

**STATEMENT BY JAPAN RELATED TO BELIZE'S STATEMENT TO PANEL 3 (2ND ROUND)**

November 25, 2020

Mr. Saasa Pheeha  
Panel 3 Chair

Dear Mr. Pheeha,

I'm writing with regard to the statement by Belize (Document PA3-705). While it notifies a transfer of its underage from 2019 to 2021 with the amount of 25% of its initial quota; they also request further allocation from the remaining underage of other CPCs in accordance with paragraphs 4(b) and (c) of Rec. 16-07. Belize seems to be requesting a carry forward of more than 25% of its initial quota in 2019.

I was involved in the negotiation to establish this Recommendation and my understanding is a bit different from that of Belize. In my view, paragraphs 4(b) and (c) are applicable only when the carry-over from the CPC's own underage is less than 25% of its initial quota. For example, if a CPC has used 90% of the initial allocation, that CPC can carry over 10%, but it can request additional 15% if underage is available in accordance with these paras. Since Belize's underage in 2019 is more than 25% of its initial catch limit and Belize will transfer the underage to the maximum degree possible, paragraphs 4(b) and (c) do not apply in this case.

I must admit that paragraphs 4(b) and (c) of Rec. 16-07 are very complicated and misleading, and I may be wrong. Therefore, I would appreciate it if you could clarify this point or seek the views of other Panel 3 members if necessary.

Best regards,



Shingo Ota  
*Japan's Commissioner to ICCAT*