

Draft 2023 IUU List of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities

Introduction¹

For this year, the List of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities is included in the Excel attached as **Appendix 1** (document **PWG_405_APP_1**), as extracted from the ICCAT IUU databases, and which contains two complementary structures: 1) the current database and 2) the historical database, as also shown on the ICCAT webpage (<https://www.iccat.int/en/IUUlist.html>).

Explanatory Notes to the Draft 2023 IUU List

Within the framework of implementation of paragraph 11 of *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 18-08 on establishing a List of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities (Rec. 21-13)*

Intersessional incorporation of IUU vessel lists of other RFMOs

As provided for in *Rec. 21-13*, the nine RFMOs and their IUU vessel lists are as follows:

- Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission: <https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/wcpfc-iuu-vessel-list>
- Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC): <https://www.iattc.org/VesselRegister/IUU.aspx>
- Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) : <https://www.iotc.org/iotc-iuu-list>
- Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR): <https://www.ccamlr.org/en/compliance/contracting-party-iuu-vessel-list>
<https://www.ccamlr.org/en/compliance/iuu-vessel-lists>
- Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) <https://www.ccsbt.org/en/content/iuu-vessel-lists>
- General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM): <http://www.fao.org/gfcm/data/iuu-vessel-list>
- Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO) <https://www.nafo.int/Fisheries/IUU> (n= 7 IUU vessels; last update in October 2018)
- North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC): <https://www.neafc.org/mcs/iuu/alist> and <https://www.neafc.org/mcs/iuu/blist>
- South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) <http://www.seafo.org/Management/IUU>

NB: Photographs of some of the IUU vessels listed can be found on the websites of these nine RFMOs.

¹ Yellow highlighting represents the differences between the current document and ICCAT Circular #11661/2023 of 27 October 2023, noting that the information in the document has been reorganized, moving paragraphs from one section to another, for clarity.

**Summary of cross-referenced 2023 IUU vessel lists
and updates/modifications made**

<i>Nine RFMOs</i>	<i>Incorporation in the ICCAT IUU List</i>	<i>Removal from the IUU List</i>	<i>Changes made to the ICCAT IUU List from other lists or following new information communicated by CPCs (in databases)</i>	<i>No change or minor modifications</i>	<i>Total actions</i>
Total	12	0	17	123	152

The draft 2023 ICCAT IUU List of vessels contains **152** active vessels.

Information on the 2023 ICCAT IUU List of vessels

A. Regarding IUU vessels incorporated by ICCAT through cross-referencing with the IUU lists of other RFMOs (paragraph 11 of Rec. 21-13):

1. The WCPFC communicated on 5 March 2023 (ICCAT Entrada # E23-02364), an update of its IUU vessels, of which there are only three. The necessary modifications were made in the ICCAT database as shown on the ICCAT web page (<https://www.iccat.int/en/IUUlist.html>).
2. Twelve IUU vessels have been included by cross-listing in the ICCAT IUU List of vessels based on the IOTC communication received by the Secretariat on 25 May 2023 (E23-05643). The ICCAT IUU serial numbers assigned to these twelve vessels are from 20230001 to 20230012, as also shown on the ICCAT web page (<https://www.iccat.int/en/IUUlist.html>).
3. Further to requests from the European Union of 11 April and 8 May 2023 (E23-03660, E23-03674 and E23-04842), regarding information already published in the final ICCAT IUU List of vessels, corrections were made to the chronological order of the previous names of some IUU vessels and their respective previous flags that had been included by cross-listing from the CCAMLR list, namely: the vessels *ASIAN WARRIOR* and *ATLANTIC WIND* (ICCAT IUU serial numbers: 20150024 and 20150047, respectively); the name *DRACO I* flagged to Cambodia was also included in the historical data for the IUU vessel *ATLANTIC WIND*. These corrections, as well as the addition in question, are shown on the ICCAT website (<https://www.iccat.int/en/IUUlist.html>).
4. The EU requested the Secretariat (correspondence E23-13015 of 13 October 2023) to carry out an exhaustive review of the historical data of the 18 vessels included in the CCAMLR IUU List, already incorporated in the past in the ICCAT IUU List.

