

07 January 2021

## IOTC CIRCULAR 2021-03

Dear Sir/Madam

### REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS FROM THE SOUTHERN INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES AGREEMENT

Please find attached a request letter from the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement 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 are asked to consider the fore-mentioned potential observer to attend IOTC meetings, noting the relevant sub-text of Rule XIV stated below for non-governmental organisations.

#### Rule XIV: Participation by Observers

*Rule XIV.5. The Commission may invite, upon request, non-governmental organizations having special competence in the field of activity of the Commission to attend such of its meetings as the Commission may specify. The list of the NGOs wishing to be invited will be submitted beforehand by the Executive Secretary to the Members of the Commission, no later than 60 days before the Session. If one of the Members of the Commission objects giving in writing its reasons within 30 days, the matter will then be subject to decision of the Commission out of Session by written procedure.*

Members may wish to allow the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement 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 Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement

#### 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, 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



**SIOFA | APSOI**

Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement  
Accord relatif aux Pêches dans le Sud de l'Océan Indien

Saint- Denis on January 7th, 2021

To : Mr Christopher O'Brien  
Executive Secretary  
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

**Request for Observer Status for the 25th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)**

Dear Mr O'Brien,

The Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) is a regional fisheries management organization (RFMO) whose objectives are to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources of the Area through close cooperation among the Contracting Parties Cooperating non-Contracting Party and the Fishing Entity, and to promote the sustainable development of fisheries in the Area, taking into account the needs of developing States bordering the Area that are Contracting Parties to this Agreement, and in particular small island developing States.

This Agreement covers fishery resources including fish, molluscs, crustaceans, and other sedentary species within the area, but excluding highly migratory species (Annex I of UNCLOS) and sedentary species subject to the fishery jurisdiction of coastal states (Article 77(4) of UNCLOS).

Although the species managed by the IOTC and the SIOFA are different, many issues are common notably the protection of ecosystems and the fight against illegal fishing.

I would therefore like to inform you of SIOFA's interest in participating in the 25th session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) as an observer. I would be grateful if you would invite SIOFA to participate in this meeting once you have ensured that no member of the IOTC objects.

Thank you in advance,

Yours sincerely,

Thierry CLOT

Executive Secretary  
SIOFA/APSOI