

04 May 2020

IOTC CIRCULAR

2020–20

Dear Madam / Sir

A CHANGE TO THE MODE OF CONDUCTING THE COMMISSION MEETING IN 2020

Please find attached a communication from the Government of Indonesia indicating its withdrawal as host of the 2020 Commission meeting due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

On behalf of the Commission, I would like to thank the Government of Indonesia for its offer to host the Commission and associated meetings in 2020 and convey our complete understanding and support to the Director General of Capture Fisheries of the decision that has been made.

As indicated in Circular 2020-17 [[click here](#)], an electronic meeting will now be held during the scheduled period i.e. 2-6 November, and I will begin a process to obtain agreement from Members on how we will proceed. I look forward to getting their suggestions and recommendations which will ensure that we have an open, inclusive and transparent process in place.

I stand in solidarity with all the Member states fighting the COVID-19 and extend my sincere condolences for their loss.

Yours sincerely



Susan Imende

IOTC Chairperson

Attachments:

- Letter from Indonesia

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

Annex 1. A letter from Indonesia



**MINISTRY OF MARINE AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CAPTURE FISHERIES**

JALAN MEDAN MERDEKA TIMUR NUMBER 16 JAKARTA PUSAT 10110
TELEPHONE +6221-3519070 (EXT. 1239), FACSIMILE +6221-3521782
WEBPAGE: <https://kkp.go.id/djpt> EMAIL: djpt@kkp.go.id

Number : B.6019/DJPT/Pl.140.D1/IV/2020 April 29 , 2020
Subject : Withdrawal as the Host of IOTC Meeting 2020

Dr. Christopher O'Brien
Executive Secretary
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)
PO Box 1011 Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles

Dear Sir,

As a response of the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia has declared an emergency situation through the issuance of the Presidential Decree Number 11 of 2020 on the Declaration of Coronavirus Disease 2019 as Public Health Emergency. As a follow up, Indonesia has taken a national policy to reallocate the state budget to support aforementioned declaration, particularly to address the impacts within the community. This has reduced the budget allocation for Indonesia participation in regional and international fora until the end of 2020.

Therefore, we are regretfully withdrawing as the host of 24th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, which is supposed to be held in November 2020 in Bali, Indonesia. It was a difficult decision to be made since we have been preparing the arrangement for this event for a long time and it may affect the IOTC budget plan for 2020.

Lastly, we would also like to take this opportunity to express our solidarity with Member States who are fighting the COVID-19 pandemic and our sincere condolences for their loss. Hopefully, we could strive together in our efforts to fight against the disease in the spirit of good cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

M. Zulficar Mochtar
Director General of Capture Fisheries
Directorate General of Capture Fisheries
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
of Republic of Indonesia

Cc:
Secretary General of the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries