

OUTCOMES OF THE FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

[Note: this paper was prepared for the TCAC02 meeting scheduled for 2012 – it has not been updated for 2013 as no requests were made by the Commission in 2012]

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT AND CHAIR, 31 JANUARY 2012

PURPOSE

To inform the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC) of the decisions and requests made by the Commission at its Fifteenth Session, held from 18–22 March 2011, specifically relating to the work of the TCAC.

BACKGROUND

At the 15th Session of the Commission, Members considered a range of topics related to the work of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC), as outlined below:

- 1) The Chair **recalled** that the Commission, in Resolution 10/01 [**superseded by 12/13 in 2012**] adopted in March 2010 in Busan, Korea, agreed that: “A *technical committee meeting shall be held prior to the Commission Plenary session in 2011 to discuss on allocation criteria for the management of the tuna resources of the Indian Ocean and recommend an allocation quota system or any other relevant measures. CPCs are encouraged to submit proposals one month prior to the meeting.*” (para.12); and “*The Commission shall adopt an allocation quota system or any other relevant measure for the yellowfin and bigeye tunas at its plenary session in 2012.*” (para.13). (Para. 90 of the S15 Report)
- 2) The Chair informed the Commission that five Members presented proposals on allocation for the consideration of the meeting, including the European Union, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Korea and Seychelles. (Para. 91 of the S15 Report)
- 3) The Commission **noted** that the process of establishing allocation criteria is complex and the Technical Committee was unable to complete the task in the short time available for the meeting. Nevertheless, progress was made based on the common ground in the positions expressed at the meeting, including an agreement on basic principles that could guide further developments of an approach to allocation. (Para. 92 of the S15 Report)
- 4) The Commission **noted** that the overriding goal is to adopt a conservation measure that would ensure the sustainability of the resources involved, if necessary and on the basis of scientific advice, other management measures will be available to the Commission to achieve that goal, while discussions on a quota allocation system continue. (Para. 93 of the S15 Report)
- 5) The Chair advised the Commission that the Technical Committee had agreed that further intersessional work is required, including convening another Technical Meeting before the IOTC Session in 2012. Parties were encouraged to conduct intersessional consultations with the goal of working towards a unique revised proposal that could be supported by all Parties. These further developments would be accompanied by examples that would facilitate the understanding of the consequences of the different formulations to all participants in the allocation process. (Para. 94 of the S15 Report)
- 6) The Commission **endorsed** the request from the Technical Committee that the Secretariat prepares, for the next meeting of the Committee, a document on the availability, completeness and quality of catch data for all fleets in IOTC database. (Para. 95 of the S15 Report)
- 7) The Commission **noted** the information supplied by the Secretariat on alternative conservation and management measures implemented in other tuna RFMOs, as requested by the Technical Committee. (Para. 96 of the S15 Report)

DISCUSSION

At the 15th Session of the Commission, Members made several comments on the recommendations made by the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria, which participants are asked to **note** (extracts from the S15 report):

- 8) The Commission addressed the guiding principles for a possible allocation process agreed to by the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (Appendix XVI) in its 2011 report. The Commission **endorsed** the guiding principles, noting the following. (Para. 98 of the S15 Report). Provided at [Appendix A](#) to this paper.
- 9) The Commission **noted** that the implementation of a quota system will rely on the capacity of each CPC to estimate catches, close to real-time and as accurately as possible, for the species and fisheries concerned. (Para. 99 of the S15 Report)
- 10) In this regard, the Commission **encouraged** CPCs to work towards streamlining their statistical systems to make sure that estimates of catches as per the required resolution and time frame can be produced in the near future. (Para. 100 of the S15 Report)
- 11) The Commission **invited** CPCs to work with the Secretariat to achieve these objectives, where required. (Para. 101 of the S15 Report)
- 12) The Commission **noted** that the implementation of a quota system may take several years, and the Commission may need to consider alternative management measures until such a time that a quota system is in place. In this regard, the Commission **recalled** that paragraph 13 of IOTC Resolution 10/01 states that “*The Commission shall adopt an allocation quota system or any other relevant measure for the yellowfin and bigeye tunas at its plenary session in 2012*”. (Para. 102 of the S15 Report)
- 13) The Commission **agreed** that the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria while devoting most of its efforts to develop a mechanism for quota allocation shall also consider appropriate alternative management measures. In this regard the Commission stressed the need for all IOTC CPCs to work intersessionally towards achieving this objective as soon as possible. (Para. 103 of the S15 Report)
- 14) The Commission **noted** paper IOTC–2011–S15–05 outlining the recommendations of the Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Cooperation (IOMAC). (Para. 104 of the S15 Report)
- 15) The Commission **requests** that the Scientific Committee provide advice to the Commission that adds to the information currently available or already requested of the Scientific Committee regarding the take of juvenile yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna and other species, and on alternative management measures, including an assessment of the impact of current purse seine activities, including the size/fishing capacity (and gear types i.e. mesh size etc.) of vessels, and the potential implications that may arise for tuna and tuna-like species. Such advice should include options for capping purse seine effort and use in conjunction with drifting FADs in the Indian Ocean. (Para. 105 of the S15 Report)

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC):

- 1) **NOTE** the outcomes of the Fifteenth Session of the Commission relevant to the TCAC.
- 2) **AGREE** to develop advice in response to each of the requests made to the TCAC by the Commission at its 15th Session, including and also via Resolution 10/01 *For the conservation and management of tropical tunas stocks in the IOTC area of competence.* [superseded by 12/13 in 2012]

APPENDICES

Appendix A: *The guiding principles for a possible allocation process agreed to by the First Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria*

APPENDIX A

THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR A POSSIBLE ALLOCATION PROCESS AGREED TO BY THE FIRST TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON ALLOCATION CRITERIA

(Extract from the S15 Report: Appendix XVI)

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION ON ALLOCATION CRITERIA

- SS4.1 (para 26): A quota allocation system should be structured around guiding principles (*e.g.* sustainable fisheries, equitable distribution of the benefits, *etc.*); the allocation criteria (*e.g.* catch history, socio–economic status, geographical location, *etc.*); and indicators that quantify each of the allocation criteria (*e.g.* catch by area or catch by flag, population size, human development indicators, size of the EEZ in the Indian Ocean, *etc.*). A formula that combines all these elements would be used to derive a baseline allocation.
- SS4.1 (para 27): This baseline would be adjusted according to defined correction factors (*e.g.* membership status, compliance status, *etc.*) in order to obtain a final allocation for each eligible CPC.
- SS4.1 (para 28): Rules of implementation could be defined to regulate the manner in which the allocation is placed into effect by each CPC (*e.g.* transfer (lease of quota), submission of a utilization plan, any additional monitoring requirements to ensure correct reporting of compliance with the allocation system).
- SS4.1 (para 29): The following is a non–exhaustive list of the elements of a quota allocation system that were discussed and received support. The allocation system should include principle such as:
- a. contribute to the sustainable utilization of the resource,
 - b. allocate fair and equitable fishing opportunities to all participants,
 - c. recognize the rights of both coastal states and distant water fishing nations,
 - d. take into account the aspirations of coastal states, including to develop further their fishing opportunities,
- and criteria such as:
- e. socio–economic factors, such as dependency of coastal state economies on tuna and tuna–like fisheries, and investments made in tuna sector,
 - f. the compliance record/status,
 - g. provide incentives for compliance with IOTC conservation and management measures