



Office of  
Deputy Commissioner  
of Maritime Affairs

**THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**  
LIBERIA MARITIME AUTHORITY

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February 8, 2016

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission/Secretariat  
Attn: Mr. David Wilson, Interim Exec. Secretary  
Le Chantier Mall (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)  
P.O. Box 1011  
Victoria Mahé, Seychelles

**RE: Liberia's Application for Continued Cooperating Non-Contracting Party Status**

Dear Secretariat:

The purpose of this letter is to request Liberia's continued participation as a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party ("CNCP") of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission ("IOTC"). Please note that our reason for renewing our CNCP status is because we have in our Liberian Registry a number of reefer vessels that participate in transshipment activities in the IOTC Convention Area. The following information comprises of the requirements for CNCP status [pursuant to Resolution 03/02 on criteria for attaining the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party] and submitted in support of Liberia's application:

- 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:**

Liberia's reason for seeking renewal of CNCP status is because we have in our Registry a number of reefer vessels that are participating and plan to participate in transshipment activities in the IOTC Convention Area.

Moreover, Liberia remains committed to supporting the IOTC's efforts in combatting illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing activities.

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

Liberia has submitted and will continue to submit the required data to the IOTC. For example, Liberia submitted its Standard Questionnaire on CPC Compliance with IOTC Resolutions on 1 February 2016 in accordance with Annex V, paragraph 4.1 (i) of the IOTC Rule of Procedure. Further, Liberia will submit its Report of Implementation for 2015 by or before 16 March 2016; its Report of Implementation of Vessel Monitor System (VMS) due by 30 June; and Annual Report on Transshipment by 30 September. Any additional data that is required, Liberia intends to provide to the Commission.

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

Liberia does not have or allow fishing vessels or non-transshipment activities in the IOTC Convention Area. Liberia has provided and continues to provide a Record of Vessels authorized to engage in transshipment activities in the IOTC Convention Area.

**d) Information on any research programs Liberia may have conducted in the IOTC Area and the information and the results of this research:**

Liberia has not conducted any research programs in the IOTC Area. Should Liberia conduct any such activities, the results will be provided to the Secretariat.

In addition, Liberia:

**a) Confirms its commitment to respect the Commission's Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs):**

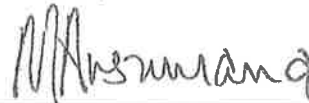
Liberia is fully committed to cooperating in the implementation of CMMs adopted by the IOTC and will continue to ensure that reefer vessels flying the flag of Liberia and engaging in transshipment activities in the Area comply with the provisions of the Convention and CMMs adopted by the Commission.

**b) Inform the IOTC of the measures to ensure compliance by Liberian registered vessels:**

Liberia has implemented measures to ensure compliance by vessels engaged in transshipment activities in the IOTC and other Areas. Specifically, Liberia has an established Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) requirement for all ships that engage in transshipment activities. Through CLS America, our registered vessels are provided Thorium units, including a tablet containing electronic reporting forms. These units use the Iridium satellite network, the largest commercial satellite network and are able to track the vessels' positions, generate catch or e-forms data, and transmit transshipment notifications.

Should you need additional information, please feel free to contact the undersigned at [transshipment@lisscr.com](mailto:transshipment@lisscr.com). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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Margaret C. Ansumana  
Dep. Commissioner of Maritime Affairs  
Republic of Liberia