

STATEMENT BY EGYPT TO PANEL 4

Dear Sir (s),

Panel 4 Chairman,

In the beginning, Egypt would like to thank you for all your efforts that you are continuously provide in order to achieve and implement the ICCAT principles and its international roles. Throughout 14 years which reflect our contribution in the ICCAT, since Egypt joined in 2007, we are trying hard to fulfill all our obligations and compliance with the ICCAT Recommendations.

In 2019, Egypt requested the ICCAT Secretariat to allow us to catch swordfish and benefit from our territorial water resources and we provide all evidence that shows our historical rights to have our own quota in Mediterranean swordfish because of;

- Egypt has a great and large-scale fishing vessels which are submitted yearly in the Annual Report to the ICCAT indicating that Egypt has moreover than 3,000 registered fishing vessels “coastal catching” operating only in the Mediterranean Sea;
- Egypt exporting Med. Swordfish since 2011 to EU. We already have the documents showing that:
 - In 2013 Egypt has registered its first SWO-MED vessel in the ICCAT “EL HAG KHAMIES DARWISH” ICCAT number AT000EGY00004 with LOA. 16.15 M;
 - Egypt sends its catch of swordfish every year in the Egyptian Annual Report to ICCAT, and due to our domestic observation, the catch of the swordfish still limited. However, the abundance of the swordfish in the Egyptian water allows for more catch.
- In February 2017 “the intersessional meeting of panel 4 on Mediterranean swordfish” held in Madrid, page No. 2, point No. 5 the Egyptian delegation announce our position regarding the distribution of the allocated swordfish quota as following:
 - 5. Establishment of CPC quotas for 2017 without prejudice to the allocation scheme aforementioned:
“The delegates of Egypt and the United States also reserved their positions, in order to consult. Further, the delegate of Egypt reported that its government would gather and report catch statistics to the SCRS and reiterated Egypt’s interest in being included in the quota for Other CPCs.”
- In November 2018, at the Compliance Committee meeting, on 10 and 11 November held in Croatia, Dubrovnik. Again, Egypt reaffirmed its rights in a rightful quota.

With the abovementioned evidences as you can see, it is not applicable in our case as a developing country, what is mentioned in Rec. 16-05 on capacity limitation para. 7, Egypt strictly endeavors to manage Mediterranean swordfish under the umbrella of ICCAT Recommendations to limit bycatch and obtaining its fair quota.

With all our respect, Egypt wants as a humble start to re-register its swordfish fishing vessels in order to participate in the 2022 fishing season and kindly to assign a fair Mediterranean swordfish quota.