



24 November 2023

IOTC CIRCULAR 2023-61

Dear Sir/Madam

REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS FROM WEST COAST PURSE SEINE NET WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Please find attached a request letter from the West Coast Purse Seine Net Welfare Association 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 the West Coast Purse Seine Net Welfare Association 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

Paul de Bruyn
Executive Secretary

Attachments :

- Letter from West Coast Purse Seine Net Welfare Association

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



WEST COAST PURSE SEINE NET WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Reg. No. Ratnagiri 0000042/2019

Shop No. 22, Al-Ham Park, Pethkilla Road, Mandavi, Ratnagiri 415 612, Maharashtra.

Co-Treasurer	Co-Treasurer	Treasurer	Co-Secretary	Secretary	V-Chairman	V-Chairman	Chairman
Shri. Anil Rajge	Shri. Majhar Mukadam	Shri. Vijay Khedekar	Shri. Javed Hodekar	Shri. Erran Mukadam	Shri. Nask Vaghu	Shri. Ashok Sorang	Shri. Ganesh Nakhwa
8356050020	9822589044	9422053314	9422053399	7020706019	7768855786	9422434839	9167161616

To: Chair of the IOTC Commission

Date : 21/11/2023

Re: Observer Status for West Coast Purse Seine Net Welfare Association.

I hope this message finds you well. I am reaching out on behalf of the West Coast Purse Seine Net Welfare Association regarding our interest in attending the upcoming IOTC meeting as observers in Mumbai, India.

Our association has a rich history, with members engaged in purse seine fishing since 1970. Presently, approximately a thousand fishing boats are operational across the entire state of Maharashtra & Goa. Over the years, advancements in boat capacity, engine horsepower, and harvesting facilities have enabled our purse seine operations to extend beyond the territorial waters of Maharashtra into the Indian EEZ, including tuna fishing in high seas.

Despite our proactive involvement in scientific studies and contributions to marine wildlife conservation within our purse seine operations, we have faced challenges in gaining recognition as sustainable fishers from India. India, being a significant trawling nation, sees around 55 percent of fishing activities involving bottom trawling, with comparatively fewer restrictions on trawlers.

We are keen to join the IOTC as observers to understand global standards for tuna fishing. As pioneers in installing AIS/VMS on our purse seine fishing boats in India since 2016, we are also open to the idea of traceability. While we understand that it might be late to apply for direct participation, we believe that our extensive experience and knowledge of the West Coast fishing grounds in India could contribute significantly to IOTC discussions.

We eagerly await your response regarding our potential inclusion as observers and participation in upcoming events in Mumbai.

Best Regards

Ganesh Nakhwa
Chairman
West Coast Purse Seine Net Welfare Association
Maharashtra, India.
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Direct: +91 9167161616
Sassoon Dock, Colaba,
Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.

Members

Shri. Rajaram Malvankar	Shri. Shivram Bopardekar	Shri. Anant Keluskar	Shri. Maksud Gafur Huna	Shri. Hanif Mahaldar
Shri. Bharat Chogale	Shri. Ramchandra Vaghe	Dr. Kailas Chaulkar	Shri. Ujjesh Nakhwa	Shri. Anand Burande
Shri. Sahadev Bopardekar	Shri. Vishwas Nakhwa	Shri. Chetan Koli	Shri. Ramesh Nakhwa	Shri. Bilal Solkar