

Correspondence with Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (Non-CPCs)

(ICCAT Secretariat)

In accordance with the [Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 03-20 on Criteria for Attaining the Status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity in ICCAT \(Rec. 21-24\)](#), the Executive Secretary sent letters to the following: Dominica, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Montenegro, Saint Lucia and St Kitts and Nevis.

Acknowledgement of the letter was received from St Kitts and Nevis. Saint Lucia submitted statistical data that were published prior to the issue of the Executive Secretary's letters. No other responses were received.

A letter from the Chair of the Compliance Committee was sent to Gibraltar requesting additional information on the management and catches of bluefin tuna. The response from Gibraltar is attached.

Please see the "Secretariat's Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Compliance Committee" (COC_303/2024) for information relating to catch data received from non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities without cooperating status.

Response from Gibraltar to letter from COC Chair

Department for Environment and Rural Affairs

Seacole Wing
2 Marsham Street, London
SW1P 4DF
www.gov.uk/defra

10 October 2024

Dear Derek,

Re: Management and catches of bluefin tuna in Gibraltar

Further to your letter of 16 September, I am pleased to enclose a detailed reply from colleagues in Gibraltar. Please note, this reply is in addition to the statistical data that Mr Warr has today submitted to the stats_info@iccat.int email address, in line with ICCAT Circular 01071/2024.

As Mr Warr has indicated in his reply, at the time of writing the BFT season in Gibraltar hadn't quite closed, but we preferred to submit something to you promptly and can of course provide any update on the catch data following the planned closure of the season on Monday 14 October.

I trust that these two submissions provide all the information requested, but please let me know if you need anything further ahead of the Compliance Committee meetings next month.

With my thanks to colleagues in Gibraltar for their continued cooperation and kind assistance in this matter, and to you once again for your letter.

Yours sincerely,

Jess Keedy
UK Head of Delegation to ICCAT

cc: Hon Prof. John Cortes, Minister for Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change and Education, Gibraltar
Mr. Stephen Warr, Senior Environmental Officer, Gibraltar
Mr. E. Penas, Commission Chair
Mr. S. Ota (Japan), Panel 2 Chair

Attachment: Reply from Gibraltar of 10 October 2024.

Department of the Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change and Heritage
HM Government of Gibraltar

10 October 2024

Ms. Jess Keedy
Joint Head of International Fisheries
Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
Nobel House
17 Smith Square London
United Kingdom

Subject: Management and catches of bluefin tuna in Gibraltar

Dear Ms Keedy,

We refer to the ICCAT Compliance Committee Chair's letter dated 16 September 2024 addressed to you in relation to the management and catches of bluefin tuna (BFT) in Gibraltar.

It is once again very reassuring to note that the Commission appreciates the transparency and commitment demonstrated by Gibraltar to provide all the necessary statistical data in relation to BFT as well as the management measures implemented in Gibraltar to date. In keeping with our continued commitment to fully cooperate with the ICCAT Secretariat, please note that BFT catch statistics (Form ST02-T1NC - Version 2024) pertaining to this year's BFT Open Season (2024) have been submitted by the Department to the email account stats_info@iccat.int in accordance with ICCAT Circular 01071/2024.

By way of further information, an overview of the BFT Open Season statistics up to the 10 October 2024 have been provided in an **Appendix** to this letter. Additional catch data (if any) will be provided to the Secretariat once the season closes on the 14 October 2024.

We take this opportunity to once again firmly reiterate our strong desire to continue our cooperation and positive engagement with the ICCAT Secretariat moving forward, and to the consideration of the possibility of extending ICCAT to Gibraltar.

We remain at your disposal should you require any additional clarification on the abovementioned points and statistical data provided.

With best wishes,

(signed and sealed)

Stephen Warr
Chief Executive (Ag)
Department of the Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change and Heritage

cc. The Rt. Hon. Professor John Cortes MBE. Minister for the Environment, HM Government of Gibraltar.

BFT Open Season Summary statistics for the period 2015-2024

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total Allowable Catch (tons)	13	13	15.5	15.5	16.74	19.81
Actual catch/landings (kg)	12746	13894*	16109*	14603	17378	20020
Average weight (kg)	47	88	98	121	117	83
Largest specimen (kg)	271	274	279	299	267	341
Total licensed recreational/sport anglers landing BFT	91	75	65	61	76	111
Total days in Open Season	123	121	69.5	93	39.5	91

Year	2021	2022	2023	2024**
Total Allowable Catch (tons)	21	22.5	25	25
Actual catch/landings (kg)	21576*	24902*	27739*	
Average weight (kg)	128	128	184	
Largest specimen (kg)	328	350	376	323
Total licensed recreational/sport anglers landing BFT	85	98	109	72
Total days in Open Season	32	71	33	86

Explanatory note:

*Actual catch is slightly higher than TAC as a result of the necessary administrative time to give effect to the closure of the season.

**Season closes on the 14 October 2024 unless the TAC is reached before.