

## **Response from Egypt to Compliance Tables (Doc 308A)**

It was referred in the document for SWO-MD [no quota, 2023 catches (75 t) > reserve (39.35 t)] and this is to clarify this issue.

Although Egypt does not have a specific catch limit for Mediterranean swordfish, it has been permitted to catch limited amounts under the "Others". Egypt has consistently reported its catches from 2018 to 2023, with increasing figures to some extent.

In 2017 at “the Intersessional Meeting of panel 4 on Mediterranean Swordfish that was held in Madrid, Egypt reserved its position regarding the distribution of the allocated Swordfish catch limit and reiterated Egypt’s interest in being included in the catch limit with other CPCs.”

In November 2018 at the Compliance Meeting held in Croatia, Egypt again reaffirmed its rights in a rightful catch limit for Med-SWO.

in 2019, Egypt requested to catch for Swordfish to benefit from its territorial water resources and all evidence that show the historical rights to have a specified catch limit in the Mediterranean swordfish was provided as Egypt has a great and large-scale fishing vessels operating in the Mediterranean Sea.

Egypt includes data of its bycatch of Swordfish every year in the annual report submitted to the commission, knowing that the catch of the Swordfish is limited due to domestic inspection and restrictions for fishers to comply with ICCAT recommendations and to help conserving the stock, however, the abundance of the Swordfish in the Egyptian water allows for more catch.

In 2022 at the 23<sup>rd</sup> special meeting held in Portugal, Egypt again asked for a fair catch limit of SWO, so that we were requested to submit a fishing plan, a management plan and the vessels and ports to be registered in ICCAT records as a step forward to comply with the requirements of ICCAT to allocate a catch limit.

In 2023, although of absence of rightful catch limit, Egypt issued Resolution 291/2023 on Multiannual Recovery Plan for Med-SWO that is based on Recommendation 16-05 of ICCAT to apply better management practices of the stock. Moreover, a fishing plan including 75 tons catch of SWO was submitted to the commission before the deadline and no comments have been received even at the Commission Meeting in Egypt.

In 2023 at the 28<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission in Egypt, Egypt renewed its request for a fair catch limit , especially on observing that the difference between the total allowable catch (Referred to in Rec. 16-05) and the total catch over the last three years (2021-2023) may exceeds 1500 tons per year (that is considered an unused catch) besides the reserve advised by the Scientific Committee which in turn reflects that the catch of 73 tons by Egypt doesn't affect the stock.