

**RESPONSES FROM CONTRACTING PARTIES TO LETTERS OF CONCERN AND TO
CHAIR'S LETTERS RECEIVED BEFORE 10 OCTOBER 2015**

CPC	Letter of concern	Chair letter	Date of reply
Albania	X		
Algeria			
Angola	X		
Barbados			
Belize	X		17/03/2015
Brazil	X		24/08/2015
Canada			
Cape Verde	X		14/09/2015
China P.R.			
Côte d'Ivoire	X		01/10/2015
Curaçao			
Egypt	X		14/09/2015
El Salvador	X		
European Union			
France SPM			
Gabon	X		21/09/2015
Ghana			
Guatemala			
Guinea Ecuatorial	X		e-mail message 20/02/2015
Guinea Rep	X		06/10/2015
Honduras	X		
Iceland			
Japan	X		30/09/2015
Korea			
Liberia			
Libya			
Mauritania	X		
Mexico			
Morocco			
Namibia			
Nicaragua	X		
Nigeria			
Norway			
Panama	X		10/10/2015
Philippines	X		30/09/2015
Russia			
Sao Tome e Principe	X		09/10/2015
Senegal	X		30/09/2015
Sierra Leone	X		
South Africa	X		
St Vincent & Grenadines			
Syria	X		
Trinidad & Tobago	X		
Tunisia			

Turkey			
UKOT			
United States			
Uruguay			
Vanuatu	X		
Venezuela		X	

RESPONSES FROM COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES, ENTITIES OR FISHING ENTITIES TO LETTERS OF CONCERN

<i>Flag</i>	<i>Letter of concern</i>	<i>Date of reply</i>
Bolivia	X	
Chinese Taipei		
Guyana		
Suriname	X	

Letters from the Secretariat were sent informing these CPCs that their cooperating status had been renewed and reminding them of obligations under Rec. 03-20.

BELIZE

Subject: Letter of Concern for 2014 Regarding Port Inspection Report and Actions Taken by Belize to Address the Harassment of the National Inspector

Dear Mr. Campbell,

Thank you for your letter dated February 17th 2015. First, I would like to seek clarification regarding the issue raised in the letter of concern as this issue was not raised during the 19th Special Meeting of the Compliance Committee held in Genoa, Italy. To the best of my recollection, there was one issue that was raised by the US Delegation regarding the vessel TAI 1. Secondly, I would like to know why this scenario is being raised as an issue 2 years after the alleged incident when it could have been raised at the 2013 Session of the Commission that was held in Cape Town, South Africa.

Please note that whilst this Administration is ready and willing to cooperate in any investigation, the vessel in question, NORTE, deleted from the registry of Belize on September 23rd 2013 and this matter was never brought to our attention before now.

Thank you in advance for your kind attention and assistance in this matter and this Office avails itself of the opportunity to renew the assurances of its highest consideration.

Sincerely,

(signed)

Robert Robinson
Deputy Director of High Seas Fisheries
ICCAT Commissioner

BELIZE

**SUBJECT: LETTER OF CONCERN FOR 2014 REGARDING PORT INSPECTION
REPORT AND ACTIONS TAKEN BY BELIZE TO ADDRESS THE HARASSMENT OF THE
NATIONAL INSPECTOR**

Dear Mr. Campbell,

Belize would like to thank the Secretariat and the EU-Spain for bringing this issue to our attention; however, there are some points of interest that must be considered and addressed. In accordance with ICCAT Rec 12-07:

- The obligations assumed pursuant to this Recommendation were not fulfilled in good faith by the port CPC and was exercised in a manner that constitutes an abuse of that right.
- The inspection report in question, dated June 20th 2013, was not transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat in the specified **14 day** required under paragraph 20 of the Recommendation nor was there any notice that the report would be delayed and when it would be furnished.
- Considering that Belize was never notified of the inspection or any infringements of the Recommendation, we were unable to take necessary action to ensure that the inspection was facilitated by the Master.
- Although the inspection report states that the inspection was obstructed by the Master, the Port CPC failed to transmit the report the Secretariat and the flag State; and no evidence of this infringement was ever notified to the flag State for necessary action.
- As Belize is a developing CPC, the Port CPC, in accordance with Paragraph 26 of this recommendation, is required, either directly or through the Secretariat, to provide assistance for

the implementation of this Recommendation and to ensure that a disproportionate burden is not unnecessarily transferred to the developing CPC.

