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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. Desmond Bester
Control Officer Operations
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
Private Bag 394
9000 Luderitz
NAMIBIA

SUBJECT: LETTER OF IDENTIFICATION OF NAMIBIA UNDER *ICCAT REC. 06-13 CONCERNING TRADE MEASURES*

Dear Mr. Bester,

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. You will recall that last year the Commission identified Namibia pursuant to ICCAT's Recommendation on Trade Measures (Rec. 06-13) for significant and recurring overharvest of blue marlin, which diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. 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 Namibia, and determined that the identification should be maintained:

- Rec. 16-14: No information on scientific observer programmes received.
- Rec. 16:01 No quarterly report of bigeye tuna received.
- Rec. 13-14: Termination of chartering agreements not communicated.
- Rec. 18-04: Continued significant overharvest of blue marlin (4 years in a row -- while Namibia has a landings limit of 10 t under ICCAT Rec. 18-05, Namibia has reported landings significantly in excess of this amount: 32 t (2016), 57 t (2017), 84 t (2018) 52.72 t (2019), resulting in negative 185.72 t landings limit under ICCAT rules).
- Rec. 18-05 and 18-06: No updated shark or billfish check sheets received
- 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. In addition, 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

Of particular concern to the Commission is the continued significant over-harvest of blue marlin which has been recurring now for 4 years in a row. Please note that this identification, in accordance with the provisions of Rec. 06-13, could lead to more severe actions pursuant to future decisions of the Commission, including the adoption of non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures if insufficient actions are taken by Namibia to rectify the matter.

The Commission requests Namibia 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 Namibia 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*