ICCAT-SALIDA
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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

COMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO

Madrid, 5 August 2021

Mr. Anders Jessen
Director
Head of Unit, European Commission
DG Mare B 2
Rue Joseph II, 99
B-1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

SUBJECT: LETTER ON COMPLIANCE ISSUES

Dear Mr. Jessen,

On behalf of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), I am writing to inform you that during the Decision-Making Process which took place in lieu of the Commission meeting in 2020, the Commission noted that certain information had not been received, and that some reporting deficiencies remain unresolved. The reporting and implementation deficiencies are listed in the attached response template.

During the 2020 decision making process, Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities (CPCs) were assessed for compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures and reporting requirements. Based on the review of the Secretariat Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research and the 2020 Secretariat's Report to the Compliance Committee and other available information, the Committee noted the following deficiencies for the European Union:

- Some statistical data received late (see attached template for details)
- Rec. 16-05: Late submission of some SWO-MED vessels
- Rec. 19-04: Retroactive inclusion of vessels on BFT lists- one case of force majeure without explanatory documentation
- Some differences between Task 1 and compliance tables

Additionally, the COC requested further updates on the investigations underway into the case of possible overharvest of bluefin tuna (Tarantela) discussed at the 2018 annual meeting.

Notwithstanding the above, the COC thanked the EU for updates it provided at the meeting on actions that it has taken or will take to address the matters, and noted some improvement from previous years.

Lack of full implementation of ICCAT requirements can undermine the work of the Commission in fulfilling the Convention's objectives. And late or incomplete reporting causes difficulties for the Secretariat in preparing documents for the Commission and its Panels and Committees and reduces the effectiveness of the Compliance Committee.

The Commission requests the European Union to reply to this letter before **1 October 2021** and complete the attached template (preferably submitted as an MS Word document) to indicate the actions taken by the European Community to rectify the deficiencies indicated.

If you have any questions about the issues raised in this letter, including a request for a more detailed explanation of the issues, please do not hesitate to contact me and the Secretariat at info@iccat.int.

In thanking you for your attention to these important matters, let me express to you the assurances of my highest consideration.

Derek Campbell
Compliance Committee Chair

cc: R. Delgado, *Commission Chair*