

21 April 2021

**IOTC CIRCULAR**  
**2021–22**

**MAKING A DECISION ON THE FORMAT OF THE 25<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION**

Dear Sir/Madam

At its 4<sup>th</sup> Special Session (12 March 2021), the Commission agreed to defer its decision, until 30 April, on whether the 25<sup>th</sup> Session and associated meetings would be held in-person or by videoconference.

Contracting Party Heads of Delegation will, this week, be invited to participate in a survey and make a decision on this matter.

Please note, because certain IOTC Rules of Procedure presuppose in-person sessions, to again ensure that a videoconference meeting, if opted for in the survey, would qualify as a formal Session, (as was done in 2020 – refer to IOTC Circular 2020-37) this option will require concurrence from two thirds of IOTC Members.

An announcement on the result of the survey can be expected on 30 April or soon after.

Yours sincerely



Jung-re Riley Kim  
Vice-Chairperson

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, 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.

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