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REPUBLIC OF GHANA

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND  
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(FISHERIES COMMISSION)

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My Ref. No: FD/UM/16810-28/12

Your Ref. No:.....

18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2015

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**CLARIFICATION ON PROCEDURE TO EFFECT  
PARAGRAPH 2C OF ICCAT RECOMMENDATION 14-01**

Paragraph 2C of ICCAT Recommendation 14-01 grants dispensation to Ghana to replace their bait boats which on the average are over 30years old with purse seiners.

The procedure to acquire Ghana Flagged Registration and fishing licence involved the following steps: -

1. The company has to apply for permit to import and operate the one (1) purse seine vessel as a replacement for the two (2) bait boats to the Ministry.
2. The Ministry after undertaking due diligence on the seaworthiness and IUU status of the vessel, among others, grants the company the permit to import the vessel.
3. On arrival in Ghana, the owner of the vessel goes through the process of registering the vessel under the Ghana Flag and obtains fishing licence to operate.
4. **The** owner takes the necessary steps to delete the names of the two (2) bait boats to be replaced from the Ghana Registry.

It is important to note that fulfillment of the aforementioned steps is a prerequisite to be a Ghana Flagged vessel and therefore obtain fishing licence to operate.

The purpose of the letter is to seek ICCAT Clarification of the following: -

- i. At what point does the country notify ICCAT of the replacement of the two (2) baits with one (1) purse seiner for ICCAT approval
- ii. If a company had gone through the process to register and obtain fishing licence for the purse seiner and deleted the two (2) bait boats and Ghana then applies for approval by ICCAT, what happens to the vessel? Does the purse seiner stays in port until ICCAT grants the approval?

I have to bring this to your attention for clarification. We should avoid the situation whereby the intention of assisting Ghana to replace her over-aged bait boats with purse seiners will not be achieved and that could have negative impact on the economy of Ghana.

Thank you and Best Regards.

  
**S. N. K. QUAATEY**  
**(DIRECTOR, FISHERIES COMMISSION)**  
*HEAD DELEGATE FOR GHANA*