

### Responses from CPCs to letters from the Chair of the Compliance Committee

This Document contains response to the letters from the Chair of the Compliance Committee received by **9 October 2023**. Replies received after the deadline will be presented as **Addendum** to **COC-309**.

**Annex 1** of document **COC-309** contains the letters sent by the COC Chair.

RI= Reporting issues; II = implementation issues; OH = overharvest; ID = Identification; None = no letter sent

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Letter type</i>	<i>Reply received</i>	<i>Template completed</i>	<i>Missing information sent</i>
<i>Albania</i>	<b>None</b>	Not applicable		
<b>Algeria</b>	RI	02-Oct-2023	Yes	Partial
<b>Angola</b>	RI/II			
<b>Barbados</b>	RI/II/OH	01-Oct-2023	Yes	N/A
<b>Belize</b>	RI	07-Sept-2023	Yes	Yes
<b>Brazil</b>	OH	30-Sept-2023		N/A
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	RI/II	9-Oct-2023	No	No
<i>Canada</i>	<b>None</b>	Not applicable		
<b>China PR</b>	RI	27-Sept-2023	Not applicable	Yes
<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	RI	28-Sept-2023	Yes	Yes
<b>Curaçao</b>	OH	26-Sept-2023	Yes	Yes
<i>Egypt</i>	<b>None</b>	Not applicable		
<i>El Salvador</i>	<b>None</b>	Not applicable		
<b>Equatorial Guinea</b>	RI/II	14-Aug-2023	Yes	N/A
<b>European Union</b>	RI	01-Oct-2023	Yes	Yes
<i>France SPM</i>	<b>None</b>	Not applicable		
<i>Gabon</i>	<b>None</b>	Not applicable		
<b>Gambia</b>	RI/II			
<b>Ghana</b>	RI	29-Sept-2023	No	N/A
<b>Grenada</b>	<b>ID</b> letter - significant recurring reporting issues + OH			
<b>Guatemala</b>	RI/II			
<b>Guinea Bissau</b>	<b>ID</b> letter - recurring significant reporting issues			
<b>Guinea Rep.</b>	RI (ID lifted)			
<b>Honduras</b>	RI			
<i>Iceland</i>	<b>None</b>	Not applicable		
<b>Japan</b>	RI	05-Sept-2023	Yes	N/A
<b>Korea</b>	RI	30-Sept-2023	Yes	Yes
<b>Liberia</b>	RI/OH	04-Oct-2023	Yes	Partial
<b>Libya</b>	RI	04-Oct-2023	Yes	No
<b>Mauritania</b>	RI			

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Letter type</i>	<i>Reply received</i>	<i>Template completed</i>	<i>Missing information sent</i>
<i>Mexico</i>	<b>None</b>	Not applicable		
<i>Morocco</i>	<b>None</b>			
<b>Namibia</b>	<b>ID</b> letter - recurring significant reporting issues + recurrent overharvest	01-Oct-2023	Yes	Yes
<b>Nicaragua</b>	RI	18-Aug-2023	No	To be included in Annual Report 2023
<b>Nigeria</b>	RI			
<i>Norway</i>	<b>None</b>	Not applicable		
<b>Panama</b>	RI	18-Sept-2023	Yes	Yes
<i>Philippines</i>	<b>None</b>	Not applicable		
<i>Russia</i>	<b>None</b>			
<b>São Tomé e Príncipe</b>	<b>ID-</b> letter on recurrent reporting issues	17-Aug-2023	No	No
<b>Senegal</b>	<b>ID - II</b>	29-Sept-2023	Yes	Yes
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	RI			
<b>South Africa</b>	RI	02-Oct-2023	Yes	Yes
<b>St Vincent &amp; Grenadines</b>	RI			
<b>Syria</b>	RI/II	02-Oct-2023	Yes	N/A
Trinidad & Tobago**	II/OH	12-Oct-2023	Yes	Yes
<b>Tunisia</b>	RI			
<i>Türkiye</i>	<b>None</b>	Not applicable		
<i>Uruguay</i>	<b>None</b>			
<i>UK</i>	<b>None</b>			
<i>USA</i>	<b>None</b>			
<b>Venezuela</b>	OH/RI			
<b>Bolivia</b>	RI			
<i>Chinese Taipei</i>	<b>None</b>	Not applicable		
<b>Costa Rica</b>	Lift ID - OH	29-Sept-2023	Yes	No
<b>Guyana</b>	Lift ID	2-Oct-2023	No	Partial
<i>Suriname</i>	<b>None</b>	Not applicable		

\*\* The letter to Trinidad and Tobago was not sent in due time, and hence the deadline for response has been extended.

## Compliance Letter Response Template

2022 Commission Meeting			
CPC: ALGERIA			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENT	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN SINCE 2022 MEETING	DATA MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
<b>CATEGORY A</b>			
<i>Compliance tables</i>	Rec. 16-16 Compliance Tables received late (15 September 2022).	A new team arrived in February 2022, which required time to understand the obligations. Reporting and deadlines: Moreover, measures have been taken to ensure that data are transmitted within the established deadlines.	
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
<b>CATEGORY B</b>			
<i>Annual Report</i>			
<i>Statistical Data</i>	No observer data (ST09).	The Annual Report, timely submitted, contained relevant information on the scientific observation data and explanations on boarding of observers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For longliners operating in waters under national jurisdiction, due to how narrow the vessels are (the vessels engage in artisanal fishing, mostly without a bridge, carrying out short trips), the information is collected at the ports of landing.</li> <li>- For purse seiners targeting bluefin tuna, 100% coverage is provided by the national controllers/observers of the fisheries administration who collect the data.</li> </ul>	

		This information is included in the Annual Report which is submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat.	
<i>Other reports – Shark and Billfish Check Sheets</i>	Rec. 18-06 Shark check sheet received late.	A new team arrived in February 2022, which required time to understand the obligations. Reporting and deadlines: Moreover, measures have been taken to ensure that data are transmitted within the established deadlines.	The shark check sheet was submitted on 26 September 2022.
<b>CATEGORY C</b>			
<i>MCS-species related</i>			
<i>MCS-general: Port Controls</i>			
<i>Vessel Controls</i>			
OTHER	JIS reports with potential infringement in COC_303_Appendix 4.		No potential infringements.
Response to COC Chair letter from previous year?			

29 September 2023

Mr Derek Campbell Compliance Committee Chair  
International Commission for the Conservation of  
Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Corazon de Maria,  
8 -28002 Madrid  
SPAIN

Dear Mr Campbell,

**Re: Barbados' Letter on Compliance**

Greetings from the Barbados Fisheries Division. I hope that this communication finds you well.

I refer to your letter S23-0791, of 27th July 2023, identifying a few compliance deficiencies. Please find enclosed the responses to the queries raised in the attached completed template supplied.

Please accept assurances of my highest consideration. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours in sustainable fisheries,

Dr Shelly-Ann Cox  
**Chief Fisheries Officer**

Compliance letter response template

2022 Commission Meeting			
CPC: BARBADOS			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENT	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN SINCE 2022 MEETING	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
CATEGORY A			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>	<p><b>Rec. 19-05:</b> Continued overharvest of blue marlin: 2021 quota = 10 t, 2021 balance = -59.66 t BUM negative balance increasing: 2020 balance = -42.42 t, 2019 = -45.90 t, 2020 = -57.43 t</p> <p>Continued Overharvest of white marlin: 2021 quota = 10 t, 2021 balance = -8.60 t. WHM Negative balance steady: 2020 balance = -9.73 t, 2019 = -8.60 t, 2020 = -14.09 t.</p>	<p>The revised 2023 Fisheries Management Regulations, will very shortly be submitted to Cabinet for final approval and promulgation. These regulations <i>inter alia</i> prohibit longliners from targeted fishing of billfish. In this context targeted fishing includes the use of specialized fishing tackle; specific bait; or fishing technology. In addition any billfish incidentally taken on longlines that are alive at haulback are to be promptly released in a manner that maximizes post-release survival accordance or if already dead, a percentage of the fish as specified by the Chief Fisheries Officer may be retained and disposed of in accordance with such conditions as he specifies. The regulations mandate that the master of any fishing vessel (commercial and recreational) that fish that must be released are done so in (a) accordance with such instructions as the Chief Fisheries Officer may specify by notice published in the Official Gazette. (b)</p>	

