

**RESPONSES FROM NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES (NCPs) TO
COC CHAIR'S LETTERS REGARDING COMPLIANCE**
(Received before 20 October 2020)

Five letters were sent to non-Contracting Parties following the 2019 Commission meeting. The original letters sent are contained in **Annex 1**. To date, two replies have been received: Gibraltar and St. Lucia.

<i>NCP</i>	<i>Main concern</i>	<i>Reply received</i>
Dominica	Continued ID under trade measures, lack of response in 2018/2019.	
Gibraltar	Reiterate request information on catch data and BFT controls.	Reply received on 31 July 2020
St. Kitts & Nevis	Reiterate request for information on fisheries management regimes.	
St. Lucia	Reiterate request for information on fisheries management regimes.	Reply received on 12 October 2020
Tanzania	Letter requesting information on Access Agreement with Colombia	

GIBRALTAR

ICCAT Secretariat
C/Corazón de Maria 8-6a 28002 Madrid
Spain



Department of the Environment,
Sustainability, Climate Change
and Heritage

HM Government of Gibraltar

Subject: Management and catches of Bluefin tuna in Gibraltar

Dear Sir/Madam,

31/07/2020

I refer to the letter sent by Mr. Derek Campbell (Compliance Committee Chair) to the Hon. Prof. John Cortes on the 3rd July 2020.

Please find enclosed a summary of our statistical data pertaining to Atlantic Bluefin tuna *Thynnus thunnus* catches in Gibraltar for the period 2015-2019. Trust these data will assist your ongoing data collection and monitoring efforts for the wider Mediterranean. We remain at your disposal should you require any technical clarification on the data presented.

A more comprehensive reply will follow from the Hon. Prof. John Cortes before the 21st October 2020 containing information on the specific management measures adopted in British Gibraltar Territorial Waters to control Bluefin tuna fishing.

The Department would like to take this opportunity to thank the Secretariat for reaching out to Gibraltar and looks forward to further engagement and cooperation to ensure the sustainable management and conservation of Atlantic Bluefin tuna.

Yours sincerely,

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

Original: English

Statistical correspondent		
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Affiliation	Department	Department of the Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change and Heritage - HM Government of Gibraltar
	Address	Suite 1B Leanse Place, Town Range, Gibraltar, GX11 1AA
	Country	Gibraltar (UK)
Fleet Characteristics		
Reporting Flag	UK.Gibraltar	
Base Port	Gibraltar	
Gear group code	RR (Rod and reel)	

Catch data					
Speciescode/Scientific Name	BFT - <i>Thunnus thynnus</i>				
Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Allowable Catch (tons)	13	13	15.5	15.5	16.74
Actual catch/landings (kg)	12,746	13,894*	16,109*	14,603	17,378*
Average weight (kg)	47	88	98	121	117
Largest specimen (kg)	271	274	279	299	267
Total licensed recreational/sport anglers landing	91	75	65	61	76
Total effort (Days in Open Season)	123	121	69.5	93	39.5

Notes:

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

SANTA LUCIA

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Co-operatives



5th Floor, Sir Stanislaus James
Building Castries, Saint
Lucia



Communications on this subject
should be addressed to:
THE HONOURABLE MINISTER
and the following Number quoted:

October 06, 2020

Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Mane) Executive Secretary
International Commission for the
Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
Corazón De Maria 8
28002 Madrid, Spain

Dear Mr. Manel,

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, Natural Resources and Co-operatives, Saint Lucia, is in receipt of your correspondence dated July 3, 2020.

Saint Lucia is party to the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea which defines the rights and responsibilities of nations with respect to their use of the world's oceans, establishing guidelines for businesses, the environment, and the management of marine natural resources. As such, Saint Lucia appreciates the need to coordinate and ensure the conservation and development of shared, straddling and highly migratory fish stocks without prejudice to the other provisions of the Convention; noting in particular, the sovereign rights of a coastal state for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing the natural resources, and promote the objective of optimum utilization of the living resources within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

With regard to straddling stocks, the coastal State and "the States fishing for such stocks in adjacent area" are exhorted to seek to agree upon the measures necessary for the conservation of these stocks in the adjacent area"(Article 63(2)). Article 64 deals with highly migratory species using slightly stronger language. The coastal State and other fishing States are required to cooperate, through appropriate international organizations, with the objective of ensuring the conservation and optimum utilization of these stocks both within and beyond the EEZ.

Saint Lucia is also party to the UN Agreement Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, which supplements and strengthens Articles 63(2) and 64 of the Convention by establishing a comprehensive regime with detailed principles, and specific rules and standards aimed at achieving effective and compatible conservation and management measures to achieve optimum sustainable use of fisheries on the high seas and within areas under national jurisdiction.

Consequently, Saint Lucia will continue to promote and facilitate mutual cooperation with ICCAT by, *inter alia*, providing data and information on species of interest to ICCAT and to further refine, update and implement national management plans taking into consideration recommendations from ICCAT, where applicable, based on the scientific findings on the status of the stocks as well as the socio-economic importance of the fishery and its contribution to food security.

Further, Saint Lucia acknowledges the work of ICCAT in maintaining populations of tuna and tuna-like fish in the Atlantic Ocean at levels permitting the maximum sustainable catch for food and other purposes since its entry into force in 1966. It is noted, however, that the Intergovernmental Convention on the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas entered into force thirteen (13) years prior to Saint Lucia becoming a sovereign coastal State. Consequently, it would be important to also equally ensure that the objectives, mandate and measures developed by ICCAT take into account the special needs of developing coastal States such as Saint Lucia in accordance with Article I 19(I) of the Convention, Part VII, Articles 24 to 26, of the Fish Stocks Agreement and Article 5.2 of the FAO Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries.

Saint Lucia is unable to be a contracting or cooperating party to ICCAT, but nonetheless, reassures you of the country's continued commitment to the submission of relevant fisheries statistics. Further, we also look forward to receiving timely updates on the actions, measures and programmes adopted by ICCAT that will affect the fishing interests of Saint Lucia within its national waters including the measures adopted to ensure sustainability use of both target and non-target species.

We wish your organisation continued success. Please accept the assurance of my highest regard.

Sincerely
(signed)

Ho. Herod Stanislas
Minister (Ag)