- Bilateral agreements/arrangements are encouraged to promote the implementation of this Recommendation and to promote cooperation and sharing of information which is clearly not being promoted in this instance.

Further to Belize's official letter of March 17th 2015, referenced **HSFU/RFMO/R03/2015(20) Vol.1**, Belize reiterates that the vessel in question, NORTE, has deleted from the flag of Belize since September 23rd 2013 and transferred to the registry of Djibouti; and as such, this Administration is not in a position to take any measures against this vessel. Furthermore, we feel that the surfacing of this issue almost 2 years after the initial incident is highly prejudicial and serves absolutely no purpose as no concrete measures can be taken by this Administration because of the very late notification.

Nonetheless, in the spirit of good faith and cooperation, Belize would like to propose the attached Memorandum of Understanding for Fisheries Cooperation with the EU-Spain to facilitate future cooperation between the two states. This Administration would be grateful if this correspondence is forwarded to this CPC for their consideration and necessary action.

Once again, thank you for your kind attention and assistance in this matter and this Office avails itself of the opportunity to renew the assurances of its highest consideration.

Sincerely,


Robert Robinson
Deputy Director of High Seas Fisheries
ICCAT Commissioner

cc. Stefaan Depypere
Chairman
ICCAT

BRAZIL

Dear Mr. Derek Campbell,

I acknowledge the receipt of the letter of concern dated 17th of February 2015, in which the Compliance Committee expressed concern related to the fulfillment of Brazilian obligation in relation to this Commission, while recognizing improvements in the reporting obligations by Brazil.

Specifically, the letter of concern highlighted the following four issues: i) Part I of the Annual report was received after the agreed deadline; ii) Part II of the Annual report was not complete; iii) vessels were submitted to the Secretariat for inclusion in the ICCAT record of vessels with an authorization period that included dates more than 30 days prior to the date of submission; iv) no swordfish fisheries development or management plan was submitted (par. 3 of Rec. 13-02)

The Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture (MPA) is now undertaking a deep restructuring of its system of data collection and generation of scientific information on the tuna fisheries in Brazil, as well as the process of construction and implementation of the management and control plan aiming at the sustainable use of this resource. The MPA is carrying out intense efforts to resume the activities and, as a first step, it is strengthening the role of the Brazilian Scientific Subcommittee (SCC) and the Brazilian Management Committee of Tuna Fisheries (CGPA).

Efforts are also being undertaken to guarantee that Brazil no longer misses the time limit established for the submission to the Secretariat of vessels that are to be included in the ICCAT record of vessels.

Regarding the lack of submission of the swordfish development or management plan, I would like to reaffirm, as done in Genoa, that Brazil has not submitted such plan due to our interpretation of Recommendation 13-02 which does not clarify if those countries that do not intend to develop such fishery have to submit such plan. Bearing in mind the clarification offered during the last Commission meeting, Brazil will take the necessary measures.

I would like to reassure the Secretariat of Brazil's full commitment to the implementation of ICCAT measures. I hope that the explanations contained in this letter have clarified the issues raised by the COC.

If any questions remain unanswered, the Brazilian Delegation will be very pleased to discuss and clarify them during the next COC meeting.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

(MARIA RITA FONTES FARIA)

Head of the Office for Ocean, Antarctic and Outer Space Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

CAPE VERDE

Subject: Response from Cape Verde to the Letter of Concern Regarding Reporting Deficiencies in 2014

Dear Mr. D. Campbell,

In the name of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Maritime Economy of the Republic of Cape Verde, the General Directorate of Marine Resources presents its compliments to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), and through this letter, would like to thank you for your correspondence Re. S15-00738, concerning data reporting deficiencies for 2014.

We have noted the deficiencies stated in your correspondence which raises concern given that Cape Verde has not submitted the complete Annual Report in accordance with the *Revised Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual Reports* [Ref. 12-13]. The Compliance Committee specifically states that:

The reporting summary table of Part II of the Annual report was not submitted, in accordance with the revised guidelines [12-13].

As regards to this, we would like to inform you that, the follow-up and compliance of all ICCAT recommendations is a complex and ongoing task and, despite all our efforts to report complete data within the established deadlines, we regret having this information reporting deficiency for 2014.

We guarantee that Cape Verde will continue to carry out all the efforts to improve and correct this situation for future submittals.

We take this opportunity to request your assistance as regards training aimed at improving our response as regards ICCAT data reporting obligations.

Your sincerely,

(stamped and sealed)

Juvino Vieira
General Director of Marine Resources
Cape Verde

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Subject: Response from Côte d'Ivoire to ICCAT's Letter of Concern

Mr. Compliance Chairman,

In representation of the Delegation of Côte d'Ivoire, I am writing this letter in response to the Letter of Concern addressed to Côte d'Ivoire on 17 February 2015.

In representation of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, I acknowledge the deficiencies raised as regards data reporting for 2014.

The domestic measures undertaken by my country to remedy these deficiencies are as follows:

- The team that processes ICCAT files has been strengthened and includes a qualified statistician, as well as an increased implication of two scientists for a better follow-up. This provision will allow the reporting of a full report.
- The compliance tables were reported with a slight delay however the data as well as data in Task I and Task II, were improved.
- Recommendation 13-02 is addressed to CPCs whose vessels actively fish swordfish in the North Atlantic, and given that Côte d'Ivoire does not have a vessel targeting this species since 2010, we did not consider it useful to elaborate a development plan applicable to this species.

Furthermore, I would like to inform you that the data reported by Côte d'Ivoire includes artisanal fisheries.

With the assistance of the Compliance Committee in acknowledging the progress carried out by my country, Côte d'Ivoire would like to guarantee that it will continue to make the necessary efforts in complying with ICCAT obligations.

Please, accept Mr. Compliance Chairman, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed)
Shep Heguilè
Fisheries Engineer

EGYPT

Subject: Response to a letter of concern regarding data

Dear Sir

Referring to the letter of concern dated on February 17, 2015, which includes several points, we are pleased to mention here – point by point- our response and the progress we have made to avoid any default. As we renew the commitment of Egypt for the implementation and application of all ICCAT recommendations comply with the requirements properly

1. For the required reports that we have sent uncompleted and or late for deadlines,

We assure that all required reports in 2014 that apply to the case of Egypt were sent complete, as we recognize that few of these reports have been late for the deadlines. This is due to the data collection system are still in the development stage and needs to raise the capacities of those working in the field of fisheries statistics for ICCAT species, as we still need technical support for capacity building in this area . There is technical support through one project submitted from FAO (**EastMed project**) but that it needs more time to cover all species of fish, including the ICCAT species.

2. For clarification is required to export a small amount of Swordfish not mentioned in Task 1

We would like to clarify the following:

- The annual reports of exports and imports organization (the body responsible for controlling the exportation) usually includes the small quantities of any species under item "**others**" and do not mentioned the names of species and this is what was happened for Swordfish last years.

- The progress we have made in this matter, we notified this organization responsible for exports and imports to reported to the fisheries organization (GAFRD) any amounts that are exported of any ICCAT species in a separate report whatever amounts are small

So we have taken into account this subject this year and confirm it in the future and the task 1 have sent complete this year.

Finally, we wish to emphasize that Egypt is trying every effort that the all our activities to be in compliance with all of the decisions and recommendations of ICCAT

Please accept our highest consideration and appreciation

(signed)

M. A. Madani, *ICCAT Delegate*

Dr. Khaled El-Hassani, *Chairman of GAFRD*

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

This is in response to the letter of concern dated 17 February 2015 regarding reporting deficiencies by Equatorial Guinea in 2014.

First of all, I would like you to know that you are completely right in what you say, however, you should know that we experienced many difficulties in 2014. Firstly, there were changes within the central State Administration, and secondly, we had technical problems, the blocking of statistical files on the computers, as well as other problems.

I would like you to know that at the start of my term of office as head of the ICCAT unit, I discovered that we were behind on the 2013 reporting. This situation compelled me to prioritise compliance with 2013 reporting requirements, within our technical capacity, although there have been deficiencies.

For 2014, I continue to say and acknowledge that there has been no reporting, however, albeit with delay, we will send all the information that we recover for 2014.

We continue to request technical assistance. Sometimes we do not know how to proceed; while we believe that we are doing things right we are informed that we are not doing things fully correctly. Sometimes our deficiencies are due to lack of training and information on the files and the aspects that must be reported in the ICCAT reports. In this respect, we request that you supply this technical assistance in order to minimise our deficiencies. We also request that you provide us with the package of all the files for this year 2015 that we must complete and send to ICCAT as at times we are confused by the multiple files that we find in different locations.

