

17 March 2026

IOTC CIRCULAR**2026-14**

Dear Sir/Madam

CHANGES TO THE UPCOMING COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE PROCESSES

I would like to bring your attention to a very difficult situation that has arisen at the IOTC Secretariat. Unfortunately, one of the IOTC Secretariat Compliance staff suffered a chronic medical emergency and is currently indisposed for the foreseeable future. In addition, the new staff member who is due to fill the compliance officer position vacated in August last year, has yet to join the Secretariat and so the Compliance Department is chronically under-staffed. The remaining Compliance Department member, the Compliance Manager discussed the issue with the Compliance Committee Chair (Mr Indra Jaya, Indonesia) to discuss a way forward.

It was agreed by the CoC chair that, given the workload involved for assessing CPCs compliance to their individual reporting obligations, the Secretariat would not produce the usual detailed CPCs' compliance assessments/reports. The Secretariat shall instead, produce a document that reports on the general level of compliance to reporting, gaps and CPCs who consistently fail to engage in the work of the Commission. Since the standard CPC Compliance Report consists of assessments for the current campaign/year and also for the previous campaign/year, the assessments of the 2026 reporting by CPCs will not be lost as they will appear in the CPCs' Compliance Report that will be produced for the 2027 Compliance Committee meeting. The proposed plan is to gradually assess the 2026 reporting requirements, during the 2026/2027 intersessional period.

Other Reports/Documents that the Compliance Committee usually considers, e.g. Requests for CNCP status, transshipment programme, IUU fishing, capacity building activities, etc., will be available for the CoC23 meeting as usual.

I have discussed this issue with the Chair of the CoC and Secretariat, and although regrettable, agree that this is the only way to proceed taking into consideration the current unforeseen situation. I respectfully request your understanding of the situation and apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Yours sincerely

Mr Adam Ziyad

Chairperson

Attachments:

- None

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