

16 October 2019

IOTC CIRCULAR 2019–42

Dear Sir/Madam

REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS FROM THE GLOBAL TUNA ALLIANCE

Please find attached a request letter from the Global Tuna Alliance 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 the Global Tuna Alliance 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



Christopher O'Brien
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

- Letter from the Global Tuna Alliance

Distribution

IOTC Contracting Parties: Australia, Bangladesh, China, Comoros, Eritrea, European Union, France (Territories), Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep of), Japan, Kenya, Rep. of Korea, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, United Rep. of Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom (OT), Yemen. **Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties:** Liberia, Senegal. **Intergovernmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations. Chairperson IOTC. Copy to:** FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs.

This message has been transmitted by email only

GLOBAL TUNA ALLIANCE

C/O 3 Allendale Road
Barnsley, S75 1BL UK

Ms Susan Imende Ugandi
Chairperson
IOTC Secretariat
Le Chantier Mall (2nd floor)
PO Box 1011
Victoria Mahé - SEYCHELLES

Dear Ms Ugandi,

I am writing on behalf of the Global Tuna Alliance (GTA) to request observer status at the IOTC.

The GTA is an independent group of retailers and tuna supply chain companies, who are committed to implementing the objectives laid out in World Economic Forum's Tuna 2020 Traceability Declaration. They work collaboratively with member and non-member organizations to find industry-wide solutions to efficiently implement the aims.

A brief history of the GTA

On June 5th, 2017, 66 companies, including retailers and other tuna supply chain businesses, signed the [Tuna 2020 Traceability Declaration](#) (TTD) with the aim of stopping illegal tuna getting to market, and promoting improvements in the environmental sustainability and human rights in tuna fisheries. The declaration was convened by the World Economic Forum and supported by six national governments and 21 civil society organizations.

The Commitments of the WEF Tuna 2020 Traceability Declaration are based on the following four pillars:

1. Tuna Traceability Commitment
2. Commitment to a Socially Responsible Tuna Supply Chain
3. Commitment to Environmentally Responsible Tuna Sources
4. Government Partnership

To deliver on the WEF Tuna 2020 Traceability Declaration, retail and other tuna supply chain businesses (referred to as "The Global Tuna Alliance") has been established intend to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in our tuna supply chains, and



ensure that the tuna ultimately meets the highest standards of environmental performance and social responsibility.

The Global Tuna Alliance (GTA) was formally established in 16th September, though has been in development for 18 months. Funded by WEF, the current membership includes retailers (including Tesco, Metro, Ahold Delhaize, Sainsbury's, Morrisons, Asda etc.), brands and suppliers.

The GTA will work to take the following actions:

1. Ensure effective traceability (tracking tuna products from vessel to the final buyer).
2. Commit to sourcing tuna from fisheries that are certified against Global Seafood Sustainability Initiative (GSSI) recognized certification schemes. If GSSI recognized certified tuna is not available, we will support credible Fishery Improvement Projects, with the aim of those fisheries meeting the standards of GSSI recognized certification schemes.
3. Support GSSI and Consumer Goods Forum's (CGF) Sustainable Supply Chain Initiative (SSCI) to include social criteria in standards' benchmarking processes (contributes to the social pillar).
4. Actively engage with RFMOs and their member countries on the WEF Commitments through various relevant channels.

The GTA can benefit IOTC processes through the addition of a unified market voice to that can support drive change in tuna fisheries management.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any further details.

Thank you in anticipation of your reply,

Warm regards,



Dr Tom Pickerell
Executive Director