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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. Desmond Bester
Control Officer Operations
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
Brendan Simbwaye Square Uhland Str.
Private Bag 13355
Windhoek
NAMIBIA

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

Dear Mr Bester,

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 reporting and implementation deficiencies, as listed in the attached response template, which has resulted in the Commission identifying of Namibia 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 Namibia:

- Rec. 16-14: Information on scientific observer programmes received late.
- Some species in Task 1 not reported (blanks shown in COC 303 Appendix 3).
- Rec. 13-13/14-10: Two vessels reported for inclusion on ICCAT Record more than 45 days retroactively.
- Rec. 16-15: Report on transhipment received late.
- Rec. 18-04 - Overharvest of blue marlin.
- No response to 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

Of particular concern to the Commission is the significant, recurring over-harvest of blue marlin for 3 years in a row. Namibia has a landing limit of 10 t under Rec. 18-04 (and its successor Rec. 19-05). However, Namibia's reported landings were 32t (2016), 57t (2017), 84t (2018), resulting in an adjusted limit of negative 133 t 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 Namibia to rectify the matter.

The Commission requests Namibia 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 Namibia to rectify the deficiencies indicated.

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

Identification for significant, recurring overharvest of blue marlin for 3 years in a row (LL of 10t; reported landings 32t (2016), 57t (2017), 84t (2018)); letter also to note late reporting issues; > 45 day retroactive vessel notification (Rec. 13-13/14-10). ***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 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*