		<p>Shall ensure that the equipment required for the purpose of release of fish is of a size and design approved by the Chief Fisheries (c) the equipment must be kept on board the vessel for the duration of every fishing trip; (d) be maintained in good working order; and (e) that the master of the vessel and the crew are trained in the safe and effective use of the equipment. The regulations also mandate that only Circle hooks that must be greater than 16/0 (not offset) or 18/0, with an offset no greater than 10 degrees may be used on longlines. While these methods are aimed at curbing catches of billfish including marlins in an effort to comply with the current set quotas, the Commission is reminded that billfish are eaten in Barbados and contribute to the island's food security in addition to being an important component of the catches of the island's longline fleet and thus the economic viability of that fishery and the livelihoods of fisherfolk. It should also be noted that longliners are targeting yellowfin and bigeye tunas in fishing areas in our EEZ and beyond known to be inhabited by marlins. For this reason, marlins are caught incidentally, but are consumed and contribute to food security.</p>	
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<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
<b>CATEGORY B</b>			
<i>Annual Report</i>			
<i>Statistical Data</i>			
<i>Other reports - Shark and Billfish Check Sheets</i>			
<b>CATEGORY C</b>			
<i>MCS-species related</i>			
<i>MCS-general: Port Controls</i>	No scientific observer programme.	One of the major difficulties in the implementation of an observer program has been the lack of supporting legislation. The 2023 Fisheries Management Regulations (to be put into effect shortly) mandate that the masters of fishing vessels participate in observer programs including electronic monitoring as stipulated by the Chief Fisheries Officer. Note that EMS-based methodologies would be the only viable option for many of Barbados' fishing vessels which are relatively small. Ten (10) satellite Vessel Monitoring Devices have to date been installed on active longline vessels and the installation of the remaining 30 devices will be completed by year end. Implementation plans that include restructuring and expanding the human and technical capacity of the Fisheries Division to effectuate the necessary Monitoring, Control and Surveillance, which will include the	



		observer program, that will accompany this expanded regulatory framework are currently being developed.	
<i>Vessel Controls</i>			
OTHER			
Response to COC Chair letter from previous year?			

BELIZE HIGH SEAS FISHERIES UNIT

**REF: HSFU-RFMO-V09-2023(90) Vol.2**

9th September 2023

Mr Derek Campbell  
Compliance Committee Chair  
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas  
Madrid, Spain

**SUBJECT: LETTER OF COMPLIANCE ISSUES**

Dear Mr Campbell,

Belize acknowledges receipt of your letter dated 7th August 2023 regarding the subject matter and takes note of the compliance issue identified for Belize. We have carefully reviewed the compliance issues raised and have prepared a response in the enclosed template. We trust that our response will address any concerns and provide clarity on our actions towards resolving the identified compliance issues.

We take this opportunity to thank the Secretariat and the Commission for their diligence in identifying the compliance issues and for providing us with the opportunity to address them. We understand the importance of maintaining compliance and are committed to taking the necessary steps to rectify any shortcomings.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew the assurances of my highest consideration.

Valarie Lanza  
Director of High Seas Fisheries  
Head of Belize Delegation to ICCAT

Compliance letter response template

<b>2022 Commission Meeting</b>			
<b>CPC: BELIZE</b>			
<b>AREA OF DEFICIENCY</b>	<b>SPECIFIC ELEMENT</b>	<b>REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN SINCE 2022 MEETING</b>	<b>DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)</b>
<b>Category A</b>			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>			
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
<b>Category B</b>			
<i>Annual Report</i>			
<i>Statistical Data</i>	Rec. 21-01: Historical FAD data sent, but number of sets missing.	Updated FAD set data has been amended and submitted as requested. Belize is still working with the Secretariat to formalize all data submissions with inconsistencies.	Updated reports sent on 30 August 2023.
<i>Other reports – Shark and Billfish Check Sheets</i>			
<b>Category C</b>			
<i>MCS-species related</i>			
<i>MCS-general: Port Controls</i>			
<i>Vessel Controls</i>	Rec. 21-14 & Rec. 21-01: Retroactive authorization outside of the permitted grace period of a previously authorized vessel.	Administrative delays in the reporting of vessels within the grace period were a result of the institutional changes within our organization that led to changes in reporting personnel. Belize is taking active measures to address these administrative delays and improve the reporting process for vessels within the grace period. This includes streamlining internal procedures, providing additional training to personnel, and implementing new technologies to enhance efficiency and accuracy in reporting.	
<b>OTHER</b>			
Response to COC Chair letter from previous year?			

FÍCIO - MPA Nº 147/2023/AI - MPA/MPA

Brasília-DF, 29 September 2023

To  
DEREK CAMPBELL  
Compliance Committee Chair  
COMISSÃO INTERNACIONAL PARA CONSERVAÇÃO DE ATUN ATLÂNTICO - ICCAT  
Calle Corazón de María, 8-6º  
28002 Madrid - Spain

**Subject: Explanation Letter to ICCAT # S23-07913**

Dear Mr. Campbell,

Brazil acknowledges the receipt of your letter on compliance issues addressed, dated July 27th, 2023. We are grateful to you for drawing our attention to the concerns raised, as well as for the opportunity to provide the necessary clarifications. Therefore, we present below a list of actions taken by Brazil to address the problem for due consideration by the Compliance Committee.

In accordance with ICCAT conservation and management program for tropical tunas adopted by the Commission (Rec 19-02; Rec 21-02), Brazil recognizes that, in the recent period, it has been exceeding its BET catch limits.

The recent growth of the Brazilian bigeye fishery has posed significant challenges to Brazil in effectively implementing control mechanisms as required by its obligations under this RFMO. This is particularly the case of our artisanal handline fishery, which has a wide dispersion of landing points spread along more than 8 thousand kilometers of coastline, has severely hampered the country's ability to difficulty in monitoring this fishery.

However, Brazil has been making an enormous effort along the years to solve these issues, improving the regulatory framework and getting stakeholders for effective actions and improved compliance. Therefore, some actions have already been taken, as follows:

The Interministerial Ordinance nº 59-A promulgated on 9 November 2021, establishes measures, criteria and standards the handline fishery and other aspects of tuna and tuna like fisheries at territorial sea, Economic Exclusive Zones and international waters by Brazilian fishing vessels, firstly implementing the obligation of logbooks landings monitoring for this fishery;

More recently, in 2022, Brazil restructured its fisheries management committees. The Federal Decree nº 10.736, 29 June 2021 implements the National Collaborative Network for Sustainable Management of Fishing Resources. The Decree maintain internal transparency of its responsibilities, including tuna and tuna related fisheries. A total of seven meeting conducted by the Standing Committee for Tuna Management occurred, encompassing the productive sector, researchers and government agencies, were the rules for compliance with the various ICCAT recommendations regarding tropical tuna fishing were discussed.

Within the participatory environment created by the previously cited Decree, during 2023, Brazil has incremented the national regulatory framework to overcome the "Continued overharvest of bigeye tuna: 2021 quota = 5946.31 t, 2021 balance = -793.69 t. Overharvest increasing: 2020 balance = -241.00 t (Rec. 21-02)", as follows (see COMPLIANCE LETTER RESPONSE TEMPLATE):

– Interministerial Ordinance MPA/MMA Nº 02, 28 March 2023, establishes, for the year 2023, the catch limit of the species Albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*, 2.600 t), bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*, 5.441 t), Swordfish-North (*Xiphias gladius*, 45 t), and Swordfish-South (*Xiphias gladius*, 2.600 t) in the Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) for the Brazilian fishing vessels.

– Interministerial Ordinance MPA/MMA N° 05, 22 September 2023, establishes, for the year of 2023, the monitoring, control and inspection measures for the catch limit of bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*) for the Brazilian fishing vessels operating in the Territorial Sea, the Exclusive Economic Zone and international waters.

In addition, improved efforts of monitoring, related to onboard observers and port monitoring, are in course in 2023.

Respectfully,

FLÁVIA LUCENA FRÉDOU  
HEAD DELEGATE  
NATIONAL SECRETARY OF REGISTER, MONITORING AND RESEARCH  
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

## Appendix 1

## Compliance Letter Response Template

2022 Commission Meeting			
CPC: BRAZIL			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENT	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN SINCE 2022 MEETING	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
<b>CATEGORY A</b>			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>	<p><a href="#">Rec. 21-02</a>: Continued overharvest of bigeye tuna: 2021 quota = 5946.31 t, 2021 balance= -793.69 t. Overharvest increasing: 2020 balance = -241.00 t.</p>	<p>Interministerial Ordinance MPA/MMA N° 02, 28 of March of 2023.</p> <p>Interministerial Ordinance MPA/MMA N° 05, 22 of September of 2023.</p>	
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
<b>CATEGORY B</b>			
<i>Annual Report</i>			
<i>Statistical Data</i>			
<i>Other reports – Shark and Billfish Check Sheets</i>			
<b>CATEGORY C</b>			
<i>MCS-species related</i>			
<i>MCS-general: Port Controls</i>			
<i>Vessel Controls</i>			
<b>OTHER</b>			
Response to COC Chair letter from previous year?			

MINISTRY OF THE SEA  
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE NATIONAL DIRECTORATE

Mindelo, S. Vicente, 7 October 2018  
DNPA /SV/021/2023

ICCAT Secretariat - Madrid Spain  
ATT: MR DEREK CAMPBELL  
COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

SUBJECT: RESPONSE OF CABO VERDE TO ICCAT LETTER ON DATA AND INFORMATION REPORTING DEFICIENCIES FOR 2021

The Fisheries and Aquaculture National Directorate of Cabo Verde would like to thank you for your letter with reference ICCAT-SALIDA 2023-07-27 S23-07901 on statistical data and information reporting deficiencies for 2021 for Cabo Verde.

