

PAPER SUBMITTED BY THE GROUP OF IOTC COASTAL STATES AND DISTANT WATER FISHING NATIONS ON COMMON PRINCIPLES FOR AN ALLOCATION SYSTEM

Submitted by European Union and France on behalf of its Indian Ocean Territories.

The Group of IOTC Coastal States and Distant Water Fishing Nations having analysed the existing proposals for establishing a quota allocation system in the IOTC and taking into account discussions undertaken in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd meetings of the Technical Committee Allocation Criteria (TCAC1, TCAC2 and TCAC3) agreed to propose common principles on an allocation system

These common principles aim to contribute to progress on the definition of an allocation criteria system taking into account the main principles supported by all IOTC members in the 1st meeting of the Technical Committee Allocation Criteria, and to establish common grounds with the proposal made at the TCAC3 by the G16 Group of like-minded coastal states.

Principles for Allocation

- a. ensure the sustainable utilisation of the resource,
- b. allocate fair and equitable fishing opportunities to all participants and ensure transparency, predictability and progressiveness,
- c. recognise the rights of both Indian Ocean coastal states and distant water fishing nations,
- d. take into account the aspirations of Indian Ocean coastal states, including to develop their fishing opportunities according to the principles of sustainable and responsible fisheries, giving priority to the most disadvantaged nations (small islands developing States and Least Developed States),
- e. consider socio-economic factors, such as dependency of Indian Ocean coastal state economies, for the livelihood of their local communities on tuna and tuna-like fisheries and investments made in the tuna sector,
- f. consider the weight of trade of tuna products on economies and on the global consumption of tuna products of Contracting Parties,
- g. reflect the compliance record/status of each CPC,
- h. consider incentives for compliance with IOTC Conservation and Management Measures,
- i. enforce effectively rules against IUU fishing,
- j. consider degree of sustainability of fishing methods with respect to ecosystem approach,
- k. authorise the transferability (lease) of allocations in accordance with scientific criteria,
- l. consider food security issues, which shall include not only the catch of tuna and tuna-like species, but also their processing and trade,
- m. take into account, if applicable, bio-ecological significance,
- n. take into account contributions for research, data collection and compliance capacity building,
- o. foresee a system to allocate fishing rights to new coastal state entrants.

Data Review

Contracting Parties are requested to make all necessary efforts to improve compliance with Resolutions concerning data reporting (15/01, 15/02 and 11/04) to allow the IOTC secretariat to review catch history data in IOTC area in order to the definition of an allocation criteria system based on the reality of the fisheries managed by the IOTC.

The document IOTC-2016-TCAC03-05 in its figures 5a-b clearly shows that it is not possible for the IOTC secretariat under the current data requirements to separate data between EEZ and high seas.