

17 March 2022

## IOTC CIRCULAR

2022–20

### MATTERS RELATING TO THE 26<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE IOTC (S26) – 60 DAYS PRIOR

1. MEETING FORMAT
2. PROVISIONAL AGENDA
3. REQUESTS FOR OBSERVER STATUS
4. CREDENTIALS
5. REMINDER ON CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES PROPOSALS
6. BUDGET ESTIMATE FOR 2023
7. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE IOTC RULES OF PROCEDURE
8. MEETING DOCUMENTS

Dear Sir/Madam

#### **1. Meeting format — the meeting will be face to face for CPCs only**

S26 and its associated meetings will be held in Seychelles from 8 to 20 May 2022 — 9 am to 5 pm. The Commission has expressed a strong desire to resume face-to-face meetings, to the extent the COVID-19 pandemic will allow.

Given Government social distancing requirements and hotel limitations, only CPCs will be permitted to participate from inside the meeting room, and there will be only one Head of Delegation and one Alternate in the meeting room at any one time.

All other members of CPC delegations and observers will be required to participate by videoconference (Zoom).

#### **2. Provisional Agenda**

In accordance with Rule IV of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2014), the provisional agenda for the 26th Session of the Commission ([IOTC-2022-S26-01a](#)) is now available on the S26 meeting page [[click here](#)].

Members are invited to send any comments and proposals for additional items to be included in the Provisional Agenda, no later than 12 April 2022, so that an agreed Agenda may be circulated not less than 30 days before the Session.

The Chairperson will negotiate any changes to the agenda directly with Heads of Delegations, as required.

#### **3. Requests for observer status**

The list of pre-approved observers to the IOTC can be found [[here](#)]. The following organisations have recently requested to participate as observers and are yet to be approved:

- Ocean Outcomes [[click here](#)]
- Somali Natural Resources Research Center [[click here](#)]

#### 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

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In accordance with Rule XIV of the IOTC Rules of Procedure, Contracting Parties of the Commission are asked to consider these requests. Unless any objections are received within 30 days of the date of the respective Circulars, the IOTC Secretariat will consider that approval has been granted for the Executive Secretary to issue an invitation to the Observer to attend IOTC meetings accordingly.

#### **4. Credentials**

In accordance with Rule III of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2014), official credentials are required to participate in the meetings. For your convenience, a draft letter of credentials (from Appendix I of the IOTC Rules of Procedure, 2014) is available [here](#).

Rule III.1 of the IOTC Rules of Procedure states: "Such Letter of Credentials shall conform to the standard set out in Appendix I." Please also refer to [IOTC Circular 2021-49](#) on the content of Credentials.

#### ***Contracting Parties & Cooperating Non-contracting Parties (CPCs)***

Each CPC is requested to provide a letter of credentials signed by the appropriate Authority indicating who will attend the meeting and in what capacity. The credentials should also include the email address and contact phone number for each recipient.

The Credentials are requested to be sent no later than 15 days before each meeting to [iotc-secretariat@fao.org](mailto:iotc-secretariat@fao.org). Only credentialed individuals will be permitted to enter the meeting room and receive a Zoom link to join the meetings.

#### ***Invited Experts and Observers***

IOTC Observers are also requested to submit a similar Letter of Credentials no later than 15 days before each meeting to [iotc-secretariat@fao.org](mailto:iotc-secretariat@fao.org). Only credentialed individuals will receive a Zoom link to join the meetings.

#### **5. Reminder on Conservation and Management Measure proposals**

In accordance with the procedure agreed upon by the Commission in 2011, only those proposals for new or revised Conservation or Management Measures received thirty (30) days before the Session, at the latest, will be considered by the Commission. Thus, all proposals must be received by the IOTC Secretariat before midnight on 16 April 2022, Seychelles time.

To further improve coordination in development process of proposals for new and/or revised CMMs to be considered at the Sessions of the Commission, Contracting Parties are encouraged to submit a provisional title, indicate Contracting Party sponsorship and a focal point for a proposal (including the email address of the focal point) well before the 30-day mark. The Secretariat will post these on the [S26 meeting page - click here](#) so that Contracting Parties are provided with an opportunity to identify proposals being developed, and as appropriate, cooperate in the development of proposals prior to the Session in which they are to be discussed. This step aims to avoid duplication and assist in achieving consensus on contentious matters before the Session, thereby improving efficiency during Plenary.

#### **6. Budget estimate for 2023**

In accordance with Regulation III of the IOTC Financial Regulations, budget estimates and associated information for the 26th Session of the Commission are now available in document [IOTC-2022-SCAF19-08](#) on the SCAF19 meeting page [\[click here\]](#).

#### **7. Proposed amendment to the IOTC Rules of Procedure**

In accordance with Regulation XVIII of the IOTC Rules of Procedure, the following three documents are provided:

1. A procedure to select the IOTC Executive Secretary [IOTC-2022-S26-03](#).
2. Proposal to amend Appendix I of the IOTC Rules of Procedure [IOTC-2022-S26-04](#).
2. Proposal to amend Appendix V of the IOTC Rules of Procedure [IOTC-2022-S26-05](#).

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## **8. Meeting documents**

Electronic versions of other meeting documents will be published on the S26 meeting page [\[click here\]](#) as they become available:

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. O'Brien", with a large loop at the end.

Christopher O'Brien  
Executive Secretary