
APPLICATION FOR COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTY STATUS SENEGAL

Note: the following three letters are translations of the main points of documents that were submitted to the IOTC Secretariat by fax. For more details, please refer to the original documents in French.

RÉPUBLIQUE DU SÉNÉGAL
MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉCONOMIE MARITIME
LE MINISTRE D'ÉTAT

31 October 2005

Subject: request from Senegal to join the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

Minister of State,

During the 9th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, which took place in Seychelles from May 30 to June 3, 2005, and to which our country took part, the Commission agreed to grant the Senegalese tuna fishing vessels a temporary license to fish in the IOTC Area.

This situation is temporary, until our application as Cooperating non contracting Party of IOTC is reviewed during the next IOTC Session in 2006.

This is the reason why I submit to you our application, to be sent to FAO, which will inform IOTC.

Sincerely,

Djibo Leïty KA

TO:
Mr. Cheikh Tidiane Gadio,
Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Attachments:

- 1 request for membership for the Executive Secretary of the IOTC;
- 1 letter of commitment from the Minister of Maritime Economy;
- 1 note of information for the Executive Secretary of the IOTC;
- 1 statistics submission form.

RÉPUBLIQUE DU SÉNÉGAL
MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉCONOMIE MARITIME
LE MINISTRE D'ÉTAT

31 October 2005

Subject: Application for Cooperating Non-Contracting Party Status from Senegal.

Dear Mr. Anganuzzi,

With regard to promoting the sustainable exploitation of the tuna and tuna-like species fisheries, and in agreement with the principles and recommendations from FAO, I wish that the Commission consider to grant my country the status of **Cooperating Non-Contracting Party** of IOTC.

Please find attached:

- a letter of commitment;
- a technical information note;
- 1 statistics submission form.

Respectfully yours,,

Djibo Leïty KA

TO:
IOTC Executive Secretary
BP 1011 Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles.

31 October 2005

Declaration of Commitment

In compliance with FAO's recommendation for responsible fisheries, the Minister of Maritime Economy of Senegal, by confirming his view that the oceans' management should be based on a shared and collective responsibility and on the respect of international obligations and agreements related to the sustainable exploitation of the sea's living resources, commits himself to:

- respect the conservation and management measures adopted by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC); and
- enforce the strict application by our vessels of IOTC's conservation and management measures.

This commitment is issued to serve and avail when and where required.

Djibo Leïty KA

RÉPUBLIQUE DU SÉNÉGAL

MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉCONOMIE MARITIME

DIRECTION DES PÊCHES MARITIMES

31 October 2005

Note of information regarding the Senegal Application for Cooperating Non-Contracting Party of IOTC Status.
For the attention of
The Executive Secretary of the IOTC.

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Mr Executive Secretary,

For Senegal, fisheries are an important activity in terms of employment and of foreign exchange income, amounting to more than 25% of our country's exportations. Fisheries products also represent 70% of animal proteins to our people. People working in the fisheries and related sectors are estimated to 600,000, or 17% of the working population.

The fisheries industries is thus very important, and the main fisheries are sardines, tuna and trawl. In Senegal, scientific research on fisheries resources is done by the *Centre de Recherches Océanographiques de Dakar Thiaroye* (CRODT), which owns various equipments, a research vessel and has skilled staff. On the scientific point of view, the Senegalese scientists have a well-known experience and will be able to participate in IOTC research programmes and develop cooperation with other coastal countries.

The *Direction des pêches maritimes* is the responsible authority for applying the fisheries policies. It is, thus, the official correspondent of all the Fisheries Institutions. The *Direction de la Protection et de la Surveillance* is in charge of controlling the fishing activities while the *Direction des Industries de la Transformation* monitors the trade, hygiene and quality of fish products.

1. Scientific research in Senegal

Scientific research programmes on fisheries resources are done by the *Centre de Recherches Océanographiques de Dakar Thiaroye* (CRODT), and are the basis of the State policy and of its implementation through the *Direction des Pêches Maritimes* (DPM).

Senegal being a founding member of the International Commission of Atlantic Tuna, the CRODT can develop several research programmes, particularly on tuna and tuna-like species. The CRODT also works in collaboration with several other Research Institutes and, thus, has acquired and internationally acknowledged expertise.

Scientific research on high-sea pelagic resources are mainly done under the framework of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT).

Furthermore, the CRODT is part of the joint effort to collect and analyse statistical and biological data from tuna fisheries in Western Africa.

The latest assessments made are related to major tuna stocks, which can represent up to 90% of declared high-sea pelagic catches. The stock assessments are done using indirect methods under the ICCAT framework, and contacts and exchanges with IRD are also in place.

Recommendations on stocks are the following:

- **Yellowfin Tuna**

An assessment of the Atlantic Yellowfin Tuna Stock has been done in 2003, using age-structured and production models on a data series spanning 1969 to 2002. The results of all models were taken into account by ICCAT in formulating its advice.

- Maintain fishing effort to 1992 levels, meaning 10,800 days of fishing in Eastern Tropical Atlantic (25°N to 15°S and 40°W to 15°E), this value being the optimum given by all models;
- Minimum individual weight of catches is set to 3.2Kg;
- Seasonal fisheries closure (November 1st to January 31st) in an area ranging from 5°N to 4°S and 20°W to 25°E.

