

21 September 2018

IOTC CIRCULAR 2018-42

Dear Sir/Madam

REGARDING THE MEMBERSHIP OF SIERRA LEONE

At the 15th Session of the IOTC Compliance Committee, in May 2018, the Committee discussed the continued absence of Sierra Leone in the work of the Commission, including not fishing in the IOTC Area. In particular, the Committee noted that Sierra Leone has continually not submitted reports, not attended meetings, and has significant compliance issues. Notwithstanding this, the IOTC Standing Committee on Administration and Finance noted that Sierra Leone remained in arrears of its contributions to IOTC.

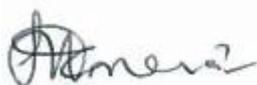
The Compliance Committee recalled the Commission had initiated a consultation with Sierra Leone, as per Article IV of the IOTC Agreement, regarding its status as a Member via letter in 2015; to which Sierra Leone did not respond.

Article IV of the IOTC Agreement states that if any Member of the Commission ceases to meet the criteria set out in Article IV, paragraphs 1 or 2 of the IOTC Agreement for two consecutive calendar years, the Commission may, after consultation with the Member concerned, determine that the Member is deemed to have withdrawn from this Agreement effective as from the date of that determination.

The Compliance Committee recommended, and the Commission endorsed, that a second letter of consultation be sent to the Ministry of Marine Resources, indicating that if a response is not received within 30 days of the date of the letter, the Commission will have deemed Sierra Leone to have withdrawn from the Agreement. I wrote to the Minister of Marine Resources in Sierra Leone on this matter on 17 August.

Please find attached the response from the Minister dated 10 September. I propose that this letter be considered by the Commission at its next session (in 2019).

Yours sincerely



Ms Susan Imende
Chairperson

Attachments:

- Regarding the membership of Sierra Leone

Distribution

IOTC Contracting Parties: Australia, Bangladesh, China, Comoros, Eritrea, European Union, France (Territories), Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep of), Japan, Kenya, Rep. of Korea, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, United Rep. of Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom (OT), Yemen. **Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties:** Liberia, Senegal. **Intergovernmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations.** Chairperson IOTC. **Copy to:** FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs.

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**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE HON. MINISTER
7TH FLOOR, YOUYI BUILDING**

REF: CON/MFMR/HON/2018/01

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10th September, 2018

Ms Susan Imende Ugandi
Chairperson
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

Dear Ms Ugandi,

Re: Membership and participation of Sierra Leone to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

I write to acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter referenced IOTC REF: 6993 of 17th August, 2018 on the above subject matter informing us of the decision of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Compliance Committee with regards membership and participation of Sierra Leone in the activities of the commission.

Madam Chairperson, let me take this opportunity to thank the commission for their continued commitment to the management and optimal utilization of tuna and tuna-like stocks in the Indian Ocean and adjacent seas. Moreover, I want to recognize your understanding with regards the status and participation of Sierra Leone in the activities of the commission over the past years.

As you may be aware, my administration has just being in governance for five months and Sierra Leone as a country is faced with tremendous challenges resulting from the Ebola epidemic of 2013-2015 and the mudslide of 2017. These have greatly affected our financial contributions to our international organization amongst which is the IOTC. However, let me reaffirm my pledge and commitment on the implementation of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures for the sustainable development of fisheries based on such stocks.

In view of the above and in consonance with the Agreement of the commission, I want to implore the Commission, to allow us to address the issue of payment of our membership contribution of **US\$38,391** as soon as our budgetary allocation is finalized with the Ministry of Finance.

It is therefore with humility that we would like to thank you very much and also to indicate our commitment to work with the Commission to develop lasting partnerships for the sustainable use and conservation of our fisheries and marine resources.

Please accept my best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



Hon. Emma Kowa Jalloh (Madam)

Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources

Republic of Sierra Leone