ICCAT-SALIDA
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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

ICCAT CICTA CICAA

COMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO

Madrid, 5 August 2021

Dr Bamba Am Banja
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Fisheries, Water Resources& National Assembly Matters
7 Marina Parade
Banjul
THE GAMBIA

SUBJECT: LETTER ON COMPLIANCE ISSUES

Dear Dr Bamba Am Banja

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 Gambia:

- No Annual Report was submitted
- No Task 1 or other statistical data received
- No submission of any management reporting requirements
- One vessel flagged to the Gambia reported for inclusion on the IUU list

Please note that due to the absence of Task 1 data submission, the Gambia is currently prohibited from taking any ICCAT species in the Convention area until such time as the missing data are received.

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 lists of reporting requirements, the relevant reporting forms, and ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions are published annually on the ICCAT web site at:

https://www.iccat.int/en/SubmitCOMP.html
https://www.iccat.int/en/submitSTAT.html
https://www.iccat.int/en/RecRes.asp

The Commission requests The Gambia 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 Gambia to rectify the deficiencies indicated. Where possible, an earlier response would be greatly appreciated.

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*