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

Mr. Benjamin F.S. Jr Tabios
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
Department of Agriculture
3/F PCA Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman Eliptical Road
Diliman
Quezon City
THE PHILIPPINES

SUBJECT: LETTER ON COMPLIANCE ISSUES

Dear Mr. Tabios,

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.

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 Philippines:

- No Annual Report was received.
- No statistical data were received
- Rec. 18-015: No billfish check sheet received
- Rec. 18-06: No updated shark check sheet received
- No response to any reporting requirement
- 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. Reporting is required of all CPCs, even when no fishing activities are carried out in the Convention area.

It should be noted that, due to the lack of Task 1 reporting, the Philippines is currently prohibited from catching any ICCAT species in the ICCAT Convention area, as indicated by the Secretariat in its letter of 8 January 2020 (copy attached). Such prohibition will be lifted on receipt of the missing data and/or confirmation of zero catches for the years concerned.

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 Philippines 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 Philippines 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 your reply.

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*