

## **PROPOSAL D**

### **ON ESTABLISHING ALLOCATION CRITERIA FOR THE MAIN TARGETED SPECIES IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE**

**PROPOSED BY: I.R. IRAN, 26 SEPTEMBER, 2012 (REVISED: 19 JANUARY AND 15 FEBRUARY 2013)**

#### **Background**

This proposal responds to IOTC Resolution 10/01 which adapted in March 2010 in Korea and agreed that a technical committee shall be held and discuss on allocation criteria or any other relevant measures, for the management of the main targeted species, including, Yellowfin, Bigeye tunas and Swordfish, under the IOTC competence areas.

On this way the 1<sup>st</sup> technical committee on allocation criteria held in Nairobi during 16-18 Feb, 2011. During the meeting five countries including EU, Indonesia, I. R. Iran, R. Korea and Seychelles presented their proposal and IOTC Members discussed about details of under developing system. 1<sup>st</sup> meeting noted that the process of establishing allocation criteria and agreement on basic principals are complex and the committee is unable to complete the task in the short time and agreed that more work is required and developing an allocation system needs another technical meeting.

Although based on 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOTC Scientific Committee report, the amount of three targeted species catch are less than calculated MSY but for more guarantee and protection of the species stocks against over fishing, the Commission members need to adopt conservation measures that would ensure the sustainability of the resources, while discussion on an allocation criteria continue.

The second technical committee meeting is going to be held during 18-20 February 2013, by hosting of Oman country and the IOTC members are going to discuss about allocation criteria, which they will adopt as a basic principles on the quota allocation system by the IOTC member countries.

Although a brief review on background of establishing allocation criteria for the main targeted species in shows some complication, but the progress that was made during only one meeting was great and this shows all the members have enough will to walk on this way. Surely the main object of the 2<sup>nd</sup> working group meeting will paying more carefully and attentively to the members concerns especially developing countries, which their fishermen and local people livelihood and jobs are influenced directly by the fishing activities in the Indian Ocean. On the other hand the working group shall be developed such a criteria which they cover members benefits and sustainability of tuna stocks and their fishery.

Achieving food security for world population is the main mission of FAO's efforts - to make sure people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives. Also FAO's mandate is to raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the world economy. For these the 2<sup>nd</sup> technical committee on allocation criteria necessarily needs to consider main objectives of FAO, relevant regional fishery organizations missions and concerns of developing countries, which they are food security, responsible fisheries and livelihood of local people.

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**The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission IOTC**

Noting that the main objective of the Commission is to promote cooperation among its Members with a view to ensuring, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilization of stocks covered by this Agreement and encouraging sustainable development of fisheries based on such stocks.

Recognizing that based on past experiences in Tuna fisheries, the potential of production from the resources was impacted by excessive fishing effort and over fishing;

Noting the importance of applying the precautionary approach for the management of the tropical tuna and Swordfish stocks, in particular Yellowfin and Bigeye tuna in the Indian Ocean;

Taking into account the available scientific information and advice, in particular the IOTC scientific committee conclusion whereby the yellowfin, bigeye tuna and Swordfish stock might have been over exploited in recent years;

Recognizing that the 15<sup>th</sup> IOTC scientific committee meeting represented different species MSY levels, which have been estimated at 344 (290-453) thousands tones for yellowfin, at 114 (95-183) thousands tones for bigeye tuna and around 29 (29.9- 34.2) thousands tones for Swordfish. On this way 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> IOTC scientific committee had recommended that the catch of mentioned species should not exceed from MSY level,

Acknowledging that the awareness about MSY and TAC, without an appropriate allocation criteria and consequently quota allocation system would result in an inequitable distribution of the catches and fishing opportunities among the CPCs and cooperating non member CPCs;

In accordance with the provision of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> session of IOTC commission, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> session of IOTC scientific committee and 1<sup>st</sup> session of technical committee on allocation and criteria reports, the recommended principals and criteria for the 2<sup>nd</sup> technical Committee on allocation criteria meeting by I. R. Iran are as a below:

**1. Principles**

1.1. Considering international law, and FAO missions and mandates, providing a desirable condition for food and food security in universal level is the main responsibility and duty of governments, regional and international organizations. The technical meeting on allocation criteria should to follow this mission as an approach in it's under developing system.

1.2. Realizing most of the current fishing activities in IOTC competence area have done by local people and majority of them rarely located in economical level. Also noting to role of tuna fisheries in occupation, livelihood and food security of local people, especially in developing countries and considering of social economic aspects of fishing activities. Surely without adoption this approach, not only developing of criteria but also implementation of under construction system will face with difficulties and a huge number of fishermen encounter with many problems such as joblessness and poverty.

1.3. Considering sustainable fisheries of tuna fish stocks (base on MSY level and TAC), developing an appropriate criteria, suitable allocation mechanism and implementation a responsible fisheries in IOTC competence areas are one of the main principles of the under developing system.

