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

Mr. Benjamin F.S. Jr Tabios
Assistant Director for Administrative Services
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 during the Decision-Making Process which took place in lieu of the Commission meeting in 2020, the Commission noted that certain information had not been received, and that some reporting deficiencies remain unresolved. The reporting and implementation deficiencies are listed 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 the Philippines, noting that some of these issues are recurring year after year:

- No Annual Report was received (third year in a row).
- Rec. 18-05: No billfish check sheet received.
- Rec. 18-06: No updated shark check sheet received.
- Rec. 18-09: No list of designated ports received.

In addition, no response has been received to my previous letters of 2018 or 2019.

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.

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 **1 October 2021** 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.

Based on the actions taken by The Philippines in response to this letter, the Compliance Committee will recommend appropriate actions at the next meeting, to address any persistent data deficiencies as well as any other failure to rectify the deficiencies in compliance. This may include identification under the Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures (Rec. 06-13), which could lead to more severe actions, such as reductions in quota and prohibitions related to trade. Please note that identification under Rec. 06-13 is often recommended for CPCs that fail over multiple years to submit annual reports or statistical data, as has been the case for The Phillipines.

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*