

25 October 2007

IOTC CIRCULAR 24/07

SUBJECT: IOTC PERFORMANCE REVIEW PANEL MEMBERSHIP

Dear Sir/ Madam

The Commission's performance review panel is about to commence its work as agreed during the 11th Session last May. In making the final arrangements for the commencement of this work, I would like to seek your agreement to allow for the participation of non-governmental organizations.

In the Course of Actions for tuna Regional Fishery Management Bodies (RFMOs) document from the first meeting of joint tuna RFMOs held in Kobe, in January, 2007, the meeting recommended that such performance reviews should be conducted by a team of individuals drawn from the RFMO Secretariat, members of that RFMO and outside experts, with a view to ensuring objectivity and credibility.

Both WWF, the global conservation organisation, and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) have expressed their interest in participating in the performance review process of the IOTC. As you know both organisation have played an active role in the review and governance of RFMOs in recent years, including participating on the Magisterially-led Task Force on IUU Fishing on the High Seas. Furthermore, WWF has been a regular participant at IOTC meetings as well as a major supporter of the Kobe meeting, and IUCN is an active participant in a range of marine resource conservation initiatives that are of interest to the Commission.

With this in mind, and in the spirit of cooperation and transparency, I believe this is a very constructive request. Therefore, as the composition of the Review Panel has been determined by the Commission, I would like to seek confirmation from the Members that it is acceptable to extend an invitation to WWF and IUCN to participate in the review process.

For the sake of expediency, I propose to proceed with the invitation unless I receive an objection by close of business Thursday 1 November.

Yours sincerely



Rondolph Payet
IOTC Chairperson

Attachments: None

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IOTC Chairperson
R. Payet

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