ICCAT-SALIDA
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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

Dr. Abdel Latif Ali
General Director
General Commission for Fisheries Resources
Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform
Lattakia - Jableh
SYRIA

SUBJECT: LETTER ON COMPLIANCE ISSUES

Dear Mr Latif Ali,

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 certain statistical data had been received late. The reporting and implementation deficiencies are listed in the attached response template.

The Commission notes the technical assistance requested by Syria in its response to my letter last year. If Syria wishes to discuss this matter further with the Secretariat or has specific questions to pose, I would encourage Syria to reach out to the Secretariat at info@iccat.int. Additionally, Syria's request will be taken into consideration in any future compliance missions / capacity building assistance efforts.

During the 2019 Compliance Committee meeting, Contracting 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 Syria:

- Rec. 16-14: No information or data from national scientific observer programme received.
- Rec. 18-13: No BCD annual report received
- Rec. 18-05: No billfish check sheet received
- Rec. 18-09: List of designated ports only refer to BFT, but no clarification on whether Syria allows foreign vessels to enter its ports and no list of such designated ports was submitted. Further clarification on this is requested.

Lack of full implementation of ICCAT requirements 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

The Commission requests Syria 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 Syria to rectify the deficiencies indicated.

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*