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**The Pew Charitable Trusts’
Statement to the Compliance Committee of the 27th Regular Meeting of ICCAT
13 November 2021**

The Pew Charitable Trusts appreciates the efforts of the Secretariat and Compliance Committee (COC) to convene a two-day session of the COC this year. We recognize that the COC agenda is full, compounded by the cancellation of the 2020 meetings. As such, we encourage the COC to prioritize the below items to ensure progress is made to improve the likelihood CPCs and their fleets are complying with ICCAT Recommendations.

Over the past year, Pew and ISSF jointly convened compliance experts from around the globe through a series of workshops to discuss constructive ways RFMOs could improve overall compliance with adopted measures (as reported [here](#)). **We encourage ICCAT to consider the recommendations of these workshops**, including adoption of improved compliance data collection, information management, and reporting, in addition to development of tools to improve RFMO compliance, which has particular relevance to this year’s COC meeting.

As laid out in the workshops, a tool that ranks the severity of non-compliance in the context of existing ICCAT Recommendations would be an important step towards delineating minor versus significant infractions and would assist the Commission in allocating its limited resources to address non-compliance. We appreciate the positive step outlined in Res. 16-17 to develop a reference document and ranking table of infractions. **However, we urge COC to endorse the concept of a “severity table” as embodied in the Chair’s paper (see [COC 307](#)) and agrees to formulate a workplan with set timelines to ensure this work progresses in a reasonable timeframe.**

At the same time, it is also necessary for the Commission and COC to better understand the reasons for non-compliance at the CPC level so that responses can be tailored accordingly. In some instances, non-compliance may occur due to genuine capacity challenges highlighting the need for greater assistance from the Commission, whereas in other cases, a targeted response is warranted due to insufficient justification for non-compliance. **We therefore recommend that ICCAT develops ways to better understand the underlying reasons for non-compliant CPCs, in order to design appropriate tools to improve CPC compliance.**

These measures would greatly improve the transparency, predictability, and consistency of ICCAT’s compliance review process and its responses to non-compliance. And, by helping to ensure agreed conservation measures are followed, they would ultimately support ICCAT’s mandate to ensure the sustainability of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean.