



15 September 2026

IOTC CIRCULAR 2026-38

Dear Madam / Sir

REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS FROM THE TANGAROA BLUE FOUNDATION

Please find attached a request letter from Tangaroa Blue Foundation 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 Tangaroa Blue Foundation 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 Tangaroa Blue Foundation

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



TANGAROA BLUE
FOUNDATION
ABN: 68 138 636 521
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15th September, 2026

To:

The Chairperson

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Secretariat

Email: IOTC-Secretariat@fao.org

Subject: Formal Request for Observer Status for Tangaroa Blue Foundation

Dear Mr./Madam Chairperson,

On behalf of Tangaroa Blue Foundation, I am writing to formally request observer status for our organisation at upcoming Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) meetings, pursuant to the IOTC Rules of Procedure regarding observer participation.

Tangaroa Blue Foundation is a registered Australian non-profit organisation dedicated to protecting our marine environment through targeted prevention, removal and tracking of marine debris. We coordinate the Australian Marine Debris Initiative (AMDII)—a nationwide network of volunteers, industry partners and government agencies—and manage specialised programs addressing abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG):

- **Project ReCon:** In partnership with satellite technology providers (such as Satlink) and commercial fishing companies, Project ReCon recovers, reconditions and repurposes satellite buoys retrieved from drifting dFADs, giving them a second life for marine research, debris tracking and disentanglement operations.
- **FAD Watch:** This initiative utilises real-time tracking data to coordinate the voluntary recovery of drifting dFADs and commercial satellite buoys entering sensitive marine environments, preventing stranding, reef damage and ghost fishing.

Contribution to IOTC Processes

We believe Tangaroa Blue Foundation's participation as an observer will meaningfully contribute to the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies in the following ways:

1. **Practical ALDFG & dFAD Mitigation Data:** We offer direct field experience and operational insights into dFAD recovery workflows, buoy reconditioning and ghost gear retrieval that can inform IOTC technical discussions and Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) related to FAD management.
2. **Cross-Sector Collaboration Models:** Our existing partnerships demonstrate successful industry-NGO collaboration frameworks that incentivise voluntary gear recovery and reduction of marine pollution without disrupting sustainable fishing operations.

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3. **Circular Economy & Environmental Solutions:** We provide technical understanding on how recovered telemetry hardware can be repurposed for marine conservation and scientific research, supporting broader ecosystem-based management goals.

We respectfully submit this request for review by the Commission, noting the requirement to submit no later than 60 days prior to the commencement of the next meeting. We welcome the opportunity to contribute to the important work of the IOTC.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

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