

22 June 2021

IOTC CIRCULAR 2021-32

Dear Sir/Madam

REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG'S AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR OCEAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY (ANCORS)

Please find attached a request letter from the University of Wollongong's Australian Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS) 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 ANCORS 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 University of Wollongong's ANCORS

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:** Senegal. **Intergovernmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations.** **Chairperson IOTC.** **Copy to:** FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs.

This message has been transmitted by email only



Attn:
Executive Secretary Christopher O'Brien
IOTC Secretariat
Seychelles

Re: Observer to IOTC

Dear Mr O'Brien,

The Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS) requests observer status to attend meetings of the IOTC and observe its deliberations as part of our ongoing research into transboundary fisheries governance.

The University of Wollongong's Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS) is a globally recognised academic centre of excellence for ocean governance and resource security, marine dispute resolution and maritime crime prevention. ANCORS is the primary, multidisciplinary centre for academic, professional and industry expertise in ocean law, policy and governance in the Southern Hemisphere. We bring together teams of specialist lawyers, political scientists and international relations experts, geographers, marine biologists and social scientists to design, innovate and integrate ocean law, maritime management and marine policy. As a partner to governments, NGOs, international agencies and industry, we translate evidence into practice to offer practical solutions to global challenges, public policy and commercial endeavours.

ANCORS policy and research programs utilise the extensive experience and skills of ANCORS staff to research and develop practical solutions to ongoing ocean governance, management and development challenges. For example, our Fisheries Governance program works widely throughout the Indo-Pacific region, working closely with regional fora, governments and stakeholders. The program studies how we manage human interaction with our marine environment, and develops innovative solutions to manage our activities and impacts.

Our program has observer status for the WCPFC, SPRFMO and NPFC where we contribute information papers on our research into transboundary fisheries governance. We hope to similarly provide constructive studies to support IOTC to achieve its objectives.

We respectfully request observer status for our centre, and identify A/Prof Quentin Hanich as the lead contact. His contact details are hanich@uow.edu.au and +61 410 570 616.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Q Hanich'.

A/Professor Quentin Hanich
Fisheries Governance Research Program Leader
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