



18 April 2019

## IOTC CIRCULAR 2019–19

### MATTERS RELATING TO THE 23<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE IOTC (S23) – 60 DAYS PRIOR

- REGISTRATION AND VISA ASSISTANCE
- PROVISIONAL AGENDA
- PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE IOTC PROCEDURES
- REQUESTS FOR OBSERVER STATUS
- REMINDER FOR CMM PROPOSALS
- BUDGET ESTIMATES

Dear Sir/Madam

#### 1. Registration and visa assistance

The 23rd Session of the Commission will take place in Hyderabad, India from 17 to 21 June 2019. Registration is necessary for all participants to S23 and related meetings (CoC, SCAF and TCMP). Visa assistance will be provided by the Government of India for all participants registered up to 8 May 2019, but cannot be guaranteed after this date. Please contact [iotc.2019.nfdb@gmail.com](mailto:iotc.2019.nfdb@gmail.com) for visa enquiries and refer to the IOTC Information Document [[click here](#)] for additional information.

#### 2. Provisional Agenda

In accordance with Rule IV of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2014), the provisional agenda for the 23rd Session of the Commission (IOTC-2019-S23-01a) is now available on the IOTC website [[S23 meeting page - click here](#)].

Members are invited to send any comments and proposals for additional items to be included in the Provisional Agenda, no later than 16 May 2019, so that a revised Provisional Agenda may be circulated not less than 30 days before the Session.

Electronic versions of other meeting documents, including an indicative meeting schedule and proposals for conservation and management measures, will be published on the S23 meeting page as they become available:

#### 3. Proposed changes to IOTC procedures

In accordance with Rule XVIII of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2014), the following proposal to amend the IOTC Rules of Procedure has been received by the Secretariat. The review of this proposal has been scheduled on the Commission's agenda.

- Amendment to Appendix V - the Compliance Committee terms of reference and rules of procedure (European Union, IOTC-2019-S23-04) [[click here](#)]

At its meeting in 2018, the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF) recommended that a working group be formed to begin work to replace the current IOTC Financial Regulations. The Working Group was led by the SCAF Chair and its proposed amendments are provided in the document below. Review of this proposal (IOTC-2019-SCAF16-09) has been scheduled on the SCAF's agenda:

- Amendments to the IOTC Financial Regulations [[click here](#)]

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.

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#### **4. Requests for observer status**

The following organisation:

- Sustainable Indian Ocean Tuna Initiative (SIOTI)

has requested to participate as an observer to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. Please [\[click here\]](#) to view the request letter.

In accordance with Rule XIV of the IOTC Rules of Procedure, Contracting Parties of the Commission are asked to consider this request. 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 Observer to attend IOTC meetings accordingly.

#### **5. Reminder for CMM proposals**

In accordance with Rule IV of the IOTC Rules of Procedure, proposals for new or revised Conservation or Management Measures must be received 30 days before the Session, at the latest, in order to be considered by the Commission. Thus, all proposals must be received by the IOTC Secretariat before midnight on 18 May 2019, Seychelles time.

To further improve coordination in development process of proposals for new and/or revised CMMs to be considered at the Sessions of the Commission, Contracting Parties are encouraged to submit a provisional title, indicate Contracting Party sponsorship and a focal point for a proposal (including the email address of the focal point) well before the 30 day mark. The Secretariat will post these on the [S23 meeting page - click here](#) so that Contracting Parties are provided with an opportunity to identify proposals being developed, and as appropriate, cooperate in the development of proposals prior to the Session in which they are to be discussed. This step aims to avoid duplication and assist in achieving consensus on contentious matters before the Session, thereby improving efficiency during Plenary.

#### **6. Provisional Budget**

In accordance with Regulation III of the IOTC Financial Regulations, budget estimates and associated information for the 23rd Session of the Commission are now available in document IOTC-2019-SCAF16-07 on the [SCAF16 meeting page - click here](#).

Yours sincerely



Christopher O'Brien  
Executive Secretary

**Attachments:** None