



13 March 2024

IOTC CIRCULAR 2024-16

Dear Madam / Sir

REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS FROM THE SHARK TRUST

Please find attached a request letter from the Shark Trust 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 Shark Trust 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 the Shark Trust

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.

This message has been transmitted by email only



8th March 2024

Dear Ms Jung-re Riley Kim, Chairperson of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission,

Application for observer status: Shark Trust.

Shark Trust in brief: For over 25 years the Shark Trust has worked as a science-based advocacy organisation engaged in species conservation; sustainable fisheries; & trade.

For the past decade we have been active observers to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT); the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Committee (NAFO); and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM). Where we have contributed to the furthering of shark and ray fisheries management and assisted in improved implementation of existing regulations. The Shark Trust is a founding partner in the Shark League.

Furthermore, we are a Cooperating Partner to the Convention on Migratory Species Shark MoU, and contribute to the process of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

In 2023 we published Bridging the Gaps the Hinder Shark Conservation: and analysis of ICCAT Parties' policies for CITES-listed Atlantic elasmobranchs, and are currently working with a number of ICCAT Parties on addressing the issues identified.

We have previously contributed to IOTC processes through our affiliation to Shark Advocates International, who are already registered as an IOTC observer. We would, however, be pleased to contribute to the upcoming Commission Meeting in our own name. We respectfully believe we can bring our years of experience in RFMO engagement to IOTC, including: our science-based policy positions; a clear focus on encouraging compliance and implementation of existing measures; and a desire to see real change on the water: delivering a more sustainable future for fisheries and those dependent on them for food security.

Please see Appendix 1 for additional details on Shark Trust objectives and activities. I would be happy to field any questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ms Ali Hood | Director of Conservation

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Registered Charity No. 1044185
Registered Company No. 3098784

Appendix 1

Shark Trust Charity overview Objectives and activities

Our Purpose

The Shark Trust's purpose is to safeguard the future of sharks, skates and rays through positive change. We achieve this through science, education, influence and action.

We work globally to improve the conservation status of sharks, skates and rays by advocating for political change. And generating collective action to support our goals.

We believe that positive change is realistic. We have a vision of a future where sharks, skates and rays thrive within a globally healthy marine ecosystem.

Our Objectives

The Shark Trust Memorandum of Association (1997) defines the following objectives for which the Trust was established:

Advancing the conservation of sharks, rays and chimaeras and their natural environment in the United Kingdom, European and International Waters.

To raise public awareness of the threats to these species and their natural habitat and to promote and disseminate research into their ecology and life history.

Our Activity

Conservation Action

We work through collaboration and partnerships to promote and champion credible solutions to the key conservation challenges:

- Providing compelling and persuasive evidence-based arguments to address overfishing of sharks and rays globally.
- Informing and influencing decision-makers to ensure effective science-based management of shark and ray fisheries.
- Engaging with a broad range of stakeholders from Governments, NGO's and Industry.
- Developing and delivering science-based conservation and recovery plans for vulnerable shark and ray species.
- Adopting scientific evidence to identify priorities, assess conservation options and produce robust data to support policy advocacy.

Community Engagement

We strive to engage and influence people and communities, promoting the vital role of science in the conservation of sharks and rays:

- Providing accessible evidence-based information about sharks and their conservation.
- Inspiring positive action by effectively communicating our work and engaging broad support for campaigns and projects.

- Researching and sharing best practice in conservation communication.

Governing Document

The Shark Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated on 2 July 1997, and registered as a charity on 1 September 1997. The charity Trustees are directors of the charitable company. In the event of the company being wound up, the members (Trustees) are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Shark Trust is led by a voluntary Board of Trustees which meets four times a year and is responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. The Board consists of eight Trustees representing considerable international and sectoral expertise. Trustees are specifically selected to provide the governance necessary to further the aims of the Trust. Skills include science and conservation, business and legal, media and communications.

The Board oversees a dedicated team, which is further supported by a voluntary Scientific Committee.

8th March 2024