

Letter from the Chair of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC)

ICCAT-SALIDA

2024-10-23

S24-11038

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, 23 October 2024

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 11038/ 2024

SUBJECT: 2024 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (COC)

I should like to transmit herewith a letter from the Chair of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC). The letter provides information regarding the Chairs' intentions on how to structure the COC meeting, along with deadlines and details for the main topics included in the Agenda.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary

Camille Jean Pierre Manel

DISTRIBUTION:

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Commission Chair:

First Vice Chair:

Second Vice Chair:

Chairs Panels 1-4

SCRS Chair:

E. Penas Lado

Z. Driouich

R. Chong

C. Brown

COC Chair:

PWG Chair:

STACFAD Chair:

D. Campbell

N. Ansell

D. Warner-Kramer

- Head Delegates

Attachment: Correspondence from the Compliance Committee Chair on the 2024 Annual meeting of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC)

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
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18 October 2024

**SUBJECT: 2024 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES
COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**

Dear Distinguished Delegates and Observers,

I am looking forward to working with all participants at the 2024 Meeting of the Compliance Committee (COC).

To ensure our discussions are constructive and efficient, I would like to take this opportunity to inform the Commission about how I intend to structure the meeting, subject to further input from CPCs and adoption of the [Tentative Agenda](#). I would also like to provide information on certain Agenda items, to ensure that all CPCs submit and review relevant information and are prepared to actively engage in the COC meeting.

Request for advance input on potential CPC compliance issues

To facilitate a fulsome discussion during the CPC by CPC compliance review and ensure that issues are raised early enough for the COC and interested CPC to respond, I strongly encourage CPCs to review the Annual Reports and other compliance-related documentation of other CPCs now posted on the [ICCAT 2024 meeting document site](#), and to submit any questions or concerns regarding potential non-compliance by another CPC to me in writing no later than **Friday, 1 November 2024**. I will in turn consider this input as I develop a list of additional matters for discussion during the CPC-by-CPC review.

Additionally, pursuant to paragraph 2 of [Resolution by ICCAT to facilitate an effective and efficient compliance process \(Res. 16-22\)](#), I am working with the ICCAT Secretariat to develop and circulate the first draft of the Compliance Summary Tables [COC-308/2024] on or around 23 October 2024, three weeks prior to the first COC session, after which point CPCs are invited to submit "initial, written explanations of inaccuracies or additional information to the ICCAT Secretariat on their own compliance information as reflected in the Draft Summary Compliance Tables and any supplementary tables at least five days before the start of the first session of the COC" (**Friday, 8 November 2024**).

Annual Reports and other submissions

First, I would like to commend CPCs that submitted Annual Reports. Nevertheless, as of the date of this letter, a number of CPCs have not submitted certain required data, reports, or other documents, such as Part I or Part II of the Annual Report, compliance tables, or Task 1 and Task 2 data. Lack of timely reporting undermines ICCAT's ability to carry out its mandate and the COC's ability to assess compliance. In the case of a number of CPCs, failure to submit these documents by the deadline (or at all) is a recurring issue. In order to address this matter, I intend to recommend that the COC consider taking proportionate responsive actions at the 2024 Meeting of the Compliance Committee in the case of CPCs that repeatedly fail in this respect, including possible sanctions under [Recommendation by ICCAT concerning trade measures \(Rec. 06-13\)](#), consistent with the [Schedule of compliance issues and corresponding actions \(Ref. 22-18\)](#). Missing information will be noted in the draft version of the Compliance Summary Tables [COC-308/2024], as indicated above. [Guidelines for submitting information](#) and [Guidelines for submitting Statistical Data](#) required by ICCAT are available on the ICCAT Website.