Out of a total of 120 lines of data in the historical part of these 18 vessels, ninety-seven (97) lines were reviewed to ensure full compliance with the list of CCAMLR data, last reviewed/updated by this RFMO on 4 September 2023 (see <https://www.ccamlr.org/en/compliance/iuu-vessel-lists>).

B. Issues related to the final ICCAT IUU list were raised during 2023, concerning vessels already on the IUU list, in particular requests for delisting (Rec. 21-13)

1. On 28 June 2023 (E23-07701), Namibia, in accordance with paragraph 13 of Rec. 21-13, submitted a request for the removal of the IUU vessel *HALIFAX* / IMO 8529533, with the ICCAT serial number 20200011, from the ICCAT List of IUU vessels. This request followed the decision taken by the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Commission that there was insufficient evidence to warrant the delisting of this IUU vessel from the ICCAT IUU List of vessels, and the PWG Chair encouraged Namibia to work with other Parties bilaterally to address the concerns raised. This request is further to the ICCAT Circulars on this issue, namely #6314, #6364 and #8860, sent on 19/08/2022, 23/08/2022 and 28/10/2022, respectively, and the concerns raised by the Compliance Committee, as indicated in the document "Questions and answers on CPCs compliance matters" (COC_306B/2022) of 18/11/2022.

Namibia's request was circulated by ICCAT Circular No. 07401 of 13 July 2023, to which the European Union objected, as communicated to CPCs by ICCAT Circular No. 09521 of 5 September 2023.

2. On 14 July 2023 (E23-08548), the Republic of Colombia, in accordance with paragraph 13 of Rec. 21-13, submitted a request for removal of the IUU vessel *HALELUYA* / IMO 4000354, with the ICCAT serial number 20200012, from the ICCAT List of IUU vessels. This request followed the decision of the PWG at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Commission that there was insufficient evidence to warrant the de-listing of this IUU vessel from the ICCAT List of IUU vessels. The Republic of Colombia was therefore invited to reformulate its request on the basis of new arguments and to submit its request before 15 July 2023, in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 6 and 13 of Rec. 21-13.

This request by the Republic of Colombia was circulated by ICCAT Circular No. 07729 of 21 July 2023, to which the United States of America and the European Union objected, as communicated to CPCs by ICCAT Circular No. 08948 of 21 August 2023 and No. 09055 of 23 August 2023, respectively.

Having received no communications, following ICCAT Circular No. 10365 (Draft IUU list for 2023) and exchanges between the Republic of Colombia, on the one hand, and the European Union and the United States, on the other, the Secretariat sent a reminder to the Republic of Colombia on 30 October 2023 regarding the responses to the issues requested by these two CPCs in their objections (ICCAT Salida No. S23-11744). The expected responses, supported by any new additional information, would include those relating to the provisions of paragraph 6 a), b) and c) of Rec. 21-13 and those specific to the evidence demonstrating that the vessel *HALELUYA* did not carry out fishing activities in the ICCAT Convention area after November 2020 (the date of its inclusion on the IUU list), including the VMS trajectories of this vessel from November 2020 to July 2023.

3. On 5 September 2023 (E23-11011), Chinese Taipei communicated, in response to the request of a CPC (see COC_306B/2022), and in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5 of Rec. 21-13, the results of its latest investigations as regards these two IUU vessels, namely *HALIFAX* (ex *MARIO 11*) and *HALELUYA*, as well as the vessel *SAGE*/IMO 7825215 (ICCAT IUU SN: 20110014). This communication is included in this document as an **Attachment 1**.
4. On 5 May 2023 (E23-04517), the Sultanate of Oman informed the Secretariat as regards three Certificates of de-listing from its National Register of Vessels of the vessels *ISRAR 1*, *ISRAR 2* and *ISRAR 3* (ICCAT SN: 20210006, 20210007 and 20210008, respectively), without however formally submitting its request before 15 July 2023, for their removal from the ICCAT List of IUU vessels, in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 6 and 13 of Rec. 21-13. At the request of the EU (E23-13015 of 13 October 2023), these three Certificates of de-listing have been attached to these Explanatory Notes as **Attachment 2** and is being submitted here for review by the PWG.

In its letter, the Sultanate of Oman appears to refer to its declarations to the IOTC, communicating the following:

- "Immediately after the last meeting (19th Session of the Compliance Committee) held last year, at which it was decided to include the vessels on the IUU list, the company was officially informed not to renew the licences of the three vessels and the number plates were removed from the vessel decks. In addition, all the licences of the crew members of the vessels were withdrawn.
- In addition, an official letter was sent to the Ministry of Transport of the Sultanate of Oman to cancel the vessels and issue a certificate of cancellation (which was issued in July 2022)."
- Following this communication, the Secretariat's understanding would be to change the current flag from "Oman" to "Unknown", which has been done in the ICCAT IUU vessel database and is shown on the ICCAT website (<https://www.iccat.int/en/IUUlist.html>). These changes will be submitted to the PWG for review during its deliberations in November 2023.

5. On 1 November 2023 (E23-13652), the Sultanate of Oman communicated to the Secretariat the letter it had sent to the IOTC, dated 8 September 2022, in which it provides answers to the issues raised by the European Union within the IOTC, again supported by the Certificates of de-listing from its National Register of the three fishing vessels: ISRAR 1, ISRAR 2 and ISRAR 3 (IUU ICCAT numbers 20210006, 20210007 and 20210008, respectively), apparently in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6 of Rec. 21-13. These new documents, as submitted by the Sultanate of Oman, are attached as **Annex 1** to this document, for consideration by the PWG.

C. Information on alleged IUU activities, submitted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 of Rec. 21-13

1. On 1 September 2023 (E23-10852), the European Union communicated, pursuant to paragraph 2 of Rec. 21-13, the request for the inclusion in the draft ICCAT IUU Vessels List of the vessel *DEMERSAL 9* / IMO. 9576533 / IRCS. D3P5376, currently flagged to Angola with ICCAT SN. AT000AGO00002 but in the "Inactive"- operational status. The EU's reporting form for IUU activity as communicated by the EU and transmitted by ICCAT Circular E23-10365, is included in this document as **Attachment 3** and is being submitted here for review by the PWG.
2. Further to ICCAT Circular S23-10365, Angola submitted its responses to the allegations (**Attachment 4**) of the European Union on 19 October 2023 (E23-13285), in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 of Rec. 21-13 and is being submitted here for review by the PWG.

D. Other changes made intersessionally

1. At the request of the EU, on 13 October 2023 (E23-13015), historical information from the IUU vessel "KIKI/ICCAT IUU SN. 20220008" has also been added to the ICCAT IUU database, including its previous Name, previous IRCS, previous Flag, previous Owner/Operator and address; this information is now displayed on the ICCAT webpage (<https://www.iccat.int/en/IUUlist.html>).

**Additional Information on IUU Vessels
Submitted by Chinese Taipei
5 September 2023**
(Ref. ICCAT Entrada nº E23-11011 of 05/09/2023)

In response to one CPC's request made in COC_306B/2022, and in accordance with paragraph 5 of Rec. 21-13, Chinese Taipei would like to provide updates and additional information on three IUU vessels.

F/V HALELUYA

The Appealing Committee dismissed the appeal lodged by the concerned national.