- **Skipjack Tuna**

Skipjack tuna stocks have shown signs of stabilisation in the Tropical Eastern Atlantic zone. SKJ seems to be moderately exploited, with catches around 93,000 tons in 2002. Nonetheless, any increase in SKJ fishing effort will result in an increase in catches of juvenile Yellowfin and BET which are often associated to adult BET in the fishing areas.

The seasonal moratorium on SKJ fishing from November 1st to January 31st is thus an important stock management measure.

- **Bigeye Tuna**

Several production models have been used with abundance index series for the Taiwan, China, Japan and USA longline fisheries. The longest series is the Japanese, starting in 1961 and the Japan catches represent 20 to 40% of the total catches.

Worth noting is the fact that, in 2004, the various models fit better to available data than in previous years. Estimated MSY is between 93,000 and 114,000 tons. A total catch limit of 90,000 tons was recommended. Current conservation and management measures define a minimum individual catch weight of 3.2 Kg and a seasonal closure of the fisheries (November 1st to January 31st) in an area ranging from 5°N to 4°S and 20°W to 25°E.

The above conclusions imply limited possibilities for increasing total catches of major tuna species. Cost effective exploitation is still possible, notably using methods to catch tunas in association with floating objects, as are currently doing the Dakar-based pole-and-line vessels.

In order to ensure the rational exploitation of fisheries resources, it is necessary to have up-to-date information on the fishing activity, the hydro-climatic marine conditions and the biology of species. We have a number of databases related to this information, and we are in the process of reorganising them into a more usable system. Regarding the tuna fisheries, data collection is done through a near exhaustive review of fishing vessel log books, along with surveys done in canneries and processing factories.

2. Conservation and management measures (administrative, legal and technical)

Senegal is participating in several activities led by fisheries cooperation bodies. This cooperation is, amongst other goals, aimed at helping the implementation of measures on:

- Cooperating on fisheries issues, particularly regarding common stock management;
- Harmonising and coordination of resource management systems;
- Defining the conditions of access to fisheries resources;
- Adopting coordinated monitoring and control measures for fishing vessels.

Fisheries resource management is a State responsibility: the State defines a policy aiming at protecting and conserving these resources, and at ensuring their sustainable exploitation in order to preserve the marine

ecosystem. The measures taken by the State are gathered in the Regulation 98-32 on marine fisheries, and implemented through the Implementation Decree n°98-498.

The law defines a **number of conservation measures** regarding:

- Fishing gears and opening of mesh.
- Minimal individual size and weight of species.
- Fishing areas.
- Bycatch.

as well as on **monitoring and control of fishing operations**.

- **Monitoring programmes**

Industrial fishing is practised by around 200 vessels authorised to fish according to conditions defined in the Marine Fisheries Code (*Code de la Pêche maritime*).

Several authorisation categories are in place, depending on the type of fishing, which allow to classify the maritime domain in fishing areas. Authorised fishing areas vary according to exploited stocks and authorisation categories.

The positioning and localisation system (VMS) is a global and effective response to the monitoring issue, which is a key point in the development and management policies aimed at ensuring the sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources.

The installation on board every authorised fishing vessel of a Satellite Positioning and Location Buoy allows to transmit real-time position, course and speed information to the tracking station in Toulouse (France).

The technical aspects of buoy operation, such as configuration and prevention of fraudulent modifications, are handled jointly with the system's providers.

Almost all Senegalese vessels are equipped with an Argos buoy, which has to be paid for and installed by the ship-owners, and that allow them to track their whole fleet. The installation of a buoy is a mandatory requirement to obtain a fishing license, regulated by a Ministerial Decree on the organisation and operation of a VMS.

- **On-board observers**

On-board observers are recruited by the Ministry of Maritime Economy and have the general duty of monitoring fishing operations, according to the various obligations resulting from the vessel authorisation, in particular regarding fishing gears and areas as well as quantities and specific composition of catches, and eventually, to report collected data to competent authorities

The fishing vessel skipper must provide the observer with the following:

- any information that she might request;
- access to navigation and monitoring devices;
- authorisation to communicate as necessary with the Fisheries Service using on-board communication equipment;
- access to every area of the ship where fishing, processing and storage operations take place;
- assistance in examining the fishing gears on board the vessel;
- authorisation to record fishing operations and fishing gears using video or still cameras.
- Authorisation to perform tests, observations and recordings as well as to take samples in order to assess the vessel's fishing activity.

- **Related activities**

Activities related to fishing, such as transshipment and fish collection can be allowed in exceptional cases, which must be the object of a Ministerial Decree from the Ministry of Fisheries. This Decree defines the conditions of authorisation. Transshipments on the high seas are strictly forbidden.

3. Fishing activities

In 2003 and 2004, Senegal submitted catch data for its fleet operating in the Indian Ocean, as well as catch and effort data, according to IOTC's first and second request for data (see attached documents). Please note that 2003 data have been corrected due to statistical processing errors.

Our country has joined the IOTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Programme, and every BET shipment is accompanied by the required documents.