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. Ibrahim Abubakar
Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
Area II, Garki
900001 Abuja
**NIGERIA**

**SUBJECT: LETTER ON COMPLIANCE ISSUES**

Dear Mr. Abubakar,

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 certain reporting and implementation deficiencies, which 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. 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 Nigeria:

- No Annual report
- Rec. 18-09: no list of designated ports was submitted.
- No billfish check sheet or updated shark check sheet received.

Lack of full implementation of ICCAT requirements can undermine the work of the Commission in fulfilling the Convention's objectives. In addition, 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

With regard to the absence of a list of designated ports, it would be appreciated if Nigeria could clarify either submit such a list, or alternatively confirm that foreign fishing vessels are prohibited from accessing to Nigerian ports to land or transship ICCAT species.

The Commission requests Nigeria 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 Nigeria 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*