We regret that we are late in replying to the Secretariat due to the change in Head Delegate and email circuits, which is why we did not become aware of the letter in due time.

In this regard, we take due note of the inadequacies in relation to the following aspects of compliance: Rec. 11-11 (implementation tables); Rec. 21-01 (historical FAD data); Rec. 18-06 (shark check sheet); Rec. 19-02 & 21-01 (quarterly reports on tropical tunas and fisheries management and FAD plan); Recs. 19-02 & 21-01, and Rec. 16-14 (observers programme).

We are aware that additional work is needed to strengthen the Cabo Verde national team to enable a more efficient and effective response to ICCAT tasks.

The lack of computer tools, in particular software and qualified personnel, greatly limits the ability to comply, responding more quickly and effectively to the commitments to provide statistical and biological data to the ICCAT Secretariat.

In this respect, we would like to have continuous support from the Secretariat through training programmes and for processing all aspects of data collection and transmission.

In conclusion, we would like to express our firm conviction to work with determination to overcome the deficiencies and limitations in the submission of data to the ICCAT Secretariat.

We are willing to work with the ICCAT Secretariat, especially with the Statistics and Research Department (SCRS) to make any necessary updates and corrections with respect to Cabo Verde's data.

Regards,

National Director

Carlos Monteiro

## Compliance letter response template

<b>2022 Commission Meeting</b>			
<b>CPC: TRINIDAD &amp; TOBAGO</b>			
<b>AREA OF DEFICIENCY</b>	<b>SPECIFIC ELEMENT</b>	<b>REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN SINCE 2022 MEETING</b>	<b>DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)</b>
<b>CATEGORY A</b>			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>	Rec. 11-11: Compliance tables not received.		
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
<b>CATEGORY B</b>			
<i>Annual Report</i>			
<i>Statistical Data</i>	Rec. 21-01: Historical FAD data submitted, but the number of sets is missing.		
<i>Other reports – shark and billfish check sheets</i>	Rec. 18-06: Shark check sheet received late (19 September 2022). Rec. 19-02 & 21-01: No monthly or quarterly reports on tropical tunas; no fishing / FAD plan for tropical tunas (Rec. 21-01, para 21(a) applies given that bigeye tuna catches are greater than 1,000 t).		
<b>CATEGORY C</b>			
<i>MCS-species related</i>	Rec. 16-14: No scientific observers programme.		
<i>MCS-general: Port Controls</i>			
<i>Vessel Controls</i>			
<b>OTHER</b>			
Response to COC Chair letter from previous year?	No response to COC Chair letter.		



BUREAU OF FISHERIES, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

27 September 2023

To: Mr. Derek Campbell  
Compliance Committee Chair

Cc: Mr. Ernesto Penas  
Chair of International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

**SUBJECT: REPLY LETTER OF CHINA ON COMPLIANCE ISSUES IN 2022**

Dear Mr Chair,

Thank you for your letter on compliance issues dated July 28, 2023.

Above all, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for your efforts and hardworking on promoting compliance issues within ICCAT.

We had carefully reviewed the three deficiencies as raised in the letter and our response is as follow:

First, regarding to shark check list sheet received late, it was because the working staff did not realize the items in the latest sheet had been updated until the Secretariat found out this error and informed us. Then we updated the shark check list according to the right version, which caused this late receiving. Our compliance team will pay more attention to the sheets or reports whenever new version is required.

Second, regarding to the Paper BCD sent late and with incorrected year, we encountered the systematical problem on the eBCD website and we immediately reported this difficulty to the technicians and later to the Secretariat. With the confirmation we issued the BCD under the guidance by Secretariat. We listed the BCD number according to the year when we issued them. And we are puzzled until now the inconsistency about the serial number of the Paper BCD. We hope the eBCD technicians or the Secretariat would assist to process the mentioned BCD documents into eBCD system.

Third, regarding to the retroactive listing two EBFT vessels, we had conducted investigation on these two vessels. These two vessels were firstly registered in August 2021 and were updated their registration as BFT fishing vessels in August 2022.

These two vessels conducted their fishing activities based on the National BFT fishing plan, which was approved during the annual Panel 2 meeting in March 2022. Due to the internal staff transfer of the managerial team of these two vessels, the manager missed to report the starting date 15 days ahead of the fishing start time. Then a corresponding correction was made with the assistance of the Secretariat right after we reported this situation to them. We had warned the fishing company about its late report on this matter. Revised mechanism for EBFT operation in this company, as well as in the compliance team, had been updated again so as to conduct the full compliance on this operation.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our commitment to comply with the ICCAT recommendations to our best for the purpose of long term conservation and sustainable utilization of fishery resource among ICCAT convention area.

Best regards,

SUN Haiwen  
Director, Division of Distant Water Fisheries  
Bureau of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs,  
People's Republic of China

Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources  
Directorate of Fisheries  
The Director

Abidjan, 29 September 2023

No. 291/MIRAH/DAP

To Mr Derek Campbell,  
ICCAT Compliance Committee Chair  
Madrid, Spain

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO LETTER OF CONCERN

Dear Chair,

I am writing in response to the letter of concern on compliance issues addressed to Côte d'Ivoire following the 2022 annual meeting.

On behalf of my country, I would like to apologise for these deficiencies in the responses to ICCAT requirements.

As indicated last year, there was a need for clarification and training in relation to some elements.

As a result, since last year, we have been in contact with the ICCAT Secretariat to remedy this. In this context, we followed with great interest the training sessions organised by the ICCAT Secretariat during 2023. Now we are in the process of gradually applying the skills acquired.

I would like to reassure you that we are determined to improve reporting by next year.

With our apologies once again, I have the honour to transmit herewith the compliance letter response template which has been duly completed.

Please accept, Chair, the expression of our sincere collaboration.

Fofana Bina  
Lead Water and Forestry Engineer

Attached: Compliance letter response template.

## Compliance letter response template

<b>2022 Commission Meeting</b>			
<b>CPC: CÔTE D'IVOIRE</b>			
<b>AREA OF DEFICIENCY</b>	<b>SPECIFIC ELEMENT</b>	<b>REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN SINCE 2022 MEETING</b>	<b>DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)</b>
<b>CATEGORY A</b>			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>	Rec. 11-11: Compliance tables not received.	Côte d'Ivoire has worked with the ICCAT Secretariat to finalise the forms for reporting via the IOMS. We follow with great interest the training sessions organised by the ICCAT Secretariat.	
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
<b>CATEGORY B</b>			
<i>Annual Report</i>	IOMS section entered by Secretariat, some responses may be incomplete.	We are working to understand better the IOMS in order to enter all the responses.	
<i>Statistical Data</i>	Rec. 21-01: Historical FAD data submitted, but the number of sets is missing.	No Côte d'Ivoire vessels have fished on FADs since 2014. Historical data on the number of FAD sets are not available.	
<i>Other reports – Shark and Billfish Check Sheets</i>	Rec. 18-06: Update of shark check sheet not received. Rec. 19-02: Some Task 1 data for tropical tuna species submitted for 2021, but no corresponding quarterly reports.	Côte d'Ivoire had difficulty understanding the shark and billfish check sheets. Côte d'Ivoire contacted the Secretariat in 2023 for further clarification. The check sheets are currently being processed and will be submitted by 15 October 2023. The quarterly reports (first and second quarters 2023) for tropical tuna species were submitted in September 2023.	28 September 2023

<b>CATEGORY C</b>			
<i>MCS-species related</i>	Recs. 01-21 and 18-07: SDP bi-annual reports (BET) submitted late.	The SDP report for the second semester of 2022 was submitted on 24 January 2023.  The report for the first semester of 2023 was submitted on 28 September 2023.	24 January 2023 and 28 September 2023.
<i>MCS-general: Port Controls</i>	Rec. 16-14: No scientific observer programme. Rec. 18-09: It is not exactly known if any in-port transshipment activity has been carried out.	In-port transshipment operations were carried out. In-port transshipment forms for 2021 and 2022 were submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat in January 2023.	18 January 2023.
<i>Vessel Controls</i>			
OTHER			
Response to COC Chair letter from previous year?	Late response to the 2022 COC Chair letter following the 2021 annual meeting.	The response to the 2023 letter of concern following the 2022 annual meeting was submitted on 29 September 2023.	29 September 2023.

MINISTRY OF  
Economic Development  
international Fisheries Commission

ICCAT Secretariat  
Mr Camille Jean Pierre Manel  
Executive Secretary  
Corazón de María, 8  
28002 Madrid  
SPAIN

19 September 2023

Our number

Case number  
FMC2023/0901

**Topic: Revised letter of compliance issues**

Dear Mr. Camille,

The Commission requests that Curaçao reply to this letter before 1 October 2023 and to accompany the response with the attached template duly completed (preferably submitted as an MS Word document) to indicate the actions taken to rectify the indicated deficiencies.

