

**STATEMENT BY EGYPT TO REQUEST A QUOTA FOR SWORDFISH**

In the beginning, Egypt would like to thank you for all your effort that you give continuously to achieve and implement the ICCAT principles and its international roles, on the other hand, it is of our highly appreciation what you provided to Egypt all those years of support so we can apply and implement the needed conservation regulations through transposing ICCAT recommendations into Egyptian domestic law.

Allover 14 years which reflect our contribution in the ICCAT since Egypt joined in 2007, we are trying hardly to comply all our obligations and compliance with ICCAT recommendations, each year we are getting closer to fulfil our obligations for better management, through enhancing and developing the management standards as well as the protective regulation that organize fishing operations, in accordance with our available economic resources "which unfortunately is limited" to reach the highest level of commitment.

In 2019, Egypt has demanded the ICCAT Secretariat for permission to catch SWO and to get benefit from our territorial water resources and we provide all evidence that show our historical rights to have our own quota in the Mediterranean because of:

- Egypt has a great and large scale of fishing vessels which submitted yearly in the annual report to the ICCAT indicating that Egypt has more over than 3000 registered fishing vessels "coastal catch" operating only in the Mediterranean Sea.
- Egypt exports Med. SWO since 2011 to EU. We have already the documents showing that.
- In 2013, Egypt has registered its first SWO-Med vessel in the ICCAT *EL HAG KHAMIS DARWASH* ICCAT No. AT000EGY00004 with LOA 16.15 m.
- Egypt sends its catch of SWO every year in the annual report to ICCAT, and due to our domestic observation the catch of SWO is still limited. However, the abundance of SWO in the Egyptian water allows for more catch.
- In Feb. 2017, Madrid "the intersessional meeting of PA4 on Med.SWO" page no. 2 point no.5, Egypt delegation announces our position regarding the distribution of the allocated SWO quota as following:

5. Establishing of CPC quotas for 2017 without prejudice to the allocation scheme aforementioned.

"The delegates of Egypt and the United States also reserved their position, in order to consult. Further, the delegate of Egypt reported that its government would gather and report catch statistics to the SCRS and reiterated Egypt's interest in being included in the quota for other CPCs" .

In November 2018 at the COC Meeting on 10 and 11 November Croatia, Dubrovnik again Egypt reaffirmed its a rightful quota.

With above mentioned evidences as you can see it is not applicable in our case as a developing country what mentioned in Recommendation 16-05 capacity limitation para 7. Egypt strictly in the endeavor to manage MED-SWO under the umbrella of ICCAT Recommendation to limit bycatch and obtaining its fair quota.

With all our respect, Egypt wants a humble start to reregister its SWO fishing vessels in order to participate in 2023 fishing season and kindly to assign afar quota.

Your positive response is highly appreciated.