

Original: English

GHANA RESPONSE ON CAPACITY LIMITS AS REGARDS TO RECOMMENDATION 16-01

Ghana as member of ICCAT is enjoined to conform to all regulations and recommendations for the judicious management of shared fishery resources in the Atlantic Ocean.

Ghana was noted in the early 2000's to have increased her capacity limits of her vessels in terms of numbers and GRT against recommendations based on SCRS stock assessments conducted earlier on the principal tuna species. In the said recommendations, Ghana was to reduce her effort exerted in the fishery by a downward reduction of fishing units in terms of the numbers which also invariably means her gross registered tonnages.

Since 2012, Ghana has cautiously delisted over 15 of her vessels to reduce the excessive capacities exerted on the fishery (See Table 1 below).

	<i>ICCATSerialNo</i>	<i>NatRegNo</i>	<i>VesselName</i>	<i>VesselNamePrev</i>	<i>FlagVesCode</i>
1	AT000GHA00046	AFT 78	IVONE I		GHA
2	AT000GHA00047	AFT 79	IVONE II		GHA
3	AT000GHA00048	AFT 80	IVONE III		GHA
4	AT000GHA00049	AFT 81	IVONE IV		GHA
5	AT000GHA00051	AFT 61	DRAGO		GHA
6	AT000GHA00002	AFT 5	AFKO 305		GHA
7	AT000GHA00003	AFT 6	AFKO 306		GHA
8	AT000GHA00004	AFT 8	AFKO 308		GHA
9	AT000GHA00006	AFT 29	VICTORY	AFKO 313	GHA
10	AT000GHA00023	AFT 49	JITO 1		GHA
11	AT000GHA00041	AFT 65	SOUTH SEA		GHA
12	AT000GHA00042	AFT 66	NORTH SEA 1		GHA
13	AT000GHA00043	AFT 67	WEST SEA		GHA
14	AT000GHA00044	AFT 48	ELI	JITO 5	GHA
15	AT000GHA00053	AFT 32	EDEM	LAUREL	GHA
16	AT000GHA00055	AFT 41	NATURE	SINFIN TRES	GHA
17	AT000GHA00064	AFT 99	OWUOMPESIKA		GHA
18	AT000GHA00052	AFT60	DELALI	LAURENT	GHA

All of these vessels which are obsolete are delisted from our register at the Ghana Maritime Authority. A few of such vessels are still in operation which in future may be replaced.

Recommendation 16-01, paragraph (12)(c) provides as follows:

"Ghana shall be allowed to change the number of its vessel by gear type within its capacity limits communicated to ICCAT in 2005 on the basis of two baitboats for one purse seine vessel. Such change must be approved by the Commission. To that end, Ghana shall notify a comprehensive and detailed capacity management plan to the commission at least 90 days before the Annual meeting".

In pursuant of the above provision, Ghana has maintained her fleet size for the past 5 years at 17 purse seiners and 20 baitboats within her limits and has been monitoring her catches within allocated quotas. Ghana thus, in compliance with the provisions in Recommendation 16-01 (12) (c) invokes the said provision, effective 2019 to replace 2 of her old decrepit baitboats for 1 purse seine of the same capacity in terms of the gross registered tonnage.

It is to be placed on record that in 2011, Ghana submitted a comprehensive plan and in pursuant of the above a revised comprehensive management plan shall be submitted in due course.

The Plan will, as usual intensify:

- reduction in the incidence of overharvest of species especially the bigeye tuna;
- monitoring systematically levels of catches especially under FADs on quarterly basis by all fishing companies;
- enforcement of Observer programmes;
- the use of electronic devices (cameras) under the ABNJ project sustainably;
- strengthening MCS operations, among other control measure.