Based on your request I hereby submit to you the attached template duly completed. Finally, I hope to have informed you accordingly. Please confirm receipt of our response.

Sincerely,

Mr Ramon Chong MURP MPIA  
*Chairman*

## Compliance letter response template

<b>2022 Commission Meeting</b>			
<b>CPC: CURAÇAO</b>			
<b>AREA OF DEFICIENCY</b>	<b>SPECIFIC ELEMENT</b>	<b>REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN SINCE 2022 MEETING</b>	<b>DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)</b>
<b>CATEGORY A</b>			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>	<p><b>Rec. 19-05:</b> *</p> <p>Overharvest of blue marlin: 2022 quota = 10 t 2022 balance = -18,82 2021 quota = 10 t, 2021 balance = -22.53 t.</p> <p>Negative balance decreasing: 2018 balance = -30.30 t, 2019 balance = -40.60 t, 2020 balance = -30.60 t</p>	<p>Payback plan for blue marlin of 2.5 tons per year from 2022 on. Deducting 2,5 from 10 tons quota.</p> <p>For 2023 The adjusted landing limits will be -11,32. (Balance of 2022) +(10-2,5) will result in the adjusted quota for 2023.</p>	
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
<b>CATEGORY B</b>			
<i>Annual Report</i>			
<i>Statistical Data</i>	<p><b>Rec. 21-01:</b></p> <p>Historical FAD data sent, but number of sets aggregated (breakdown through ST03 needed).</p>	<p>The ST03 has been completed including the information from 2026 to 2021 (FREE and FAD set), including the number of sets as effort indicator.</p>	<p>The time series from 2016 to 2021 were sent to ICCAT.</p>
<i>Other reports – Shark and Billfish Check Sheets</i>			
<b>CATEGORY C</b>			
<i>MCS-species related</i>			
<i>MCS-general: Port Controls</i>			
<i>Vessel Controls</i>			
<b>OTHER</b>			
Response to COC Chair letter from previous year?			

## Compliance letter response template

2022 Commission Meeting			
CPC: EQUATORIAL GUINEA			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENT	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN SINCE 2022 MEETING	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
<b>CATEGORY A</b>			
<i>Compliance tables</i>		Reflected as submitted in the CP13-COC file.	2 August 2022
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>		Equatorial Guinea does not have a national tuna fleet, and therefore does not specifically target tuna. Tuna fishing is carried out by foreign vessels holding a license for this activity.	
<b>CATEGORY B</b>			
<i>Annual Report</i>		Reflected as submitted in the CP13-COC file.	3 June 2022
<i>Statistical data</i>		Zero catches were confirmed.  Equatorial Guinea does not have a national tuna fleet, and therefore cannot submit the Task 2 form. Fleet characteristics.	Nominal catches were submitted on 13 July 2022.  Zero catches were submitted on 13 July 2022.
<i>Other reports – Shark and Billfish Check Sheets</i>		These sheets were submitted.	Billfish, 27 June 2022 Sharks, 12 August 2022
<b>CATEGORY C</b>			
<i>MCS-species related</i>		We requested assistance or support from the Commission to train on-board observers, strengthen the tuna and tuna-like species statistics system, etc. However, we have not yet implemented it to date. I sent the letter on the conditions for this support to the competent authority, i.e. the outgoing Hon. Minister. However, due to these changes within the Ministry of	Requested on 15 October 2020.

		<p>Fisheries, it has not materialised.</p> <p>Therefore, I ask you to resend the reply to us, if possible, so that I can forward it to the new Minister to see what can be done.</p>	
<i>MCS-general: Port Controls</i>	<p>Rec. 16-14: No scientific observer programme. Assistance was requested but more details are needed on the nature of the assistance requested. To date, no formal submission has been made.</p>	<p>We requested assistance or support from the Commission to form an on-board observer programme, strengthen the tuna and tuna-like species statistics system, etc. However, to date we have not yet implemented it. The letter with the conditions for this support was sent to the competent authority, which was the Hon. outgoing Minister. However, due to these changes within the Ministry of Fisheries, it has not materialised.</p> <p>Therefore, I would ask you to send us the reply again, if possible, so that I can pass it on to the new Minister to see what can be done.</p>	<p>Requested on 15 October 2020.</p>
<i>Vessel controls</i>			
OTHER			
Response to COC Chair letter from previous year?		<p>As far as I remember, the response to the letter from the COC Chair was submitted.</p>	<p>Submitted on 27 July 2022.</p>



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

International Ocean Governance and Sustainable Fisheries  
**Regional Fisheries Management Organisations**  
Deputy Director and Head of Unit

Brussels,  
MARE.B.2/CR (2022)

Mr Derek Campbell,  
Compliance Committee Chairman  
ICCAT  
Corazón de María, 8-6°/7  
28002 Madrid  
SPAIN

**Subject: European Union reply to the letter on compliance issues (S23-07916)**

Dear Mr Campbell,

Thank you for your letter of 26 July 2023. The European Union has carefully considered the issues raised during the 2022 decision making process regarding its performance. Please find attached our response to the letter on compliance issues (S23-07916) informing on the specific remedial actions taken.

I trust that our reply provides a satisfactory response to all the points raised in your letter and I wish to reaffirm the strong commitment of the European Union to ensuring full compliance with ICCAT measures. Yours faithfully,

Stijn BILLIET  
Head of Delegation

**Attachment:** Response to the letter of compliance issues

Cc.: Camille Jean Pierre MANEL, Cristina CASTRO RIBEIRO, Fernando MIRANDA, Seamus HOWARD, Jérôme BROCHE, Oliver SCHULZ, Yves VAN POEKE

## Compliance Letter Response Template

<b>2022 Commission Meeting</b>			
<b>CPC: EUROPEAN UNION</b>			
<b>AREA OF DEFICIENCY</b>	<b>SPECIFIC ELEMENT</b>	<b>REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN SINCE 2022 MEETING</b>	<b>DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)</b>
<b>CATEGORY A</b>			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>			
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
<b>CATEGORY B</b>			
<i>Annual Report</i>			
<i>Statistical Data</i>	<p>Some statistical data received late. Possible miscoding of marlins.</p> <p>Historical FAD data sent, but number of sets missing for some member States.</p>	<p>1. We have raised awareness with all Member States about the importance of timely and complete data submission.</p> <p>2. There Is a scientific study underway to assess and revise the data series pertaining to these stocks. According to the plan the result should become available by the end of October/ early November.</p> <p>3. Number of FADs missing pertains to the years 2010 up to 2012, according to table 3 in document PA1_33/i2023.</p> <p>The historical databases with raw data, particularly for the period past 2013, do not have the level of detail of the current databases, and there are some data gaps, as by that time there was not accurate differentiation between type FAD set and free school. The Spain Research Institute IEO is underway the recovery of this data, through specific analysis which will be submitted to SGP for approval. Subsequently a SCRS document will be prepared, justifying potential changes and providing the validated catches of</p>	<p>1. Statistical data received late was submitted: DEU (FC, NC): 05.09.2022 LTU (FC, NC): 02.09.2022 LVA (FC, NC): 02.09.2022 ITA (FC, NC, CE, SZ, CS): 12.08.2022 HRV (S-BFT01): 11.08.2022</p> <p>3. on 10 February 2023, the IEO sent to this SGP the entire data series of FAD data for the period 2013 to 2021. Data previous to 2013 are under scrutiny and analysis and will be submitted when analysis concludes.</p>

		Spain for tasks I and II of the historical series present in the ICCAT databases. In addition, all the data will be provided in the format: ST03-T2CE_EU.ESP for the entire historical period that due to the previous reasons is still pending.	
<i>Other reports - Shark and Billfish Check Sheets</i>			
<b>CATEGORY C</b>			
<i>MCS-species related</i>			
<i>MCS-general: Port Controls</i>	<a href="#">Rec. 18-09:</a> Port Inspection reports with infractions sent late / not sent to flag States.	After the 2022 annual meeting, all inspection reports (including those without infringements) are sent promptly to the flag CPC of the fishing vessel and to ICCAT. Inspection reports are sent at the time they are issued in case of a possible infringement and periodically (i.e., every month) in case of no infringement. The number of inspections carried out up to August 2023 is 63, inspections performed on vessels flagged in: Bahamas, Curacao, El Salvador, Guatemala, Japan and Panama.	
<i>Vessel Controls</i>			
OTHER			
Response to COC Chair letter from previous year?			

## Updated information on EU investigation concerning Tarantelo operation and farm management in Croatia

### I. Farm management in Croatia

In the EU's internal system, Member States are responsible for exercising control over fishing activities, and the European Commission has the responsibility to ensure that EU and international rules are properly implemented and enforced by Member States.

The Commission fulfils this mission mainly through audits, verifications and autonomous inspections. If the Commission finds deficiencies in this implementation or enforcement of the rules it follows up on them, including the possible opening of infringement proceedings.

