



MINISTER OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

To:
IOTC Secretariat
Att.: Mr. Christopher O'Brien
Executive Secretary
Le Chantier Mall (2nd floor)
PO Box 1011
Victoria Mahé - SEYCHELLES
chris.obrien@fao.org
IOTC-Secretariat@fao.org

Date:
14th March 2019

Contact person:
Ramon Chong

E-mail address:
ramon.chong@gobiemo.cw

Your letter of:

Your reference:

Our number:

Case number

Topic:
Request for Cooperating Non-Contracting Membership

Page:

No. of annexes:

2019/010193

Dear Mr. O'Brien,

The Ministry of Economic Development of Curaçao would like to express to the distinguished members of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), Curaçao's interest to become a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party of your Organization.

Development of international fisheries contributes to the economic development of a Small Island Development State (SIDS) like Curaçao. Until now the fisheries sector contributes to less than 1% of Curaçao's GDP. The artisanal fishery sector delivers a minor contribution to the local markets based on fish caught within its territorial and EEZ waters. The development of the high seas tuna fisheries industry is steadfastly developing into an important sector for Curaçao, not only as a food source, but also in providing employment and important socio-economic benefits for our people.

Curaçao has been a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CNCP) of the International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) since the year 2004. In February 2014 Curaçao has become a full member of the ICCAT. The industrial tuna fleet is the main fishery income generator, contributing to the State budget through the issuance of fishing licenses and catch certificates to companies fishing tuna in the high seas located nearby the West African coast in the Atlantic Ocean. Currently five Curaçao registered purse seiners are fishing in the ICCAT area. Five carrier vessels from the company Sea Trade are also licensed to operate in the ICCAT area. Last year, based on the catches of mentioned fleet, Curaçao exported almost 35.000 tons of tuna mainly to Europe. At this moment we are also a CNCP member of the SPRFMO and the NEAFC.

For Curaçao as a SIDS, it becomes essential to continue to develop its fisheries industry, in order to mitigate its vulnerable open economy. This industry has proven to be able to provide jobs to locals and to be less susceptible for the generation of state revenues. In addition, it possesses the capacity to spurs the international generated knowledge for the benefit of the development of the local fishery sector.

We are fully committed to cooperate in the implementation of the conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission and to ensure that fishing vessels flying our flag and fishing in the Convention Area comply with the resolutions and provisions adopted by the Commission. We are explicitly committed to accept high seas boarding and inspections in accordance with the Commission's procedures on high seas boarding and inspection,



Our number:

Case number:

Page:

2

once they have been adopted, and to report, comply, and deliver full fisheries data relevant to the Convention Area, including nominal catches, number/type of vessels, name of fishing vessels, fishing effort and fishing areas.

Furthermore, we are committed to deliver all the data and information, parties of the Commission are required to submit, in accordance with the standards adopted by the Commission and any further relevant information as determined by the Commission. Please be informed that Curaçao possess a full fledge Fishing and Monitoring Center which has been approved by the DG MARE of the European Union, which at this moment already comply with the monitoring and reporting requirements of ICCAT and FAO.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate, to the Commission our expressions of highest esteem and consideration, in the hope that the IOTC members will review our endeavor to fully cooperate with the Commission and for the IOTC to consider favorably our request.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr. Kenneth Gijbertha
Minister of Economic Development