

1. In exercising the responsibilities in respect to invitation to observers to ICCAT Meetings as provided for in article XI of the Convention and in Article 2 of the FAO/ICCAT Agreement, the Executive secretary, acting on behalf of the Commission, shall invite:

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- Intergovernmental economic integration organizations constituted by States that have transferred to it competence over the matters governed by the ICCAT Convention, including the competence to enter into treaties in respect of those matters.
- Intergovernmental organizations that have regular contacts with ICCAT as regards fisheries matters or whose work is of interest to ICCAT or vice versa.
- Non-Contracting Countries with coastlines bordering the "Convention Area" as defined in Article I of the Convention, or those non-Contracting Countries identified as harvesting tunas or tuna-like species in the "Convention Area".

and may invite:

- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), having offices in more than three countries, and that have regular contact with ICCAT or whose work is of interest to ICCAT, or vice versa.

2. Any invitation to organizations that fall within the last category of paragraph 1 are subject to prior Commission approval, in accordance with the following procedure:

- 2.1 A formal application for observer status must be received by the Secretariat at least 90 days in advance of normally scheduled meetings, and by a date set by the executive Secretary in the case of emergency meetings. The application must include:

- Name, address, telephone and fax numbers of the organization;
- Addresses of all its national/regional offices;
- Aims and purposes of the organization and an indication as to how they relate to the objectives of ICCAT;
- A brief history of the organization and a description of its activities;
- Other pertinent information related to its participation in other inter-governmental organizations;
- If possible, any papers produced by or for the organization on the conservation, management or science of tunas and tuna-like species;
- A history of ICCAT observer status granted/revoked;
- Information or input that the organization proposes to present at the meeting in question;
- Documentary evidence that the organization supports the objectives of ICCAT;

NOTE: These Guidelines and Criteria for Granting Observer Status replace the "Recommendations for Criteria for the Invitation of Observer", adopted at the Sixth Special Meeting of the Commission (Madrid, 1988).

- 2.2 Once the term of presentation of application is finished and at least 75 days before the meeting, the Executive Secretary will proceed to transmit to the Contracting Parties by the habitual way a list of all the qualified applications with the relevant documentation corresponding to each one of them.
- 2.3 The decision to accept the application for an NGO to attend an ICCAT meeting will be taken unless the greater of 3 or one third of those Contracting Parties casting ballots disagree. The Executive Secretary will initiate a secret vote once the Contracting Parties have been informed of the application for observer status. The vote will be conducted in cooperation with the permanent representatives of the Contracting Parties accredited to Spain.
- 2.4 On sending the previously-mentioned list and documentation, the Executive Secretary will fix a limit date for the Contracting Parties to express by ballot their acceptance or non-acceptance of each on the candidacies. Permanent representatives of the Contracting Parties may submit their ballot at any time prior to the date fixed by the Executive Secretary.
- 2.5 In deciding whether to cast an affirmative vote on the admission of a particular NGO, Contracting Parties should consider whether:
 - Attendance by that NGO would enable ICCAT to obtain information or input that could not otherwise be obtained from Contracting Parties or invited observers to the meeting in question;
 - The organization supports the objectives and work of ICCAT;
 - The organization has access to ICCAT through any other organization, or whether its interests are not duplicated by another organization already having observer status.
 - If the organization has previously been accorded observer status, its behavior at past ICCAT meetings as an observer was sensible and whether the organization has a history of having its observer status revoked;
- 2.6 The Executive Secretary will communicate the results of the vote to the Contracting Parties.
- 2.7 In the case of an acceptance, the Executive Secretary will require the NGO to confirm in writing that the conditions imposed on the organization by ICCAT will be respected and that observer status may be revoked by ICCAT if the conduct of any representative of the organization is inconsistent with the conditions for granting observer status or with the objectives of ICCAT.
- 2.8 After receiving the above information, the Executive Secretary will transmit the decision of the Contracting Parties to the NGO in a letter along the following lines:

...The Contracting Parties accept/ do not accept the application...

In the case of an acceptance, the Executive Secretary will outline the conditions under which the NGO can participate, e.g. attendance at subsidiary meetings, statements, distribution of papers, observer fees, etc.
3. Any invitations not mentioned above are subject to prior Commission approval, unless such invitations have been previously issued on a regular basis. Such invitations may also include individuals whose attendance would constitute a valid scientific contribution to ICCAT's objectives and work. Requests to the Executive Secretary for invitation shall be submitted to ICCAT Contracting Parties for consideration at least 90 days prior to a subject meeting. The Executive Secretary may issue such invitations 75 days before the meeting if no Contracting Party calls for a vote on the issuance of an invitation. In a vote, the procedures outlined in paragraphs 2.3 to 2.8 will be used.

4. The Executive Secretary will determine whether, due to conference room capacity, seating limitations require that a limited number of observers per non-Contracting Party and organization may be present at any meetings. The Executive Secretary will transmit any such determination in the conditions of participation.
5. Observers may attend, and at the invitation of the Chairman, address the Plenary Sessions, attend any subsidiary meetings, and otherwise participate in its work, but without the right to vote.

If the conduct of any observer during the meeting in question is inconsistent with the conditions for granting observer status or with the objectives of ICCAT, the Chairman of the Commission may revoke its observer status at any time.

6. Observers to ICCAT Commission Meeting and/or its subsidiary meetings will be advised that a registration fee of \$2000 per delegation comprised of not more than two persons will be charged. If the delegation exceeds two persons then the registration fee will be increased by \$2000 for each additional person, payable in U.S. dollars or its equivalent in an international currency. The fee is payable in advance or at the time of registration. This amount could be paid in cash or by bank cheque in the name of the Commission. Intergovernmental organizations that regularly invite ICCAT to attend their meetings free of charge are exempted from this requirement. Any country or organization that has made a voluntary contribution to the corresponding financial period exceeding the participation fee may also be exempted.
7. Failure to conform to these rules or any other rules that ICCAT may adopt for the conduct of observers will result in withdrawal of accreditation.
8. The Executive Secretary may prepare, for the consideration of the Commission, a proposed list of any other conditions for observer participation, bearing in mind the practices of other intergovernmental organizations.