ICCAT-SALIDA
2020-09-21
S20-06465

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS
COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE
COMISIÓN INTERNACIONAL PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DEL ATÚN ATLÁNTICO

Madrid, 21 September 2020

Mr. Anders Jessen
Director
Head of Unit, European Commission
DG Mare B 2
Rue Joseph II, 99
B-1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

SUBJECT: LETTER ON COMPLIANCE ISSUES

Dear Mr. Jessen,

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 some reporting and implementation deficiencies which are listed in the attached response template.

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 the European Community:

- Some statistical data received late, see attached template for details
- Rec. 18-02/19-04: Some caging declarations received late (deadline of one week for caging declarations not respected)
- Rec. 18-02/19-04: Non transmission of VMS messages from BFT Other/Catching vessels over 15 m flagged to EU-Portugal and EU-Greece
- Possible underreporting of white marlin on Compliance reporting tables

Notwithstanding these matters, the COC noted positively the actions the EU indicated at the annual meeting that it has taken or will take to address the matters.

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 the European Community 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 the European Community to rectify the deficiencies indicated.

Additionally, the COC requested that the EU provide in its response the result, or updates concerning, its investigation concerning possible overharvest of bluefin tuna discussed at the 2018 annual meeting.

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*

COMPLIANCE LETTER RESPONSE TEMPLATE

2019 Commission Meeting			
CPC: EUROPEAN UNION			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	**SPECIFIC ELEMENT**	**REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN**	**DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)**
Response to COC Chair letter from previous year: **received**			
Annual Report			
Statistical data reporting	Some statistical data received late:		
	Fleet characteristics: EU-Germany; **Nominal catch**: EU-Germany, EU-Lithuania; some species EU-Spain; some species EU-Portugal. **Catch & Effort**: EU-Croatia and EU-Germany		
MCS Measures	Rec. 18-02: Some caging declarations received late.		
	EU-Portugal and EU-Greece BFT Other/Catching vessels over 15 m did not report any VMS messages		
Catch limits/quotas	Possible under-reporting of WHM on compliance tables		
Other issues	COC seeks updated information on EU investigation concerning possible overharvest of Bluefin tuna discussed at the 2018 annual meeting.		