



04 March 2024

## IOTC CIRCULAR

2024-12

Dear Madam / Sir

### INVITATION TO THE 27<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE IOTC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND CALENDAR OF SCIENTIFIC WORKING PARTIES AND WORKING GROUPS

I have the honour of extending to you an invitation to participate in the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific Committee, which will be held from the 2–6 December 2024.

The scientific Working Groups on Electronic Monitoring Systems and FADS, as well as the Working Parties on Neritic Tunas, Temperate Tunas, Billfish, Ecosystems and Bycatch, Methods, Tropical Tunas and Data Collection and Statistics will all be held in advance of the Scientific Committee meeting, with the dates given below.

Further information concerning the meetings, including agendas and other documents, will be communicated by the IOTC Secretariat in the coming months via Circulars and the IOTC website [www.iotc.org/meetings/upcoming](http://www.iotc.org/meetings/upcoming).

#### Meeting location, hybrid meetings and registration

To date, no location has been identified for the SC27 Meeting. Members who are willing to host the SC and WPDCS in 2024 are urged to contact the Secretariat to begin the process of facilitating these meetings. Additionally, there have been no offers to host any of the scientific working parties either. Again, members are encouraged to contact the Secretariat should they be willing to host one of these meetings.

Registration for the meetings is essential to provide the IOTC Secretariat sufficient time to make the necessary logistical arrangements. Please register for the meetings on the IOTC website no later than 15 days before the respective meetings. The deadlines and links to the registration sites are provided below.

Scientific Working Groups and Data Preparatory meetings will be held by videoconference in 2024.

Meetings that have a location nominated will be in-person events and, if technically possible, they will be accessible by videoconference.

#### Credentials for the Scientific Committee Meeting

In accordance with Rule III of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2014), official credentials are required in order to participate in the Scientific Committee meeting. For your convenience, a draft letter of credentials (from Appendix I of the IOTC Rules of Procedure, 2014) is available [here](#).

Please note, only those who are listed on a Letter of Credentials will be permitted to attend the Session.

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

Each CPC is requested to provide a letter of credentials signed by the appropriate Authority indicating who will attend the meeting and in what capacity, no later than 15 days before the meeting to [iotc-secretariat@fao.org](mailto:iotc-secretariat@fao.org) and a hard copy at the commencement of the meeting.

#### Invited Experts and Observers

Delegates wishing to attend the meeting as Invited Experts or pre-approved IOTC Observers are also requested to submit a similar Letter of Credentials, no later than 15 days before the Session to [iotc-secretariat@fao.org](mailto:iotc-secretariat@fao.org) and a hard copy at the commencement of the meeting.

#### Distribution

**IOTC Contracting Parties:** Australia, Bangladesh, China, Comoros, 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.

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## Paper submissions

Papers must be relevant to the current agenda of the meeting for which they are submitted. Titles must be provided thirty (30) days before the meeting and full working papers must be submitted fifteen (15) days ahead of the meeting, at the latest.

## Meeting Participation fund (for developing IOTC Contracting Parties Members only)

The participation of one representative from developing Members of the IOTC may be supported through the IOTC Meeting Participation Fund (MPF). The applications for the IOTC MPF, must be received by the IOTC Secretariat ([iotc-secretariat@fao.org](mailto:iotc-secretariat@fao.org)) no later than 45 days in advance of the meeting.

Applications must include:

- i) an official nomination letter;
- ii) a detailed abstract of the scientific paper to be presented; and
- iii) the contact details of the nominee (with a copy of his/her passport).

Rules of procedure for the administration of the IOTC Meeting Participation Fund 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 (2023) for the IOTC Secretariat to consider late applications to the MPF.

## Calendar of important dates (2024)

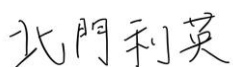
Meeting	MPF deadline	Document submission deadline	Meeting Date	Location	Meeting registration
Management Strategy Evaluation Task Force of the Working Party on Methods (WPM)	NA	NA	10 – 13 April (4d)	Virtual	<a href="#">[here]</a>
Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (Data Preparatory meeting) (WPEB)	NA	7 April	22-26 April (5d)	Virtual	<a href="#">[here]</a>
Ad hoc Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Systems (WGEMS)	NA	21 May	5-7 June (3d)	Virtual	<a href="#">[here]</a>
Working Group on FADs (WGFAD)	NA	26 May	10 -11 June (2d)	Virtual	<a href="#">[here]</a>
Working Party on Tropical Tunas (Data Preparatory meeting) (WPTT)	NA	28 May	12-14 June (3d)	Virtual	<a href="#">[here]</a>
Working Party on Neritic Tunas (WPNT)	24 May	23 June	8-12 July (5d)	TBC	<a href="#">[here]</a>
Working Party on Billfish (WPB)	21 July	20 August	4-7 September (4d)	TBC	<a href="#">[here]</a>
Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (WPEB)	26 July	25 August	9-13 September (5d)	TBC	<a href="#">[here]</a>
Ad hoc Working Group on FADs (WGFAD)	NA	16 September	1-4 October (4d)	Virtual	<a href="#">[here]</a>
Working Party on Methods (WPM)	9 September	9 October	24-26 October (3d)	TBC	<a href="#">[here]</a>

Working Party on Tropical Tunas (Assessment meeting) (WPTT)	13 September	13 October	28 October – 2 November (6d)	TBC	<a href="#">[here]</a>
Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS)	12 October	11 November	26 – 30 November (5d)	TBC	<a href="#">[here]</a>
Scientific Committee (SC)	18 October	17 November	2 - 6 December (5d)	TBC	Credentials required

### Information on the host country

An information document, providing details on logistical aspects of the venue and local conditions, will be made available on the meeting webpage in the near future once the location has been finalised.

Yours sincerely



Dr Toshihide Kitakado  
Chairperson of the IOTC Scientific Committee

### Attachments:

- None