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

SWIOTUNA

TO THE CHAIRPERSON
INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION
VICTORIA, SEYCHELLES

21st 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.

This is our first application to the IOTC Secretariat for observer status. The first meeting in which we would anticipate participating is the 25th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission from 7 to 11 June 2021. SWIOTUNA would like to be more involved so we can be more informed about the IOTC decision-making process and the discussions and hereby applying for IOTC observer status. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information in order to review our request for observer status to the IOTC.

Thanking you in advance for your response.

Yours Sincerely

Hadley Becha

Chairperson

South West Indian Ocean Tuna Forum (SWIOTUNA)