

09 February 2024

## **IOTC CIRCULAR**

### **2024-06**

Dear Madam / Sir

### **INVITATION TO TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS TO IMPROVE THE REPORTING OF FISHERY STATISTICS TO THE IOTC**

#### **Background**

At its 19<sup>th</sup> session, the IOTC Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics ([WPDCS](#)) expressed concern that non-reporting of fishery data continues to fundamentally affect the quality of stock assessments and management of IOTC species (particularly neritic tunas and billfish).

For these reasons, the WPDCS agreed to reflect in its program of work, the urgent need for improvements, by prioritising those activities that focus on data collection and reporting of artisanal and small-scale fisheries.

In the recent past the Secretariat introduced a novel approach for a more rigorous characterization of the fisheries of relevance to the IOTC, together with updated data reporting forms for the submission of statistical data and a reference data catalogue for supporting the data submissions.

#### **Upcoming Workshops**

At the WPDCS19, the Secretariat presented a proposal for regional technical workshops to support the reporting of fisheries statistics.

The first workshop will target the eastern Indian Ocean region (see table below) and will take place in Bangkok Thailand, from 15 to 18 April. The workshop will be focused on improving data reporting to the IOTC through practical exercises in which the following activities will be carried out:

- Review of the current IOTC data reporting requirements,
- Assist CPCs in mapping their national datasets with those required by the IOTC,
- Assist CPCs to become familiar with the [IOTC fisheries identification wizard](#),
- Provide guidance on the use of the [IOTC reporting forms](#) ,
- Introduce the [IOTC reference data catalogue](#),
- Introduce the online IOTC data validators,
- Perform an onsite exercise to successfully submit mandatory data to the IOTC Secretariat according to CPCs reporting obligations.

The workshop is designed for staff involved in national data collection and reporting to the IOTC. Funding is available to support the travel and subsistence costs of one participant per CPC from developing countries. As such the IOTC Secretariat requests that CPCs identify and nominate one participant and provide their contact details as well a short work profile/job description. A detailed agenda will be circulated once nominated participants have been provided.

A second workshop targeting the western Indian Ocean Region will be held from the 27 – 30 May, with the location to be determined and communicated later.

<b>Eastern Regional Technical Data Workshop</b> <b>Bangkok, Thailand</b> <b>15-18 April</b>	<b>Western Regional Data workshop</b> <b>To be confirmed</b> <b>27-30 May</b>
Comoros	Australia
European Union	Bangladesh
United Kingdom	China
I.R of Iran	Indonesia
Kenya	India
Madagascar	Japan
Mozambique	Republic of Korea
Mauritius	Sri Lanka
Oman	Maldives
Seychelles	Malaysia
Somalia	Pakistan
South Africa	Thailand
United Republic of Tanzania	Taiwan, Province of China

Yours sincerely

Paul de Bruyn



Executive Secretary

Distribution

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