



# agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

IOTC-2011-S15-CoC54[E]

Fisheries Management, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
Private Bag X2, Rogge Bay, 8012. Foretrust Building, Martin Hammerschlag Way, Foreshore, CAPE TOWN, 8001

**Enquiries:** Mr. Saasa Pheeha □ Tel: +27 21 402 3563 □ Fax: +27 21 402 3618 □ E-mail: [SaasaP@daff.gov.za](mailto:SaasaP@daff.gov.za)

Executive Secretary and Member Parties of the IOTC

## **RE: APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTY STATUS FOR 2011**

After the national elections that were in 2009, a number of Government Departments have undergone restructuring and these changes included the Department responsible for the management of the South African fisheries. South Africa has commenced with the process of Ratification of the IOTC Agreement, it is unlikely that this process would be concluded prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission Meeting as a result of these changes. Hence, we hereby make an application for the renewal of Co-operating Non-contracting Party status for 2011.

In support of the application, 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. It should also be noted by the Commission that:

- 1) South Africa has commenced with the process of ratification and we are at an advanced stage. It is anticipated that this should be concluded in the very near future;
- 2) South Africa has ratified the 1995 UN Fish Stock Agreement;
- 3) South Africa will continue to co-operated with the IOTC by providing annual fishery statistics, including catch-at-size statistics, this has been done since the inception of our tuna/swordfish longline fishery;
- 4) South Africa has implemented EAF for many of its fisheries with strict management of by-catch and incidental catch in the large pelagic longline fishery;
- 5) Although South Africa has not yet signed the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, we remain committed to implementing elements of the agreement;
- 6) Conservation measures such as the resolution on the shark fin to trunk ration have also been fully enforced for foreign vessels visiting our ports;

- 7) 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;
- 8) South Africa has made a concerted effort to participate in most meetings of the IOTC and we will be sending a bigger delegation to the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission Meeting.

South Africa is committed to conservation, research, development and resource management in the southwest Indian Ocean and shall continue to observe IOTC management and conservation measures. On behalf of South Africa, I hereby requested that South Africa's status as a Co-operating Non-Contracting Party be renewed for 2011.

I trust this application will be favourably considered by all Member Parties.

Kind Regards,



**MR RICHARD SELEKE**  
**ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: FISHERIES MANAGEMENT**  
**Letter signed by: S. PHEEHA**  
**Designation: Director: Offshore and High Seas Fisheries Management**  
**Date: 14<sup>th</sup> February 2011**