

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
Bangladesh Secretariat
Dhaka, Bangladesh

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Date: 16 February, 2017

To
Alejandro Anganuzzi
Executive Secretary (a.i.)
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)
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Subject: Bangladesh's Application for the Status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party of Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

Reference: IOTC REF: 6510; Dated: 06 February 2017

With your reference and the provisions made under the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2014), Appendix III, paragraph I Bangladesh is submitting its formal request for renewal of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party status to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. We are also furnishing the following required information for your kind perusal.

- a) Data on historical fisheries in Bangladesh EEZ including nominal catches, number/type of vessels, name of fishing vessels, fishing effort and fishing areas : **Annexure-1 & 2**.
- b) All the data based on the Resolutions adopted by IOTC: **Annexure -3**.
- c) Details on current fishing presence in the IOTC Area, number of vessels and vessel characteristics; **Annexure-4**.
- d) Information on research program conducted in the IOTC area of competence and the information and results of that research :
– we have no research program on tuna.

Furthermore we reiterate our commitment:

- a) To respect the Commission's Conservation and Management Measures.
- b) To inform IOTC the measures taken to ensure compliance by its vessel of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures.

We should take effort to present and participate in the Coming 21st Session of the Compliance Committee Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) to present our application for renewal of Cooperating Non-Contracting party status to be Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. We'll also respond to any question from CPCs.

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Finally, it can be mentioned that with rising demand of emerging population for quality nutrition and compete in export market fish and fishery products, it is imperative that we seek new avenues for development in the Marine Fisheries Sector.

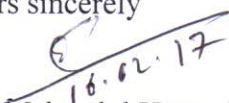
Observing the trend of fisheries in our waters and also in the neighboring countries, there seems to be prospects for developing a Tuna Fishery in Bangladesh. Bangladesh has already taken initiative for deep sea Tuna fishing. We are trying to introduce Long-liner and Purse Seiner for catching Tuna and Tuna like fishes beyond 200 meter depth in the EEZ of Bangladesh and in the international waters. Government of Bangladesh has already sanctioned for license of long-liner vessels against 4 (four) Bangladeshi entrepreneurs.

We are greatly honored to be a partner in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) as a Co-operating Non-Contracting Party. At the 20th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) held in La Reunion, France of the Compliance Committee on May 2016 Bangladesh's Co-operating Non-Contracting Party (CNCP) status was renewed to the commission until the close of the 21st Session in 2017. Now we are submitting our application for renewal.

Given the importance of information required in the management and conservation of Tuna and Tuna like fishes, this endorsement will bring tremendous benefit to Bangladesh in developing and sustaining a healthy Tuna fishery. Experience and information sharing with your esteemed organization will strengthen the pioneering long line tuna fishery initiative of our Government.

I would appreciate if you could kindly endorse our application requesting for renewal of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party status of Bangladesh to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

Yours sincerely


(Md. Maksudul Hasan Khan)
Secretary
Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
Dhaka, Bangladesh.