

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Panama, September 3, 2024.

AG-777-2024

**TRANSLATION
BY COURTESY**

Dear Dr. de Bruyn

I am pleased to write to you in order to express on behalf of the Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama (ARAP), the interest of the Republic of Panama in formally requesting the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), its participation as a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (NCPC) to the Commission. With this request, our country confirms its commitment to cooperate in the implementation of the conservation and management measures adopted by the IOTC in accordance with Annex III of Rule IX for the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party.

As a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party of the Commission it will be our objective to comply with the conditions established in accordance with IOTC regulations. Likewise, the Government of the Republic of Panama expresses its commitment to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

In this regard, we submit the following information in order for our request to be considered by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission:

1. Information Required, according to numeral 2 of Annex II:

- a) Where available, data on its historical fisheries in the IOTC area, including nominal catches, number/type of vessels, name of fishing vessels, fishing effort and fishing areas:**

Panama does not have historical data on nominal catches and fishing effort in the IOTC Convention area. However, Panama does have the participation of carrier vessels in the Commission's vessel registry. As of 2024, there are 25 Panamanian flag vessels authorized by members of the Commission on the IOTC authorized vessel register, according to IOTC Resolution 19/04. In APPENDIX I, you will find the information of the statistical data of products regulated by the Commission that were transshipped and reported to Panama until August 30, 2024.

- b) All the data that Contracting Parties have to submit to IOTC based on the Resolutions adopted by IOTC:**

Panama has communicated to the refrigerated cargo fishing fleet the obligation to comply with the Commission's guidelines, resolutions and conservation measures in force, when

they are active in the Commission's regulated area. This obligation is related to strict compliance with the timely delivery of daily reports of the activities carried out.

c) Details on current fishing presence in the IOTC area, number of vessels and vessel characteristics and:

According to the authorized registry of vessels of the IOTC, Panama has presence with cargo vessels. For the current period: from January 1 to July 31, 2024, nine (9) refrigerated cargo vessels and one (1) bunkering vessel have been active in the Commission's regulated area, reporting their previously authorized activities to both the IOTC Commission and Authority.

d) Information on any research programmes it may have conducted in the IOTC Area and the information and the results of this research.

Not applicable. Panama does not carry out research programs in the area of the IOTC Commission.

2. Panama must also comply with the following information:

a) Confirm its commitment to respect the Commission's Conservation and Management Measures and:

Panama commits to respect the resolutions and conservation and management measures of the Commission in force and applicable to the requested status, as well as all those adopted by the Commission that benefit the use of marine resources in the Commission's area. Among others, we can list the following measures to be complied with:

- 1. Resolution 19/04 – Concerning the IOTC Record of Vessel Authorised.*
- 2. Resolution 15/03 - Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) programme.*
- 3. Resolution 24/05 – Establishing a Programme for Transshipment.*
- 4. Resolution 16/11 - Port State Measures.*
- 5. Resolution 05/03 – Establishment of an IOTC programme of Inspection in Port.*
- 6. Resolution 24/09 - Compliance with Conservation and Management Measures.*
- 7. Resolution 24/03 - List of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing.*
- 8. Resolution 24/04 - On a Regional Observer Scheme.*

b) inform IOTC of the measures it takes to ensure compliance by its vessels of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures:

Panama will adopt IOTC conservation and management measures to ensure compliance by Panamanian flag vessels, which will be communicated to the owners, captains,

resident agents and/or persons directly linked to the vessels that are registered or intend to carry out activities in the regulated area and with resources regulated by the Commission.

We express our commitment to cooperate fully in the implementation of the conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission and to ensure that Panamanian fishing vessels comply with the provisions of the Convention. Likewise, Panama commits to participate in the annual compliance and plenary meetings of the Commission, as deemed appropriate.

I take this opportunity to reiterate to the Commission our highest consideration and respect.

Sincerely,

**TRANSLATION
BY COURTESY**

EDUARDO CARRASQUILLA D.
General Administrator

Dr.
Paul de Bruyn
Executive Secretary
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission - IOTC
Seychelles

cc: Ms. Jung-re Riley Kim – Chairperson

AP/GI/YV/mea

PANAMA HISTORICAL DATA (2019 to July,2024)
REFRIGERATED CARGO VESSELS
REGULATED AREA - IOTC FISHERIES COMMISSION

APPENDIX I

TRANSHIPMENTS IN THE IOTC CONVENTION AREA											
Period	No. Vessels	No. Transfers	Weight by Regulated Species (Kgs)								Total Transshipped Weight
			SKJ	BET	YFT	ALB	SWO	MLS	BUM	OTH	
2019	2	47	4,975	625,028	949,271	294,798	286,799	64,442	40,053	46,695	2,312,061
2020	8	257	12,975	4,112,963	3,670,614	3,445,242	580,663	18,581	13,413	1,928,094	13,782,546
2021	9	507	30,574	9,672,179	5,998,088	4,375,960	1,819,307	89,592	160,640	3,297,250	25,443,591
2022	11	550	999,939	6,622,789	6,274,031	9,093,393	1,531,414	201,630	2,641,392	13,178,367	40,542,955
2023	9	466	837,571	8,502,464	8,756,758	3,447,258	998,173	47,740	138,105	3,005,480	25,733,549
Jul, 2024	11	266	870,696	5,387,744	5,211,537	4,006,817	653,112	45,263	48,695	1,185,322	17,409,186

Totals	2,756,730	34,923,167	30,860,299	24,663,469	5,869,468	467,248	3,042,298	22,641,208	125,223,887
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TRANSHIPMENTS IN PORT											
Period	No. Vessels	No. Transfers	Weight by Regulated Species (Kgs)								Total Transshipped Weight
			SKJ	BET	YFT	ALB	SWO	MLS	BUM	OTH	
2019	3	8	5,211,674	1,466,779	1,558,461	0	0	0	0	0	8,236,914
2020	4	16	6,255,232	865,477	2,726,837	0	0	0	0	0	9,847,546
2021	10	106	32,609,973	3,317,772	6,878,060	875,605	37,175	3,108	39,918	594,620	44,356,231
2022	14	165	37,425,564	4,162,136	8,251,854	635,491	205,549	578	13,826	612,172	51,307,170
2023	9	110	27,775,448	2,902,626	6,606,034	183,073	131,662	5,561	3,879	147,281	37,755,564
Jul, 2024	5	45	5,541,602	837,099	1,333,451	104,429	28,638	365	0	105,531	7,951,115

Totals - PORT	114,819,493	13,551,889	27,354,697	1,798,598	403,024	9,612	57,623	1,459,604	159,454,540
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GRAND TOTAL	117,576,223	48,475,056	58,214,996	26,462,067	6,272,492	476,860	3,099,921	24,100,812	284,678,427
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