

16 September 2021

IOTC CIRCULAR 2021-48

Dear Madam / Sir

REGARDING A PROPOSED SPECIAL SESSION OF THE IOTC

Heads of S25 Delegations met on 8 September to receive legal advice from FAO Legal Office on the voting process used at the 25th Session of the Commission in June 2021 to consider whether to adopt proposal IOTC-2021-S25-PropE_Rev2.

During this meeting, the Heads of Delegations were informed about some irregularities in the voting process and subsequently agreed that any decisions on the validity of the vote taken at S25 should be made by the Commission at a Special Session.

The proposed Special Session would focus on matters relating to the vote taken at S25 and may also consider proposal PropE_Rev2 and other relevant information. Members will be invited to submit proposals for agenda items once a decision is made on whether a Special Session will go ahead.

Given the meetings of the FAD Working Group and the Scientific Committee are to be held in October and December 2021, respectively; and the outcomes of these meetings may be relevant to the Special Session, I propose that the Special Session be held in the week 17-21 January 2022. Starting Monday 17 January and lasting up to 5 days, if required.

In accordance with Article VI.5 of the IOTC Agreement, a Special Session may be convened if requested by at last one third of Members.

Action Required: Members can make a request in writing (e.g. by a return email) to hold a Special Session 17-21 January 2022 to consider the above-mentioned matters. Requests are to be sent to the Executive Secretary (iotc-secretariat@fao.org) not later than midnight on 3 October 2021 (Seychelles time) and refer to a 'special session' in the subject line.

You will be informed of the Members' decision regarding the Special Session as soon as possible.

Note also, if a Special Session is to go ahead, it will (due to the pandemic) be by videoconference and, as with all Commission meetings held by videoconference, I will seek concurrence from 2/3 of IOTC Members for the exceptional suspension of the Rules of Procedure of the IOTC that presuppose in-person sessions of the Commission.

Yours sincerely



Ms Jung-re Riley Kim
IOTC Chairperson

Distribution

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