



08 April 2020

IOTC CIRCULAR 2020-18

Dear Madam / Sir

A COMMUNICATION FROM THE FISHING FLEET OF TAIWAN, CHINA ON THE IOTC REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME

Please find attached a communication from the fishing fleet of Taiwan, China regarding IOTC Circular 2020-14 on the temporary suspension of observer deployments under the IOTC regional observer programme.

Yours sincerely

Christopher O'Brien
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

1. A Communication from the fishing fleet of Taiwan, China.

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

Attachment 1. A communication from the fishing fleet of Taiwan, China

Email: 31 March 2020

Dear Dr. O'Brien,

Referring to IOTC Circular 2020-14 regarding temporary suspension of observer deployment under IOTC regional observer program (ROP), this Agency would like to notify the Secretariat that considering the exceptional circumstances of COVID-19, [Taiwan, China] fishing vessels will keep carrying out at-sea transshipments with carrier vessels without the presence of ROP observers in accordance with paragraph 19 of the IOTC resolution 19/06 until the resumption of deployment of ROP observers.

Besides, all [Taiwan, China] fishing vessels operating in the IOTC area of competence and the carrier vessels intending to conduct at-sea transshipments with [Taiwan, China] fishing vessels have been required by this Agency to keep complying with relevant notification requirements regarding at-sea Transshipment as they have been doing over the past few years.

Last but not least, this Agency will take alternative measures in this exceptional situation and seek to ensure the monitoring of at-sea transshipments.

It would be highly appreciated if you could disseminate this email to all relevant parties.

Best regards,
Ken Chien-Nan LIN
Fisheries Agency