

Original: English

Correspondence with Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (Non-CPCs)

(ICCAT Secretariat)

In accordance with the [Recommendation by ICCAT Replacing Recommendation 03-20 on Criteria for Attaining the Status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity in ICCAT \(Rec. 21-24\)](#), the Executive Secretary sent letters to the following: Dominica, Dominican Republic, Israel, Jamaica, Lebanon, Montenegro, Sta Lucia and St Kitts and Nevis.

Acknowledgement of the letter was received from St Kitts and Nevis, Sta Lucia submitted catch data, and Israel has informed the Secretariat of its intention of becoming a Contracting Party. No other responses were received.

A letter from the Chair of the Compliance Committee was sent to Gibraltar, requesting additional information on the management and catches of bluefin tuna. The response from Gibraltar is attached.

Please see **COC_303/2023** for information relating to catch data received from non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities without cooperating status.

Response from Gibraltar to letter from COC Chair

6th October 2023

Mr Derek Campbell
Compliance Committee Chair
ICCAT Secretariat
C/Corazon de Maria 8-6^a
28002 Madrid
Spain

Subject: Management and catches of Bluefin tuna in Gibraltar

Dear Dr Campbell,

We refer to your letter dated 12th September 2023 addressed to the Honourable Prof. John Cortes MP in relation to the management and catches of Bluefin tuna (BFT) in Gibraltar which I am replying on his behalf.

First and foremost, it is reassuring and indeed welcomed to note that the Commission appreciates the transparency and commitment demonstrated by Gibraltar from the outset to provide all the necessary statistical data in relation to BFT as well as the management measures implemented in Gibraltar. In keeping with our continued commitment to fully cooperate with the ICCAT Secretariat, please note that BFT catch statistics (Form ST02-T1NC - Version 2023a) pertaining to this year's BFT Open Season (2023) have been submitted by the Department to the email account STATS_info@iccat.int in accordance with ICCAT Circular 0866/23. An overview of the BFT Open Season statistics submitted are additionally provided in an **Appendix** to this letter. To date, the Secretariat has therefore been provided with data on BFT catches landed in Gibraltar since the inception of the BFT quota spanning the period 2015-2023.

In closing, we also take note of the concerns raised by ICCAT's leadership and take this opportunity to once again firmly reiterate our strong desire to continue our cooperation and positive engagement with the Secretariat moving forward, and to the consideration of the possibility of extending ICCAT to Gibraltar.

We remain at your disposal should you require any additional clarification on the abovementioned points and statistical data provided.

With best wishes,

Stephen Warr
Senior Environment Officer
Department of the Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change and Heritage

Appendix

BFT Open Season Summary statistics for the period 2015-2023

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total Allowable Catch (tons)	13	13	15.5	15.5	16.74	19.81
Actual catch/landings (kg)	12,746	13,894*	16,109*	14,603	17,378*	20,020*
Average weight (kg)	47	88	98	121	117	83
Largest specimen (kg)	271	274	279	299	267	341
Total licensed recreational/sport anglers landing BFT	91	75	65	61	76	111
Total days in Open Season	123	121	69.5	93	39.5	91

Year	2021	2022	2023
Total Allowable Catch (tons)	21	22.5	25
Actual catch/landings (kg)	21576*	24902*	27739*
Average weight (kg)	128	128	184
Largest specimen (kg)	328	350	376
Total licensed recreational/sport anglers landing BFT	85	98	109
Total days in Open Season	32	71	33

Explanatory note:

*Actual catch is slightly higher than TAC as a result of the necessary administrative time to give effect to the closure of the season.