

19 November 2019

## IOTC CIRCULAR 2019-49

Dear Madam / Sir

### AN OBJECTION TO GRANTING IOTC OBSERVER STATUS TO THE GLOBAL TUNA ALLIANCE

IOTC Circular 2019-42 conveyed a request from the Global Tuna Alliance to attend IOTC meetings as an observer ([click here](#)).

In accordance with Rule XIV.5 of the IOTC Rules of Procedure, India has objected to the granting of observer status to the Global Tuna Alliance, for the reasons provided in attachment 1.

It follows that, this matter is now subject to a decision by the Commission, out of session, by written procedure. To this end, I would like to seek the views of Members on the objection.

Please send your views by email to [iotc-secretariat@fao.org](mailto:iotc-secretariat@fao.org) by close of business, Friday 13 December 2019.

Yours sincerely



Ms Susan Imende  
IOTC Chairperson

**Attachments:**

1. Letter from India

Distribution

**IOTC Contracting Parties:** Australia, Bangladesh, China, Comoros, Eritrea, European Union, France (Territories), Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep of), Japan, Kenya, Rep. of Korea, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, United Rep. of Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom (OT), Yemen. **Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties:** Liberia, Senegal. **Intergovernmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations. Chairperson IOTC. Copy to:** FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs.

This message has been transmitted by email only

F.No.27016/15/2019-Fy(IC) Pt.  
Government of India  
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & dairying  
Department of Fisheries

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Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi  
Dated: 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

To,

The Executive Secretary,  
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),  
Seychelles

Sir,

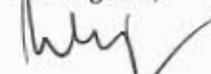
Please refer to IOTC CIRCULAR 2019-42 dated 16 October 2019 regarding request of Global Tuna Alliance to participate as an Observer to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission processes.

2. In this regard it is noted that the objectives of the IOTC are to promote cooperation among its members through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilization of tuna stocks and encouraging sustainable development of tuna fisheries under the IOTC Agreement. It is also noted that the 'Global Tuna Alliance' is a group of retailers and tuna supply chain companies having business and trade interests in tuna fisheries.

3. India is of the view that IOTC should not encourage Trade and Business Bodies to participate in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission processes, as it may attract potential conflict of interests between the mandates of IOTC and such Bodies having trade and business interests.

4. Therefore, India does not agree to the proposal and request of the Global Tuna Alliance to participate as an Observer to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission processes.

With regards,



(Dr. J. Balaji)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India