F/V SAGE

The investigation is concluded. It is confirmed that this vessel was insured by YU CHEN OCEANIC CO. LTD since 2019, a company registered in Chinese Taipei and owned by a Singaporean. Since YU CHEN OCEANIC CO. LTD is a legal person of Chinese Taipei, the Fisheries Agency (TFA) therefore imposed a fine of NTD 8 million (approximately USD 250 thousand) in total on the company in accordance with the Act to Govern Investment in the Operation of Foreign Flag Fishing Vessels. However, it should be noted that the beneficial owner (natural person) of the company/vessel is not a Chinese Taipei's national.

F/V HALIFAX (previous MARIO 11)

Noticing in PWG_405_ADD_1/2022 that the payment towards the acquisition of this vessel was made to banks in Chinese Taipei, the TFA, on the margins of 2022 ICCAT Annual Meeting, requested Namibia's assistance in providing the bank accounts details. The TFA confirms the receipt of such information as provided by Namibia in July 2023. This case is now under investigation, and Chinese Taipei will update ICCAT on the result thereof once it is concluded.

Vessels De-listing Certificates: *ISRAR 1*, *ISRAR 2* and *ISRAR 3*

ICCAT IUU vessel "ISRAR 1 / IMO 8004076 / ICCAT IUU NS. 20210006"

Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Transport, Communications
& Information Technology
Directorate General of Maritime Affairs

سلطنة عُمان
وزارة النقل والاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات
المديرية العامة للشؤون البحرية

CANCELLATION CERTIFICATE شهادة شطب
Vessel Particulars

Call Sign	A4BB5		IMO Number	8004076	
Type	التوع		Vessel's Name	اسم السفينة	
Fishing Vessel			ISRAR 1		
Previous Registry	التسجيل السابق		Registry	التسجيل الحالي	
اسم الميناء	التاريخ	الرقم	اسم الميناء	التاريخ	الرقم
Port Name	Date	Number	Port Name	Date	Number
-	-	-	ميناء السلطان قابوس PSQ	25/10/2020	P.S.Q V 1263
Tonnage (طن) الحمولة			الأبعاد (متر) (METER) الأبعاد		
الحمولة الصافية (طن)	الحمولة الكلية (طن)	العمق (م)	العرض (م)	الطول (م)	
Net Tonnage (Ton)	Gross Tonnage (Ton)	Depth(m)	Breadth(m)	Length(m)	
160	536	3.60	8.60	44.80	
Hull Construction			البدن		
مادة البناء	تاريخ البناء	مكان البناء			
Material	Date of Construction	Place of Construction			
Steel	1997	INDONESIA			
Engines Details			بيانات المحركات		
نوع الرافعات	الطراز	القوة (حصان)	الصنع	الرقم	العدد
Propulsion	Model	Power(HP)	Manufacture	S.Number	Number
ديزل Diesel	-	1100PS	INDONESIA		ONE
النوع	HANSHIN				
Type					
Captain's Name	SUN HONGXIN				اسم القبطان
Cause of Cancellation					أسباب الإلغاء
Owner's details			بيانات المالك		
رقم الهاتف	العنوان	الحصة	الاسم		
Telephone	Address	Share	Name of Owner		
99339595	MUSCAT	100	ALMURAN INTERNATIONAL LLC		

تشهد المديرية العامة للشؤون البحرية اعتباراً من تاريخ 17/07/2022
بوزارة النقل والاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات في سلطنة عمان بان الوحدة المذكورة أعلاه قد تم شطبها من السجلات

Directorate General of Maritime Affairs (Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology) certify that the
above vessel is cancelled from the registrations starting from 17/07/2022

صدرت هذه الشهادة بناء على طلب من المالك لتقديمها إلى من يهمه الأمر

This certificate is issued upon request from the owner to be submitted to who it may concern

Director General Of Maritime Affairs Director of Maritime Transport

ICCAT IUU vessel "ISRAR 2 / IMO 8568694 / ICCAT IUU NS. 20210007"