Please understand our position. We apologise for everything and we are willing to comply with ICCAT requirements within our abilities.

Yours faithfully,

(signed)

Ruben Dario NSO EDO, *General Director of Fisheries Resources*

GABON

Subject: Letter of Concern Regarding Reporting Deficiencies for 2014

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your above-mentioned correspondence. In response, I am pleased to transmit the following documents:

1. 2013 Annual report;
2. 2014 Annual report and;
3. Task I data for 2014.

Furthermore, I would like to inform you that no Task I data were collected for national fisheries for 2013 as Gabon does not have a national fleet targeting tuna. Likewise, no incidental catch was recorded.

Please accept, Mr. Chairman, our highest consideration and appreciation.

(stamped and sealed)
Micheline GNANDJI SCHUMMER
The General Director

GUINEA (REP. OF)

Subject: Letter of Concern

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 17 February 2015 regarding the above-mentioned subject.

I note with great interest the observations made in your correspondence and I am pleased that ICCAT has acknowledged the efforts made by the Republic of Guinea which have allowed our country to improve its classification, particularly lifting the "Letter of Identification" to "Letter of Concern".

This recognition by ICCAT constitutes a call in favour of consolidating and strengthening the work carried out by the authorities of the Republic of Guinea.

- I confirm that that the vessels Mervent, Belouga and Avra, initially aligned by the Republic of Guinea under the framework of the ICCAT Convention, have been excluded from the Guinean fleet. Their activities within the framework of the ICCAT Convention in the account of the Republic of Guinea, have definitively stopped since 2015.
- Task I and Task II data for 2014 for these three vessels have actually been reported to ICCAT.
- Since 2012, data on catch statistics have been duly provided each quarter including an Annual Report consolidated at the end of the year.
- The follow-up and collection of data, data processing, and the publication of statistical data continues to face constraints that require capacity building.
- No Agreement of Arrangement exists with any other facility, sub-regional, regional and international institution within the framework of tuna fishing.

Under the Laws and Regulations in force, there are three types of fishing vessels operating in the Republic of Guinea which are Guinean vessels, parent and foreign vessels. These vessels are authorized to fish within the framework of free licenses obtained with the collaboration of a company under Guinean law or through fishing agreements duly concluded with the Guinean government.

To this effect, I would like to confirm that no agreement was reached between the Guinean Government and Panama under which the vessels ALBACORA DIEZ and ALBACORA CARIBE would have operated within the framework of the ICCAT Convention. I would also like to confirm that no request for registration has been presented by the Republic of Guinea for these two vessels within the framework of the ICCAT Convention.

The adoption of the following measures should also be taken into account:

- The development of satellite monitoring and aerial fishing surveys;
- A fully operational location equipment by satellite is a requirement for the granting of licenses;
- The prohibition of all vessels flying a Guinea flag to carry out fishing activities in the high seas, without the pre-entry permission;
- Observers on board all fishing vessels flying a Guinea flag is mandatory and they must carry a certified fishing license wherever the fishing takes place, including high seas.
- The commercialisation of all the products fished at domestic and international level
- is subject to a strict control of the traceability of affected products as well as an inspection of health and hygiene quality control of these products;
- A mandatory record of all the industrial fishing vessels in the national record of fishing vessels;

-
- The development and adoption of a plan of action for the conservation and sustainable management of rays and sharks;
 - The revision and update of the Sea Fisheries Code aimed at adapting to the developments carried out in the sea fisheries sector and the substantial increase of amendments applicable to fishing infringements;
 - The extension for longline vessels of the authorised fishing zone beyond 60 nautical miles from the baseline;
 - The drafting and adoption of the 2015 fisheries development and management plan that establishes the measures destined to guarantee better governance of Guinea maritime fishery resources.

I am at your disposal for any additional information you may require and I reiterate my commitment to work towards strengthening our cooperation.

Yours sincerely.

(signed) Hassimiou TALL

JAPAN

Dear Mr. Campbell,

First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to your hard work as the Chair of the Compliance Committee, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Japan will continue to support your work at the Committee as one of your friends.

Secondly, I would like to provide our response to your letter dated on 17 February 2015, which expressed the Commission's concerns in relation to Japan's compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures and reporting requirements: 1) Submission of the Part I of the Annual report including reporting summary table and 2) Logbook.

1) Submission of the Part I of the Annual report including reporting summary table

Japan has already submitted the Part I of the Annual report for 2015 including the reporting summary table before deadline. In order to avoid late submission in the future, both scientists and managers will continue to keep good communication to submit it in time.

While it was pointed out in your letter that there was no submission of the reporting summary table of the Part I of the Annual report for 2014, it was actually submitted to the Secretariat just before the meeting of the Compliance Committee. As mentioned before, we will avoid this late submission in the future.

2) Logbook

An electronic logbook system has been developed in cooperation with relevant industries, and its trial use has already been started this year. As the number of vessels which introduce electronic logbooks will be limited for the time being, for other vessels, bound logbooks will be introduced in order to ensure the compliance with ICCAT logbook requirements for the next fishing season.

I believe that these provide satisfactory response to the issues raised in your letter.

Sincerely,

(signed)

Shingo Ota

Japanese Commissioner to ICCAT

PANAMA

Ref.: Letter of concern / Ref. 15-00746

Dear Mr. Campbell,

I have the pleasure to address you to extend our greetings to you and at the same time respond to your letter dated 17 February of the current year regarding the concern about the *Revised guidelines for the preparation of annual reports* (Ref. 12-13).

We recognise that during the 2014 meeting of the Compliance Committee, an assessment was carried out of compliance with the conservation and management measures and with ICCAT reporting requirements by ICCAT Contracting Parties, cooperating non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities to which our State belongs, the Republic of Panama. In this respect, we wish to make the following remarks.

Regrettably, due to administrative situations and the change in presidential term, data collection was delayed to a certain extent since we required endorsement by the highest Authority. This is the main reason why the data of the annual report and the compliance tables were not submitted on time. For the same reason, the number of quarterly deployments by FAD type was submitted late.

It should be noted that our main problem is late submission since we try to report fully and maintain the quality of the data.

I request that despite the failure to submit data on time as established in the Recommendations of the Commission, that it be recognised that we have improved our data submission compared with other years, providing or avoiding the absence of data.

For the Republic of Panama the mechanisms used to assess data reporting and measurement are very important and accordingly we undertake to submit the data for 2015 in the appropriate terms for the Scientific Committee to have time to assess them in 2016.

We thank you in advance for the attention paid to our response to the letter of concern, and please accept the assurance of our consideration,

Raul A. Delgado
(stamped and sealed)
General Director

Cc: Mr. S. Depypere, Chairman of ICCAT

PHILIPPINES

Dear Mr. Campbell,

I hope that you are in good health and high spirits.

In response to Letter of Concern Regarding South Albacore, the Philippines did not have any and will continue not to have any Philippine flagged fishing vessel into the ICCAT Convention area for the year 2015 to ensure compliance to our commitments to our payback plan as well as to paragraph 3 of recommendation 11-15.

Let me assure you of my highest consideration.

Best regards.

Asis G. Perez
Director, BFAR concurrently
Undersecretary for Fisheries

SÃO TOMÉ E PRÍNCIPE

Subject: Response to the letter of concern regarding reporting deficiencies in 2014

Dear Sir,

I would like to take this special opportunity, firstly to greet all the committees and the Commission for providing institutional assistance and support towards the scientific and technical fishing team in Sao Tomé and Principe.

On the other hand, we are particularly grateful towards the Compliance Committee for having given us the opportunity to explain the reasons for information reporting deficiencies within the deadlines and in compliance with the recommendations.

As regards the items, the following should be clarified in detail:

1. The Annual Report in compliance with the revised guidelines [Ref. 12-13];
2. Task I and Task II data;
3. Compliance tables, in compliance with Rec. 11-11.

In addition, the lack of response to the Committee's letter of concern, dated February 2014.

1. The Annual Report in compliance with the revised guidelines [Ref. 12-13]

We regret to inform the Commission that since the end of the first quarter of 2014, the administrative services suffered great changes and were influenced by the legislative elections which took place in October 2014.

The Fisheries Director who was the head of the Directorate was an agronomist engineer who had never worked in the fisheries sector and who, on many occasions, did not issue scientific and technical documents.

The base tasks such as training agents, registering the artisanal fleet, fishermen and fish traders, were updated during this period.

Primarily, data collection agents did not collect data regularly as there were no contracts signed with the administration. The database was not yet completed and was finished in February 2015.

As a result of this, it was impossible to develop an Annual Report and therefore estimations were carried out in 2015.

2. Task I and II catch data

These data were reported late given the database was only recently finalised in the third quarter.

