



## environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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To the Executive Secretary and Member Parties of the IOTC

### Re: Application for renewal of Cooperating Non-contracting Party status for 2010

After the national elections held in 2009 a number of Government Departments have undergone restructuring. As the restructuring process still continues, South Africa is unlikely to ratify the IOTC agreement prior to the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission Meeting. Hence, we hereby make further application for renewal of Co-operating Non-contracting Party status for 2010.

In support of the application, South Africa, as an Indian Ocean coastal state, has developed recreational and commercial rod and reel fisheries for tuna in the Indian Ocean. In addition, South Africa has a developing longline fishery for swordfish and tuna. It should also be noted by the Commission that:

- 1) South Africa is in the process of ratifying the IOTC agreement which is envisaged to be concluded by July 2010;
- 2) South Africa has ratified the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement;
- 3) South Africa has co-operated with the IOTC by providing annual fishery statistics, including catch-at-size statistics, since the inception of its tuna/swordfish longline fishery;
- 4) South Africa has implemented EAF for many of its fisheries with strict management of by-catch and incidental catch in the large pelagic longline fishery;
- 5) South Africa also recently provided reports of foreign vessels entering our ports and the results of inspections conducted on these vessels;
- 6) Conservation measures such as the resolution on the shark fin to trunk ratio has also been fully enforced for foreign vessels visiting our ports;
- 7) As a member of ICCAT South Africa has already implemented ICCAT management and control measures, which are similar to IOTC, including measures to eliminate IUU fishing, mandatory VMS, onboard scientific observer programme - 20% coverage of domestic trips and 100% coverage of foreign trips, full port inspection, size limits and a daily logbook system, and;
- 8) South Africa has made a concerted effort to participate in the recent meetings of the IOTC, including the Scientific Committee meetings.

A more detailed document summarizing the statistics and information submitted to IOTC will be provided in due course.

As South Africa is committed to conservation, research, development and resource management in the southwest Indian Ocean and shall observe IOTC management and conservation measures it is hereby requested that South Africa's status as a Co-operating Non-Contracting Party be renewed for 2010.

Trusting that this application will be favourably considered by all Member Parties.

Yours Sincerely

Mr Craig Smith  
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