Sultanate of Oman Ministry of Transport, Communications & Information Technology Directorate General of Maritime Affairs		سلطنة عُمان وزارة النقل والاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات المديرية العامة للشؤون البحرية	
CANCELLATION CERTIFICATE شهادة شطب Vessel Particulars			
Call Sign	A4BA3	IMO Number	8568694
Type النوع	Fishing Vessel	Vessel's Name اسم السفينة	ISRAR 2
Previous Registry التسجيل السابق		Registry التسجيل الحالي	
اسم الميناء Port Name	التاريخ Date	الرقم Number	اسم الميناء Port Name
-			ميناء السلطان قابوس PSQ
			25/10/2020
			P.S.Q V 1265
Tonnage (طن) الحمولة		Dimenstions(METER) الأبعاد(متر)	
الحمولة الصافية(طن) Net Tonnage (Ton)	الحمولة الكلية(طن) Gross Tonnage (Ton)	العمق(م) Depth(m)	العرض(م) Breadth(m)
42	87	2.00	5.40
			23.80
Hull Construction البدن			البدن
مادة البناء Material	تاريخ البناء Date of Construction	مكان البناء Place of Construction	
Fiberglass	2002	TAIWAN	
Engines Details بيانات المحركات			
نوع الرافعات Propulsion	الطراز Model	القوة(حصان) Power(HP)	العدد Number
Diesel		760	ONE
		TAIWAN	YANMAR
Captain's Name	DENG SHANGZHONG		اسم القبطان
Cause of Cancellation			أسباب الإلغاء
Owner's details بيانات المالك			
رقم الهاتف Telephone	العنوان Address	الحصة Share	الاسم Name of Owner
99339595	مستط	100	ALMURAN INTERNATIONAL LLC
تشهد المديرية العامة للشؤون البحرية اعتباراً من تاريخ 26/07/2022، بوزارة النقل والاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات في سلطنة عمان بأن الوحدة المذكورة أعلاه قد تم شطبها من السجلات Directorate General of Maritime Affairs (Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology) certify that the above vessel is cancelled from the registrations starting from 26/07/2022 صدرت هذه الشهادة بناء على طلب من المالك لتقديمها إلى من يهمه الأمر This certificate is issued upon request from the owner to be submitted to who it may concern			
			
Director General Of Maritime Affairs		Director of Maritime Transport	
			

ICCAT IUU vessel "ISRAR 3 / IMO 8568682 / ICCAT IUU NS. 20210008"

Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Transport, Communications
& Information Technology
Directorate General of Maritime Affairs



سلطنة عُمان
وزارة النقل والاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات
المديرية العامة للشؤون البحرية

CANCELLATION CERTIFICATE شهادة شطب
Vessel Particulars

Call Sign	A4BA5		IMO Number	8568682		
Type	النوع		Vessel's Name	اسم السفينة		
Fishing Vessel		ISRAR 3				
Previous Registry	التسجيل السابق		Registry	التسجيل الحالي		
اسم الميناء Port Name	التاريخ Date	الرقم Number	اسم الميناء Port Name	التاريخ Date	الرقم Number	
-	-	-	ميناء السلطان قابوس PSQ	25/10/2020	P.S.Q V 1264	

Tonnage (طن) الحمولة

Dimenstions(METER) (متر) الأبعاد

الحمولة الصافية (طن) Net Tonnage (Ton)	الحمولة الكلية (طن) Gross Tonnage (Ton)	العمق (م) Depth(m)	العرض (م) Breadth(m)	الطول (م) Length(m)
42	87	2.00	5.40	23.80

Hull Construction

البيد

مادة البناء Material	تاريخ البناء Date of Construction	مكان البناء Place of Construction
Fiberglass	2002	TAIWAN

Engines Details

بيانات المحركات

نوع الرافعات Propulsion	الطراز Model	القوة (حصان) Power(HP)	الصنع Manufacture	الرقم S.Number	العدد Number	النوع Type
ديزل Diesel	-	760	TAIWAN		ONE	YANMAR

