

15 March 2021

IOTC CIRCULAR 2021–14

Dear Madam / Sir

INVITATION TO THE 25TH SESSION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION AND ASSOCIATED MEETINGS (COC18, SCAF18, TCMP04)

I have the honour to extend to you an invitation to participate in the 25th Session of the Commission, which will be held from 7 to 11 June 2021.

The 18th Session of the Compliance Committee, the 18th Session of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance and the 4th Session of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures will also be held in conjunction with the Commission meeting. Session dates are given below.

The meeting format is undecided

At its 4th Special Session (12 March 2021), the Commission agreed to defer its decision on whether the 25th Session and associated meetings would be held in-person or by video-conference, until 30 April. All stakeholders will be duly advised on the format of the meeting soon after this date.

Credentials

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

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 attend the meeting and in what capacity. 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 no later than 15 days before each meeting to iotc-secretariat@fao.org.

Proposals for Conservation and Management Measures:

In accordance with the procedure agreed upon by the Commission in 2011, only those proposals for new or revised Conservation or Management Measures received thirty (30) days before the Session, at the latest, will be considered by the Commission. Thus, all proposals must be received by the IOTC Secretariat before midnight on 8 May 2021, Seychelles time.

In accordance with Resolution 16/10, Contracting Parties are encouraged to submit a provisional title, Contracting Party sponsorship and a focal point for each proposal (including the email address of the focal point), a minimum of 60 days prior to each annual Session (i.e. 8 April in 2021) so that all Contracting Parties are provided with an opportunity to identify proposals being developed by other CPCs, and as appropriate, cooperate in the development of proposals prior to the Session in which they are to be discussed.

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, 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

Proposals to amend the IOTC Rules of Procedure:

In accordance with Rule XVII of the IOTC Rules of Procedure, any proposals to amend the ROP must be distributed at least 60 days before the session of the commission.

Calendar of important dates

Dates	Commission S25 (7-11 June)	Who	Notes
6 April	Preferred deadline for receiving proposals to amend the IOTC Rules of Procedure (ROP XVIII.1)	CPs	It is preferable to receive any proposals before the 60 day distribution deadline (8 April) to allow for translation.
8 April	Provisional agenda posted on the S25 meeting page (ROP IV.4)	Secretariat	60 days before the meeting
	Deadline for receiving applications from bodies seeking observer status (ROP XIV)	New observers	60 days before the meeting
8 May	Provisional agenda with comments posted on the S25 meeting page (ROP IV.4)	Secretariat	30 days before the meeting
	Deadline for receiving proposals for conservation and management measures (IOTC Agreement IV.4)	Members	30 days before the meeting. It is advisable that Members submit proposals that have been subject to advanced consultation (especially if the meeting is in a reduced format).
	Meeting documents posted on the S25 meeting page	Secretariat	ASAP but at least 30 days before the meeting
30 May – 1 June	Compliance Committee		Deadline for credentials is 15 May
2 June	Standing Committee on Administration & Finance		Deadline for credentials is 17 May
3 June	Report adoption: COC18 & SCAF18		
4-5 June	Technical Committee on Management Procedures		Deadline for credentials is 20 May
7-11	Commission (S25)		Deadline for credentials is 23 May

Further information

Information concerning the Sessions, including the agendas and other meeting documents will be communicated by the IOTC Secretariat in the coming weeks via Circulars and the IOTC website S25 meeting page [\[click here\]](#).

Yours sincerely



Ms Jung-re Riley Kim
IOTC Vice-Chairperson