



08 July 2025

## IOTC CIRCULAR 2025-22

Dear Madam / Sir

### REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS FROM THE BAY OF BENGAL PROGRAMME INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION

Please find attached a request letter from the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) 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 BOBP-IGO 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 Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO)

#### 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, Panama. **Intergovernmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations.** Chairperson IOTC. **Copy to:** FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs.

This message has been transmitted by email only



**Dr. P. Krishnan**

MFSc., MBA., PhD., FNAAS

Director

**BOBP/Corres/2025**

**07 July 2025**

To  
The Chairperson  
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)  
IOTC Secretariat, Seychelles

**Sub: Request for Observer Status for BOBP-IGO at IOTC Meetings**

Dear Chair,

Greetings from the BOBP-IGO!

I am writing this to formally request that the BOBP-IGO be granted observer status at the meetings of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).

BOBP-IGO is a regional fisheries body established in 2003 and mandated to promote the sustainable management and development of fisheries in the Bay of Bengal region. Our Governing Council comprises the Governments of Bangladesh, India, Maldives, and Sri Lanka – all of whom are active Contracting Parties to the IOTC.

At the XIII Governing Council Meeting of BOBP-IGO, the Member Countries passed a resolution recommending that BOBP-IGO and IOTC work closely to advance mutual objectives on sustainable fisheries management, Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS), capacity development, and regional cooperation in the Indian Ocean.

BOBP-IGO's participation as an observer at IOTC meetings will support the following:

- Enhanced regional coordination on tuna and tuna-like species management, particularly in the Bay of Bengal sub-region.
- Facilitation of capacity-building initiatives aligned with IOTC conservation and management measures.
- Bridging national fisheries agencies and IOTC processes, improving information flow and stakeholder engagement in the region.
- We are committed to contributing constructively to the work of the Commission and believe that our presence will strengthen regional cooperation and sustainable fisheries governance.

We look forward to the Commission's consideration of our request and would be grateful for a formal letter of invitation, should our request be accepted. Please find our contact details below for any further communication:

Dr. P Krishnan

Director

Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO)

[krishnanars@bobbigo.org](mailto:krishnanars@bobbigo.org)

Warm regards,

(P. Krishnan)