

Note : What follows is the translation of a document received in French at the Secretariat. For more details, please refer to the original.



15 April 2013

THE MINISTER

**TO
THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION**

Mister Executive Secretary,

In view of promoting the sustainable exploitation of the tuna and tuna-like species fisheries, and in accordance with the principles and recommendations of FAO, I would be grateful if you could initiate the process to grant my country the status of Cooperating non contracting Party to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).

Please find hereby attached:

- a declaration of commitment,
- a technical note of information,
- a statistical submission.

Please accept, Mr Executive Secretary, the assurance of my highest consideration.

MOHAMED AHMED AWALEH

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جمهورية جيبوتي
الوحدة - المساواة - السلام



وزارة الزراعة والتربية الحيوانية
والصيد البحري
والمسؤنة عن الموارد المائية

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Djibouti, 28 March 2013

THE MINISTER

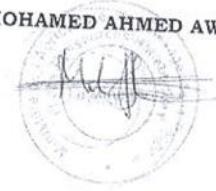
DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT

In accordance with the recommendation of FAO for sustainable fisheries, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock, in charge of Fisheries Resources, reaffirming his view of managing the oceans based on a collective and shared responsibility and based on international agreements and obligations aiming towards the sustainable exploitation of living marine resources, commits to:

- respecting the conservation and management measures adopted by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC);
- strictly enforcing the respect by its vessels of the conservation and management measures adopted by IOTC.

In witness whereof, the present commitment is established for all legal intents and purposes.

MOHAMED AHMED AWALEH



Information note for the application of Djibouti to the status of Cooperating non contracting Party to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)



Map of Djibouti showing its EEZ (source: Google Earth)

- Maritime boundaries and continental plateau

1. The maritime boundaries of the Republic of Djibouti have been established by the Law N°52/AN/78 dated from 9 January 1979 regarding the Territorial Waters, the Adjacent Zone and the Exclusive Economic Zone. The latter extends for approximately 7,000 km² and the total area of waters under the jurisdiction of Djibouti represent 100,000 km² (GTZ, 1996).



The continental plateau (turquoise) of the Djibouti Coast.

- Fisheries Resources

2. According to available estimations, the Republic of Djibouti is gifted with significant fisheries resources. The only detailed scientific study on the fisheries resources was completed by the German Cooperation (GTZ) in 1996 and the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) was estimated at 48,000 metric tonnes per year, for all species.
3. According to the statistical data produced by the Directorate for Fisheries, demersal fish species (large demersals) account for 55% of all landings while large pelagic species represent 45%. The most frequently captured species include, by order of importance, seerfish (a tuna-like species highly regarded by local populations), groupers, dolfinfish, trevallies, tuna, barracuda and red snappers.

- Fishing Fleet

4. The whole fleet is currently estimated at 300 boats, of which 60% are 7 to 9 meters long boats equipped with 45 HP outboard engines, the rest being 9 to 14 meters long boats equipped with inboard engines.
5. Tuna is fished in Djibouti as a target species, without Djibouti being a member of the IOTC, and annual catches range from 300 to 400 metric tons.
6. Tuna-like species exploited in Djibouti and regarded as being common in the Djibouti waters are: *Scomberomorus commerson* (narrow-barred Spanish mackerel), *Euthynnus affinis* (kawakawa) and *Thunnus tonggol* (longtail tuna).
7. *Scomberomorus commerson*, locally named “Derak” is a migratory species found in the waters of the Tadjourah Gulf, between 30 and 40 meters deep (matching the thermocline) during the fishing season. Young fish are the first to appear at lower depths in December, soon followed by medium-sized fish in

January then by larger fish from May to July.

8. Two other important Scombridae species are exploited in Djibouti during the North-East monsoon season (October through April): these are *Euthynnus affinis*, locally named “Cherva” (kawakawa or “Thonine orientale”) and *Thunnus tonggol* locally named “Zeinube” (longtail tuna or “thon mignon”).
9. It has to be noted that, during short periods, some tuna-like species appear en-masse in the waters of Djibouti, such as yellowfin, bigeye tuna, skipjack, swordfish as well as sailfish which, during the North-East monsoon, is quite abundant in Djibouti waters.

- **Institutional framework**

10. The Fisheries Sector is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock, in charge of Fisheries Resources. The field management of the Fisheries Sector is the responsibility of the Directorate for Fisheries which is composed of two divisions: the Division for the Development of the Fisheries Sector and the Division for the Management of Fisheries Resources.
11. The legal framework regulating the Fisheries Sector, named “Code des pêches”, includes notably a Law adopted in 2002 and an Implementing Decree of said Law (2007), as well as a 2007 Order on fishing licences. Currently, a review of the Fisheries Code is being completed with funding by an EU Project.
12. Djibouti does not yet have a research institution dedicated to fisheries, but the Djibouti Centre d’Études de Recherche has plans to create by the end of 2013 a Research Unit that will be dedicated to marine biology.

