



21 July 2021

**IOTC CIRCULAR  
2021-40**

Dear Madam / Sir

**A COMMUNICATION FROM JAPAN REGARDING THE REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS FROM SHARK GUARDIAN**

Please find attached a communication from Japan regarding the request for observer status from Shark Guardian.

Yours sincerely

Christopher O'Brien  
Executive Secretary

**Attachments:**

- Letter from Japan

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



**FISHERIES AGENCY**

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES, GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN**

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21 July 2021

Dr. Christopher O'Brien  
Executive Secretary  
IOTC

Dear Dr. O'Brien:

I'm writing in response to the IOTC Circular 2021-39 dated 20 July 2021 "REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS FROM SHARK GUARDIAN".

Japan finds that, in its application, Shark Guardian refers to its objective as "to advance the conservation and sustainable management of sharks and the natural environment through conservation, education, research projects and expeditions". Japan recognizes that 'the conservation and sustainable management' include the sustainable exploitation of sharks on the basis of scientific evidence.

At this juncture, Japan would like to confirm a confirmation and commitment from Shark Guardian for its support on the sustainable utilization of sharks based on the scientific evidence in the IOTC area of competence before judging whether it should support the application from Shark Guardian.

I would appreciate it if you could circulate this letter to CPCs.

Sincerely,

Hideki Moronuki  
Japan's Commissioner to the IOTC