
DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE TCAC

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 22 JANUARY 2016

PURPOSE

To inform delegates to the 3rd Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC03) of the decisions and requests made by the Commission at its previous Sessions, specifically relating to the work of the TCAC.

BACKGROUND

2011: At the 15th Session Members of the Commission considered a range of topics related to the work of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC). Key elements are outlined below (source: IOTC–2011–S15–R):

- 1) 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)
- 2) 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)
- 3) 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)
- 4) 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)

Comments of the Commission and consideration of the recommendations made by the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria

- 5) 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)
 - a. 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)
 - b. 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)
 - c. The Commission **invited** CPCs to work with the Secretariat to achieve these objectives, where required. (Para. 101)
 - d. 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)
 - e. 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)

- f. 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)

2012: Discussions on meeting hosting only. Not provided here for brevity.

2013: The following paragraphs were sourced from IOTC–2013–S17–R.

- 1) The Commission **NOTED** the report of the Second Session of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC) (IOTC–2013–TCAC02–R) which was presented by the Chair of the TCAC, Mr Daroomalingum Mauree (Mauritius). A total of 82 individuals attended the Session, comprised of 69 delegates from 23 Member countries, 1 delegate from 1 Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, 9 delegates from 5 observer organisations and 3 invited experts. (Para. 41)
- 2) The Commission addressed the list of recommendations made by the TCAC02 (Appendix IX – posted below for each of reference) in its 2013 report that related specifically to the Commission or concerned the work of the Secretariat. The Commission **ENDORSED** the list of recommendations. (Para. 42)

Recommendations of the 2nd Session of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC02).

Legal advice

TCAC02.01 (para. 35.) The TCAC **AGREED** that there was a need for a legal expert to be present at the next TCAC meeting to offer advice to the TCAC. As such, the TCAC **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission allocated the necessary funds for this purpose, either for an external legal expert or for the FAO legal office to commit a suitable expert.

Meeting Participation Fund

TCAC02.02 (para. 42.) The TCAC **NOTED** that the attendance by delegates from developing CPCs to the TCAC in 2013 (24 delegates from 15 Members, and 1 delegate from a CNCP) was largely due to the IOTC MPF, adopted by the Commission in 2010 (Resolution 10/05 on the establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for developing IOTC Members and non-Contracting Cooperating Parties), and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission maintain this fund into the future.

Review of the draft and adoption of the report of the second technical committee on allocation criteria

TCAC02.03 (para. 43.) The TCAC **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission consider the consolidated set of recommendations arising from TCAC02, provided at Appendix XIV.

- 3) The Commission **NOTED** the TCAC02 agreement to organise a next Session of the TCAC, however, the exact dates and meeting venue will be confirmed and communicated by the Secretariat at a later date. (Para. 43)
- 4) The Commission **NOTED** that five proposals and 1 information proposal were submitted by Members for consideration at the TCAC02 meeting (respectively Japan, Seychelles, European Union, I.R. Iran, Mozambique and Indonesia). (Para. 44)

2014: Adoption of Resolution 14/02 *For the conservation and management of tropical tunas stocks in the IOTC area of competence* (source: IOTC–2014–S18–R).

(Para. 121) *At the 18th Session of the Commission, Members revised the former Resolution 12/13 for the conservation and management of tropical tunas stocks in the IOTC area of competence, and **ADOPTED** Resolution 14/02 For the conservation and management of tropical tunas stocks in the IOTC area of competence (provided at [Appendix I](#) for each of reference). The revised Resolution retained only those elements related to the already established process for an allocation system or any other relevant measures to be developed to manage tropical tuna stocks.*

2015: Nil discussion.

DISCUSSION

Nil. This paper is provided for referencing only.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the TCAC **NOTE** paper IOTC–2016–TCAC03–06 which detailed the outcomes of previous Sessions of the Commission relevant to the TCAC process.

APPENDICES

Appendix I: Resolution 14/02 *For the conservation and management of tropical tunas stocks in the IOTC area of competence*

APPENDIX I
RESOLUTION 14/02

**FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF TROPICAL TUNAS STOCKS IN THE IOTC AREA
OF COMPETENCE**

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

RECOGNISING that based on past experience in the fishery, the potential production from the resource can be negatively impacted by excessive fishing effort;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the available scientific information and advice, in particular the IOTC Scientific Committee conclusions whereby the yellowfin tuna stock might have been over or fully exploited and the bigeye tuna stock may have been fully exploited in recent years; RECOGNISING that during the 12th IOTC scientific meeting held in Seychelles from 30 November to 04 December 2009, the IOTC Scientific Committee recommended that yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna catches should not exceed the MSY levels which have been estimated at 300,000 tonnes for yellowfin tuna and at 110,000 tonnes for bigeye tuna;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the implementation of a TAC without a quota allocation would result in an inequitable distribution of the catches and fishing opportunities among the IOTC Members and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs) and non-CPCs;

FURTHER RECOGNISING that the tuna artisanal fisheries sector needs strengthening in terms of catch statistics reporting in order to more closely follow the catch situations and notwithstanding improvement in the industrial fishery catch statistics reporting requirements;

NOTING the importance of applying the precautionary approach for the management of the tropical tuna and swordfish stock, in particular yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna in the Indian Ocean;

ADOPTS, in accordance with the provisions of Article IX, paragraph 1 of the IOTC Agreement, the following:

1. CPCs shall implement the following action plan:
 - a) Establishment of an allocation system (Quota) or any other relevant measures based on the IOTC Scientific Committee recommendations for the main targeted species under the IOTC competence;
 - b) Advise on the best reporting requirement of the artisanal tuna fisheries and implementation of an appropriate data collection system.
2. This Resolution supersedes Resolution 12/13 *For the conservation and management of tropical tunas stocks in the IOTC area of competence.*