

Original: English

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

21 December 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Now that we are coming to the end of the Compliance Committee decision making process, I should like to briefly summarise the findings of the Committee.

1. Review of CPC implementation of and compliance with ICCAT requirements, focusing on priority issues and/or cases

All late reports, check sheets etc. were published as addenda to the existing documents and taken into account in my suggested actions. Any new information which arrives will be submitted to the 2021 Compliance Committee meeting for review.

A revised version of the summary tables with all available information was published as [COC 308C](#). This is the version that will be attached to my report, as it was drafted after the final deadline for submission of information and comments. The questions from CPC to CPC, together with the responses were published as [COC 320A](#).

Document [COC 304D](#) contains the final version of the Compliance Tables. These tables are now closed, with the exception of the bigeye tuna table, which may be subject to revision if there is agreement in Panel 1 on the catch limits and adjusted limits for 2020 during the discussion in Plenary. If there is no agreement, I will note in my report that the bigeye tuna table is not adopted and may be subject to revision in the future. With respect to other elements of the table, in accordance with procedures adopted for this correspondence process, if no objection or additional comments/questions are received by **24 December** (10 calendar days from the publication on 14 December of COC_304D), these will be considered approved by the COC and forwarded to the Commission for endorsement.

I have taken note of the request by Senegal relating to changes in the IUU through their statement [COC 323](#), but I have deferred this issue to the PWG, as I believe that some CPCs are not yet satisfied that all relevant documentation has been provided in order to make the change requested. I should like to take this opportunity to thank all involved for the efforts made on this and look forward to coming to satisfactory conclusion in 2021.

2. Review of information relating to Non CPCs

The available information and comments from CPCs relating to Non CPCs has been taken into account in my suggested actions.

3. Determination of recommended actions to address issues of non-compliance by CPCs and issues relating to NCPs arising from item 2

On the basis of the above information, the Secretariat circulated, at my request, a list of suggested actions to be taken by the Committee based on historical actions in similar situations (see ICCAT Circular 8017/20) and published as [Appendix 2 to COC 308C](#). As had been agreed at the outset of the process, if no objection is received by 23 December, these actions will be considered approved and forwarded to the Commission. As indicated in [COC 300](#), the Secretariat will issue letters of prohibition on retention of ICCAT species to those CPCs which did not submit Task 1 or confirm zero catches for such species before 1 December 2020. Letters of prohibition will therefore be issued to The Gambia, Guinea Bissau and the Philippines.

4. Review and decisions on Cooperating status renewals and requests

One Contracting Party objected to the renewal of this status for Colombia, as reflected in [COC 324](#). As no additional comments have been received and no CP has objected to the proposal of the EU, in accordance with Rec. 03-20. I consider that the COC is recommending that cooperating status should not be renewed for Colombia. Status will be renewed for the others currently holding such status, but in the case of certain CPCs on the understanding that this may be revoked in 2021 for those with serious reporting deficiencies, unless such deficiencies are remedied, as reflected in recommended actions in [Appendix 2 to COC-308C](#)

5. Review of progress made by the online reporting working group and next steps

No comments have been received on the interim report of this group [[COC 321](#)]. Therefore I consider that there is support for this group continuing its work as outlined in the document and to this end I understand that a virtual meeting of the group is scheduled for February 2021.

6. Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of above

I will, in my report, be recommending to the Commission that it:

- adopt the list of recommended actions, once finalised by the Compliance Committee;
- adopt the Compliance Tables (compliance annex) with the possible exception of bigeye tuna, depending on developments in Plenary of Panel 1 issues;
- renew cooperating status for all CPCs except one for which an objection has been received; and
- support the continued work of the Online Technical Working Group, including through its virtual meeting in February 2021.

I thank you all for the cooperation you have shown in this process. I should like to extend my best wishes for the New Year and look forward to meeting you all again in person in 2021.

Yours sincerely,



Derek Campbell
COC Chair