Original: English

RESPONSES FROM <u>NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES (NCPs) TO</u> COC CHAIR' LETTERS REGARDING COMPLIANCE (Received before 5 November 2019)

Four letters were sent to non-Contracting Parties following the 2018 Commission meeting.

| NCP | Main concern | Reply received |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Dominica | Continued ID under trade measures, lack of response in 2018. | Brief response received 23 October 2019 |
| Gibraltar | Reiterate request information on catch data and BFT controls. | No reply received. No data received. |
| St. Kitts & Nevis | Reiterate request for information on fisheries management regimes. | No reply to letter, but Task I and Task II sent. |
| St. Lucia | Reiterate request for information on fisheries management regimes. | Reply received 24 October 2019. |

DOMINICA

Attn D. Campbell

I seek to assist our department to set a clear path for a meaning engagement as regards ICCAT's most recent request for fisheries data.

Please accept our kind interest in that regard.

Sincerely

Riviere Sebastien Chief Fisheries Officer - Dominica

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Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Co-operatives

5th Floor, Sir Stanislaus James Building Castries, Saint Lucia



Communications on this subject should be addressed to: THE HONOURABLE MINISTER and the following Number quoted:



October 19, 2016

Mr. Derek Campbell COC Chair International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Secretariat Madrid, SPAIN

Dear Mr. Campbell

Reference is made to your correspondence dated September 18, 2019 on the Subject Request For Further Cooperation With ICCAT.

The Government of Saint Lucia wishes to express its commitment and will make every effort to continue providing data on relevant fish species to ICCAT in a timely manner in order to contribute to species stock assessments globally. The National Fisheries Authority will consider the submission to the Commission, data for species of relevance to ICCAT in the appropriate form as recommended.

Furthermore, the Government of Saint Lucia reaffirms its commitment to the long-term sustainability of marine resources for food security and to support livelihood opportunities. This Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) of 2006 encompasses both conservation and development issues. It highlights goals; guiding principles; legal and institutional framework; identification of the main stakeholders; fisheries issues and also outlines specific management plans for offshore large pelagic fisheries. This includes conservation and management measures for tuna and tuna-like species and other species subject to ICCAT conservation and management measures, including billfish and pelagic shark species. Although it is a challenge to establish a catch limit of one large pelagic species due to the multi-species and artisanal nature of fisheries in Saint Lucia, the Government continues to implement additional management measures for the large pelagic fishery, including: -

- Requirement that Fish Processing Establishment be licensed and various conditions instituted
- Control the deployment of Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD) especially in areas known to improve blue marlin catchability
- 3. Prohibit the increase in number of Fish Aggregating Devices deployed

4. Implement education and outreach programs

5. Implement marketing strategy to increase value-added capacity of relevant species

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Notably, the Government has also undertaken the development of the FAD Management Plan (FAD-MP). A draft plan has been completed and is currently going through further consultation with relevant stakeholders. The FAD-MP outlines management objectives and implementation strategies so that resource management, environmental, socio-economic and technical issues are given proper consideration in the FAD programme. It provides a framework for the conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources available near FADs and the process by which the FAD fisheries is to be managed from 2018 to 2023.

Finally, the Government of Saint Lucia is cognizant of Articles 63 (2) and 64 of UNCLOS, which provides for the obligation of States to cooperate for the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks either directly or through the appropriate sub regional or regional fisheries management arrangements. Consequently, the Government continues to foster dialogue at all levels regarding Saint Lucia's consideration to becoming a cooperating Party or a Contracting Party to ICCAT. We recognize the need for adequate representation of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) like Saint Lucia during the decision making process of ICCAT, taking into account the economic vulnerabilities and the heavy reliance on living natural resources for its economic development.

Please accept the assurance of my highest regard as we continue to support the long-term sustainable conservation of all marine resources.

Yours Sincerely Ezechiel Joseph

Ezechiel Joseph MINISTER

ee:

Mr. R. Delgado, Commission Chair Ms. S. Singh-Renton, CARICOM Mr. Milton Haughton - CRFM

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