

25 September 2020

IOTC CIRCULAR 2020-44

Dear Madam / Sir

INVITATION TO THE 23RD SESSION OF THE IOTC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

I have the honour of extending to you an invitation to participate in the 23rd Session of the Scientific Committee, which will be held on-line, from 7 to 11 December 2020.

In light of the unrelenting disruptions to travel and meetings due to the COVID19 pandemic, the Government of India has informed the Secretariat that is unable to host in-person meetings of the Scientific Committee and the associated Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics this year. On behalf of the Commission, I would like to thank the Government of India for its generous offer to host the meetings, and convey our complete understanding and support of the decision that has been made

Following consultations between the IOTC Secretariat, myself and the Scientific Committee Vice Chair, the Scientific Committee will now be convened by video-conference (Zoom). Furthermore, a decision has been taken to slightly modify the dates to better align the meeting to a Monday to Friday working week.

The new dates and deadlines for the Scientific Committee meeting are as follows:

Scientific Committee: 7-11 December	
7 November	Deadline for Submission of document titles.
22 November	Submission of full documents and National reports.
7 – 11 December	Scientific Committee meeting by video-conference.

NOTE: The Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics will also be held by video-conference but on the scheduled dates (30 November – 23 December). More information on how this meeting will proceed will be shared in the near future.

Scientific Committee Meeting format

In brief, the meeting format will be as follows:

- Zoom will be the video conference platform;
- The meeting will run from 12h00 – 16h00 Seychelles time each day. Please [\[click here\]](#) to work out the time in your country
- Interpretation (French / English) will be available;
- Entry to the meeting will be by password, and only provided to credentialed individuals.

Distribution

IOTC Contracting Parties: Australia, Bangladesh, China, Comoros, Eritrea, European Union, France (Territories), 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 ("BIOT"), 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

Documents and information

The agenda and session documents will be made available on the meeting webpage [[click here](#)].

As always, scientists are encouraged to provide papers for the meetings, but due to the very limited time available, only a select few papers (identified by the meeting chair) will be presented. However, all other documents will be uploaded to the meeting pages and maintained as background information. Thank you for your understanding on the necessity to limit papers to those that are fundamental to address the agendas.

Credentials

In accordance with Rule III of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2014), official credentials are required in order to participate in the meeting. For your convenience, a draft letter of credentials (from Appendix I of the IOTC Rules of Procedure, 2014) is available [here](#).

Only credentialed individuals will receive the Zoom link to join the meeting.

Contracting Parties & Cooperating Non-contracting Parties (CPCs)

Each CPC is requested to provide a letter of credentials signed by the appropriate Authority indicating who will receive the Zoom link. The credentials should also include the email address and contact phone number for each recipient. Credentials are requested no later than 15 days before each meeting to iotc-secretariat@fao.org.


Invited Experts and Observers

IOTC Observers are also requested to submit a similar Letter of Credentials indicating who will receive the Zoom link. The credentials should also include the email address and contact phone number for each recipient. Credentials are requested no later than 15 days before each meeting to iotc-secretariat@fao.org

Registration

Registration for the meetings is important to allow the IOTC Secretariat sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements. Please register for the meetings on the IOTC website no later than 15 days before the respective meetings.

Yours sincerely



Dr Toshihide Kitakado
Chairperson, Scientific committee