

22 August 2022

## IOTC CIRCULAR

### 2022-44

Dear Madam / Sir

### INVITATION TO A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION 3-5 FEBRUARY 2023 IN KENYA

At its 26<sup>th</sup> Session (in 2022) the Commission requested me to liaise with the Heads of Delegations to decide on the modalities and time of a Special Session of the Commission to be held in the first quarter of 2023 to advance Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) issues. Heads of Delegations met on 19 July 2022 and agreed that the Special Session would be held from 3 to 5 February 2023, in Kenya (at a venue to be confirmed).

I have the honour to extend to you an invitation to participate in this Special Session (SS6).

#### The aim of the Special Session

The aim of the Special Session is to adopt a conservation and management measure on FADs. Between now and the Special Session, a small working group (comprising interested Members) will work together to agree on the key elements of a potential management measure to be presented to the Special Session.

#### Meeting will be held in a hybrid format

The meeting will allow for physical participation and participation by videoconference. It will be held back-to-back with the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (30 January to 2 February 2023, in the same venue).

Please note, the numbers of people able to participate in-person are yet to be ascertained and will depend on the venue and any COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time. You will be advised of any restrictions as soon as possible.

#### Meeting Participation fund (for developing Contracting Party Members only)

The participation of one representative from developing contracting parties of the IOTC may be supported through the IOTC Meeting Participation Fund (MPF). The applications for the MPF, must be received by the IOTC Secretariat ([iotc-secretariat@fao.org](mailto:iotc-secretariat@fao.org)) no later than 60 days before the start of the meeting (i.e. 5 December 2022). NOTE – this 60-day deadline will be strictly enforced.

Applications must include:

- i) an official nomination letter
- ii) the contact details of the nominee (with a copy of his/her passport).

The rules of procedure for the administration of the MPF as well as guidelines for applying to the MPF can be found in Appendix VIII of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (click [here](#)). Please be reminded that there is no provision in the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2022) for the IOTC Secretariat to consider late applications.

#### Credentials

In accordance with Rule III of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2022), 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, 2022) is available [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:** Liberia. **Intergovernmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations.** **Chairperson IOTC.** **Copy to:** FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs.

This message has been transmitted by email only

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

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.

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 receive a Zoom link to join the meetings.

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

IOTC Observers and Invited Experts are also requested to submit a similar Letter of Credentials. The credentials should also include the email address and contact phone number for each recipient. Credentials are requested no later than 15 days before each meeting to [iotc-secretariat@fao.org](mailto:iotc-secretariat@fao.org).

### **Proposals for Conservation and Management Measures:**

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 4 January 2023, Seychelles time.

However, in accordance with Resolution 16/10, Contracting Parties are encouraged to submit a provisional title, Contracting Party sponsorship and a focal point for each proposal (including the email address of the focal point), a minimum of 60 days prior to each annual Session so that all Contracting Parties are provided with an opportunity to identify proposals being developed by other CPCs, and as appropriate, cooperate in the development of proposals prior to the Session in which they are to be discussed.

### **Calendar of important dates for SS6**

Dates	Commission SS6 (3-5 February 2023)	Who	Notes
5 December 2022	Provisional agenda posted on the SS6 meeting page (ROP IV.1)	Secretariat	60 days before the meeting
	Deadline for receiving applications from bodies seeking observer status (ROP XIV)	New observers	60 days before the meeting
	Deadline for receiving applications for the Meeting Participation Fund	Developing CPs	60 days before the meeting
4 January 2022	Provisional agenda with comments posted on the SS6 meeting page (ROP IV.3)	Secretariat	30 days before the meeting
	Deadline for receiving proposals for conservation and management measures on FADs (IOTC Agreement IV.4)	Members	30 days before the meeting. It is advisable that Members submit proposals that have been subject to advanced consultation.
	Meeting documents posted on the SS6 meeting page	Secretariat	ASAP but at least 30 days before the meeting
19 January	Deadline for receiving Credentials	All	15 days before the meeting
3 February	Opening of the Special Session	All	

### **Further information**

Information concerning the Sessions, including the agendas and other meeting documents will be communicated by the IOTC Secretariat in the coming weeks via Circulars and the IOTC website meeting pages [[click here](#)].

Yours sincerely

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JRK', followed by a long horizontal line.

Jung-re Riley Kim  
IOTC Chairperson