

07 April 2020

## IOTC CIRCULAR 2020–17

Dear Madam / Sir

### POSTPONEMENT OF THE 2020 COMMISSION AND ASSOCIATED MEETINGS

Given the unprecedented disruptions to travel and meeting calendars world-wide due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and after consultations with IOTC Members, I have decided the following:

1. to cancel the 2020 meeting of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures;
2. to postpone the Compliance Committee (CoC), Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF) and Commission (S24) meetings;
3. to hold a full (week long) Commission meeting on 2-6 November 2020 in Bali Indonesia, preceded by correspondence meetings (essential agenda items only) of the Compliance Committee and Standing Committee on Administration and Finance starting 1 October;
4. the deadlines for providing information, producing reports etc for the S24, CoC and SCAF will be adjusted to the new dates (which will be notified by the Secretariat in the near future);
5. if by 17 August 2020, for any reason, I am uncertain as to whether we can proceed with the physical Commission meeting, this option will be cancelled for 2020;
6. in the event of the physical meeting being cancelled, the Secretariat will assist me determine how best to conduct an electronic meeting. This may be in the form of a structured videoconference, with a shortened agenda (to be agreed, or may be through correspondence only to decide on a few crucial details to ensure the ongoing functionality of the Commission. Upon cancellation of the physical Commission meeting, I will initiate a process to obtain agreement on how we will proceed.

Regarding the 2020 calendar of scientific working party meetings, the Secretariat will be working with the Chairs and the IOTC science community to find ways to continue as much work as possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Indonesia for its understanding, and all IOTC stakeholders for your support as we endeavour to chart our course through this extraordinary situation.

Please continue to monitor the IOTC website for information updates.

Yours sincerely



Susan Imende  
IOTC Chairperson

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