

ALTERNATIVE TO ALLOCATION CRITERIA

LIMITING FISHING CAPACITY IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE. BASED ON REFERENCE CAPACITIES (2006 FOR VESSELS TARGETING TROP. TUNAS AND 2007 FOR VESSELS TARGETING SWO AND ALB.) AND ACHIEVED FLEET DEVELOPMENT PLANS.

Submitted by the European Union

Background

The IOTC Resolution 14/02 states the establishment of a quota allocation system, or any other relevant measure, for the management of the main targeted species falling under the IOTC competence.

Two technical committees on allocation criteria - February 2011 and February 2013 – were held to discuss proposals and to recommend a quota allocation system. The meetings could not conclude on a system agreeable to all parties. It is unlikely that an agreement on a quota allocation system can be reached soon.

In the meanwhile the main tuna stocks in IOTC stayed in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot and piracy had an effect on fishing off the Somalian coast. However, with the significant decrease of piracy fishing effort is recovering to levels approaching the level before 2008, which could put some stocks in danger. Recent stock assessment of Yellowfin tuna, though subject to certain caveats, would indicate that this species is overfished and subject to overfishing (red zone of the Kobe plot) and therefore catch reduction should be undertaken without delay.

In this context we would like to propose an alternative system to the quota allocation criteria in order to limit catches and maintain the sustainable exploitation of the stocks.

The proposed system does not impede the continuation of discussions to create an allocation criteria system that could be created if CPCs (Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties) wish so.

This proposal recognises the legitimate rights and aspirations of both coastal states, in particular small island developing coastal states and territories and small and vulnerable economies; and, distant water fishing nations that have historically fished and invested in an area.

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 and bigeye tuna stocks might have been over or fully exploited in recent years;

RECOGNISING that IOTC Resolution 14/02 requires the development of a quota allocation system or any other relevant measures aiming the sustainable exploitation of the IOTC fishing resources;

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 IOTC fishing resources;

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

Main principles

I. The maximum fishing capacity per CPC will be fixed according to the table 1.

II. For vessels fishing in high seas and vessels of 24 meters of length or above exclusively fishing in its EEZs:

1. Starting line:

1.1 Reference capacity according to Resolution 15/11 (basically reference capacity for vessels targeting tropical tunas in 2006 + reference capacity for vessels targeting swordfish and albacore in 2007), plus

1.2 Fleet Development Plans achieved, meaning new vessels put on water since the initial reference years leading to an increase of the reference capacity according to Resolution 15/11.

2. Adjustments:

2.1 Long Distant Water Fleets CPC and Taiwan, Province of China: Starting line capacity will be reduced by 25%.

2.2 Coastal CPCs:

i) Starting Line/CPC exceeding 40.000 GT/GRT will be reduced by 25%.

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ii) A minimal right of 2000 GT is attributed to each Coastal CPC. Any added capacity from this principle should be implemented in the next 10 years.

iii) A bonus capacity of 1000 GT will be attributed to Coastal Developing Small Islands and Coastal Least Developed Countries. Any added capacity should be implemented in the next 10 years.

2.3 New Coastal CPC joining IOTC will be accorded rights as described in 2.2 ii) and iii) above.

III. The current capacity of artisanal fleets (boats only operating in its EEZ with less than 24 meters) catching IOTC species shall be freeze at the current level. Coastal CPCs will transmit to the Executive Secretariat before the 31 December 2017 its artisanal fleet capacity based on national fleet registry or other means officially recognised the CPC.

IV. Swaps of capacity are allowed between all CPCs and according to principles managed by CPCs involved. The secretariat will be informed accordingly.



Scenario 1 - capacity based on reference capacities declared in 2006 and 2007										
CPCs		A. Reference capacity - Vessels targeting preferentially Tropical Tunas - 2006	B. Reference capacity - Vessels targeting preferentially Swordfish/Albacore - 2007	C. FDP accomplished or adjusted to current capacity	Reference capacity (A+B+C)	LDW CPC 25% reduction	Coastal States			TOTAL Capacity / CPC
							25% Reduction over 40000 GT/GRT	minimal basic right for Coastal CPC to be implemented in the next 10 years	Developing Small islands and LDC bonus to be implemented in the next 10	
Coastal CPC										
Australia	(GRT)	3,312	-	-	3,312					3,312
Bangladesh	?				-		2,000	1,000		3,000
Comoros	(GT)	0	-	-	-		2,000	1,000		3,000
Djibouti	?	0	-	-	-		2,000	1,000		3,000
Eritrea	?	0	-	-	-		2,000	1,000		3,000
European Union Coastal	(GT)	4,638	-	11,540	16,178					16,178
France (IO Territories)	(GT)	0	-	-	-		2,000			2,000
India	(GRT)	32,950	-	-	32,950					32,950
Indonesia	(GT)	124,011	-	-	124,011	- 21,003				103,008
Iran	(GT)	83,524	-	16,439	99,963	- 14,991				84,972
Kenya	(GT)	0	-	-	-		2,000			2,000
Madagascar	(GT)	263	-	-	263		1,737	1,000		3,000
Malaysia	(GRT)	2,299	-	2,015	4,314					4,314
Maldives	(GT)	0	-	16,715	16,715			1,000		17,715
Mauritius	(GRT)	1,931	-	6,658	8,589			1,000		9,589
Mozambique	(GT)	0	-	520	520		1,480	1,000		3,000
Oman	(GT)	3,126	-	-	3,126					3,126
Pakistan	(GT)	0	-	1,130	1,130					1,130
Seychelles	(GT)	41,735	536	-	42,271	- 568		1,000		42,703
Somalia	?	0	-	-	-		2,000	1,000		3,000
South Africa	(GT)	3,013	-	-	3,013					3,013
Sri Lanka	(GT)	18,436	-	22,203	40,639	- 160				40,479
Sudan	?	0	-	-	-		2,000	1,000		3,000
Tanzania	(GT)	0	-	1,535	1,535			1,000		2,535
Thailand	(GT)	13,771	-	-	13,771					13,771
Yemen	?	0	-	-	-		2,000	1,000		3,000
U. K. (I.O. Territories)	(GT)	0	-	-	-		2,000			2,000
Long Distant Water fleets										
China	(GT)	27,216	-	-	27,216	- 6,804				20,412
European Union LDW	(GT)	96,595	21,922	-	118,517	- 29,629				88,888
Japan	(GT)	91,076	-	-	91,076	- 22,769				68,307
Korea, Republic of	(GT)	15,274	-	-	15,274	- 3,819				11,456
Philippines	(GRT)	10,304	-	-	10,304	- 2,576				7,728
Senegal	(GRT)	1,250	-	-	1,250	- 313				938
Taiwan, Province of China	?	84,373	-	-	84,373	- 21,093				63,280
Total	(GRT+GT)	659,097	22,458	78,755	760,310	-87,003	-36,721	23,217	13,000	672,804