



Supporting Information on the 9th Session of the Working Party on Billfish

Seychelles, 4–8 July 2011

1. Meeting dates and venue

The ninth Session of the Working Party on Billfish will meet from the 4th to the 8th July 2011, from 9 am to 5 pm daily.

The venue of the meeting will be:

The Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA)
Training Room
Fishing Port
Victoria, Mahé - SEYCHELLES
Tel. +248.670.300

2. Contacts

Secretariat contacts for the meeting are:

Administrative: Claudia Marie: claudia.marie@iotc.org
Science-based: Dr David Wilson: david.wilson@iotc.org

3. Registration

Please pre-register online at www.iotc.org/registration/ at your earliest convenience.

4. Travel arrangements and accommodation

Participants are requested to make their own travel arrangements and fund the expenses incurred.

Information on possible accommodation on Mahé Island is provided below. All rates are on a bed and breakfast basis in single occupancy.

Hotels	Rates	Contact	Notes
Coco D'Or Hotel http://www.cocodor.sc	126€ for a standard room	Ms. Selma Hertel reservations@cocodor.sc	Special IOTC rate provided. 20 Minutes by car to Meeting venue
Berjaya Beau Vallon Bay Hotel www.berjayahotel.com	141€ for a Standard room 161€ in Superior room	Ms. Jeanne Mondon reservation@berjayaseychelles.com	Special IOTC rates provided. 20 Minutes by car to Meeting venue
Sunrise Guest House http://www.seychelles.net/sunrise-hotel	55€ for a standard room	Mr. Bernard Chung Faye sunrise@intelvision.net	Special IOTC rates provided. 5-10 Minutes by car to Meeting venue, depending on traffic.
Sun Resort http://www.sunresort.sc	1200 Scr (approx. USD 100) for a standard room	Ms. Flora Furneau sun@seychelles.net	20 Minutes by car to Meeting venue
Hotel Le Surmer http://www.lesurmerhotel.com	50€ for a standard room	Ms. Brigitte Choppy lesurmer@seychelles.net	Special IOTC rates provided. 10 Minutes by car to Meeting venue

In addition to this list, there is a wide range of Hotels and Guest Houses on Mahé, particularly around Beau Vallon area.

Participants are **advised to make their reservations in the hotel of their choice as early as possible.**

5. Funding

Resolution 10/05 created a Meeting Participation Fund to enhance the participation of scientists from the developing Members and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties to the IOTC meetings. Support through the MPF includes transportation as well as *per diems* for the duration of the meeting.

As per paragraph 6 of the Resolution, scientist funded under the MPF **shall contribute a scientific working document** to the meeting they wish to attend.

An application for support through the MPF shall be submitted before the **1st June 2011** to secretariat@otc.org. The application shall include:

- Name of the Agency
- Name and position of the applicant
- Location and contact details of the applicant
- Working document to be presented during the meeting

After applications are received, they will be circulated for selection to a panel including the chair of the Scientific Committee, the Chair of the scientific meeting concerned and the Secretariat.

6. Arrival and entry formalities

All foreign delegates are required to possess a valid passport (validity for at least 6 months) to enter the Seychelles.

No entry Visa is required for Seychelles. A *visitor's permit* is issued at the airport on the provision of the following information by travellers:

- Proof of having a valid return air ticket
- Proof and address of accommodation in Seychelles
- Sufficient funds to support the travellers stay in Seychelles

Please check the following link for more information: (<http://www.virtualeyelles.sc/>)

7. Transportation

Participants should make their own airport transfer and other transport arrangements between their hotel and the meeting venue.

Taxis are readily available at the airport and the cost of transportation for the Airport to the city centre should be around 20 to 40 Euros (SCR.....). Most taxis are not metered and it is advised to confirm the price before entering the taxi.

8. Dress code

The dress code for the meeting is Smart Casual.

9. General information about Seychelles

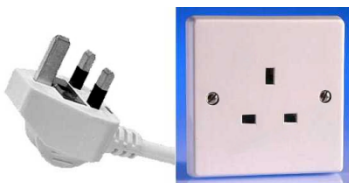
Seychelles is an archipelago comprising of 115 islands, with a collective landmass of 455km², surrounded by a vast oceanic Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 1.3 million km². The islands are located in the western Indian Ocean, between latitudes 40°–100° South and longitudes 46°–56° East. The nearest neighbours are Madagascar and the great continent of Africa. Victoria is the capital city on the main island Mahé.

In general the weather in Seychelles is warm and humid, averaging 29°C throughout the year with more rain around November to end of January. Summer clothes are worn throughout the year.

The Rupee is the currency of Seychelles. It is divisible into 100 cents. At the moment (10/04/11) the rate is 1€ = 16.63 Seychelles Rupee (SCR), or USD\$1 = 11.75 Seychelles Rupee (SCR). All major currencies are exchangeable at banks and hotels and there are several Forex bureaus in Victoria.

10. Electricity

Electricity in Seychelles is 230 Volts, 50 Hertz. Plugs are usually “British” type.



11. Telephone service

International dialling code:

The International dialling code for Seychelles is +248

Mobile services:

Two operators are offering SIM card and prepaid recharge for mobile phones.

12. Internet

Wi-Fi facility will be available in and around the conference area and internet service at hotels will be at participants own expense.

13. Tourism

Information on tourism and other information can also be found at the following website: (<http://www.virtualseychelles.sc/>).