- **Conservation measures**

13. Overall, the status of the resources seems to be satisfactory. This is mainly due to two basic measures included in the legal framework regulating the Fisheries Sector in Djibouti, namely the prohibition of both industrial fishing and the use of trawls. The management of Fisheries Resources in Djibouti shows that simple management measures can effectively conserve the resources.
14. Faced with grave concerns over illegal fishing in the waters of Djibouti, the Ministry in charge of Fisheries has developed, with help from FAO, a National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (NPAO-IUU) in accordance with the International Plan of Action (IPOA-IUU). This NPAO-IUU, validated at the local level by all Parties concerned by illegal fishing, is a robust tool aimed at strengthening the national surveillance framework currently in place and this plan recommends that the Republic of Djibouti take part in the IOTC process.
15. To ensure the sustainable development and management of the transboundary fisheries resources shared between Djibouti and the adjacent regions, a Draft Agreement for International Cooperation in the Fisheries Sector has been signed in 2012 between Djibouti and the Somaliland Region and between Djibouti and the region of Puntland.

STATISTICS FOR YEAR 2011
MONTHLY CATCHES IN QUANTITY AND BY SPECIES

Période	Janvier	Février	Mars	Avril	Mai	Juin	Juillet	Août	Septembr	Octobre	Novembre	Décembre	TOTAL
Espèces	Qté (Kg)	Qté (Kg)	Qté (Kg)	Qté (Kg)	Qté (Kg)	Qté (Kg)	Qté (Kg)	Qté (Kg)	Qté (Kg)	Qté (Kg)	Qté (Kg)	Qté (Kg)	Qté (Kg)
1. ANTAK	11 135	13 406	9 520	10 315	6 322	3 876	3 598	13 854	15 687	12 032	16 926	18 040	134 711
2. BARRACU	4 619	4 526	8 262	20 685	21 021	12 354	3 017	3 270	25 027	21 979	27 665	26 469	178 894
3. CARANGL	13 646	15 492	22 752	22 471	50 069	39 847	29 347	18 053	55 941	35 463	33 885	38 538	375 505
4. DORADE	9 814	9 690	15 958	23 881	27 022	18 663	11 319	10 320	26 987	22 084	13 291	10 459	199 488
5. MEROU	5 073	4 521	8 123	10 192	9 268	6 646	8 924	8 826	12 564	20 487	16 474	19 321	130 420
6.crevette/l	4 197	732	1 455	2 052	545	622	404	419	958	1 743	2 037	2 845	18 009
7. REQUIN	6 830	11 918	7 014	13 658	5 405	3 463	6 265	3 547	951	9 020	6 876	4 061	79 006
8. SAKLA	280	293	2 249	1 880	724	813	1 500	1 303	1 587	1 079	1 576	2 806	16 090
9. THAZARD	7 755	10 185	9 360	14 203	29 556	36 245	33 277	4 921	8 237	15 255	24 709	29 796	223 497
10 THON.	12 114	7 062	3 733	5 239	9 752	15 060	7 463	13 097	22 057	11 273	6 770	8 260	121 879
11 DIVERS.	10 187	25 295	19 196	14 449	10 687	17 637	15 109	13 954	16 061	13 225	15 492	18 271	189 563
TOTAL	85 652	103 119	107 622	139 025	170 371	155 225	120 223	91 564	186 056	163 640	165 701	178 866	1 801 195

STATISTICS FOR YEAR 2010
MONTHLY CATCHES IN QUANTITY AND BY SPECIES

Période	Janvier	Février	Mars	Avril	Mai	Juin	Juillet	Août	Septemb	Octobre	Novembr	Décembr	TOTAL
Espèces	Qté (Kg)	Qté (Kg)	Qté (Kg)	Qté (Kg)	Qté (Kg)	Qté (Kg)	Qté (Kg)	Qté (Kg)	Qté (Kg)	Qté (Kg)	Qté (Kg)	Qté (Kg)	Qté (Kg)
1.Antak	8 076	8 517	5 923	9 787	5 333	6 783	7 845	9 241	7 201	8 024	6 024	7 183	89 937
2. BARRACU	19 025	7 786	12 813	30 464	24 453	20 921	28 124	24 058	25 624	23 479	19 347	17 672	253 766
3. CARANGL	13 216	7 085	9 821	17 162	36 243	13 220	39 378	36 620	29 738	32 357	26 687	28 749	290 275
4. DORADE	21 889	14 466	19 214	24 399	16 312	29 314	33 012	28 673	26 302	26 872	24 098	24 638	289 189
5. MEROU	15 507	12 501	19 558	11 128	9 829	14 874	19 654	16 943	17 926	18 426	16 435	17 512	190 293
crevette/lan	1 005	1 624	1 025	439	23	87	728	925	879	824	1 657	3 421	12 637
7. REQUIN	3 314	5 193	2 623	2 718	1 985	3 247	7 047	5 348	4 068	4 203	3 842	3 627	47 215
8. SAKLA	584	656	844	361	500	413	865	824	786	845	812	687	8 177
9. THAZARD	8 953	7 721	8 830	8 952	12 267	9 053	16 349	13 236	15 626	16 807	15 749	15 372	148 915
10 THON.	6 890	5 923	7 269	11 844	5 095	10 083	13 267	11 651	10 201	11 056	10 574	13 376	117 230
11 DIVERS.	12 864	13 673	6 640	12 967	9 770	18 023	10 170	11 871	11 451	10 570	12 255	12 476	142 730
TOTAL	111 323	85 144	94 561	130 221	121 810	126 392	176 439	159 390	149 802	153 463	137 480	144 713	1 590 739