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APPLICATION FOR COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTY STATUS  
SOUTH AFRICA

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**environment & tourism**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs and Tourism  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Enquiries: Ms Theresa Frantz

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To the Executive Secretariat and Member Parties of the IOTC

**Re: Application for renewal of Cooperating Non-contracting Party status for 2008/2009**

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 the near future. 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) South Africa also recently provided reports of foreign vessels entering our ports and the results of inspections conducted on these vessels;
- 4) Conservation measures such as the resolution on the shark fin to trunk ratio has also been fully enforced;
- 5) 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;
- 6) South Africa will resume large pelagic research in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans once the vacant research positions are filled;
- 7) South Africa has made a concerted effort to participate in the recent meetings of the IOTC, and;
- 8) South Africa is currently finalizing a strategy for engagement with Regional Fishery Management Organisations and in so doing has identified membership to the IOTC as a priority.

A more detailed document of statistics submitted for the current period will be provided in due course.

As South Africa is committed to conservation, research 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 be considered for renewal for 2008/2009.

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

Yours Sincerely



Ms Theresa Frantz  
Director: Offshore and High Seas Fisheries Management  
DATE: 6 March 2008