

20 July 2021

IOTC CIRCULAR 2021-39

Dear Madam / Sir

REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS FROM SHARK GUARDIAN

Please find attached a request letter from Shark Guardian 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 Shark Guardian 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 Shark Guardian

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



UK Charity #1152654

CONSERVATION – EDUCATION – RESEARCH – EXPEDITIONS

Shark Guardian

66 Hayden Lane, Hucknall, Nottingham, United Kingdom, NG15 8BS.

Tel: +44 0115 9528148

www.sharkguardian.org

16 July 2021

Re: Letter of Credentials: Application for NGO Observer Status at IOTC

Dear IOTC Secretariat,

Shark Guardian would like to apply for NGO observer status at the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and its subsidiary bodies' meetings. Please kindly find below some information to support our application;

-- Name, address, telephone and fax number of our organization;

Name

Shark Guardian

Address

66 Hayden Lane, Hucknall, Nottingham, United Kingdom, NG15 8BS.

Telephone number

+44 0115 9528148

-- Address of all its national/regional offices;

Shark Guardian (United Kingdom)

66 Hayden Lane, Hucknall, Nottingham, United Kingdom, NG15 8BS.

-- Aims and purposes of our organization and an indication as to how they relate to the objectives of the IOTC;

Shark Guardian's objective is to advance the conservation and sustainable management of sharks and the natural environment through conservation, education, research projects and expeditions, the activities of which occur from time to time in the Indian Ocean area under IOTC jurisdiction.

-- A brief history of Shark Guardian and a description of our activities;

Shark Guardian is a UK Charity for shark and marine conservation projects worldwide founded by Brendon Sing and Elizabeth Ward-Sing. Although Shark Guardian is a UK Charity, there are Shark Guardian campaigns and activities taking place worldwide including the United Kingdom, Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Founded by experienced scuba diving instructors with a great passion for sharks, Shark Guardian has been focusing on shark and marine conservation activities, education, supporting and promoting shark conservation efforts and leading scuba dives for shark encounters since 1998. The unique and inspiring Shark Guardian presentation is viewed by thousands of people each year. Shark Guardian has toured many countries throughout Europe, Africa

and Asia. Shark Guardian is the banner and symbol for future shark and marine conservation projects worldwide.

Recent activities include:

1. Shark Guardian Directors and newly trained staff presented to over 8,000 people personally and via Skype classroom sessions in Asia.
2. Trained 12 new Shark Guardian presenters.
3. Continued to give two children's book to schools worldwide for free, to teach the next generation about sharks and conservation.
4. Printed our 1st children's book in Thai and started to give these to schools in Thailand, along with educational sessions.
5. Continued to lead a Global research database (eOceans) for sharks and rays in Thailand.
6. Started the 'Finspire Change' UK campaign to effect government legislation, to stop the import allowance currently at 20kg of shark fin which is legally allowed to be brought in to the UK.
7. Leading the Fly Without Fins campaign to encourage as many airlines as possible to pledge and announce banning the transportation of shark fin cargo on their aircraft.
8. Assisting with a global whale shark research database.
9. Assisting with Leopard Shark research in Thailand.
10. Supported the evolving project with St Andrews University, working to protect endangered flaper skates in an MPA.
11. Shark Guardian Directors and volunteers ran an educational area at the MIDE and ADEX dive shows.
12. Continued to support 36 Shark Guardian Dive Centres.

-- Past papers produced by Shark Guardian on the conservation, management or science of tunas or tuna-like species;

<https://www.sharkguardian.org/resources-downloads>

<https://www.sharkguardian.org/marine-stewardship-council-finfree>

-- Information or input that Shark Guardian proposes to present at IOTC meetings;

Information or data on the conservation and management of tunas and sharks in the Indian Ocean.

Should you or your colleagues require any further information or clarification on the information provided in this letter, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at your convenience.

Kind regards,



Brendon Sing

Director & Founder

Shark Guardian - Shark & Marine Conservation Worldwide

UK Charity #1152654

www.sharkguardian.org