



26 January 2026

IOTC CIRCULAR 2026-05

Dear Madam / Sir

REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE

Please find attached a request letter from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Republic of Türkiye 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 Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Republic of Türkiye 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 Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Republic of Türkiye

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



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The Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye presents its compliments to the Secretariat of Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and has the honour to enclose herewith the letter of Mr. Turgay Türkyılmaz, Director General responsible from Fisheries and Aquaculture, from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye, addressed to Mr. Paul de Bruyn, Executive Secretary of IOTC, regarding Türkiye's request to participate in IOTC meetings as "Observer".

The Embassy requests the Esteemed Secretariat's consideration of the aforementioned application in accordance with the relevant procedures and inform the Embassy of the outcome.

The Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

Nairobi, 23 December 2025



Encl. As stated.

Secretariat of Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

VICTORIA



REPUBLIC OF TURKIYE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture



December 4, 2025

Subject: Application for Observer Status in Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

To: Mr. Paul de Bruyn
Executive Secretary
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

Esteemed Executive Secretary,

Firstly, I would like to express our appreciation for the valuable work undertaken by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) in promoting sustainable fisheries with a science-based approach and ensuring the conservation of tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean.

In recent years, Turkish operators have carried out fisheries-related activities not only in our surrounding seas but also in the various parts of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans through bilateral agreements and special commercial arrangements with coastal States. These activities are conducted in line with international rules and the principles of responsible, efficient and sustainable use of marine resources.

Türkiye has long been an active and constructive stakeholder in RFMOs, particularly ICCAT and the GFCM, maintaining a strong record of compliance. As our economic and operational ties with the Indian Ocean region continue to grow, closer interaction with the IOTC has become increasingly important.

In this context, Türkiye kindly submits its request to participate in IOTC meetings as "Observer". We consider this an important step towards enhancing cooperation, improving mutual understanding, and contributing constructively to the Commission's ongoing efforts for effective and sustainable fisheries management in the region.

I would kindly request the esteemed IOTC Secretariat's consideration of our application in accordance with the relevant procedures.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.



Turgay TÜRKYILMAZ
Director General
General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture
The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry