

Original: English

**LETTER OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
CHAIR REGARDING THE 2015 ANNUAL MEETING
(Circular # 07480 / 15)**

Subject: 2015 Annual meeting of the conservation and management measures Compliance Committee

I am looking forward to working with all participants at the 2015 meeting of the ICCAT Compliance Committee (COC).

To ensure our discussions are constructive and efficient, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight in advance the following matters.

Annual Report Format and Other Submissions

Many CPCs have not submitted certain required data, reports, or other documents, such as Part I or Part II of the Annual Report, compliance tables, or Task I and Task II data. Lack of timely reporting undermines ICCAT’s ability to carry out its mandate. I intend to recommend that the COC consider taking more significant actions at the 2015 meeting against CPCs that repeatedly fail in this respect, including identification under ICCAT’s Recommendation on Trade Measures (06-13). I encourage all CPCs that have not yet fulfilled such requirements to submit this information to the ICCAT Secretariat without delay and prior to the annual meeting, even though the deadlines for submission have passed. A list of Annual Reports or parts thereof not yet received by the Secretariat is attached as **Appendix 1** to this letter. Reminders regarding Compliance tables, statistical data and other elements have already been sent to individual CPCs by the Secretariat. Guidelines for Submitting Information and Data Required by ICCAT Annual Report are available at: https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Comply/Guidelines_ENG.pdf. The full lists of reporting requirements can be found at <https://www.iccat.int/en/submitSTAT.htm> and <https://www.iccat.int/en/submitCOMPreq.htm>.

Additionally, a number of CPCs that received a letter of concern following the 2014 meeting have not yet provided a written response, which inhibits the COC’s ability to carry out its work. I encourage those CPCs to provide a written response in advance of the 2015 meeting.

I also remind CPCs that changes to the compliance tables must be submitted in writing to the Secretariat **before Tuesday, 10 November at 6 pm**. Unfortunately, last year the COC was plagued with the submission of changes throughout the meeting, which was disruptive to the COC’s work. I do not intend to apply the same leniency this year.

Implementation of Rec. 11-15

Recently, following the deadline for submission of Task I data, the Executive Secretary sent letters to CPCs whose submissions were incomplete to request additional data. I wish to thank those CPCs that have already responded to the Executive Secretary and encourage those that have not to respond with missing data or a confirmation of zero catches without delay and well in advance of the Annual meeting. The procedure applied last year that allowed CPCs to provide catch data at the meeting was exceptional and not intended to serve as a precedent.

I also wish to prioritize discussion of the protocol for reporting zero catches developed by the SCRS in 2015 (posted to the ICCAT meeting document site as COC-306) at the request of the compliance Committee at the 2014 meeting, with a view towards endorsement.

Friends of Chair Group and Guidelines for a Schedule of Actions to Address Non-Compliance

At the 2014 Annual meeting I found the “Friends of the Chair” process to be extremely helpful. I would like to continue to employ this process at the 2015 ICCAT meeting. Thank you to those delegations that represented their geographical area in the “Friends” group. If there are any changes to CPCs representing these areas, please inform me and the Secretariat prior to the first Compliance Committee session. I also recommend that the Compliance Committee continue to utilize the *Guidelines for an ICCAT Schedule of Compliance Actions* (see

http://iccat.int/Documents/BienRep/REP_EN_10-11_II_1.pdf), as guidance for possible actions to be taken by the Commission in cases of non-compliance.

Streamlining ICCAT Requirements

Ensuring that ICCAT requirements, including reporting requirements, are clear, precise, and not redundant facilitates both member compliance and ICCAT’s review of member compliance. In this regard, I would like to draw your attention to document PLE-113/15 Streamlining of ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures, which is intended to form the basis of Commission decisions to remove or modify current measures pursuant to the process recommended by STACFAD and endorsed by the Commission in 2014.

Implementation of Shark Measures

At the 2014 Compliance Committee meeting, we began to review implementation of shark measures pursuant to Rec. 12-05. However, this review was impeded by insufficient reporting by some CPCs through Part II of the Annual Report as well as the late addition of this item to the agenda. Therefore, as I indicated at the close of the 2014 meeting, I would like to return to this review in 2015. Information from CPCs on implementation of shark measures is in COC-303-Appendix 4.

New format for Secretariat Report to the Compliance Committee (COC-303)

The Secretariat has developed a new format for the Secretariat’s Report to the Compliance Committee (COC-303). It has been reorganized and expanded to track how ICCAT measures are listed in the ICAT Compendium. This will facilitate more in-depth consideration by the COC of a broader suite of ICCAT requirements, while distilling information from CPC reports and other documents in order to facilitate more efficient review. It is also my hope that the new format will help to inform the Compliance Committee’s identification of priority areas for its review in 2015 and the future, and that the presentation of all ICCAT measures will enable the Commission to continue its efforts to streamline ICCAT requirements by highlighting measures that may be redundant or no longer needed. I welcome CPC views on this new approach and suggestions for other ways to modify how compliance information is presented in order to better enable the COC conduct its work.


Other means of improvement of Compliance Committee review of CPC compliance

The Compliance Committee has made significant advancements in its review of CPC compliance since adopting a new process for compliance review in 2008, and CPC compliance has improved over that period of time. However, the Compliance Committee’s ability to meaningfully carry out this aspect of its mandate continues to be thwarted by deficiencies in CPC reporting on implementation of certain elements of ICCAT conservation and management measures. Additionally, while the number of ICCAT members and requirements has increased since 2008, the amount of time afforded to the COC to carry out its work has decreased, to the extent that I was deeply concerned about the speed at which the COC was required to conduct its CPC by CPC review in 2014. I ask that CPCs come prepared to discuss ways to ensure the COC has sufficient information and time to carry out its review of CPC compliance in a thorough, fair, and transparent manner, such as 1) modifying the Annual Report format to add specific fields for reporting on implementation of requirements not otherwise reflected specifically in the current report format; 2) holding intersessional meetings of the Compliance Committee in association with IMM or another appropriate subsidiary body where there are important technical matters in need of advancement by the Compliance Committee; and 3) a return to holding a special session of the Compliance Committee in advance of the Annual meeting on a biennial or triennial basis.

Other priority matters

If CPCs have recommendations on other areas for the Compliance Committee to prioritize, I welcome that input as far in advance of the Annual meeting as possible in order to enable preparation by CPCs and the Secretariat as necessary to ensure any such discussions are constructive.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.



Derek Campbell
Compliance Committee Chair

ANNUAL REPORTS MISSING AT 20 OCTOBER 2015

Received by Secretariat					
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Summary</i>	<i>Part I</i>	<i>Reporting summary 1</i>	<i>Part II</i>	<i>Reporting summary 2</i>
Albania	Yes	No (only summary)	yes	No sections 4 or 5	yes
Angola	No	No	No	No	No
Belize	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Brazil	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Curaçao	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Gabon	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Guinea Republic	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Liberia	No	No	No	No	No
Libya	No	No	No	No	No
Mauritania	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Nicaragua	No	No	No	No	No
Panama	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Sao Tome & Principe	No	No	No	No	No
Sierra Leone	No	No	No	No	No
SVG	No	No	No	No	No
Syria	No	No	No	No	No
Vanuatu	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Bolivia	No	No	Yes	No	No
Guyana	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No