



12 February 2021

IOTC CIRCULAR 2021-11

Dear Madam / Sir

REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS FROM THE OCEAN FOUNDATION

Please find attached a request letter from The Ocean 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 The Ocean 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

Christopher O'Brien
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

- Letter from The Ocean Foundation

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

THE OCEAN FOUNDATION

2 February 2021

Ms. Susan Imende Ugandi
Chairperson of the Commission
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
Victoria Mahé, Seychelles
By email: IOTC-Secretariat@fao.org

RE: Application for Observer Status to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

Dear Ms. Imende:

Please accept this application for observer status on behalf of The Ocean Foundation, submitted in accordance with Article VII of the IOTC Agreement. The Ocean Foundation (TOF) is a unique community foundation with a mission to support, strengthen, and promote those organizations dedicated to reversing the trend of destruction of ocean environments around the world. Its headquarters is in Washington, DC, USA and it is overseen by a board of directors, who are individuals with significant experience in marine conservation philanthropy, complemented by a growing international advisory board of scientists, policy-makers, educational specialists and other top experts. TOF hosts more than 30 projects related to marine science and conservation, including some active in the IOTC Convention Area.

In particular, TOF's International Fisheries Conservation program shares with the IOTC the common objective of ensuring Indian Ocean tuna fisheries are sustainably managed. Program goals include advancing development of precautionary harvest strategies and improving policies aimed at reducing the impact of international fishing on vulnerable species and ending illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. This is TOF's first application to the IOTC Secretariat for observer status. The first meeting in which we would anticipate participating is the meeting of the Working Party on Temperate Tunas, currently scheduled for April 2021. We envision contributing to both scientific and Commission-level meetings.

Thank you for your consideration.

With kind regards,



Mark J. Spalding
President