Following an audit carried out by the European Commission in Croatia regarding Bluefin Tuna control in farms, some deficiencies were found, and an infringement procedure was opened. The Croatian authorities have been making changes to address these shortcomings for 18 months now, and although the process is not yet complete, they have already undertaken a number of actions towards improvement of legislative framework, internal procedures, improving databases and applications of the IT system, building administrative capacities and strengthening sanctioning system. The European Commission is closely following the case.

The package of activities includes the following:

1. **Amendments of two basic acts** regulating fisheries and aquaculture in order to upgrade the infringement system by increasing fines (formal procedure is under way and entering into force of the amended acts planned by the end of 2023 or beginning of 2024 the latest).
2. **Adoption of a set of by-laws** transposing the most recent ICCAT recommendations (published in April/May 2023).
3. **A dedicated BFT software. Upgrading of the IT infrastructure** in support of monitoring, control and surveillance system by:
  - a. improving the management of the administrative and control procedures, from the requests of authorization by operators, crosschecks, to the authorizations and validations by the authorities, in the different phases: catch, transfer, caging, harvesting.
  - b. **integrating database of infringements and sanctions into the e-inspection** system which facilitates internal traceability and transparency of the inspection and control activities (planned to be finalized by end of 2023)
  - c. **integrating the entire traceability system** from catch to harvest (including all transfers) into the IT system supporting monitoring of BFT related fishing and farming activities (finalized in 2022, improved in 2023 with additional upgrading planned in 2024)
  - d. obtaining the **real time display of the status on each farm** including the spatial organization of cages at farms
  - e. VMS alerts to monitor vessels, in particular in the vicinity of the farms.
4. A **National Control Program (NCP)** for operations for the BFT fishery, including control procedures in all phases, from catching operations to the market. Unmanned air surveillance is foreseen only during the fishing season. The NCP includes cross-checks with information in the eBCD system, regular control of seals, cage positions and markings.
5. **Optimization of resources by internal reorganization and capacity building** activities within the Directorate of Fisheries (process under way as from October 2022)

It needs to be highlighted that all the mentioned activities are time and resource (human and financing) consuming and imply lengthy procedures, particularly in case of interventions into the legal framework. However, all the above mentioned measures will be finalized and implemented in the short term.

## II. Update on Tarantelo investigation

The EU has reported in detail during the 2021 and 2022 Compliance Committee meeting (COC309 Annex2), both on the status of the Tarantelo case in the Spanish courts, but also on the many measures that the EU has taken to improve the BFT control system and prevent a similar situation from happening again. The following is a summary of the situation and the new developments in the case since the last update.

A criminal case is open in the Audiencia Nacional where procedure 1/2018-B is being investigated.

The investigation is still open. Appeals by defendants have created challenges and delayed the Court proceedings:

1. By Order of 21 July 2022 of the JUZGADO CENTRAL DE INSTRUCCIÓN Nº3 (JCI3), it was agreed to extend the investigation for six months until 29 January 2023.
2. The representation of the defendant lodged an appeal against this Order, which was upheld by the Order of the Audiencia Nacional of 19 September 2022. By upholding the appeal, this Order of the "AUDIENCIA NACIONAL" annulled the extension of the pre-trial investigation.
3. As a result of the revocation of the Order extending the investigation, many of those under investigation have requested the dismissal and closure of the case. The petitions for dismissal of which we have been informed correspond to those under investigation who had not yet made statements and who, therefore, allege the absence of the minimum required diligences to maintain their charges.

In this situation, the JCI3 will soon issue an order agreeing the completion of the investigation with the transfer to the parties of the accusation to formulate a written indictment, which will foreseeably include all those investigated who have not been heard until now.

As detailed in the previous update, according to Spanish law (Ley de Enjuiciamiento Criminal) these are next phases:

1. Preparation for the oral trial: The purpose of this phase is to decide whether or not to open the oral trial. Once the pre-trial investigation has been completed, the preparation of the trial phase could be extended by approximately one month.
2. Oral trial: Once the oral trial is open, the Court will hear the proposed evidence and immediately issue an order admitting the evidence it considers relevant. This phase could last several months.
3. Sentence: Judgment is handed down within five days of the end of the oral trial.

It is important to highlight that due to the application of the "non bis in idem" principle, only after the criminal case comes to an end it will be possible for the Spanish Administration to resume the administrative investigation and sanctioning possible non-compliance related to fisheries rules. The "non bis in idem" principle is established in the Spanish national law, in article 31.1 of Law 40/2015, of 1 October, on the Legal Regime of the Public Sector, and in article 92.3 of the Spanish Maritime Fisheries Law 3/2001, in the following terms: "Acts that have been sanctioned criminally or administratively may not be sanctioned, in cases in which the subject, the act and the basis are identical".

## FISHERIES COMMISSION

26 September 2023

**RE: LETTER ON COMPLIANCE****MISCLASSIFICATION OF VESSELS IN THE 2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Fisheries Commission of Ghana writes to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. S23-07918 dated 26 July 2024 on the above-quoted subject and to inform ICCAT of the inadvertent misclassification of some vessels as vessels licensed under Access Agreements in the Ghana Annual Report for 2022.

As stated in your letter under reference, ICCAT Recommendation 14-07 requires Contracting Parties to the Convention (CPC) to report in detail information on vessels under Access Agreements and Ghana inadvertently indicated in the Annual Report as having some vessels licensed under Access Agreements.

We wish to inform you that the owners of the said vessels acquired a foreign license under Section 63 of the Fisheries Act 2002, Act 625 to operate in Ghana waters.

We apologize for the misclassification of the vessels in the Annual Report and wish to kindly request the Secretariat to update the records to reflect amended information.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Fred Kwasi Antw-Boadu  
Head Delegate for Ghana (Executive Director)

Fisheries Agency  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Government of Japan  
1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8907, Japan

5 September 2023

Mr Derek Campbell  
Compliance Committee Chair  
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

Dear Mr Campbell,

I refer to your letter dated August 7, 2023, regarding Japan's compliance deficiencies with ICCAT requirements. Japan has addressed the compliance deficiencies through the appropriate domestic process to prevent a recurrence.

Please find attached our response indicating the remedial action.

Sincerely,

Shingo OTA  
Japan's Commissioner to ICCAT

## Compliance Letter Response Template

2022 Commission Meeting			
CPC: JAPAN			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENT	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN SINCE 2022 MEETING	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
<b>CATEGORY A</b>			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>			
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
<b>CATEGORY B</b>			
<i>Annual Report</i>			
<i>Statistical Data</i>			
<i>Other reports – Shark and Billfish Check Sheets</i>			
<b>CATEGORY C</b>			
<i>MCS-species related</i>			
<i>MCS-general: Port Controls</i>	<a href="#">Rec. 13-14</a> : Late submission of chartering arrangement with Namibia.	The Fisheries Agency instructed the Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association and reminded them of necessary procedures concerning chartering arrangements.	
<i>Vessel Controls</i>	<a href="#">Rec. 21-16</a> : Some VMS messages not sent in accordance with <a href="#">Rec. 21-16</a> , para. 3.	This issue occurred due to an unknown system failure. Although the Fisheries Agency consulted with the service provider, we could not identify the source of the failure. Japan has confirmed that no Japanese fishing vessel had conducted eastern BFT fishery during the failure, and the same system failure has not occurred after that.	



	<p><a href="#">Rec. 13-14</a>: Chartering arrangements received late (after start of arrangement).</p>	<p>The Fisheries Agency instructed the fisherman and the Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association and reminded them of necessary procedures concerning chartering arrangements.</p>	
OTHER			
Response to COC Chair letter from previous year?			

## Compliance letter response template

<b>2022 Commission Meeting</b>			
<b>CPC: KOREA (REP.)</b>			
<b>AREA OF DEFICIENCY</b>	<b>SPECIFIC ELEMENT</b>	<b>REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN SINCE 2022 MEETING</b>	<b>DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)</b>
<b>CATEGORY A</b>			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>			
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
<b>CATEGORY B</b>			
<i>Annual Report</i>			
<i>Statistical Data</i>			
<i>Other reports – Shark and Billfish Check Sheets</i>	<a href="#">Rec. 18-13</a> : Annual BCD report received late.	We have paid greater attention to meet the submission deadline. This year, Korea successfully submitted the Annual BCD report on time.	September 26, 2022
<b>CATEGORY C</b>			
<i>MCS-species related</i>			
<i>MCS-general: Port Controls</i>	<a href="#">Rec. 21-15</a> : Report on transshipment received late.	We have paid greater attention to meet the submission deadline. This year, Korea successfully submitted the transshipment report on time.	September 30, 2022
<i>Vessel Controls</i>	<a href="#">Rec. 21-16</a> : Some VMS messages not sent in accordance with <a href="#">Rec. 21-16</a> , para. 3.	We are in the process of developing a system that can automatically send VMS data to the Secretariat in the event of a regular transmission failure.	Starting from October 1, 2022, after renewing VMS certificates, there have been transmission failures. Since then, the Korean Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) has been reporting manually via email. On January 16, 2023, the issue was resolved, and Korea FMC submitted the missing data that had accumulated during the manual reporting period.
OTHER			
Response to COC Chair letter from previous year?			

## NATIONAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE AUTHORITY (NaFAA)

*Office of the Director General*

RL/NaFAA/DG/L-0160/'22  
November 22, 2022

Derek Campbell  
Compliance Committee Chair  
ICCAT  
Madrid, Spain

Dear Mr Campbell,

In response to your letter dated 15th July 2022, the management of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) reaffirmed its commitment to fully carry out its responsibilities as a CPC to ICCAT and provide responses to the COC issues raised in the below.

1. Compliance Tables received late – Liberia will endeavor to prepare and send its compliance tables on or before the deadline.
2. Some differences between Task 1 and Compliance tables; possible overharvest of blue marlin. – Discrepancies between Task 1 and Compliance tables were reconciled, submitted and accepted by the Secretariat. From the reconciliation process, BUM was not overharvest. Moreover, YFT, BET and BSH were included in the Compliance Tables.
3. Task 2 Catch and Effort data not received. Task 1 and size data received late - Rec. 19-02 para. 13: Task 1 and 2 tables were submitted on time but later sent back by the Secretariat for clarification. The said clarifications were made and submitted to the Secretariat.
4. No quarterly reports of tropical tuna received - Rec. 19-04 para. 51: - As stated in the Annual Report, Liberia is new to this type of fishery as it was the first time that we had Liberian flagged tuna vessels. This situation will improve in the near future, if Liberia flags new vessels. However, the two vessels that were flagged to Liberia have now de-flagged.
5. One vessel included on EBFT-other list retroactively - Rec. 16-14: Does this apply to us? No, it does not apply.
6. No information on or data from national scientific observer programme - Rec. 18-05 and Rec. 18-06: Liberia requests capacity for our national observer program. Currently our observers are not collecting most of the variables to complete form ST09.
7. No Check Sheets received. In addition, no direct response was received to my previous letters of 2020 and 2021. Check sheets were completed and submitted and accepted by the Secretariat.

Thanks for your understanding and we look forward to working with you Chair to provide clarification where necessary.

Kind regards,

Emma Metieh Glassco  
Director General

## Compliance letter response template

<b>2022 Commission Meeting</b>			
<b>CPC: LIBERIA</b>			
<b>AREA OF DEFICIENCY</b>	<b>SPECIFIC ELEMENT</b>	<b>REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN SINCE 2022 MEETING</b>	<b>DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)</b>
<b>CATEGORY A</b>			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>	<p><a href="#">Rec. 19-05</a> and <a href="#">17-03</a>: Continued overharvest of northern swordfish: No quota, 2021 balance = -117.19 t. SWON negative balance increasing: 2018 balance = -19.49 t, 2019 = -21.19 t, 2020 = -25.71 t.</p> <p>Overharvest of blue marlin: 2021 quota = 10 t, 2021 balance = -83.62 t. BUM negative balance decreasing: 2018 = -107.97 t, 2019 = -99.95 t, 2020 = -91.77 t.</p>	Discrepancies between Task 1 and Compliance tables were reconciled, submitted, and accepted by the Secretariat during the 2019 annual meeting. From the reconciliation process, BUM was not overharvest. Moreover, YFT, BET and BSH were included in the Compliance Tables. For SWON, our adjusted balance show a decrease.	November 24, 2019 (email exchanges)  October 4, 2023
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
<b>CATEGORY B</b>			
<i>Annual Report</i>			
<i>Statistical Data</i>			
<i>Other reports – shark and billfish check sheets</i>	<p><a href="#">Rec. 19-02</a>: Some Task 1 of tropical tuna species submitted for 2021 but no corresponding monthly or quarterly reports.</p>	Liberia was new to this type of fishery as it was the first time that we had Liberian flagged tuna vessel. This situation will improve in the near future, if Liberia flag new vessels. However, the two vessels that were flagged to Liberia have now de-flagged.	
<b>CATEGORY C</b>			
<i>MCS-species related</i>			
<i>MCS-general: Port Controls</i>			

<i>Vessel Controls</i>			
OTHER			
Response to COC Chair letter from previous year?	No reply to COC Chair letter.	Liberia responded to the letter (attached).	November 22, 2022

## Compliance letter response template

<b>2022 Commission Meeting</b>			
<b>CPC: LIBYA</b>			
<b>AREA OF DEFICIENCY</b>	<b>SPECIFIC ELEMENT</b>	<b>REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN SINCE 2022 MEETING</b>	<b>DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)</b>
<b>CATEGORY A</b>			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>			
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
<b>CATEGORY B</b>			
<i>Annual Report</i>			
<i>Statistical Data</i>	Task 1 and Task 2 data received late (13 October 2022).	Task 1 and Task 2 was Submitted late due to difficulties in gathering data related.	
<i>Other reports – shark and billfish check sheets</i>	<a href="#">Rec. 18-06</a> : No updated Shark Check Sheet received.	CPC LIBYA no new data for shark check sheet.	
<b>CATEGORY C</b>			
<i>MCS-species related</i>	<a href="#">Rec. 21-08</a> : One Joint Fishing Operation reported late.	Due to logistical reasons for this JFO especially that one of the owners of these vessels has died, However the JFO didn't operate until the JFO list approved and published from ICCAT (7 days from date of sending the list).	
<i>MCS-general: Port Controls</i>			
<i>Vessel Controls</i>			
<b>OTHER</b>			
Response to COC Chair letter from previous year?			

## Compliance letter response template

2022 Commission Meeting			
CPC: NAMIBIA			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENT	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN SINCE 2022 MEETING	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
CATEGORY A			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>	<p><a href="#">Rec. 19-05</a> and <a href="#">16-16</a>: Continued Overharvest of blue marlin: 2021 quota = 10 t, 2021 balance = -226.98 t. BUM negative balance increasing: 2018 = -143.00 t, 2019 = -185.72 t, 2020 = -227.13 t. Discrepancies between Task 1 and Compliance tables for S. albacore and bigeye tuna.</p>	<p>Namibia are aware of the continues over catch of the last few years of the blue marlin quota. To address this non compliance some control measures was put in place such as regular industry consultations to sensitize right Holder to comply with the conservation measure and limit the catches of blue marlin in their fishing operations.</p> <p>This is further enhanced by sensitizing our fisheries observers on board the fishing vessels to monitor the catch rates of these species and in port monitoring of landings by fisheries inspectors.</p> <p>In addition the fishing industry are compliant and thus Namibia has noted that all these measures had a positive effect with a drastic reduction of blue marlin catches for the last year in compliance with the conservation measure.</p>	
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
CATEGORY B			
<i>Annual Report</i>			
<i>Statistical Data</i>	<a href="#">Rec. 16-14</a> : No ST09 form submitted.		15/07/2023
<i>Other reports – Shark and Billfish Check Sheets</i>	<a href="#">Rec. 18-06</a> : No updated Shark Check Sheet received.		15/09/2023
CATEGORY C			
<i>MCS-species related</i>			

<p><i>MCS-general: Port Controls</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Rec. 16-14</a>: No information on scientific observer programme.</p>		<p><a href="#">Rec. 16-14</a>: Namibia do have a National Observer Program. The Fisheries Observer Agency's (FOA) mandate is to observe the harvesting, processing and handling of marine resources and to collect biological data onboard commercial fishing vessels. Fisheries observers were also tasked to observe the activities of fishing vessels at sea and report any violations for possible action to be taken against the culprits. Furthermore, Namibia had deployed Fisheries Inspectors both at sea onboard Fisheries Patrol vessels and in the harbours, to ensure strict compliance with the country's rules and regulations related to the exploitation of marine living resources, including those adopted by Namibia as part of its obligations to RFMO's and International Organisations.</p>
<p><i>Vessel Controls</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Rec. 13-14</a>: Chartering arrangements received late (after start of arrangement).</p>	<p>Was improved chartering arrangements was notified immediately notified in accordance with <a href="#">Rec 13-14</a>.</p>	
<p>OTHER</p>			
<p>Response to COC Chair letter from previous year?</p>	<p>No reply to COC Chair letter.</p>		



Managua, 18 August 2023  
DG/EJA/217/08/2023

CAMILLE JEAN PIERRE MANEL  
Executive Secretary  
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

Dear Mr Manel,

On 27 July this year, we received a communication from the Chair of the ICCAT Compliance Committee, Mr Derek Campbell, signalling some issues concerned with late reporting, and in particular, the reporting of zero catches, as well as the need for further information on some issues such as transshipments; in this regard, he indicated that it is not clear whether or not these activities take place in our ports. We are working to overcome these issues this year, through submission and the corresponding clarifications.

He also signalled that the Annual Report that was submitted through the IOMS system may contain some incomplete responses. On this matter, he indicated in his communication that if we had any doubts regarding the issues raised in his letter that we should contact him through the Secretariat to request further clarification.

