

23 December 2020

IOTC CIRCULAR 2020–53

Dear Madam / Sir

INVITATION TO A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION (SS4)

In accordance with Article VI.5 of the IOTC Agreement, the Commission at its 24th Session (November 2020), agreed to hold a Special Session by videoconference from 8 to 12 March 2021.

I have the honour to extend to you an invitation to participate in this meeting.

The focus of the Special Session

The Special Session will focus on the sustainability of the yellowfin tuna fishery and addressing deficiencies relating to the harvest control rule for skipjack tuna, in particular, paragraph 11 of Resolution 16/02.

I invite Members to submit proposals for agenda items as soon as possible.

Meeting format

In brief, the meeting format is as follows:

- The Commission will meet for 4 hours per day for 5 days;
- Zoom will be the video conference platform;
- Interpretation (French / English) will be available;
- Entry to the meeting will be by password, and only provided to credentialed individuals.
- Start time for the meeting will be 11 am Seychelles time, which, across the global span of Members ranges from 7 am in the United Kingdom to 6 pm in (Canberra) Australia. Please [click here](#) to work out the time in your country.

Credentials

In accordance with Rule III of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2014), official credentials are required in order to participate in the meeting. For your convenience, a draft letter of credentials (from Appendix I of the IOTC Rules of Procedure, 2014) is available [here](#).

Only credentialed individuals will receive the Zoom link to join the meeting.

Contracting Parties & Cooperating Non-contracting Parties (CPCs)

Each CPC is requested to provide a letter of credentials signed by the appropriate Authority indicating who will receive the Zoom link. The credentials should also include the email address and contact phone number for each recipient. Credentials are requested no later than 15 days before each meeting to iotc-secretariat@fao.org.

Observers and Invited Experts

IOTC Observers are also requested to submit a similar Letter of Credentials indicating who will receive the Zoom link. The credentials should also include the email address and contact phone number for each recipient. Credentials are requested no later than 15 days before each meeting to iotc-secretariat@fao.org

Distribution

IOTC Contracting Parties: Australia, Bangladesh, China, Comoros, Eritrea, European Union, France (Territories), 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 ("BIOT"), 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

Proposals for Conservation and Management Measures:

While I do not want to pre-empt the expectations that the proponents of any proposed CMMs might have with respect to the outcomes of the Special Session, I would prefer Members to submit proposals that have been subject to advanced consultation and will progress the objectives of the meeting.

Contracting Parties are encouraged to submit a provisional title, Contracting Party sponsorship and a focal point for any proposal (including the email address of the focal point), a minimum of 60 days prior so that all Contracting Parties are provided with an opportunity to identify proposals being developed by other CPCs, and as appropriate, cooperate in the development of proposals prior to the Session in which they are to be discussed (Resolution 16/10).

CMM proposals need to be included with the annotated agenda 30 days prior to the meeting (Rules of Procedure IV.4f).

For your information, a document on the legal scrubbing of existing IOTC CMMs is available on the WPICMM03 meeting page [click here](#).

Calendar of important dates related to the Special Session

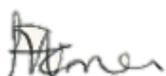
Dates	Important matters	Who	Notes
ASAP	Proposals for agenda items	Members	
7 January (60 days prior)	Provisional agenda posted on the SS4 meeting page (ROP IV.4).	Secretariat	
	CMM Proposals: provisional title, Contracting Party sponsorship and a focal point — with an email contact (Res 16/10).	Members	
	Deadline for receiving applications from new bodies seeking observer status (ROP XIV)	New observers	
6 February (30 days prior)	Deadline for receiving CMM proposals (IOTC Agreement IV.4)	Members	It is preferable to receive proposals before the 30-day distribution deadline to allow for translation.
	Provisional agenda posted on the SS4 meeting page (ROP IV.4)	Secretariat	
	Meeting documents posted on the SS4 meeting page	Secretariat	ASAP but at least 30 days before the meeting
8 March	Start of the Special session		

Further information

Information concerning the Session, including the agenda, other meeting documents, and Zoom instructions will be posted on the IOTC website SS4 meeting page [click here](#).

The Secretariat will post documents as soon as possible before required dates. The execution of agenda items will be greatly assisted if CPCs consider the matters at hand well before the meeting and, if necessary, reach out (in advance of the meeting) to the Chair, the Secretariat or other delegations regarding any matters they might want to raise and/or discuss.

Yours sincerely



Ms Susan Imende
IOTC Chairperson