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

Dr. Abdel Latif Ali
General Director
General Commission for Fisheries Resources
Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform
Lattakia - Jableh
SYRIA

SUBJECT: LETTER ON COMPLIANCE ISSUES

Dear Mr Latif Ali,

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 certain reporting and implementation deficiencies, which 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 Syria:

- *Rec. 16-14: No national scientific observer programme data received or any alternative measures presented for approval (only one vessel operated for BFT and the regional observer was on board).*
- *Rec. 18-05/19-05: No billfish implementation check sheet received.*
- *Rec. 19-04: Vessels submitted for inclusion on ICCAT Record less than 15 days before start date.*

The Committee also took note of Syria's request at the 2019 Annual Meeting for technical assistance in the implementation of Rec. 16-14 on scientific observers. I would encourage Syria to reach out to the Secretariat regarding this matter if such assistance is still desired.

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 Syria 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 Syria 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*