We therefore request more details on the incomplete responses in the IOMS system so that the situation is clear and we are able to address it satisfactorily. We are available for a video conference with the area responsible, if that is possible, or any way that you see fit.

We thank you in advance for your kind and customary support.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Edward Jackson Abella

Director-General  
Nicaragua Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture (INPESCA)

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Panama, 14 September 2023  
DCI-ARAP-209-2023

Mr Camille Jean Pierre Manel  
Executive Secretary  
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

Dear Sir,

With reference to the letter S23-08386 of 7 August 2023 on compliance related issues, please find attached a response specifically to the three observations on:

- Compliance Tables
- Statistical data and historical FAD data
- Monthly and quarterly reports on tropical tunas

Yours sincerely,

YARKELIA VERGARA  
Chief

Appendix 1

Compliance letter response template

<b>2022 Commission Meeting</b>			
<b>CPC: PANAMA</b>			
<b>AREA OF DEFICIENCY</b>	<b>SPECIFIC ELEMENT</b>	<b>REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN SINCE 2022 MEETING</b>	<b>DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)</b>
<b>Category A</b>			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>	Rec. 16-16: Compliance tables received late (14 September 2022).	The delay in reporting was due to structural changes that Panama was making to comply with resources conservation and management measures. Currently, we apply data reporting controls, which is why there has not been any delay in reporting.	N/A
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
<b>Category B</b>			
<i>Annual Report</i>			
<i>Statistical Data</i>	Rec. 21-01: Some statistical data received late.  Historical data on FAD sets submitted, but the number of sets was aggregated (a breakdown is needed using ST03).	Panama was making changes and modifications to the structure for report monitoring and submission in general. Currently Panama has submitted these reports without delay.  Remedied as the historical data on FAD sets were submitted. The breakdown was provided.	28/02/2023

<i>Other reports – BILL and SHK Check Sheets</i>	Rec. 19-02: Monthly and quarterly reports on tropical tunas received late (2021 data received on 11 October 2022).	Currently monthly and quarterly reports are submitted without delay.	
		Panama was making changes and modifications to the structure for report monitoring and submission in general.	
<b>Category C</b>			
<i>MCS-species related</i>			
<i>MCS-general: Port Controls</i>			
<i>Vessel Controls</i>			
OTHER			
Response to COC Chair letter from previous year?			

**ICCAT Executive Secretary**

Dear sir,

We acknowledge the efforts made by ICCAT for the management of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and we are available to collaborate for the achievement of positive results.

However, despite all the efforts of the São Tomé and Príncipe fisheries authorities to make data available and full collaboration with ICCAT, we have not achieved the expected results, due to the change in the fisheries administration, the COVID-19 pandemic, financial limitations, among others.

We have taken note of our lack of commitment in producing and submitting statistical data, but data submission is still a major responsibility for us.

We are aware that planning depends exclusively on data and the human capacity to do so.

We apologise for the delay, error and absence of information from São Tomé and Príncipe on tuna catches.

We take this opportunity to inform you that our commitment lies in submitting statistical data at the earliest opportunity, given the importance of this resource for food security and the São Tomé and Príncipe economy.

We also request technical assistance from ICCAT to help us to comply with these recommendations.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

The Director  
ILAIR DA CONCEIÇÃO

**Compliance Letter Response Template**

<b>2022 Commission Meeting</b>			
<b>CPC: SENEGAL</b>			
<b>AREA OF DEFICIENCY</b>	<b>SPECIFIC ELEMENT</b>	<b>REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN SINCE 2022 MEETING</b>	<b>DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)</b>
<b>CATEGORY A</b>			
<i>Compliance tables</i>	<p>Rec. 21-02: Overharvest of bigeye tuna: 2021 quota = 1312.15, 2021 balance = 599.47. 2020 balance = -1377.77 This overharvest will be deducted from the 2022 quota. Adjusted quota for 2022 = -65.62.</p>	<p>Senegal has taken the following measures: - Reduction in effort directed at bigeye tuna; - In implementing its payback plan for this overharvest, Senegal has deducted 137.77 t from its limit, i.e. 10% of the amount. Notification of limit to vessel owners. - Senegal submitted a draft recommendation for discussion during Panel 1 and the 28th Commission meeting in November 2023.</p>	
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
<b>CATEGORY B</b>			
<i>Annual Report</i>	Some responses to Part 1 (scientific) in the IOMS may be incomplete.	The responses were completed for 2022.	
<i>Statistical Data</i>	Some Task 1 data or confirmation of nil catches missing. Rec. 21-01 Some historical data on FADs are available but incomplete for effort.	FAD data were completed and effort data were corrected in relation to the ICCAT Secretariat.	
<i>Other reports – Shark and Billfish Check Sheets</i>	Recs. 17-02 and 21-02: SWO-N management plan submitted late.		
<b>CATEGORY C</b>			
<i>MCS-species related</i>	Recs. 19-02 and 21-01: No monthly or quarterly reports on tropical tuna catches received.		
<i>MCS-general: Port Controls</i>	Rec. 16-14: The information required in the summary of the Annual Report regarding the scientific observer programme has not been submitted.	Despite transposition of the recommendation on scientific observers, Senegal is experiencing difficulties in fully implementing this requirement. There is a not a sufficient number of observers, which is in the process of being resolved.	

<p><i>Vessel Controls</i></p>	<p>Rec. 21-02: Northern albacore catches taken by vessels not included in the Record of ALB-N vessels (for further information see COC_306 and COC_312).</p>	<p>There is no evidence of albacore catches by Senegalese vessels. These are claims made by the European Union based on exports of albacore tuna to its market. These exports are fraudulent because they are carried out outside the official certification channels. As a result, no trace of them can be found in the export files. Senegal has no information on the alleged captures.</p>	
<p>OTHER</p>			
<p>Response to COC Chair letter from previous year?</p>	<p>No response to the COC Chair letter.</p>		

## Compliance letter response template

<b>2022 Commission Meeting</b>			
<b>CPC: SOUTH AFRICA</b>			
<b>AREA OF DEFICIENCY</b>	<b>SPECIFIC ELEMENT</b>	<b>REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN SINCE 2022 MEETING</b>	<b>DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)</b>
<b>CATEGORY A</b>			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>			
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
<b>CATEGORY B</b>			
<i>Annual Report</i>			
<i>Statistical Data</i>			
<i>Other reports – Shark and Billfish Check Sheets</i>			
<b>CATEGORY C</b>			
<i>MCS-species related</i>			
<i>MCS-general: Port Controls</i>	Possible imports of fish caught by IUU vessel.	South Africa has stringent and rigorous measures in place regarding importation of fish or fishery products. These include but not limited to, being issued with an import permit, inspection of the fish fishery products by the Fisheries Compliance Officers, Customs Authorities, verification of whether the products were legally caught etc. The vessel, <i>Halifax</i> which caught the fish was at the time duly registered on the Namibian Ship Register, and the catches were authorized in terms of duly issued rights/licenses issued by the Namibian Competent Authorities. In addition, the fish or fishery products were	



		<p>cleared and loaded by Novaship Namibia on behalf of the importer for export of the fish to South Africa.</p> <p>In light of the above, the fish was cleared for import. However, it became apparent that there were issues with the vessel that caught the fish and to this end, the Importers immediately flagged and isolated the fish pending the outcomes of the investigation on this matter.</p>	
<i>Vessel Controls</i>	<a href="#">Rec. 13-14</a> : No notification of early termination of chartering arrangement.	<p>Please be advised that it's not correct to say the information was not submitted or no notification of early termination....</p> <p>South Africa provided the information as required and during the period when the termination came into effect. The query relates to the contradiction with regards to the end dates submitted by the South African and Namibian Authorities. This has since been resolved and the same was transmitted to the Secretariat.</p>	
OTHER			
Response to COC Chair letter from previous year?			

**Response from Syria to letter from Chair of Compliance Committee**

Dear Sir,

Referring to your letter regarding the deficiencies noted by Compliance Committee, we would like to clarify the following:

1. We confirm that the national scientific observer programme implemented in Syria.
2. Syria implemented national observer programme taking into account the circumstances in Syria and illegal sanction since 2011 and considering that the majority of fishing vessels belong to the artisanal sector (less than 15 m ) and catch of vessels landed with no discards allowed.
3. The national observer programme implemented by distributing observers in all landing centers on Syrian coast, and the data collected through this program have been used to quantify the composition, disposition, and quantity of the total catch of fisheries in Syria.
4. We request for technical support for developing landing centers and training programs for at least two officers regarding resource management and implementation of scientific observers programme to insure more cooperation and best implementation of ICCAT recommendations in future to come.

