

**STATEMENT BY THE UNITED STATES TO THE PWG REGARDING PWG\_412 AND PWG\_405A**

The United States takes note of Senegal's statement (PWG\_412) in which they request the removal of the F/V Mario No. 11 from the draft IUU vessel list (PWG\_405A). The United States opposes the removal of this vessel from the IUU vessel list and would like to take the opportunity to request additional explanation from Senegal.

The information the United States provided to ICCAT regarding this vessel, coupled with supporting information provided by Senegal itself, clearly demonstrates that this vessel conducted IUU fishing activities as defined by *Recommendation on Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to have Carried out IUU Fishing Activities* [Rec. 18-08]. The presence of a large number of shark fins on the deck of the vessel indicates processing at sea of recent shark catches rather than transport, and after several unsuccessful attempts to establish verbal communication with the fishing vessel, a Mario No. 11 crew member on the deck held a tuna overhead in response. These factors indicated that the vessel was engaging in fishing activities in the Atlantic with a high degree of certainty.

The United States also notes that in June 2020 Senegal advised through ICCAT Circular #3977/20 that the Mario No. 11 does not hold a valid license for fishing on the high seas and was fishing illegally. Senegal additionally reported that the Mario No. 11 is under a cancellation procedure of Senegal's flag, which had been in progress since 7 January 2020. In the communication proposing the listing (ICCAT Circular #6488/20), the United States recognized Senegal's efforts to de-register the F/V Mario No. 11 and noted that it may be a stateless vessel. Pending additional supporting information from Senegal, the United States supports changing the current flag of the vessel on the ICCAT IUU vessel list from "Senegal" to "unknown," with Senegal listed as the previous flag of the vessel.

The United States requests that Senegal share any findings surrounding this vessel's fishing activities that would clarify the request to remove it from ICCAT's IUU vessel list. We request any information on the registration status of this vessel. If the vessel has been deregistered, we would like to request Senegal to provide the Commission a copy of the relevant deregistration documents. The United States would also be interested in receiving any information related to contact with or investigations regarding the F/V Mario No. 11 and the F/V Mario No. 7 by Senegal or any other ICCAT CPC.

The United States would like to thank Senegal for its partnership and assistance in clarifying this important matter so the 2020 ICCAT IUU vessel list can be finalized.