



C/o Seychelles Fishing Authority, Fishing Port, Victoria

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5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Honorable Minister Ferrari  
Minister for Fisheries  
Maison Collet

Dear Minister,

The SFBOA would like to thank the ministry for inviting its representatives to a meeting last week, to discuss the four proposals that are to be tabled, discussed and possibly adopted at the IOTC session this year. Our common position on each of the proposals has been as constructive as possible (Minutes of meeting to be provided) given the fact of the importance of the sector to the Seychelles economy as well as the current state of tuna stocks, particularly the need to rebuild the yellow fin population.

Recognizing that Seychelles is unique not only on its dependence on the sector as one of the pillars of its fragile economy, but also as one of the leaders in conservation and protection of our natural resources, and the same time Port Victoria being the hub tuna fishing in the SWIO region (though the sustainability of which is now in question).

We believe Seychelles being an ocean state with the above-mentioned characteristics, should be taking the leadership when it comes to IOTC matters to ensure the sustainability of the resource we so highly depend upon. We should be tabling strong and well crafted proposals of our own rather than wait to be reactive on proposals of other states that may have huge land masses, highly diversified economies, and characteristics and priorities that are different from ours. The preparations of such important meetings should be continuous in an evolved and systematic manner, and involving all stakeholders as well as public engagement.

However in order to do that Seychelles needs to have a development strategy for the industry as a whole, where policies and decisions are aligned and coherent in getting us there. A clear road map with short and mid term measures should be in place, thereby allowing for appropriate distribution of limited resources accordingly as we move towards the set goal. This is not a new idea. The SFBOA has called for it previously. However it has now become extremely urgent.

This will ensure that our stocks are well managed and the ecosystems they depend on are safeguarded for a sustainable future indeed. This will multiply investors in the sector who will be assured that their investments are secured for the long term. Inevitably this will result in new growth, innovation, job creation and other ancillary businesses befitting the entire economy.

In terms of the details of the strategy, we should know how much land, finance and other support would be needed at anyone point within a development period to achieve the output set forth for that particular space in time. A clear cost and benefit analysis of each sub sector (industrial both long line and purse seine, semi industrial, artisanal and mari/aquaculture) should be established going forward and that would allow for priority to be given to sub sectors aligned with development strategy, always keeping in mind elements of food security and sovereignty, international obligations such as SDG 14 plus lobbying particularly at the IOTC.

Since it is already too late for Seychelles to table a proposition of our own at the IOTC this year, we believe Seychelles has missed an opportunity to retain its status as leader in the sustainability chain and should be aligning its support to proposals that are realistic and implementable and pushing for sustainability more than ever if we want to see a change in the existing declining trend, since it is clear that existing measures were not robust enough to achieve the rebuilding of the stock as expected.

Lets us not forget that where we fail to take action, the international market reaction may be unbearable for our industry and fragile economy as a whole.

Please feel free to meet with our team should you wish to discuss further.

Thank you again

Keith Andre (Mr)

**Chairman**