



Madrid – April 5, 2010

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 908 /10

### SUBJECT: ACTION PLAN - GHANA

I have the honor to attach herewith “Ghana’s Action Plan to Strengthen the Collection of Statistical Data (Task I and Task II) and Control Measures to Ensure the Full Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures”.

This text has been translated to French and Spanish by the ICCAT Secretariat.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.



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Attachments: Ghana’s Action Plan.

**GHANA'S ACTION PLAN TO STRENGTHEN THE COLLECTION OF STATISTICAL DATA  
(TASK I AND TASK II) AND CONTROL MEASURES TO ENSURE THE FULL  
IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

**RE: RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO AMEND THE RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON  
MULTI-YEAR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR BIGEYE TUNA**

I refer to paragraph 5 of the above-mentioned ICCAT Recommendation 09-01, and submit the Ghana's Action Plan to strengthen the collection of statistical data and control measures to ensure the implementation of conservation and management measures as follows:

**TASK I**

**Obtaining data from the tuna canneries**

Currently, the individual tuna companies submit catch by species composition and effort data from which the overall catch and effort data are computerized. The problem has been sorting of the fish by species especially differentiating small bigeye tuna from small yellowfin tuna by the operators during sorting at the quay side. The sorted fish at quay side are sent to the tuna canneries where there are re-sorted into the various species by grades. The canneries have developed the capacity to sort small yellowfin tuna from small bigeye tuna which is very essential for payment of tuna supplied because of differences in prices for various species.

Management has agreed with operators of vessels and tuna canneries that henceforth the final species breakdown should be obtained from the canneries by each vessel discharging at port and no longer from the quay side where initial sorting is done.

This strategy will ensure the proper breakdown of the catch and will improve the species composition thereby contributing to the exact proportions of especially young bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*) and yellowfin (*Thunnus albacares*) caught in the catch.

For Ghana flag vessels that discharge at the port of Abidjan in Côte d'Ivoire, the tuna company shall submit such data from the canneries based in Côte d'Ivoire to the Ghanaian authorities.

**TASK II**

**Logbook data and information**

All Ghana flag tuna vessels shall be provided with ICCAT logbooks and are required by law to submit the completed logbook after every fishing trip. The logbooks are free of charge. Recognizing the difficulties in filling the logbooks, the Fisheries Directorate has organized a series of training for Captains and Chief Officers of tuna vessels in the completing of logbooks. Scientific Observers on board tuna vessels continue with training for the officers. The logbooks have been designed for purse seiners, baitboats and applicable for collaborating vessels.

**Increase sampling of fish at Ghana Port**

All vessels that call at the port of Tema are sampled for length measurements. The number of fish sampled has been increased from 200 to 500 per vessel as per recommendation from the SCRS.

### **Sampling of fish at Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire Port**

Ghana has an MOU with Côte d'Ivoire to sample all Ghana flag vessels that call at the port of Abidjan to discharge tuna to the canneries. The sampled data are transmitted to Ghana to be incorporated in Ghana database.

### **At-Sea Observer Program**

Observers will be put on all purse seine vessels for on board sampling of fish.

### **Processing of data with ADVTH**

Ghana has adopted the ADVTH software for data processing which requires catch and effort data, sampling data and logbook information. There is an MOU between Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire for Ivorian experts to visit Ghana to train Ghanaian scientists in the use of the software. The software has been developed by the EU.

### **Control measures**

Submission of catch data and logbook data are, among others, conditions that have to be fulfilled before fishing licenses are renewed. As a control measure, fishing licenses are renewed quarterly to ensure compliance.

The Ghana Fisheries Act 625 provides for the placing of observers for fishing trips and a license of a fishing vessel could be withdrawn or cancelled if an operator refuses to allow or cooperate with an observer on board a fishing vessel.