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

COMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO

Madrid, 5 August 2021

Ms. Nerissa Gittens
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour
Richmond Hill
VC0100 Kingstown
ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

SUBJECT: LETTER ON COMPLIANCE ISSUES

Dear Ms. Gittens

On behalf of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), I am writing to inform you that during the Decision-Making Process which took place in lieu of the Commission meeting in 2020, the Commission noted a number of reporting and implementation deficiencies, which are listed below and in the attached response template.

During the 2020 decision making process, 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 2020 Secretariat's Report to the Compliance Committee and other available information, the Committee noted the deficiencies listed below for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines:

- Task I fleet characteristics data received late.
- Rec. 16-14: No national scientific observer programme data received or any alternative measures.
- Rec. 11-11 /16-16: Compliance Reporting tables received late.
- Rec. 18-05: Overharvest of white marlin (WHM)
- Rec. 17-03: Possible overharvest of swordfish southern stock (SWOS).
- Some differences between Task 1 and compliance tables.

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 St. Vincent & The Grenadines to reply to this letter before **1 October 2021** and complete the attached template (preferably submitted as an MS Word document) to indicate the actions taken by St. Vincent & The Grenadines 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: R. Delgado, *Commission Chair*

Appendix 1

Comments received on COC recommended action (COC_328_APP_1/ 2020)

Comment from United States:

The United States encourages St. Vincent and the Grenadines to provide information to the Commission on the suspicious at sea encounters referenced in COC_317 and COC_320A, and we ask that the COC Chair include this request in the Commission's letter to St. Vincent and the Grenadines.