

30 March 2022

**IOTC CIRCULAR
2022-22**

Dear Madam / Sir

A COMMUNICATION FROM JAPAN REGARDING TRANSSHIPMENT

Please find attached a communication from Japan.

Yours sincerely



Christopher O'Brien
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

- 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

1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8907, Japan

TEL: *81-3-3591-1086 FAX: *81-3-3591-5824

30 March 2022

Dr. Christopher O'Brien,
IOTC Executive Secretary

Subject: Disclosure of Confidential Transshipment Data

Dear Dr. O'Brien,

I hope this letter finds you well.

Recently we were astonished to find that the IOTC Secretariat had provided an NGO with information on individual cases of transshipments without our consent nor approval. Japan recognizes that information on transshipment publicly available at IOTC website are aggregated ones so that any information on individual transshipments (e.g. date, location, name of fishing vessel, name of carrier vessel, amount of fish transhipped), that are considered commercially sensitive and confidential, cannot be identified. Japan believes that the Secretariat must not disclose such information upon a request from anybody, but rather must consult with the concerned flag CPC about the request considering every possible concern associated with applicable confidentiality requirements of the IOTC.

Japan would strongly request the Secretariat not to repeat similar cases in future.

Please circulate this letter among CPCs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Moronuki'.

Hideki Moronuki
Japan's Commissioner to IOTC