICCAT annual meeting, which will be held this year from 18 November.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

NICOLÁS DEL CASTILLO PIEDRAHITA
General Director – AUNAP
National Authority of Aquaculture and Fisheries

1 October 2019 (2:36 PM)

AUNAP
NATIONAL AUTHORITY
OF AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES

AUNAP – DG – 0171 – 2019

BOGOTA D.C. 14 August 2019

Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel
Executive Secretary
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
Madrid, Spain

Subject: Columbia's request to obtain the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party of ICCAT

Dear Mr. Manel,

Please accept the best regards of Columbia's National Authority of Aquaculture and Fisheries (AUNUP).

I would like to take this opportunity to hereby express to you and to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), Columbia's interest in acquiring the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, in accordance with the provisions of Commission Recommendation 03-20.

For the Government of Columbia, it is vitally important to collaborate with the different regional fisheries management organizations as a mechanism for ensuring sustainable use of fisheries resources such as tuna and tuna-like species. From this perspective, Columbia has been a member of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) since 2007 and the Colombian-flagged tuna fleet, whose operating area is limited to the eastern Pacific Ocean is regulated by both the Colombian regulations and by the management and ordering provisions established by the IATTC. Given that Columbia is a coastal State of the ICCAT Convention area, it is vitally important for the National Government to establish a strong and lasting connection with this Commission. On this basis, I kindly address you for the purpose of securing the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party for Columbia. As per the requirements detailed in Recommendation 03-20, I have herewith attached data on the history of the Colombian fisheries in the Convention area, the current management and ordering measures in the Atlantic area, and the commitment of the National Authority of Aquaculture and Fisheries to report to the ICCAT Secretariat in a timely manner all the information on future research programmes in the Convention area, the adoption of additional conservation and ordering measures, and the fisheries statistical data required by the Commission.

1. Description of Columbia's fishery activities in the area covered by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

Columbia's Caribbean coast is divided into the Continental Coast with a surface area of 1,600 kilometres from Cabo Tiburón on the border with Panama, to Columbia's border with Venezuela in La Guajira. The Caribbean coast is located in the northeast of the country and the inland area is comprised of the departments of San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina.

In the area of the continental Caribbean, fishing in Columbia is mainly small scale or artisanal and focuses on resources such as spiny lobster or snapper. In the very limited industrial fishery in the area, baby shrimp is fished in shallow water, and tuna is fished using longline. Catches are taken by foreign vessels affiliated to Colombian firms and with access agreements issued by the National Authority of Aquaculture and Fisheries based on fishing patents.

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In the inland Caribbean area (San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina Archipelago), artisanal and industrial fisheries are developed that target spiny lobster, queen conch and some pelagic and demersal species of commercial interest. Lobster fishing is carried out by artisanal fishers, as well as foreign-flagged industrial vessels that are linked to Colombian firms and unload their products in Colombian ports. Regarding the species of fish taken in the area, there is a small fleet of artisanal vessels that target small and medium pelagics. There is also a small fleet of artisanal vessels that target demersal species, mainly the different species of conch. San Andrés island has both artisanal and industrial (lobster) fisheries, while, in Providencia and Santa Catalina, fishers are primarily artisanal.

Landings of marine fish in the Colombian Caribbean are monitored by the National Authority of Aquaculture and Fisheries (AUNAP) on the basis of a Convention with the Universidad del Magdalena for implementation of the Colombian Fisheries Statistical Service (SEPEC). The data from SEPEC for the Colombian Caribbean indicate that a broad variety of bony fish are being caught, comprising 215 taxa and 201 species which correspond to 90.6% of the catches. Cartilaginous fish, which represent 5.24% of catches, comprise 13 shark species and 8 species of ray. The remainder of catches are composed of 9 species of crustacean (3.3% of total catch) and 7 species of mollusc (0.86% of total catches) (source SEPEC).