Captain's Name	LI CHANGWEN		اسم القبطان
Cause of Cancellation	*		أسباب الإلغاء

Owner's details

بيانات المالك

رقم الهاتف Telephone	العنوان Address	الحصة Share	الاسم Name of Owner
99339595	MUSCAT	100	ALMURAN INTERNATIONAL LLC

تشهد المديرية العامة للشؤون البحرية اعتباراً من تاريخ 26/07/2022،

بوزارة النقل والاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات في سلطنة عمان بأن الوحدة المذكورة أعلاه قد تم شطبها من السجلات

Directorate General of Maritime Affairs (Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology) certify that the

above vessel is cancelled from the registrations starting from 26/07/2022

صدرت هذه الشهادة بناء على طلب من المالك لتقديمها إلى من يهمه الأمر

This certificate is issued upon request from the owner to be submitted to who it may concern



Director General Of Maritime Affairs

Director of Maritime Transport

EU's reporting form for IUU activity
1 September 2023
 (Ref. ICCAT Entrada nº E23-10852 of 01/09/2023)



Ref. Ares(2023)5947449 - 01/09/2023

ICCAT reporting form for IUU

Pursuant to paragraph 2 of Recommendation 21-13, attached are the details of the alleged IUU activity and available vessel information.

A. Details of vessel

(Please detail information on the vessel and the incidents(s) in the format below, where such information is applicable and available)

Item		Available Information
A	Name of vessel and previous names	Current name: DEMERSAL 9 Previous name: N/A
B	Flag and previous flags	Current flag: Angola Previous flag: N/A
C	Owner and previous owners, including beneficial owner	Owner: FADEPA according to information retrieved on the ICCAT website
D	Owner's place of registration	Luanda, Angola
E	Operator and previous operators	Operator: ORGANICZACOES ALCO according to information retrieved on the ICCAT website
F	Call sign and previous call signs	D3P5376
G	IMO number	9576533
H	Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI), or, if not applicable, any other vessel identifier	MMSI: 603100154 ICCAT Serial Number: AT000AGO00002
I	Length overall	33, 6 meters according to information retrieved on the ICCAT website
J	Photographs	Should be available from the current Flag State

K	Date first included on the ICCAT IUU list	N/A
L	Date of alleged IUU fishing activities	Years 2022 and 2023
M	Position of alleged IUU fishing activities	ICCAT Convention Area
N	Summary of alleged IUU activities (see also section B)	<p>From March 2022 to January 2023: Harvested tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area while Angola was under a general prohibition to retain ICCAT species on board.</p> <p>Overshot Angola's quotas of Southern Swordfish allocated for the year 2022.</p> <p>From May 2023: Harvested tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area and is not registered on the relevant ICCAT list of vessels authorised to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area.</p>
O	Summary of any actions known to have been taken in response to the activities	The EU is not aware of any measures taken by Angola. At the date of this communication, the vessel was still operating in the ICCAT Convention area.
P	Outcome of any actions taken	N/A
Q	Other relevant information, as appropriate (e.g., possible false flags or vessel names used, modus operandi, etc.)	N/A

B. Details of alleged IUU activity

(Indicate with an "X" the applicable elements of the activity and provide relevant details including date, location, source of information. Extra information can be provided in an attachment if necessary.)

<i>Rec. 21-13 para. 1</i>	<i>Vessel fished for species covered by the ICCAT Convention within the Convention area and:</i>	<i>Indicate and provide details</i>
a	Harvest tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention area and are not registered on the relevant ICCAT list of vessels authorized to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention	X
b	Harvest tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area, and the vessel's whose flag State is without quotas, catch limit or effort allocation under relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures	
c	Do not record or report their catches made in the ICCAT Convention area, or make false reports	
d	Take or land undersized fish in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures	
e	Fish during closed fishing periods or in closed areas in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures	
f	Use prohibited fishing gear or fishing methods in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures	
g	Transship with, or participate in other joint operations, such as re-supplying or re-fueling, with vessels included in the IUU vessels list	
h	Harvest tuna or tuna-like species in the waters under the national jurisdiction of the coastal States in the Convention area without authorization and/ or infringes on that State's laws and regulations, without prejudice to the sovereign rights of coastal States to take measures against such vessels	
i	Are without nationality and harvest tunas or tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area	
j	Engage in fishing or fishing related activities contrary to any other ICCAT conservation and management measures	X