Best regards

## Compliance letter response template

<b>2022 Commission Meeting</b>			
<b>CPC: SYRIA</b>			
<b>AREA OF DEFICIENCY</b>	<b>SPECIFIC ELEMENT</b>	<b>REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN SINCE 2022 MEETING</b>	<b>DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)</b>
<b>CATEGORY A</b>			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>			
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
<b>CATEGORY B</b>			
<i>Annual Report</i>			
<i>Statistical Data</i>			
<i>Other reports – Shark and Billfish Check Sheets</i>			
<b>CATEGORY C</b>			
<i>MCS-species related</i>			
<i>MCS-general: Port Controls</i>			
<i>Vessel Controls</i>			
<b>OTHER</b>			
Response to COC Chair letter from previous year?	No reply was received in response to last year's letter regarding national scientific observer requirements (Rec. 16-14). The letter was sent following the 2021 decision making process.	We confirm that the national scientific observer program implemented. Syria implemented national observer program taking into account the circumstances in Syria and illegal sanction since 2011 and considering that the majority of fishing vessels belong to the artisanal sector and catch of vessels landed with no discards allowed. The national observer program implemented by distributing observers in all landing centers on Syrian coast, and the data collected through this program have been used to quantify the composition, disposition, and quantity of the total catch of fisheries in Syria.	We request for technical support for developing landing centers and training programs of at least two officers regarding resource management and implementation of scientific observers program to insure more cooperation and best implementation of ICCAT recommendations in future to come.

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LAND & FISHERIES**  
**Fisheries Division**

12 October 2023  
Mr Derek Campbell  
Compliance Committee Chair  
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas  
Corazon de Maria 8  
28002 Madrid  
SPAIN

**SUBJECT: LETTER ON COMPLIANCE ISSUES**

Dear Mr Campbell

Trinidad and Tobago conveys its commendations to the Commission and Secretariat and wishes to reaffirm its commitment to conservation and management of Atlantic tunas and tuna-like species for the benefit of current and future generations.

Reference is made to your letter dated 2 October 2023 which seeks a reply from Trinidad and Tobago on the following compliance deficiencies noted by the Commission during its 27th Special Meeting held 14-21 November 2022 :

- Rec- 19-05 and 16-16: Overharvest of WHM
- Rec. 18-06: Shark Check Sheets submitted late (28 September 2022)
- Rec. 16-14: Observer programme not yet implemented

Please find attached the completed template indicating the remedial action taken and planned to address the identified deficiencies. In particular, we wish to highlight that Trinidad and Tobago has been engaged, since March 2022 to the present, in intensive efforts with the aim of enacting modernised fisheries management legislation within the shortest deadline possible and that the political directorate has given an undertaking to enact the Fisheries Management Bill before the end of 2023.

Trinidad and Tobago reiterates to the Compliance Committee, our commitment to improving our conservation and management regime and implementation of measures.

I wish, Chair, to extend to you, assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely

Nerissa Lucky  
Director of Fisheries (Ag)  
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO Head Delegate

## Compliance letter response template

2022 Commission Meeting			
CPC: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENT	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN SINCE 2022 MEETING	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
<b>CATEGORY A</b>			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>	<b>Overharvest of white marlin: 2021 quota = 15, 2021 balance = -4.56 t</b>	It is noted that 0.36t WHM were landed by TTO in 2021.  0 kg WHM were landed in 2022.  2022 landings limit = 15 t, 2022 balance = 10.44 t	Notification of landing submitted 6 June 2023 (Task 2 and 3 statistics) and 14 August 2023 (Compliance Tables).
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
<b>CATEGORY B</b>			
<i>Annual Report</i>			
<i>Statistical Data</i>			
<i>Other reports – shark and billfish check sheets</i>	<b>Rec. 18-06:</b> Shark sheet submitted late (28 September 2022).	TTO notified of its limited staffing in previous Annual Reports. The senior members of staff of the Fisheries Division have been, since March 2022, intensely engaged in duties to facilitate passage of TTO's Fisheries Management Bill within an urgent deadline (see comment below). Given that the very same staff members are required to perform duties related to ICCAT reporting it is anticipated that upon passage of the Bill an improvement in reporting by TTO will be obtained.	28 September 2023
<b>CATEGORY C</b>			
<i>MCS-species related</i>			

<p><i>MCS-general: Port Controls</i></p>	<p><b>Rec. 16-14:</b> Observer programme not yet implemented.</p>	<p>The political directorate of TTO has placed priority on enactment of the urgently required updated fisheries legislation and has given an undertaking to enact the Bill before the end of 2023. This action will in turn facilitate strategic planning by the Fisheries Division with respect to implementation of the Observer programme.</p>	
<p><i>Vessel Controls</i></p>			
<p>OTHER</p>			
<p>Response to COC Chair letter from previous year?</p>			

Executive Presidency  
Office of the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture

29 September 2023  
INCOPECA-PE-0867-2023

Mr Derek Campbell  
Compliance Committee Chair  
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas  
Madrid, Spain  
info@iccat.int

Dear COC Chair,

I have the honour to address you, on this occasion, in reference to your valuable communication 2023-07-07 S23-072023 of 27 July 2023, regarding the letter on compliance issues for Costa Rica.

Accordingly, I would like to provide a response to the information requested through the template that accompanied the communication referred to above.

I am at your disposal for any clarifications or information that you may require.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Heiner Jorge Méndez Barrientos  
Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture  
Executive President  
INCOPECA

## Compliance letter response template

2022 Commission Meeting			
CPC: COSTA RICA			
AREA OF DEFICIENCY	SPECIFIC ELEMENT	REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN SINCE 2022 MEETING	DATE MISSING DATA/INFORMATION SENT (if applicable)
<b>CATEGORY A</b>			
<i>Compliance Tables</i>	<p>Recs. 19-05 and 17-02: Continued overharvest of northern swordfish: No quota, 2021 balance = -246.64 t. Increasing negative balance for SWO-N: 2018 balance = -149.34, 2019 = -172.85, 2020 = -196.03.</p> <p>Continued overharvest of blue marlin: 2021 quota = 10, 2021 balance = -181.18 t. Increasing negative balance for BUM: 2018 balance = -141.83, 2019 = -159.28, 2020 = -167.49.</p>	In 2022, mandatory satellite tracking via VMS was implemented in the Atlantic on medium-scale longline vessels. In 2022 about half of this fleet operated and the volumes of the landings of both species were approximately halved compared to 2021. No new licences were issued in 2022 and no issue of new licences is envisaged in 2023.	
<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>			
<b>CATEGORY B</b>			
<i>Annual Report</i>			
<i>Statistical Data</i>			
<i>Other reports – Shark and Billfish Check Sheets</i>	Rec. 19-02: Some Task 1 data on tropical tunas reported for 2021, but no corresponding quarterly reports.	With INCOPECA's current data collection system, information for a given year is available until the middle of the following year. INCOPECA is currently working to develop an app that will make information available quicker, which will enable us to submit tropical tuna reports quarterly. This app is currently in the testing phase and is expected to be in full use for the first semester of 2024.	



<b>CATEGORY C</b>			
<i>MCS-species related</i>			
<i>MCS-general: Port Controls</i>			
<i>Vessel Controls</i>			
OTHER			
Response to COC Chair letter from previous year?			

Ministry of Agriculture  
Fisheries Department

October 1, 2023

Derek Campbell  
Compliance Committee Chair  
ICCAT Secretariat  
Corazon de Maria, 8  
28002 Madrid, Spain

**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO LETTER ON COMPLIANCE ISSUES**

Dear Mr Campbell,

I appreciate your communication regarding the compliance issues raised during ICCAT's 27th Special Meeting in November 2022 concerning Guyana's performance in implementing ICCAT conservation and management measures and reporting requirements. As such please allow me to reassure you that Guyana takes its commitment to conserving Atlantic Tunas and complying with ICCAT regulations very seriously. We are pleased to note that ICCAT has acknowledged the improvements in our efforts, leading to the lifting of the Trade Measures Recommendation (Rec. 06-13). However, we acknowledge that there are still areas where further improvements are needed, as outlined in your letter.

Regarding the concerns raised:

Rec. 19-05 and 17-02:

Overharvest of northern swordfish, blue marlin and or white marlin: We understand the seriousness of this issue and would like to clarify that the fishing company responsible for the overharvest of northern swordfish has ceased operations since the issuance of the order by the Fisheries Department in 2021. To date the tuna fishery responsible for these catches has remained closed, notwithstanding, we will ensure compliance with quotas in the future.

Rec. 19-02:

We acknowledge the deficiency in reporting for Task 1 of tropical tuna species in 2021 and the absence of corresponding quarterly reports. We apologize for this lapse and will ensure that all reporting requirements are met in a timely manner moving forward.

We understand that deficiencies in compliance and reporting can hinder ICCAT's efforts in achieving its conservation objectives. We are committed to rectifying these deficiencies promptly and improving our reporting practices.

We appreciate ICCAT's dedication to the conservation of Atlantic Tunas and its role in ensuring the sustainable management of these resources. If you require any further information or clarification regarding the steps we are taking to address these issues, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Once again, we thank you for bringing these matters to our attention, and we remain committed to working closely with ICCAT to achieve our shared goals of sustainable tuna conservation.

Sincerely,

Denzil Roberts  
Head Delegate of Guyana