The main species of fish landed in the Colombian Caribbean are blue runner (*Caranx crysos*), parassi mullet (*Mugil incilis*), common jack (*Caranx hippos*), yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), southern red snapper (*Lutjanus purpureus*), Gafftopsail catfish (*Bagre marinus*), white grunt (*Haemulon plumieri*), lane snapper (*Lutjanus synagris*), guachanche barracuda (*Sphyraena guachancho*), little tunny (*Euthynnus alletteratus*), Atlantic thread herring (*Opisthonema oglinum*), common snook (*Centropomus undecimalis*), Black grouper (*Mycteroperca bonaci*), king mackerel (*Scomberomorus cavalla*), amberjacks (*Seriola* spp.), rainbow runner (*Elagatis bippinulata*), largehead hairtail (*Trichiurus lepturus*), serra Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus brasiliensis*), horse-eye jack (*Caranx latus*), among others. Almost all of these landings correspond to the artisanal fishery. It is important to mention that significant landings of tuna in the Caribbean are reported to the SEPEC, but they correspond almost exclusively to landings in the ports of Cartagena and Barranquilla (Caribbean) from Colombian-flagged tuna vessels and foreign-flagged tuna vessels affiliated to Colombian firms that operate in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

Columbia does not have a national flagged-tuna fleet operating in the Caribbean Sea or other areas inside the ICCAT area. The 14 Columbia-flagged purse seine vessels operate exclusively in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) and are subject to all the Colombian regulations that are in force, as well as the IATTC and the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP). The characteristics of these Colombian tuna vessels that operate in the eastern Pacific Ocean are detailed on the following page:

<https://www.iattc.org/VesselRegister/VesselList.aspx?List=RegVessels&Lang=SPN#Columbia>

Regarding the industrial tuna and tuna-like species fishery in the ICCAT area, Columbia has an access agreement with two foreign-flagged longline vessels that catch species covered by ICCAT. The characteristics of these two vessels are described below:

Name: Haleluya	Name: Koyo Maru No. 7
Flag: Tanzania	Flag: Japan
Net register: 25.1 MT	Net register: 244 MT
Length: 24.5 m	Length: 49.39 m
Beam: 5.0 m	Beam: 8.8 m
Engine power: 600 HP	Engine power: 950 HP
Duration of patent: 26 July 2020	Duration of patent: 5 August 2020
Authorised fishery: Tuna and other fish	Authorised fishery: Tuna and other fish

Since these two vessels operate in both Colombian waters and waters of other countries, the catch and fishing effort data of these two foreign-flagged vessels with an access agreement in Columbia, are submitted to ICCAT by the flag States, which in this case are Tanzania and Japan.

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2. Ordering and management measures in the Caribbean Sea

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR) establishes annually overall fishing quotas for the different species targeted. For 2019, the MADR issued Resolution 000403 of 2018 whereby it established the following fishing quotas for the Caribbean Sea.

Resource	2019 quota (tons)
Shallow-water baby shrimp	364
Tuna	4,000
Shark*	125
Continental Caribbean blue crab	500
Bony fish**	2650
CGSM blue crab	714
Whole lobster	80

*Only for the artisanal fishery.

**Consolidated for the demersals and pelagics group.

As can be seen, the tuna quotas (including all the species) allocated for the Colombian Caribbean Sea are only 4,000 t, which must be distributed between the industrial and artisanal fishery.

3. Commitment of the Government of Columbia with the conservation and management measures adopted in ICCAT

The Government of Columbia, through the National Authority of Aquaculture and Fisheries – AUNAP undertakes to take the necessary administrative measures so that its fishing vessels comply with the current regulations adopted by ICCAT. Columbia already has experience in the management of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and each year takes measures for the management and ordering of its fishing vessels operating in the eastern Pacific Ocean. The conservation, management and ordering measures adopted by Columbia within the framework of the IATTC include temporary space time closures for the tropical tunas fishery, restrictions on the use of deployments, ordering measures for the conservation of sharks, rays and chimaera, protection plans for sea turtles and the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP), among others. Columbia undertakes to abide by the ICCAT management and ordering measures and will duly inform the Secretariat of the administrative actions taken to ensure that Colombian vessels and foreign vessels with an access agreement in Colombian waters comply with the conservation and management measures of the Commission.