Summary of the activities

1) Activities from March 2022 to January 2023

Pursuant to ICCAT Recommendation 11-15, Angola was under a prohibition to retain any ICCAT species from 1 January 2022 to 7 March 2023.

According to information gathered by the EU, from March 2022 to 5 January 2023, the Angolan-flagged vessel *DEMERSAL 9* caught in the ICCAT Convention area and subsequently exported to the EU swordfish, yellowfin tuna, marlin, shortfin mako and blue shark.

Vessel *DEMERSAL 9* exported to the EU a total quantity of 134.6 tons of swordfish². According to the EU catch certificates³ and ICCAT statistical documents (SD) validated by the competent authorities of Angola, the fishing area of the vessel was FAO 47, and therefore the catches are Southern SWO (S-SWO). However, the vessel *DEMERSAL 9* was not in the list of vessels authorised to fish for S-SWO (in contravention with Recommendation 17-03). In addition, in 2022 the annual quota of S-SWO allocated to Angola pursuant to Recommendation 21-03 was 100 tons. The vessel has consequently overshoot Angola's annual quota of S-SWO, and this overshoot was endorsed by the Angolan authorities who validated the ICCAT SDs associated to all these consignments.

2) Activities from May 2023

Since 4th May 2023, the vessel *DEMERSAL 9* is actively operating in the ICCAT Convention area, despite not being on the ICCAT record of authorized vessels, in contravention with Recommendation 21-14. The EU has informed the ICCAT Secretariat of this situation (vessels tracks have been shared with the ICCAT Secretariat on 17 May, and further exchanges took place in June). Angola has also been informed by the Secretariat; however, the EU notes that to date⁴, no remedial action has been taken and the vessel is still not included in the ICCAT record of authorised vessels.

² Live weight equivalent calculated on the basis of the dressed weight mentioned in the ICCAT Swordfish statistical documents validated by Angola.

³ Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

⁴ 31 August 2023.

ICCAT – ENTRADA
2023-10-19
E23-13285

From: Victor Chilamba <victorpescas15@gmail.com>
Sent: 19 October 2023; 09:39
To: info <info@iccat.int>; Carlos Mayor <carlos.mayor@iccat.int>; Camille Manel <camille.manel@iccat.int>
Subject: Submission of additional information following EU allegations concerning the Angolan flagged FV Demersal 9

Dear ICCAT Secretariat,

Following the EU Allegations about the Angolan-flagged FV DEMERSAL 9, we address the following:

The Angolan Fishing Authority, as a Contracting Part (CP) of ICCAT has obligations to comply with the commission's regulations and recommendations.

Following the suspension of Angola by ICCAT from harvesting ICCAT species, early in February-March, 2023, that resulted in denied access of the fish caught by the Angolan flagged vessel, that was supposed to be exported to Spain, but unfortunately it was confiscated at Port of Leixoes in Portugal, causing serious financial implications to the vessel owner;

Angola took the necessary action, immediately requested assistance from the ICCAT statistics department through the secretariat: we got instructions to complete previous years (2020, 2021, 2022) task 1 on nominal catch data and fleet characteristics.

Upon submission of the requested information, early in March, we got the notification that liberated the suspension of Angola from catching ICCAT species and further recommendations based on the guidelines for submitting data and information requested by the commission, that we also appreciated the effort and availability of the stuff;

Under Task 1, completed in February/March we were requested and instructed to complete the following data sheet:

- On the nominal catch data sheet, we provided data of small tropical tuna species caught by artisanal fishers using hand line methods;
- Small tuna and like species caught as bycatch in purse seine and trawl fishing operation and lastly
- Tuna and tuna like species caught by the Angolan longliner
- On the second data sheet, we provided information about vessel characteristics and registration data of demersal 9 FV.

After submitting this set of information (supported by ICCAT Circular of March 13) and of course further recommendations as far as reporting is concerned, we assumed everything was in place in order to get the vessel back to the fishery. The suspension and consequently the situation we went through in February-March was an alarming and unpleasant situation to our fisheries management as far as ICCAT species are concerned. For that matter, we would not take any risk in terms of non-compliance.

From that date, we have been trying to put extra effort to improve the situation, this is why we requested the secretariat for 2-3 working sessions, and the last one happened in September this year. We understand extra efforts have to be made.

But it has not been that easy:

- remember we live in a developing country and a very complex fisheries management system (species diversity, fleet diversity and human dimension);
- our management systems are not that strong in terms of qualified human resources;
- we are very few and do almost everything: days on the field, remote areas with no internet access, for data collection, surveys and community awareness rising. We directors have to do it when it comes to management, unlike developed countries fisheries management systems have a specialized working group for small pelagic, specialized working group for demersal fin fish, specialized group for crustaceans, for tuna etc.

This brings us to the issue of lack of efficient communication and the (other) new situation of demersal 9 vessel fish import rejection at Port of Leixoes in Portugal, after EU report of September 1st claiming IUU.

Following our email conversations, with ICCAT secretariat and the Portuguese Fisheries Authority, we were informed that the main causes for this fish import rejection is based on the vessel registration under ICCAT and species name and probably quantities are not according to the catch certificate.

1. For the vessel registry, last month the secretariat resent an email stating that the has not been follow ups of the vessel registry following its deactivation. As stated before, after filling the vessel characteristic data sheet, providing relevant data of the referred vessel (having this registry paper in our file), we were sure the registration issue was sorted.
2. After all we went through from February, Angola would not take that risk to allow the vessel to fish; if we knew the next steps we would definitely do the follow up and registry accordingly. It was not a matter of negligence at all, we did not see the follow up emails at all. That could have been responded to as instructed.
3. We once again bring the issue of communication. The secretariat proved that follow up emails were sent, but for some reason (might be associated with internet access or any other beyond our control) we did not access; this is why we bring the 3rd point on improving communication.
4. If over the year we took time to request technical assistance from the secretariat, we assure that the vessel registry would be priority. For that matter, we appeal to the common sense of the secretariat to please consider this information.
5. The issue of the species name that may have been declared incorrectly, we will let the Portuguese authority do their job as far as species identification/DNA is concerned, following the meeting we had with the General Director of DGRM on October 18 in Lisbon.
6. We would like to guarantee that after March 2023, the vessel was operating under the control of the Ministry of Fisheries with the observations measures applied.

As a CP, we reiterate our commitment to continue working closely with the commission so that we get on track as far as data reporting is concerned. Following our email last week, sent by Mrs Patricia, we come all the way from Luanda, Angola, by guidance of the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Mrs Carmen dos Santos, to address issues on

1. Have a clear understanding of the guidelines for submitting data and information requested by ICCAT, so that, at our level, data collection and analysis is done properly and reports are submitted in the right format at the right time;
2. Addressing the issue of the only Angolan-flagged fishing vessel, named DEMERSAL 9, licensed to fish under ICCAT regulations;
3. Setting up an effective communication system and providing us with capacity building whenever possible.

We would like to remind you of the message delivered by our Fisheries and Marine Resources Minister, when the Commission met in Vale do Lobo, Algarve, Portugal in November last year. She emphasized the fact that over the past 5 years, from 2019, there were many changes in the fisheries management board, displacing senior staff; to some extent, we lost track of some management issues including reporting of tuna and tuna like species according to ICCAT recommendations.

Best regards,
Victor Chilamba