**2–Allocation criteria**

Base on I. R. of Iran proposal, there are seven main criteria which are noticeable on developing an equitable allocation criteria in the IOTC competence area. These criteria with conjunction MSY will lead the IOTC to make a decision about quotas for Swordfish, yellow fin and big eye tuna. On this way scientific research results and the regional expertise experiences, lead the Scientific committee to better understanding about total allowable catch and consequently sustainable fishing level in the IOTC competence area every year.

In order to develop equitable allocation criteria in IOTC competence areas, the 2<sup>nd</sup> technical committee on allocation criteria for the main targeted species shall consider all aspects of tuna fishing activities, social economic condition of countries and related laws and legislations. On this way, paying more attention to the FAO mission and mandate and IOTC objectives on establishing a mechanism for allocation criteria and management of responsible fisheries is a necessity..

Without any doubt, access to responsible fishery and conservation of tuna fish stocks need CPCs and cooperating none member countries assistance and contribution. For these the allocation criteria should be consider to all countries benefit specially in developing countries which their local people and fishermen livelihood and income totally corresponded with fishery. On the other hand the technical committee should be developing a kind of system which it will be able to conserve both tuna fish stocks and stockholders' benefits. Although there are many factors which have capability to use as criteria, but I.R. of Iran propose to the 2<sup>nd</sup> technical committee, the allocation criteria as below:

- 1- Food security and right for food,
- 2- Role of Tuna fisheries on social economic condition of fishermen,
- 3- History of tuna fishery
- 4- The right of Indian Ocean coastal states,
- 5- Responsible fishery,
- 6- Fishing fleet capacity
- 7- Compliance to IOTC regulations,

### ***2.1. Food security and right for food***

Food security and preparation enough food for human in an appropriate quality and quantity level is the main objective of human right and philosophy of FAO establishment. Basically the main intent of establishment of an international or regional organization like IOTC is having a kind of actions which lead our world and consequently all the countries to have a safe and healthy life. In addition the right for food is a main base for human rights which emphasizes on economic, social and cultural right as a pre requirement for human right.

Surely majority of current fishing activities in IOTC competence area are done by local fishermen who are working only for food and primary requirements of life. Available information shows only a few countries are having fishery in large scale level by powerful companies which are active not only in Indian Ocean but also in the other oceans. In fact the benefit of this kind of companies is huge and is not analogical with fishermen income in developing and less developing countries, where the fishermen fishing only for food.

In fact technical committee should to pay more attention to the fishermen's life in developing and less developed countries and should try to make a system which will secure their life level in quality. Through this criterion adoption a rate and base coefficient is recommended minimum in three levels.

### **2.2. Role of Tuna fisheries on social economic condition of fishermen**

Without any doubt in order to develop a fair allocation criteria system, social-economic aspects of CPCs is the most important criterion which directly influenced local people's life. Base on available information, the livelihood of majority of coastal habitants in the IOTC competence area are closely corresponding with fishing activities. While during past years most of the governments, private sectors, companies, fishermen cooperatives and etc have invested a huge amount of money in different divisions, like construction of vessels, cold storage, processing centers and the other fishery sectors. Because of these investments and besides improving fishing activities, many prior and astern industries and jobs have been created for local people. The important point is that income of most jobs related with tuna fishing is located in economical border, so constraining a little pressure or changes in their activities, will be affected negatively their jobs, incomes, livelihood and life, the points that FAO completely have been avoided from it during its history.

On this way a close cooperation between countries and IOTC to analyze condition of each country is very necessary. So for implementation an allocation criteria system, the working group should to continue its survey on role of tuna fisheries on social economic condition of fishermen in each country. On the other hand, the number of fishermen, vessels, fishing harbors or landing places, processing centers, cold storage, refrigerator facilities, ship building factories, builders and traders of fishing equipments and devices, amount of investments by government or private sectors, local people and fishermen councils, existence fishery cooperatives, companies and etc are the most important factors which the technical committee should to consider them in this creation.

### **2.3. History of tuna fishery**

The CPCs and cooperating non member countries history and background in tuna fishing activities through the IOTC competence area, is one of the main important creation, which needs to consider by technical committee during developing an allocation criteria system. Base on available information most of the IOTC members have historical right to fish in the IOTC competence area. In fact, these countries mostly belong to the Indian Ocean basin and historically are familiar with fishery in the area, depending capacities, concerns and problems. Also the countries have had a main role on establishment of Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and it's continuously progress in the region. They have had close cooperation with the commission and have gotten a big role in implementation of responsible fishery base on FAO and IOTC regulations in their fishing activities. They also invested a huge amount of money in fisheries field and dependence industries during past decades of their history and nowadays they have many dependant industries and jobs on tuna fishery in the IOTC competence area.

Based on I.R. of Iran, average catch of countries during past ten years (from ~~2010~~2001) is an appropriate period of time for setting their history as a base for this creation.

