



16 May 2023

IOTC CIRCULAR 2023-32

Dear Sir/Madam

REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS FROM BLOOM

Please find attached a request letter from BLOOM to participate as an Observer to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission processes.

In accordance with Rule XIV of the IOTC Rules of Procedure, Contracting Parties of the Commission may wish to allow BLOOM to participate as an Observer given their interest in the IOTC as stipulated in the attached letter. Thus, unless any objections are received within 30 days of the date of this Circular, the IOTC Secretariat will consider that approval has been granted for the Executive Secretary to issue an invitation to the potential Observer to attend IOTC meetings accordingly.

Yours sincerely

Christopher O'Brien
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

- Letter from BLOOM

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



Paris, 9 May 2023

Re. IOTC observer status

Dear Madam,

BLOOM is a non-profit organization founded in 2005 that works to preserve the marine environment and species from unnecessary destruction, and to increase social benefits in the fishing sector. BLOOM wages awareness and advocacy campaigns to accelerate the adoption of concrete solutions for the ocean, humans, and the climate. BLOOM carries out scientific research projects, independent studies and evaluations that highlight crucial and unaddressed issues such as the financing mechanisms of the fishing sector. BLOOM's actions are meant for the general public as well as policymakers and economic stakeholders.

As part of our research and advocacy campaigns, we have a keen interest in tropical tuna fisheries, especially those that occur within the IOTC area of competence. Over the past few months, we have published several reports covering a case of illegal secondment between the French administration and the European tuna lobby,¹ the dynamics in IOTC delegations,² the lack of enforcement of EU rules by European fleets,³ the role that the EU has in the continuous overexploitation of tuna populations in the Indian Ocean,⁴ and the out-of-control 'technological creep' of the FADs used by the European fleets.^{5,6}

Having worked on these fisheries for several years, we are a well identified actor and benefit from a solid network of collaborators in the world, many of whom already take part in IOTC matters.

As such, **we are hereby applying for IOTC observer status**, as we believe that both BLOOM and the IOTC as a whole would benefit from it.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

I look forward to a positive answer from the IOTC.

Sincerely,

Frédéric Le Manach
BLOOM, Scientific Director

¹ <https://www.bloomassociation.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/The-wild-west-of-tuna-fisheries-in-Africa-BLOOM-November-2022.pdf>.

² <https://bloomassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/The-EU-under-the-rule-of-tuna-lobbies.pdf>.

³ <https://bloomassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/eyes-wide-shut.pdf>.

⁴ https://bloomassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Lining-up-the-ducks_EN.pdf.

⁵ <https://bloomassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/tuna-war-games.pdf>.

⁶ We have a dedicated newsletter covering our work in Africa and in the Indian Ocean, in French (<https://bloomassociation.org/nos-campagnes/peche-en-afrique/newsletter-afrique/>) and English (<https://bloomassociation.org/nos-campagnes/peche-en-afrique/african-fisheries-newsletter/>).