



28 July 2021

**IOTC CIRCULAR
2021-42**

Dear Madam / Sir

A COMMUNICATION FROM SHARK GUARDIAN IN RESPONSE TO ITS APPLICATION FOR OBSERVER STATUS

Please find attached a communication from Shark Guardian in response to Japan's request, for further information (Circular 2021-40).

Yours sincerely

Christopher O'Brien
Executive Secretary

Attachments :

- Email 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

Dear Dr O'Brien,

Thank you very much for your email and for the opportunity to respond to Japan's communication dated 21 July 2021.

In our application for Observer status at IOTC dated 16 July 2021, we stated our aims and purposes, and indicated how they relate to the objectives of the IOTC with the following statement: -

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.

To allay the concerns of Japan, we would like to clarify that Shark Guardian is fully guided by scientific evidence and is committed to ecosystem-based fishery management that considers impacts of all fishing activities in the IOTC area of competence in a precautionary and holistic way, and for all species of marine wildlife, including for tuna and shark species.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Hofford

Alex Hofford

Marine Wildlife Campaigner and Trustee

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Shark Guardian - Shark & Marine Conservation Worldwide

UK Charity #1152654

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