

22 March 2018

IOTC CIRCULAR 2018–16

MATTERS RELATING TO THE 22ND SESSION OF THE IOTC (S22) – 60 DAYS PRIOR

- PROVISIONAL AGENDA
- PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE IOTC RULES OF PROCEDURE
- REQUESTS FOR OBSERVER STATUS
- REMINDER FOR CMM PROPOSALS
- BUDGET ESTIMATES

Dear Sir/Madam

1. Provisional Agenda

In accordance with Rule IV.1 of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2014), the provisional agenda for the 22nd Session of the Commission' is now available on the IOTC website's [S22 meeting page](#).

Members are invited to send any comments and proposals for additional items to be included in the Provisional Agenda, no later than 18 April 2018, so that a revised Provisional Agenda may be circulated not less than thirty days before the Session.

Please be reminded that the 22nd Session of the Commission will take place in Bangkok, Thailand from 21 to 25 May 2018. Electronic versions of other meeting documents, including an Indicative Schedule and Proposals for Conservation and Management Measures, will be published on the IOTC website's [S22 meeting page](#) as they become available:

2. Proposed changes to the IOTC Rules of Procedure

In accordance with Rule XVIII of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2014), the following proposals to amend the IOTC Rules of Procedure have been received by the Secretariat:

- [Amendment to Appendix II](#) – procedure for the selection and appointment of the Executive Secretary of the Commission (IOTC small drafting group)
- [Amendment to Appendix V](#) – the Compliance Committee terms of reference and rules of procedure (European Union)

To review these proposals, please click on the above links. They have also been listed in the Provisional Agenda for consideration by the Commission.

3. Requests for observer status

The following NGOs:

- East Africa Platform of Non State Actors in Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector (EARFISH) and
- The Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements (CFFA)

have requested to participate as observers to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. Please [click here](#) to view the respective request letters.

Distribution

IOTC Contracting Parties: Australia, 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:** Bangladesh, Liberia, Senegal. **Intergovernmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations.** Chairperson IOTC. **Copy to:** FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs.

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In accordance with Rule XIV of the IOTC Rules of Procedure, Contracting Parties of the Commission are asked to consider these requests. 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.

4. 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 thirty (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 20 April 2018, 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 days. The Secretariat will post these on the [S22 meeting page](#) 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.

5. Provisional Budget

In accordance with Regulation III of the IOTC Financial Regulations, a budget estimates and associated information for the 22nd Session of the Commission' are now available the IOTC website's [SCAF15 meeting page](#).

Yours sincerely



Christopher O'Brien
Executive Secretary

Attachments: None