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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

Mr. William Naviti
Director of Fisheries Department
Department of Foreign Affairs
VMB 9045, Port Vila
VANUATU

SUBJECT: LETTER ON COMPLIANCE ISSUES

Dear Mr. Naviti,

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 reporting and implementation deficiencies, as 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 deficiency for Vanuatu:

- The annual report was received late
- Rec. 18-09: No list of designated ports received
- Rec. 18-05: No billfish check sheet received
- Rec. 18-06: No updated shark check sheet received
- No response to previous letter from COC Chair

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

With regard to the list of designated ports, this is pertinent to all CPCs which allow entry of foreign vessels into their ports, regardless of whether or not that CPC is a coastal State to the Convention area. Further clarification is therefore requested on this point. In addition, all CPCs are required to submit billfish check sheets and shark check sheets, regardless of whether activity is being carried out or not unless a specific exemption has been granted by the SCRS.

The Commission requests Vanuatu 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 Vanuatu to rectify the deficiencies indicated. It would also be appreciated if the issues raised in my letter of 18 September 2019 (copy attached) could be addressed in this response.

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*