

RESOLUTION 98/05
ON COOPERATION WITH NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC);

Recognizing that the international community has an important responsibility to conserve the tuna and tuna-like resources of the Indian Ocean for present and future generations;

Recognizing that the problem of ensuring such sustainability cannot be resolved properly unless all nations fishing these species work together cooperating through the Commission;

Recalling that the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks has emphasized the importance of ensuring the conservation of highly migratory species through international fisheries organizations such as the Commission;

Therefore decides to:

- 1) Instruct the Chairman of IOTC to send the attached letter to all non-Contracting Parties known to have vessels fishing in the Area for species covered by the Agreement to urge them to become Contracting Parties.
- 2) Instruct the Secretary to provide to non-Contracting Parties referred to in paragraph 1 above copies of all relevant Resolutions adopted by IOTC at its Third Session.

DRAFT LETTER

(Courtesy formula)

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) is a regional fisheries organization, created in 1996, which to date includes 16 States and one Organization for regional economic integration.

The principal objective of the IOTC is to promote the conservation and management of the migratory species covered by the Agreement establishing the IOTC (hereinafter referred to as 'the Agreement').

The contracting parties of the IOTC have decided to cooperate among themselves to implement this objective.

In order to achieve this goal, the IOTC has, *inter alia*, the responsibility of constantly monitoring the status of and changes in the stocks covered by the Agreement and to collect, analyse and disseminate scientific information, statistics of catches and fishing effort and other data useful for the conservation and management of these stocks.

This function can be implemented only if non-Contracting Parties of the IOTC cooperate with the Commission and exchange information on fishing activities relating to the stocks covered by the Agreement.

The Chairman of the IOTC draws the attention of the Authorities of whose vessels exploit the stocks covered by the Agreement in its area of competence, to the need to cooperate for the purposes of conservation and management of these stocks.

With this need in mind, the Chairman of the Commission invites the Authorities of to become party to the Agreement establishing the IOTC by sending to the Director-General of FAO an instrument of acceptance, or at least to cooperate with the Commission, through the exchange of information and statistical data on fishing activities on the stocks falling within the remit of the Commission.

(Courtesy formula)