

15 October 2021

IOTC CIRCULAR 2021-63

Dear Sir/Madam

REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS FROM ABALOBI

Please find attached a request letter from ABALOBI 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 may wish to allow ABALOBI 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

Attachments :

- Letter from ABALOBI

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, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, United Rep. of Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom, Yemen. **Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties:** Senegal. **Intergovernmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations. Chairperson IOTC. Copy to:** FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs.

This message has been transmitted by email only



14 October 2021

Abalobi NPO
34 Estmil Road, Elfindale
7945, Cape Town
South Africa
191-303 NPO

Ms Jung-re Riley Kim
Chairperson of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

Dear Ms Kim

RE: request for admission of Abalobi as an Observer to the IOTC

Abalobi (which means "fisher" in the isiXhosa language) is a South African-based, global social enterprise working in fisheries, primarily small-scale or artisanal fisheries. Abalobi's primary objective is to bring resilience and sustainability to the livelihoods of artisanal fishers, with >5 years of practical experience in transforming artisanal fishers' access to markets.

The estimated scale of artisanal tuna catch within IOTC's area of competence is the largest of any tuna commissions. Abalobi has developed digital tools (catch documentation, monitoring, reporting and supply-chain tools) that have broad and obvious potential utility within the global, artisanal tuna sector. Abalobi tools are currently in use in multiple jurisdictions, including in non-tuna fisheries in several countries that are Contracting Parties to the IOTC. The tools are potentially relevant to national authorities as well as to individual or communities of fishers, and are explicitly geared to improve fisheries data in a number of ways.

We believe Abalobi can support the members of the IOTC to achieve their stated management objectives for their tuna fisheries, and proposes to engage and potentially collaborate with the IOTC Secretariat and willing Contracting Parties, to strengthen and improve fisheries data collection and management processes. As such we hereby apply for Abalobi to be granted Observer status and to attend IOTC meetings. Our intention is to submit a paper to the Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics in December this year.

Thank you for your attention to this request and we look forward to hearing from you in reply.

Yours sincerely
Serge