



04 June 2024

IOTC CIRCULAR 2024-29

Dear Madam / Sir

A COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR OF THE TCAC

Please find attached a communication from the Chair of the TCAC, Mr Quentin Hanich.

Yours sincerely

Paul de Bruyn
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

- letter from the TCAC chair

Distribution

IOTC Contracting Parties: Australia, Bangladesh, China, Comoros, European Union, France (Territories), India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep of), Japan, Kenya, Rep. of Korea, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, United Rep. of Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom, Yemen. **Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties:** Liberia. **Intergovernmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations. Chairperson IOTC. Copy to:** FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs.

This message has been transmitted by email only

Dear Madam / Sir,

I hope this finds you well. I would like to thank the IOTC for electing me to Chair the TCAC, and am looking forward to working closely with you all. I am honoured to be entrusted with this role and will work hard to be an impartial and accessible Chair, and support the TCAC in its negotiation towards an allocation agreement.

As Chair of TCAC, my key priority at all times will be to build cooperation and trust. Over coming months, I will consult, listen and prepare a revised draft for your consideration, and then facilitate and Chair negotiations. I will be instructed by your priorities and concerns.

Given that the next TCAC is scheduled for October, I am keen to quickly begin work. My intention is to quickly finalise a contract with the FAO, and then immediately review all relevant documents and available data.

I would then like to consult every IOTC member individually, and hear your interests, priorities, concerns and aspirations. It is critical that I understand your views on the future of the IOTC tuna fisheries, and the criteria for their allocation. I intend to schedule these consultations with IOTC members through July and August. Most of these consultations will be virtual, but I will also try to schedule in-person consultations where circumstances allow. I intend to circulate 4 or 5 questions to guide these consultations, and seek your instructions.

Following this review and consultations, I will then prepare a brief report for the TCAC that identifies common elements, discusses areas for priority discussion, and identifies potential opportunities for compromise and options for a way forward. This will include a revised Chair's proposal text with the ranges of weightings and optional input parameters for the simulations. My intention is to promote commonalities and cooperation, and explore options for TCAC to consider that will allow consensus to emerge.

I have much to learn from you all. From my brief engagement to-date, I can see that IOTC members are unanimously concerned by ongoing overfishing, and keen to negotiate an allocation framework that enables reductions in fishing effort to sustainable levels. This is a difficult challenge, but not impossible. It requires political will, cooperation and creativity. We need to work together transparently to build trust, and explore innovative pathways towards agreement. Ultimately, we will need the consensus of all to ensure the future benefit for all.

I look forward to meeting with you all individually in coming months, and then collectively in October.

Best wishes,

Q.