

PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE AT IOTC COMMISSION MEETINGS

Article VI.1 of the IOTC Agreement states: *Each Member of the Commission shall be represented at sessions of the Commission by a single delegate who may be accompanied by an alternate and by experts and advisers. Alternates, experts and advisers may take part in the proceedings of the Commission but may not vote, except in the case of an alternate who is duly authorized to substitute for the delegate*

Rule III of the IOTC Rules of Procedure states: *At each session the Secretary shall receive the credentials of delegations. Such credentials shall conform to the standard set by the Secretary. Upon examination of thereof, the Secretary shall report to the Commission for the necessary action.*

Pursuant to rule III, a letter of credentials should be submitted signed by the appropriate Authority indicating who will attend a Commission meeting or Special Session and in what role.

The letter could be drafted as follows:

" Upon instructions of [the Minister of .../Appropriate agency] I wish to inform you that [name of IOTC Member] will participate in the [...] Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and will be represented by the following delegation (or by M...if the delegation is constituted by only one person...):

- M.... (title) Head of delegation
- M... (title) Alternate
- M....(title) Expert
- M.....(title) Adviser

M..., Head of Delegation or, in his/her absence, the alternate or any other member of the Delegation designated by him/her, is authorised to fully take part in the proceedings of the Session and take, on behalf of the Government (or Authority concerned for REIO) of [name of IOTC Member], any action or any decision required in relation with this Session.

Signature

[Minister or responsible Authority] "

The letter should preferably be signed by the Minister concerned; it could also be signed on his behalf by another authorised Authority (the DG of Fisheries, for instance).

The credentials should be addressed to the Executive Secretary, IOTC

The document may be mailed/mailed/faxed to the Executive Secretary or hand delivered prior to the start of the meeting.

Please note, members that do not present their credentials may not be permitted to vote.

Similarly, pursuant to Article XIII.8 of the IOTC Agreement those members who are in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Commission for two or more calendar years may not be permitted to vote.

Alejandro Anganuzzi

Executive Secretary