### **2.4. The right of Indian Ocean coastal states**

Geographical location of countries the IOTC competence area is the other factor which gives to the Indian Ocean coastal states more priority and right. In the other hand recognizing the legitimate sovereign rights of Indian Ocean coastal states, their interest to distance water fishing and historically investment in the Indian Ocean fishery give them rights to have more priority in comparison with the countries from other regions.

In this creation I.R. of Iran recommend to allocation historical catches of coastal states to them, which are taken in their EEZ, and the rest of MSY allocate to all the IOTC members. In the other hand minimum 50% of MSY should allocate for coastal states and the rest of it allocate to all CPCs and cooperating non member countries, which they have right to fish in the open sea. Also under developing system shall to adopt such a system which no coastal states condition will be worse off than current situation and it will prepare better Social economic condition for coastal states fishermen who needs more supports and assist.

### **2.5. Responsible fishery**

This criterion leads the CPCs and cooperating none member countries to have sustainable tuna fishery. The manual of responsible fishery has been printed by FAO and is available for all the countries. In addition many countries have implemented different aspects of FAO code of conduct, but in some cases they need more improvement. Control of fishing gears , their standards, establishing data collection system and producing useful information like amount of catch and their composition, fishing efforts, CPUE, port state measures, market state measures, combating with illegal, unreported and unregulated catch (IUU), implementation of VMS system and observer program, reduction of by-catch and protect endangered species like Sharks, marine mammals, turtles and other measures which lead the region to responsible and sustainable fisheries, are some of the responsible fishery elements.

On this way all the IOTC CPCs and cooperating none member countries which are active in the region shall develop a plan and implement it in their tuna fishing activities. Also the countries shall develop a

documentation system with enough evidences that shows implementation and effectiveness of the system. On this way an appropriate manual for implementation of documentation, monitoring and control shall be developed and introduced by IOTC scientific committee which some of them are available. In addition all the countries shall implement this monitoring and control system with suitable documentation on all their eligible flag state vessels.

## **2.6. Fishing fleet capacity**

CPCs fishing fleets have developed according to their fishery management system and are seen in different level from small scale fisheries to industrial vessels. A vessel is a unit for catch of fish and creative of job, with distinguished ability and capacity. Stability in number of vessels and promote their effectiveness will cause of occupation stability and guarantee food security and requirements of fishermen. So number of vessels, their capacity for fishing and number of fishermen is an important criterion which insures occupation and livelihood of fishermen especially in developing and less developed countries.

Considering to creating equitable opportunities to occupation of local people and fishermen and consequently sustainability in fisheries, conservation of fish stocks and food security; I.R. of Iran recommend, 2<sup>nd</sup> technical committee pay more attention to number of vessels, their technical specification and capacity for fishing (especially their engine power), number of created jobs, as a criterion.

## **2.7. Compliance to IOTC regulations**

Base on responsible fisheries principals and regulations of the IOTC, the CPCs and cooperating non member countries should produce appropriate information and present them to IOTC. For better management of fishery, IOTC needs more cooperation, in access to detail of information, and assistance of countries in some studies or researches. In these cases the cooperation of CPCs and cooperating non member countries is necessary. In the other hand base on working groups, scientific committee, commission decisions and related resolutions, all the countries should to prepare related information and reports. Administration and management of Indian Ocean Tuna Commission needs financial supports. Base on current financial procedure, annually membership payment is one of the important financial resources for covering IOTC costs. So paying the membership is one of the important factors in evaluation of compliance with IOTC. The main purpose of this criterion is strengthening of IOTC commission authority in the area, implementation of unify and effective tuna fishing management system and gathering the CPCs and cooperating non member countries under IOTC umbrella.

## **3–Conclusion**

In conclusion proposed criteria by I. R. of Iran have tried to cover all different aspects of equitable allocation criteria system in the IOTC competence area. Base on these criteria CPCs are going to make a decision about allocation criteria for three targeted species including, Yellow fin, Bigeye and Swordfish, under the IOTC competence area. According to was made decision during the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> IOTC scientific committee meeting in 2010, the committee recommended the Yellowfin and Bigeye tuna catches should not exceed from MSY levels which have been estimated at 344 (290-453) thousands tones for Yellowfin, at 114 (95-183) thousands tones for Bigeye tuna and around 29 (29.9- 34.2) thousands tones for Swordfish in 2011.

I. R. of Iran recommend to 2<sup>nd</sup> technical committee to follow establishment of an allocation criteria system in two steps. First the committee opens discussion on criteria and acceptance of them, then in the second step distinguishing and defining different factors in each creation and giving appropriate rate and coefficient for each factors.. On this way the recommended criteria by I. R. of Iran including:

1. Food security and right for food
2. Role of tuna fisheries on social economic condition of fishermen
3. History of tuna fishery
4. The right of Indian Ocean coastal states
5. Responsible fishery

6. Fishing fleet capacity
7. Compliance to IOTC regulations