ICCAT-SALIDA
2021-08-05
S21-05905

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

Ms. Ingrid Peters
Principal Fisheries Officer
Ministry of Agriculture
Regent & Vlissengen Roads Georgetown South America
GUYANA

SUBJECT: LETTER OF CONTINUED IDENTIFICATION OF GUYANA UNDER ICCAT REC. 06-13 CONCERNING TRADE MEASURES

Dear Ms. Peters,

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 significant overharvest of certain ICCAT species and recurring reporting deficiencies. The reporting and implementation deficiencies are listed below and 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. As you will recall, in 2020 Guyana was identified under the *Recommendation by ICCAT concerning Trade Measures* (Rec. 06-13) due to significant recurrent WHM overharvest over a number of years , which diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT's conservation and management measures. 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 deficiencies listed below for Guyana, and determined that the aforementioned identification should be maintained:

- Annual report part 2 received late
- Rec. 16-16/18-07 (11-11): Compliance tables received late
- Possible continued overharvest of ICCAT species: white marlin (WHM) blue marlin (BUM), and southern swordfish (Rec. 18-05 & Rec. 17-03)
- No reply to 2020 letter of identification from COC Chair following the 2019 Annual Meeting.
- Rec. 18-05 and 18-06: No billfish or shark check sheet received

Lack of full implementation of ICCAT measures 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

Of particular concern to the Commission is the potential continued over-harvest of white marlin, which are under a strict landing limits management regime and require full compliance with the measures in place (see ICCAT Recommendation 18-05). The lack of adequate clarification and explanation from Guyana, coupled with the potential continued overharvest and other recurring issues identified previously by the COC, led the Commission to maintain the identification of Guyana under Rec. 06-13. Please note that this identification, in accordance with the provisions of Rec. 06-13, could lead to more severe actions pursuant to future decisions of the Commission, including the adoption of non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures if insufficient actions are taken by Guyana to rectify the matter. Furthermore, the COC noted that continuing non-compliance will have bearing on ICCAT's decision at future meetings regarding whether to renew Guyana's Cooperating Non-Party status.

The Commission therefore urges Guyana 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 Guyana to rectify the deficiencies indicated. Additional supporting information should be attached as appropriate.

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 through 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*