



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
Commission des Thons de l'Océan Indien

i o t c c t o i

IOTC-2021-CoC18-08_Add1[E]

**COMMUNICATION FROM INDIA CONCERNING THE VESSEL ARARAT/RESHMITHA IND-TN-
15-MM8297**

Prepared by IOTC Secretariat, 22 May 2021

PURPOSE

To provide additional information and evidence received by the IOTC Secretariat to the Compliance Committee, to assist it in taking decisions on the vessel, ARARAT/RESHMITHA IND-TN-15-MM8297.

F.No. j-1102101/2/2021-Fy
Government of India
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying
Department of Fisheries

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 20th May, 2021

To,
Dr C.C. Mees,
Director, MRAG Ltd,
UK Delegation to IOTC
18 Queen Street, London, W1J 5PN, UK Email: c.mees@mrag.co.uk

**Subject: Report regarding Illegal activity by IND-TN-15-MM8297 ARARAT/
RESHMITHA -reg.**

Sir,

Please refer to your letter dated 9 March, 2021 forwarding a report on the inspection of the Indian flagged vessel IND-TN-15-MM8297 ARARAT/ RESHMITHA in British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) Waters on suspicion of being involved in illegal activities, namely illegal fishing in BIOT waters on 5 March 2021. Reference is also invited to your subsequent letter dated 12 March, 2021 regarding Reporting IOTC for IUU fishing activity in BIOT waters for the Indian flagged vessel IND-TN-15-MM8297 ARARAT/ RESHMITHA.

2. In this regard it is to inform that the Department of Fisheries, Government of India has immediately shared the inspection report regarding alleged illegal fishing activity of the Indian flagged vessel IND-TN-15-MM8297 ARARAT/RESHMITHA with the authorities of the concerned State Government of Tamil Nadu with request to conduct a regulatory investigation into the activities of the said vessel.

3. An interim report (dated 5 May, 2021) has been submitted by the State Government of Tamil Nadu informing that the owner of the said fishing boat was summoned by the local fishery authority and an investigation has been conducted. It is reported that said fishing boat "ARARAT/RESHMITHA" (IND-TN-15-MM-8297) along with 11 fishermen was engaged in illegal fishing in BIOT waters on 30 March, 2021 as stated by the owner/operator of the boat namely, Mr. Raju S/o Mr. Saveriar Adimai, Thoothoor, Kanniyakumari. Therefore, the legal action has been initiated and a penalty of INR 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh) has been imposed on the boat owner. The boat owner has also been directed to berth his boat at Thengapattinam Fishing Harbour, Kanniyakumari District before 20 May, 2021 after the repairing work on the said boat is completed at Cochin Fishing Harbour. A copy of the interim report received from the State Government of Tamil Nadu is enclosed herewith for ready reference.

4. As the legal action has already been taken by the authorities concerned in the matter as per the relevant provisions of the law, it is requested that the said the Indian flagged vessel IND-TN-15-MM8297 ARARAT/ RESHMITHA may not be included in the IOTC IUU Vessels list.

With regards,

Encl.: As above.



(Dr. Sanjay Pandey)
Assistant Commissioner (Fisheries)
Email: Sanjay.rpandey@gov.in

Copy to:

Dr Chris O'Brien, Executive Secretary, Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, Mahe, Seychelles
Email: Chris.O'Brien@fao.org

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

From J. Jayakanthan IAS., Commissioner of Fisheries, Integrated Office complex for Fisheries, Nandanam, Chennai – 600 035.	To The Principal Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department, Chennai – 600 009.
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Rc. No. 24615 / J5 / 2015 Dated. 05.05.2021

Sir,

Sub : Fisheries – Report on the inspection and illegal fishing activity of the Indian flagged vessel IND-TN-15-MM-8297 ARARAT / RESHMITHA in British Indian Ocean territory (BIOT) waters – Regarding.

- Ref : 1. The Assistant Commissioner (Fisheries), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Department of Fisheries, GOI, Letter No. j-1102101/2/2021-Fy dated.17.03.2021.
2. Lr.No.132/B/2016, dated 22.03.2021 of the Assistant Director of Fisheries, Colachel.
3. This office Lr. No.24615/J5/2015, dated 01.04.2021 addressed to the Principal Secretary, AHD & F Dept, Govt. of Tamil Nadu.
5. The Assistant Commissioner (Fisheries), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Department of Fisheries, GOI, Letter No. j-1102101/2/2021-Fy dated.16.04.2021.
6. Lr. No. 627/B/2015, dated 23.04.2021 of Adjudicating Officer/ Deputy Director of Fisheries (Regional), Kanniyakumari.

I invite the kind attention of the Government to the references cited.

The Assistant Commissioner (Fisheries), Department of Fisheries, Government of India has requested to furnish comments of Government of Tamil Nadu vide reference 1st cited on the report of the Director, MRAG Ltd., London regarding the inspection and illegal fishing activity of the Indian flagged vessel TN-15-MM-8297 ARARAT / RESHMITHA in British Indian Ocean territory (BIOT) waters.

Accordingly, the Assistant Director of Fisheries, Colachel has been requested to furnish a report on the above issue. The Assistant Director of Fisheries, Colachel in his letter 22.03.2021 has reported that the owner of the fishing vessel bearing registration No. IND-TN-15-MM-8297 was summoned to appear before the Authorised officer, Colachel with necessary documents. On enquiry, the above said fishing vessel has not reached shore till time and the

owner of the above vessel also onboard the fishing vessel. It will take another 15 days to reach shore.

In continuation, the Authorised Officer/ Assistant Director of Fisheries, Colachel has filed charge sheet against the owner of the mechanised fishing boat (IND-TN-15-MM-8297) Thiru.Raju, s/o. Saveriar Adimai, Thoothoor for engaging illegal fishing activity in BIOT water after crossing the Indian Maritime Boundary Line.

The Adjudicating Officer/ Deputy Director of Fisheries (Regional), Kanniyakumari has submitted his report on the action taken against the owner of the mechanised fishing boat vide reference 6th cited.

In his report that the Adjudicating Office/ Deputy Director of Fisheries (Regional), Kanniyakumari held an enquiry into the charges against the owner of the mechanised fishing vessel on 20.04.2021. The owner/skipper of the fishing vessel was present in the enquiry and stated that his mechanised fishing boat IND-TN-15-MM-8297 along with 11 fishermen was engaged in fishing on 05.03.2021 in BIOT water after illegally crossing the IMBL. The owner further stated that the mechanised fishing boat sailed towards shore and had mechanical trouble before reaching the Cochin Fishing Harbour on 30.03.2021. Later the mechanised fishing boat docked in the boat yard for repair work at Cochin. The owner has claimed that this is the first time his boat violated IMBL and requested to forgive this act and assure that he will not commit such mistake in future. In continuation of the enquiry, the Adjudicating Officer/ Deputy Director of Fisheries has issued final order and imposed fine of INR 1,00,000/- (One lakh only) against the boat owner and directed the boat owner to berth his mechanised fishing vessel at Thengapattinam Fishig Harbour, Kanniyakumari District, Tamil Nadu before 20.05.2021 after the repairing work at Cochin Fishing Harbour. The boat owner also warned that the penalty amount has to be paid immediately within the stipulated time.

Further, on receipt of penalty amount from the boat owner, the same will be remitted into Government account and the details will be furnished to Government shortly.

Sd/- J.Jayakanthan
Commissioner of Fisheries

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5/5/21
for Commissioner of Fisheries

Copy to the Joint Secretary (Fy), Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, New Delhi

Sg
2/5/21