ICCAT-SALIDA
2021-07-26
S21-05601

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

26 July 2021

Honourable Reginald Austrie
Ministry of Blue and Green Economy, Agriculture and National Food Security
2nd floor, Government Headquarters,
Kennedy Avenue, Roseau,
Commonwealth of Dominica
agriculture@dominica.gov.dm; fisheriesdivision@dominica.gov.dm

SUBJECT: LETTER OF CONCERN REGARDING CONTINUED MARLIN HARVESTS

Honorable Minister,

On behalf of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), I am writing to inform you that during the 2020 Decision Making Process the Commission reviewed the information received from Dominica and was pleased to note the response received from Dominica with regard to the concerns expressed by the Commission in 2019.

While the Commission considered this response sufficient to lift the identification of Dominica for undermining ICCAT conservation and management measures, concerns remain over the continued significant harvests of billfish and other ICCAT species, and the lack of statistical data supplied for recent years. Such data are essential to support robust stock assessments and adoption of effective conservation and management measures, and it should be noted that strict management measures are in place for Atlantic billfish species.

I therefore request that Dominica send, before **31 July 2021**, complete statistical data for tuna and tuna-like species, including billfish, as well as for pelagic shark species, using the forms available at https://www.iccat.int/en/submitSTAT.html, or on request from the ICCAT Secretariat.

In addition to submission of statistical data, I urge Dominica to reply to this letter in writing before **1 October 2021,** providing any further information on steps taken to rectify the matters that led to the previous identification, and on its conservation and management regime for ICCAT species. A complete list of ICCAT conservation and management measures is available at: https://www.iccat.int/en/RecRes.asp. This information will be reviewed by the Commission in order to determine additional action, including the possible adoption of non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures if effective rectifying action has not been implemented by Dominica.

On behalf of the Commission, I also encourage Dominica to consider becoming a Contracting Party to ICCAT given your continued interest in the harvest of ICCAT species or, at a minimum, to seek the status of Cooperating Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity in line with *Recommendation by ICCAT on Criteria for Attaining the Status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity in ICCAT* (Rec. 03-20). Should you require any further information in this regard, or assistance with completing any forms for submission of statistical data, please do not hesitate to contact the ICCAT Secretariat at info@iccat.int.

Thank you for your attention in these important matters, and please accept assurances of my highest consideration.

Derek Campbell
Compliance Committee Chair

cc: Mr. R. Delgado, Commission Chair
Dr Reginald Thomas, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, Dominica
Dr Maren Headley, CRFM
Mr. Derek Campbell, Compliance Committee Chair