The deficiencies incurred from various sources:

Although agents have species catalogues when filling out the forms, on many occasions, they designate marlin catches as billfish and we have noticed that 50% of billfish correspond to marlins.

We have therefore corrected the information for 2013-2015, however with the agents, we need to continue carrying out identification and distinction of marlins and swordfish. This implies an elevated cost if it is done in a practical way including real species in various landing sites.

Given that Sao Tomé and Príncipe's fishing fleet is artisanal and, that 90% of the fishermen do not have GPS when landing catches, does not allow an accurate notification of coordinates of the zone where the fishing activity took place.

As regards fishing effort, we have a wide range and as it is an artisanal fishing fleet, which includes very small boats measuring no more than 6-12 metres, of which 70% move with sails and rows and whose fishing gear are composed of handlines and on rare occasions nets, we assumed that the information reported was complete.

If necessary, however, we will correct this information following the recommendations of the Committee or the Commission.

3. Compliance tables

As we were unable to read the mails in a timely manner, we were unable to report the information within the deadlines.

Attached, please find the tables including the information we have.

It should be taken into account that shark catches only correspond to by-catch and line.

Due to the above reasons and following the Committee's recommendations, specific assistance will be requested to the Commission to correct these deficiencies.

4. Management measures

Meanwhile we are carrying out the following initiatives:

We have requested assistance from FAO to conduct a national programme of fisheries management. One of FAO's mission is currently working with the scientific and technical team to develop a Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP).

We would like to request assistance from ICCAT to strengthen domestic capacity as regards identification, monitoring of population dynamics, assessment methods and scientific data processing for sharks, tunas and tuna-like species (marlins, sailfish, etc.).

We are organizing and creating awareness among fishermen and fishing communities for the development of protected areas and, for the first time, in the near future, we will set up a biological resting time in these areas.

We are developing measures related to trade (marketable sizes, hygiene and quality control).

Statistics work regularly, which will allow to report data in 2016 within the deadlines and study the possibility of finding mechanisms to provide more accurate information, as well as collecting historical data within the possibilities.

Through this letter, we reiterate that we will improve as regards the reporting of Annual Reports, information on Task I and Task II and compliance tables.

We will also transmit scientific research reports developed in Sao Tomé and Príncipe.

Yours sincerely,

General Director of Fisheries

Engineer João Gomes Pessoa Lima

SENEGAL

Subject: concern regarding ICCAT reporting obligations

Reference: ICCAT-SALIDA 2015-02-17 S15-00735

I would like to acknowledge your above-mentioned correspondence regarding the referred subject.

I would like to express my gratitude for your continuous concern to managing species under the ICCAT Convention, as well as your determination in making the different Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) aware of their responsibility of guaranteeing a sustainable exploitation of tuna resources.

Moreover, reference was made, under Rec. 11-15, of potential sanctions in the event of non-reporting. This was mentioned yet again in ICCAT Circular #912, dated 26 February 2015, whereby two options were presented to avoid sanctions, namely:

1. The confirmation of zero catches or
2. The provision of missing data.

Senegal complied with the Commission's requirements transmitting the missing data, which allowed to lift the prohibition on retention of targeted species via letter No. 4398, dated 2 July 2015.

Furthermore, the origin of delayed data reporting is mainly related to the communication difficulties between technical services of our Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy.

Given that Senegalese swordfish exports for 2013 are higher than reported Task I swordfish catches, confusion of species by artisanal fishermen continues to undermine certain inspection and control mechanisms. This situation explains that some data has not been listed and are badly covered. Furthermore, the circulation of products without a health certificate duly issued by the competent authority, jeopardizes the publication of statistical export data.

In response to the deficiencies stated in your letter, the collection and processing of data on artisanal fishing, which takes 80% of catches in Senegal, is in the process of being improved.

These corrective measures continue to be enforced, as regards the access control to the resource, computerised registrations of canoes, fishing licences, monitoring of fisheries, installation of authorised landing sites for the monitoring of activities and the modernisation of docks for the recording of post-catch data.

Since the recent past, Senegal, has deployed significant efforts for better monitoring of tuna fishing and related activities. These efforts are being consolidated by an integrated approach of technical administrative services and those of scientific research. This synergy allows Senegal to commit in a sustainable way in a transparent and rigorous dynamic for the management of resources, under ICCAT jurisdiction.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Dr. Mamadou Goudiaby