

Original: English/Spanish

Appendix 4

LETTER FROM COSTA RICA
ICCAT Circular #5454 /16



18 August 2016

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 5454 / 2016

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FROM THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA FOR COOPERATING NON-
CONTRACTING PARTY, ENTITY OR FISHING ENTITY STATUS**

I have the honour to inform you that the Secretariat has received the attached letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Religion of the Republic of Costa Rica regarding its request for Cooperating non-contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity status, in accordance with the Recommendation by ICCAT on Criteria for Attaining the Status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity in ICCAT [Rec. 03-20].

Please accept the assurance of my highest consideration

Driss Meski
Executive Secretary



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- Head Delegates
- Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities

Attachment: Correspondence from the Republic of Costa Rica [ICCAT Entrada # 9206 of 16 August 2016].

Translation from Spanish by the ICCAT Secretariat

ICCAT - ENTRADA N° 9206 16 August 2016
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The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Religion

San José, 9 August 2016
DM-418-16

Mr. Driss Meski
Executive Secretary
International Commission for the Conservation of
Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
Madrid, Spain

Mr. Executive Secretary,

I have the pleasure to address you for the purpose of formally petitioning the members of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas so that the Republic of Costa Rica may be granted, pursuant to the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 03-20, the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, and that the 20th Special Meeting of the Commission, to be held in the city of Vilamoura, Portugal, in the coming month of November, be informed of this request.

With this aim in view, the Republic of Costa Rica expresses its interest in developing, as a coastal State, its fisheries in the Convention area, in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries, and international commitments. In particular, Costa Rica confirms its commitment to compliance with the recommendations and resolutions on conservation and management adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

Moreover, since the fisheries are in the process of development, and despite the current lack of specific data, the data collection processes which enable proper compliance with the obligations regarding data submission to the Commission will be engaged. The forms attached hereto have been duly completed with the information available to date.

Costa Rica has an internationally recognised track record in fisheries, as well as State institutions committed to proper management of the fisheries and safeguarding aquatic resources; its Fisheries and Aquaculture Law and current regulations, in conjunction with the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance processes and compliance with international obligations, in particular, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (CONVEMAR), the Agreement on Highly Migratory Fish Stocks and Straddling Fish Stocks (New York Agreement) and the binding FAO Agreement on Port State Measures, ensure the high level of management discipline characteristic of it.

Costa Rica is a founding member of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), participates in regional and international fisheries management forums and has a strong track record in fighting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, which in conjunction with the right to sustainable development of its fisheries as a coastal State, constitute the merits and demonstrate to the ICCAT members the commitment referred to above regarding collaborative management of the fisheries of interest.

In reiterating the request for grant of the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, I take the opportunity to express, Executive Secretary, the assurances of my highest consideration and esteem.

Yours faithfully,

[signed]

Seal: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Religion – San José – Costa Rica

Manuel A. González Sáenz
Minister