4. Commitment of the Government of Columbia to report fisheries information in the ICCAT area

The Government of Columbia is aware of the importance of reporting fishery catch and effort information of the species covered by ICCAT. Between 2010 and 2012, when Columbia obtained the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party of ICCAT, the country had great difficulty in reporting the information required by the Commission and maintaining active communication between the national Government and the Commission Secretariat. This was due to a temporary situation since, a process was commenced in 2011 to restructure the fisheries institutions and the staff responsible for management relations with ICCAT left office. Today, the National Authority of Aquaculture and Fisheries can monitor compliance with national and international fisheries regulations, as well as an area of international affairs in charge of communications with the different regional fisheries management organisations such as IATTC and ICCAT, reporting the necessary information to the organisations.

Taking into account the above, Columbia is in a position to ensure compliance with the requirements established by ICCAT, which is why we have decided to re-apply for the status of Non-Cooperating Party.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

NICOLÁS DEL CASTILLO PIEDRAHITA, General Director – AUNAP

1 October 2019 (2:36 PM)

GEORGIA



საქართველოს გარემოს დაცვისა და სოფლის მეურნეობის მინისტრი
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA

N 7611/01
01/08/2019

7611-01-2-201908010957



To: Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel
Executive Secretary
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

Dear Mr. Manel,

On behalf of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia and myself, let me express my sincere compliments to the International Commission for the Conservation of Tuna Species and You personally.

We highly appreciate the work of the Commission in conservation and management of Atlantic tuna species. While observing a constantly growing demand on markets, simultaneously the population number is drastically decreasing. We would like to welcome the efforts of the Commission in establishing uncompromising measures and recommendations directed to safeguarding of these species.

Let us inform you, that Georgia actively cooperates with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean and since 2014, we have obtained a status of Cooperating, non-Party Country. In 2018, we signed a Letter of Agreement with the FAO/GFCM on technical assistance in order to comply with general requirements and standards of the EU and GFCM in fishery sector. In 2019, we received a proposal from the GFCM to become a party and for the time being this proposal is under consideration within the Ministry.

With this letter, we would like to consider the possibilities for Georgia to cooperate with the ICCAT and to obtain a status of cooperating non-contracting party in accordance with the Recommendation by ICCAT on Criteria for Attaining the Status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity in ICCAT.

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Once again, please accept the assurances of highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Levan Davitashvili
Minister



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COSTA RICA

INCOPESCA

San José, 25 September 2019
PESJ-351-2019

Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel
Executive Secretary
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
Madrid, Spain (info@iccat.int)

Mr. Executive Secretary,

I have the pleasure to address you, extend my regards to you and reiterate the interest of the Government of Costa Rica in maintaining the status granted in 2016 by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas as a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party.

To date, the Government of Costa Rica has made the necessary efforts to meet the requirements and honour the commitments arising from the Commission's resolutions and recommendations, and accordingly, we would like the necessary steps to be taken to maintain country's status at the 26th Regular Meeting of ICCAT, in accordance with the provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on criteria for attaining the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity in ICCAT* (Rec. 03-20).

Due to tax and budgetary limitations, we are unable to appoint from our capital a delegation to attend the 26th Regular Meeting of ICCAT, however, we are taking the appropriate steps through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, so that our Diplomatic Mission in the Kingdom of Spain assesses the possibility of Costa Rica participating in the meeting referred to above, which will be held in Palma de Mallorca, from 18 to 25 November.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed and sealed)

Daniel Carrasco Sánchez
Executive Chair
Costa Rican Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture - INCOPESCA