

30 April 2019

IOTC CIRCULAR 2019–21

Dear Sir/Madam

REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS FROM BLUE MARINE FOUNDATION.

Please find attached a request letter from Blue Marine 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 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.

Please note: the application was received 54 days before the meeting. The applicant has been informed that the application may be rejected on this technicality alone.

Members may wish to allow Blue Marine 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

Attachment:

- Letter from Blue marine Foundation

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.

This message has been transmitted by email only



BLUE MARINE
FOUNDATION

Blue Marine Foundation
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United Kingdom

Ms Susan Imende Ugandi
Chairperson of the Commission
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
Le Chantier Mall (2nd floor)
PO Box 1011
Victoria Mahé
Seychelles

24 April 2019

Dear Ms Imende Ugandi

I am writing to kindly request that my organisation, Blue Marine Foundation (BLUE), be registered as a pre-approved observer in order to be allowed to attend the 23rd Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission on 17 June 2019.

Britain is a major destination for Indian Ocean tuna and BLUE is a part of a government working group that is likely to inform a different, more independent stance by Britain at tuna RFMOs by the UK after Brexit.

We would like to be more involved so we can be more informed.

As background, BLUE, or its founders, played a role in campaigning for the recovery of the bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean, a great success story now under way, and played a key part in the creation of a marine protected area in the Chagos Archipelago.

BLUE also has a programme in the Maldives and is considering one in Sri Lanka, so playing a part in the IOTC seems like a natural step.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Clover
Executive Director, Blue Marine Foundation
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