

08 April 2021

IOTC CIRCULAR 2021–20

MATTERS RELATING TO THE 25TH SESSION OF THE IOTC (S25) – 60 DAYS PRIOR

- MEETING FORMAT (TO BE AGREED)
- PROVISIONAL AGENDA
- REQUESTS FOR OBSERVER STATUS
- CREDENTIALS
- REMINDER ON CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES PROPOSALS
- BUDGET ESTIMATE FOR 2022
- PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE IOTC RULES OF PROCEDURE
- MEETING DOCUMENTS

Dear Sir/Madam

The meeting format is yet 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.

Provisional Agenda

In accordance with Rule IV of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2014), the provisional agenda for the 25th Session of the Commission (IOTC-2021-S25-01a) is now available on the S25 meeting page [[click here](#)].

Members are invited to send any comments and proposals for additional items to be included in the Provisional Agenda, no later than 6 May 2021, so that an agreed Agenda may be circulated not less than 30 days before the Session.

The Chairperson will negotiate any changes to the agenda directly with Heads of Delegations, as required.

Requests for observer status

The following organisations have requested to participate as observers to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. The respective applications are provided in the links below.

- Earthworm Foundation [[click here](#)]
- Sustainable Fisheries and Communities Trust [[click here](#)]
- WildAid [[click here](#)]

In accordance with Rule XIV of the IOTC Rules of Procedure, Contracting Parties of the Commission are asked to consider these requests. Unless any objections are received within 30 days of the date of this Circular, the IOTC Secretariat will consider that approval has been granted for the Executive Secretary to issue an invitation to the Observer to attend IOTC meetings accordingly.

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.

This message has been transmitted by email only

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.

Reminder on Conservation and Management Measure proposals

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.

To further improve coordination in development process of proposals for new and/or revised CMMs to be considered at the Sessions of the Commission, Contracting Parties are encouraged to submit a provisional title, indicate Contracting Party sponsorship and a focal point for a proposal (including the email address of the focal point) well before the 30 day mark. The Secretariat will post these on the [S25 meeting page - click here](#) so that Contracting Parties are provided with an opportunity to identify proposals being developed, and as appropriate, cooperate in the development of proposals prior to the Session in which they are to be discussed. This step aims to avoid duplication and assist in achieving consensus on contentious matters before the Session, thereby improving efficiency during Plenary.

Budget estimate for 2022

In accordance with Regulation III of the IOTC Financial Regulations, budget estimates and associated information for the 25th Session of the Commission are now available in document IOTC-2021-SCAF18-08 on the SCAF18 meeting page [\[click here\]](#).

Proposed amendment to the IOTC Rules of Procedure

In accordance with Regulation XVIII of the IOTC Rules of Procedure, a revised proposal for a permanent procedure to select the IOTC Executive Secretary is provided in [IOTC-2021-S25-03](#).

Meeting documents

Electronic versions of other meeting documents will be published on the S25 meeting page [\[click here\]](#) as they become available:

Yours sincerely



Christopher O'Brien
Executive Secretary