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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

ICCAT CICTA CICAA

COMISIÓN INTERNACIONAL PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DEL ATÚN ATLÁNTICO

Madrid, 2020

Ms. Ingrid Peters
Principal Fisheries Officer
Ministry of Agriculture
Regent & Vlissengen Roads Georgetown South America
GUYANA

SUBJECT: LETTER OF IDENTIFICATION OF GUYANA UNDER *ICCAT REC. 06-13 CONCERNING TRADE MEASURES*

Dear Ms Peters,

On behalf of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), I am writing to inform you that, at the 26th Regular meeting of ICCAT (18-26 November 2019, Palma de Mallorca, Spain), the Commission noted certain continued reporting and implementation deficiencies, as listed in the attached response template, which has resulted in the Commission identifying Guyana pursuant to ICCAT Recommendation 06-13 Concerning Trade Measures.

During the 2019 Compliance Committee meeting, Contracting Parties, and Cooperating Parties Entities and Fishing Entities (CPCs) were assessed for compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures and reporting requirements. Based on the review of the Secretariat Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research and the 2019 Secretariat's Report to the Compliance Committee and other available information, the Committee noted the following deficiencies for Guyana:

- Annual report received late Task 1 & 2 data received late.
- Some responses in annual report insufficient ("not applicable" requires explanation).
- Task I & II data received late.
- Rec. 16-14: No ST11/ST09 - observer information or data.
- Rec. 16-01: No quarterly catches of BET reported.
- Rec. 18-09: No information regarding designated ports received.
- Recs 18-05 and 18-06: Billfish and Shark check sheets received late.
- Rec. 14-07: No information from access agreements submitted.
- Rec. 01-21 & 01-22: Data from Statistical Document data indicates possible exports of southern swordfish. Guyana has no quota for this species.
- Rec. 16-16/18-07 [11-11]: Compliance tables received late. Overharvest of white marlin (WHM).
- No reply to 2019 letter from COC Chair.

Lack of full implementation of ICCAT measures 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 its Panels and Committees and reduces the effectiveness of the Compliance Committee. The lists of reporting requirements, the relevant reporting forms, 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

Of particular concern to the Commission is the continued over-harvest of white marlin are under a strict landing limits management regime and require full compliance with the measures in place. The lack of adequate clarification and explanation from Guyana, coupled with the continued overharvest and other recurring issues identified previously by the COC, led to the Commission identifying Guyana under Rec. 06-13. Please note that this identification, in accordance with the provisions of Rec. 06-13, could lead to more severe actions pursuant to future decisions of the Commission, including the adoption of non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures if insufficient actions are taken by Guyana to rectify the matter. Furthermore, the COC noted that continuing non-compliance will have bearing on ICCAT's decision at future meetings regarding whether to renew Guyana's Cooperating Non-Party status.

The Commission therefore urges Guyana to reply to this letter before **20 October 2020** and complete the attached template (preferably submitted as an MS Word document) to indicate the actions taken by Guyana to rectify the deficiencies indicated. Additional supporting information should be attached as appropriate.

For reference, below is full text of ICCAT's decision regarding Guyana approved at the 2019 Annual Meeting:

> Identification for significant recurrent WHM marlin overharvest over a number of years (landings limit of 2 t, but current adjusted landings limit of negative 165.26 t); letter also to address recurring reporting issues; no designation of ports (Rec. 18-09); implementation of requirements on national scientific observers (Rec. 16-14); late compliance tables; and noting that non-compliance has a bearing on ICCAT decision on whether to renew Guyana's Cooperating Non-Party status.
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> ***Source:*** *Addendum 1 (Draft compliance actions) to Appendix 3 (Compliance summary table) of ANNEX 9 (COC Report) in the PROCEEDINGS OF THE 26th REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION / REPORT FOR BIENNIAL PERIOD, 2018-2019, PART II(2019), Vol. 1.*
>
> *(https://www.iccat.int/Documents/BienRep/REP_EN_18-19_II-1.pdf)*

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 through the Secretariat at info@iccat.int.

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*