

31 May 2021

## IOTC CIRCULAR 2021-27

Dear Sir/Madam

### REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS FROM SOUTH WEST INDIAN OCEAN TUNA FORUM (SWIOTUNA)

Please find attached a request letter from South West Indian Ocean Tuna Forum (SWIOTUNA) to participate as an Observer to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission processes.

In accordance with Rule XIV of the IOTC Rules of Procedure, Contracting Parties of the Commission may wish to allow SWIOTUNA to participate as an Observer given their interest in the IOTC as stipulated in the attached letter. Thus, 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 potential Observer to attend IOTC meetings accordingly.

Yours sincerely



Christopher O'Brien  
Executive Secretary

#### Attachments:

- Letter from SWIOTUNA

#### 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

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TO THE CHAIRPERSON  
INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION  
VICTORIA, SEYCHELLES

21<sup>st</sup> May 2021

Dear Chair,

**RE: APPLICATION FOR OBSERVER STATUS TO THE INDIAN OCEAN COMMISSION**

Please accept this application for observer status on behalf of South West Indian Ocean Tuna Forum (SWIOTUNA) submitted in accordance with Article VII of the IOTC Agreement.

SWIOTUNA is a regional marine-related network legally registered in Kenya as an international public benefit organization. Its membership consists Non-Governmental Organizations, Private Sector and collective action community-based organizations like fishers' associations and Beach Management Units from the coastal nations and island states of Madagascar, Seychelles, Comoros, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Mauritius, Reunion, Somali, and Kenya. The forum provides a capacity building opportunity to the Civil Society Organizations and other Non-State Actors (NSA) working on marine and fisheries related issues to advocate for sustainable use, development and management of marine fisheries in the SWIO range states with a view to ensuring that the respective countries and local communities derive more socio-economic benefits from their fisheries resources.

The main aim of the network is to raise the voice of local communities in national and regional fora and other policy processes. This is to ensure that the interest of the local communities and the resources they depend on are taken into consideration in all aspects, including design and implementation of programmes meant to improve the wellbeing of the communities and sustainable management of marine and fisheries resources, in particular Tuna.

