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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

Hon. Emma Metieh Glassco
Director General
National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA)
P.O. Box 10-90100
1000 Monrovia 10
LIBERIA

SUBJECT: LETTER ON COMPLIANCE ISSUES

Dear Ms. Metieh Glassco,

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. 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 Liberia:

- Annual Report received late.
- Task II Catch and Effort data not received.
- Rec. 16-14: No information on national scientific observer programme or alternative measures.
- Rec. 18-09: No list of designated ports; unclear whether foreign vessels are prohibited from entering into Liberian ports
- Rec. 18-05: No billfish check sheet received.
- Rec. 18-06: No shark check sheet received.
- Some differences between Task 1 and Compliance tables; possible overharvest of blue marlin.

In addition, no direct response was received to my letter last year which was sent following the 2019 Commission meeting.

Additionally, the Committee received comments regarding its recommendations for certain CPCs (COC_328_APP_1/ 2020). As this input was received at the end of the 2020 correspondence process and therefore CPCs may not have had an opportunity to further respond during the correspondence process, I recommended in my meeting report that such comments be appended to compliance letters to provide such CPCs with additional context on matters raised and a further opportunity to respond intersessionally, such as through the attached response template.

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 Liberia 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 Liberia to rectify the deficiencies indicated. It would also be appreciated if the issues raised in my letter of 18 September 2019 (copy attached) could be addressed in your response.

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*

Appendix 1

Comments received on COC recommended action (COC_328_APP_1/ 2020)

Comment from United States:

The United States thanks Liberia for its response to our questions in COC_320A. Our analysis identified thirteen vessels that undertook suspicious loitering activity while flagged to Liberia:

Vessel name	*Flag at time of incidents*	*IMO*	*Number of Events*	*Current Status*
GENTAMARU	LBR	9620384	36	Flagged to Panama 2019-03
CHIKUMA	LBR	9666493	32	Ownership Transferred to "Eikyo Marine Inc" 2020-03
MEITAMARU	LBR	9071583	22	Flagged to Panama 2020-09
SHOTAMARU	LBR	9194892	8	Flagged to South Korea 2020-01. Renamed "Lake Aurora"
VICTORIA2	LBR	9140097	5	Flagged to Panama 2018-09, Flagged to Russia 2020-01. Renamed "AMFITRITA"
PACIFICMERMAID	LBR	9045924	3	Remains Liberian flagged
ATLANTICREEFER	LBR	9179256	2	Remains Liberian flagged
EASTERNBAY	LBR	9143752	2	Flagged to Panama 2019-12. Renamed "FRIO GALICIA"
EVERESTBAY	LBR	8911073	1	Remains Liberian flagged
ZENIT	LBR	8700228	1	Broken up 2019-03
PACIFICREEFER	LBR	9179268	1	Remains Liberian flagged
BALTICPATRIOT	LBR	9038488	1	Flagged to Bahamas 2020-09
REINA	LBR	8202226	1	Broken up 2019-03

We hope this additional information is helpful to Liberia and other CPCs and can inform Liberia's letter from the COC Chair.