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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, 21 September 2020

Ms. V. Lanza
Director of High Seas Fisheries
Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit
Ministry of Finance
Government of Belize
Marina Towers - Suite 204
P.O. Box 1765, Newtown Barracks
BELIZE

SUBJECT: LETTER ON COMPLIANCE ISSUES

Dear Ms. Lanza,

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 that and that some reporting deficiencies remain unresolved. The reporting and implementation deficiencies are listed in the attached response template.

The Compliance Committee noted Belize's 2019 response letter to the COC concerning the issues raised in 2018. Notwithstanding, during its review, the Compliance Committee noted that based on Belize's letter and its responses in its Annual Report that refer to implementation of measures on the high seas, it was still unclear whether or to what extent Belize was implementing ICCAT requirements in a binding manner for vessels fishing in its national waters or whether the minimum domestic scientific observer coverage levels were being met.

With respect to implementation of ICCAT requirements in Belize's national waters, while note is taken of the fact that Belize's representative at ICCAT is from Belize's High Seas Fisheries Unit, I wish to reiterate that ICCAT requirements apply in Belize's national waters, and Belize is legally bound to implement these measures in a binding manner with respect to all vessels subject to its jurisdiction, both in Belize's waters and beyond. Failure to do so, and to even report on how its interactions with ICCAT species are managed in Belize's waters in a manner consistent with ICCAT measures, reflects non-compliance with fundamental elements of ICCAT's management regime and is inconsistent with Belize's responsibilities under international law both as an ICCAT member coastal State and flag State.

In addition, the Committee noted that some species in Task I had not been reported by the time of the Commission meeting and that a vessel had been reported for inclusion on the ICCAT Record more than 45 days retroactively.

The Commission requests Belize 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 Belize to rectify the deficiencies indicated. You are requested particularly to include in your response information on the measures taken by Belize to implement ICCAT conservation and management measures in national waters.

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.

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*