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Additionally, a number of CPCs that received a letter of identification or on compliance issues from the COC Chair following the 2023 Meeting of the Compliance Committee, to which a response was requested by 11 October 2024, have not yet provided a written response. Written CPC responses are essential for the Commission to conduct a meaningful review of actions taken by CPCs to address compliance issues identified by the Commission. I encourage those CPCs that have not already responded to provide a written response as soon as possible in advance of the 24th Special Meeting of the Commission. At this meeting, I would like COC to devote more time to the response letters to assess the sufficiency of each response, and to discuss ways to better track CPC response actions over time. To this end, CPC's are encouraged to review response letters and consider including observations on these in their input to the COC in the advance input on other CPCs that I have requested by **8 November 2024**, above, pursuant to [Res. 16-22](#). CPC response letters received to date can be found in "Responses from Contracting Parties to identification and Chair's letters" [COC-309/2024], and the original outgoing letters from the COC Chair are posted as Annex 1 of the aforementioned COC-309/2024 ("Responses from Non-contracting parties to ICCAT letters regarding compliance", can be found in COC-310/2024). All these documents are available at the [Annual Meeting website](#).

Compliance Table submission, review, and formatting

In accordance with [Recommendation by ICCAT to clarify the application of compliance recommendations and for developing the compliance annex](#) (Rec. 11-11), as amended by the [Recommendation by ICCAT to amend ICCAT reporting deadlines in order to facilitate an effective and efficient compliance process](#) (Rec. 16-16), the deadline for submitting Compliance tables to the ICCAT Secretariat was 15 August 2024. Any changes to the Compliance tables to reflect updated information must be submitted in writing to the ICCAT Secretariat before Monday, **11 November 2024** at 18:00 (Madrid time).

Other priority matters

If CPCs have recommendations on areas for the COC to prioritize at the 2024 Meeting of the Compliance Committee, I welcome that input in writing as far in advance of the meeting as possible, and no later than **Friday, 1 November 2024**, in order to enable preparation of informational document to facilitate discussion. I also look forward to input on prioritization from the Friends of the Chair representatives prior to the meeting. I am hopeful that the ICCAT Integrated Online Management System (IOMS) can be effectively utilized for at least some measures at this meeting to generate accessible reports on how all CPC's have reported in certain areas. One area that I suggest for priority review, on the basis of discussions at the 2023 Meeting of the Compliance Committee, is CPC implementation of ICCAT requirements relating to turtle bycatch. While the ICCAT Secretariat produced a helpful document to facilitate the COC's review of these requirements (see "Responses from IOMS to M: BYC01 – Turtles" [[COC-303/2023 Annex 9](#)]), and questions and concerns were raised about the potential insufficiency of a number of CPC responses reflected in that document, most CPCs did not respond to provide more information and the COC did not have time or information to adequately prioritize this matter. Additionally, I would like to draw CPCs' attention to the COC's Strategic Plan, which was last updated in 2021. See "Strategic Plan for review of compliance priorities: Suggestions from CPCs" [[COC-320/2021](#)]. I suggest we resume our practice of incorporating priorities into a Strategic Plan, taking into account the considerations reflected on the first page of this document. Following the 1 November 2024 deadline for input on priorities, I will ask the ICCAT Secretariat to post an updated draft Strategic Plan that takes into account input from CPCs, the ICCAT Secretariat, and myself.

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To recap, the following submissions are requested in my letter above:

By 1 November 2024:

- Any questions or concerns regarding potential non-compliance by another CPC;
- CPC recommendations on areas for the COC to prioritize at the 2024 Meeting of the Compliance Committee.

By 8 November 2024:

- CPCs are invited to submit "initial, written explanations of inaccuracies or additional information to the ICCAT Secretariat on their own compliance information as reflected in the Draft Summary Compliance Tables and any supplementary tables at least five days before the start of the first session of the COC" ([Res. 16-22](#));
- Any changes to the Compliance tables to reflect updated information must be submitted in writing to the ICCAT Secretariat;
- CPC's are encouraged to review response letters and consider including observations on these in their input to the COC in the advance input on other CPCs that I have requested, above, pursuant to [Res. 16-22](#).

By 11 November 2024:

- Any changes to the Compliance tables to reflect updated information must be submitted in writing to the ICCAT Secretariat before **Monday, 11 November 2024** at 18:00 (Madrid time).

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Compliance Committee Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Derek Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Derek Campbell