

Original: English

EGYPTIAN STATEMENT TO REQUEST INCREASE BLUEFIN TUNA QUOTA

In the beginning, I would like to thank you for your continuous effort to achieve and implement the ICCAT principles and its international roles, on the other hand, we highly appreciate your effort to provide Egypt support all those years so we can apply and implement the needed conservation regulations through transposed the ICCAT Recommendation into the Egyptian domestic law.

Allover 14 years of our contribution in the ICCAT since Egypt joined in 2007, we are doing our best to fulfill all our obligation and compliance with ICCAT Recommendations, each year we are getting better to fulfill our obligations also to better management through enhancing and developing the management standers as well as the protective regulation that organize fishing operation, in accordance with our available economic resources "which unfortunately is limited" to achieve our commitments.

Over the preceding years, the increase in Egypt's BFT quota was not as the quota specified for other neighboring countries and wasn't in line with our ambition to develop our investments in this field. Egypt always seeks to achieve the maximum economic yield from the tuna fishing, such as seeking to operate the first bluefin tuna farm in Egypt, in addition, planning to increase the number of vessels licensed to fish for tuna during the coming years. Moreover, Egypt 2030 strategy aims to increase its fish production and encourage investments in this field especially with the governmental plans to expand fisheries projects. Furthermore, we have received many requests from different companies for registering many of their own vessels to target BFT, all of these companies are looking forward to participating in tuna fishing and farming which in turn affects positively not only our economic yield and our national income but also act to promote jobs in a way to reduce unemployment and poverty.

In this regard, Egypt officially requests an increase for its BFT quota in line with planned investments in the coming years, and we support the request from National Company for Fisheries an Aquaculture to increase the quota up to 2,500 tons.

Chair, Egypt would be as grateful as we know that you will be fully understood of our request.

Hopefully, all CPCs and ICCAT would be satisfied with our request to increase our BFT quota.

We welcome any inquiries, and we are fully willingness to provide any further information.