
**APPLICATION FOR COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTY STATUS
SOUTH AFRICA**



**environment
& tourism**

Department:
Environmental Affairs and Tourism
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Sir

**APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTY
STATUS FOR 2007-2008**

By way of introduction, 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, and it is expected that 50 vessels will become fully operational in this year. It should also be noted by the Commission that:

1. South Africa has ratified the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement;
2. South Africa has provided annual fishery statistics, including catch-at-size statistics, to IOTC since the inception of its tuna/swordfish longline fishery;
3. 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;
4. South Africa is engaged in large pelagic research in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. Some of the research currently conducted in South Africa includes, swordfish stock delineation and life history, tagging programmes, shark fin to trunk ratios, describing by-catch composition and investigating by-catch mitigation measures.

As South Africa is committed to conservation, research, development and resource management in the southwest Indian Ocean and will observe IOTC management and control measures it is hereby requested that South Africa's status as a Co-operating Non-Contracting Party status be renewed for 2007/2008.

Hoping this application is favourably considered by all Member Parties.

Yours Sincerely



Craig Smith
Director: Offshore and High Seas Fisheries Management (Acting)

DATE: 13 February 2007