

## From the TCAC Chairperson

18 December 2017

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing with regard to the forthcoming meeting of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC04) which is to be held from 5 to 7 February 2018 in Seychelles.

You will recall that at our last meeting (TCAC03) we considered several papers on allocation that had been submitted by delegations. These included papers from Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the European Union, and Seychelles.

We also received a paper from the G16 Group of Like-Minded Coastal States on “Guiding Principles for Allocation Criteria”, and a similar paper from the European Union and France (OT) on “Common Principles for an Allocation System”. The meeting agreed that I should compile both of these two papers into one working paper which would be used as the basis for further work at TCAC04. This paper is attached to the meeting report (IOTC-2016-TCAC03-R[E]) as Appendix VII (“Possible Principles for Allocation”).

Several colleagues at the meeting also suggested that I should consider drawing together and combining some of the common elements that are found in this paper into a refined composite list.

With regard to our forthcoming meeting, I would therefore suggest that we proceed as agreed at the last meeting, by using the “Possible Principles for Allocation” in Appendix VII as a basis for our further work. This is also consistent with the approach suggested in paragraph 33 of the meeting report, namely a step-by-step approach with reaching consensus on the guiding principles as an initial step.

I have also taken up the suggestion of colleagues that I draw together and combine some of the common elements in Appendix VII into a composite list. I have also restructured the list slightly and clarified some language, and the composite list is attached to this letter. I hope that it may also help focus our discussion.

I should say that the attached list does not reflect any suggestions on my part as to what substance should be included in the Principles; it is simply my attempt to combine and refine similar proposals from Appendix VII. To assist colleagues, I have also cross-referenced the list of Principles in the attached paper to those contained in Appendix VII.

You will see that I have included in the attached paper a separate paragraph dealing with catch attribution in EEZs, which I have left open. I realise that this is a fundamental point of difference between the two views, and in my assessment it needs to be taken up separately from (and after) the other principles.

I am sure that colleagues' experience will be the same as mine, namely that it is much better to tackle the easier matters first and to take up the most difficult issue later, rather than doing it the other way around.

I know that since our last meeting some colleagues have come up with a new proposal to assist in our discussions, and I refer to IOTC-2017-S21-PropN ("On the Allocation of Fishing Opportunities for IOTC Species") which was considered at the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission. It is also possible that there will be additional proposals from other delegations for our forthcoming meeting.

I would nevertheless suggest that we proceed as we agreed at TCAC03, and focus first on the "Possible Principles for Allocation" in Appendix VII, but of course drawing for our discussion on the proposal mentioned above and any others that we receive. There will also be an opportunity to specifically discuss PropN and any other new proposals, during the meeting, as identified in the draft agenda.

I would like to invite any colleagues who wish to do so, to contact me in advance of the meeting (Don\_Maria\_MacKay@msn.com). I am also hoping to arrive in Seychelles several days ahead of the meeting, and would be very happy to meet with colleagues for any informal consultations during that time.

I very much look forward to meeting colleagues again at TCAC04.

Kind regards

Don MacKay  
Chair