

Dear colleagues,

I hope this finds you well. I look forward to seeing you soon for the TCAC. I've received a few enquiries and thought it might be helpful to provide a brief update so that everyone has the same knowledge.

First, I note that the secretariat uploaded a background memo and a revised agenda a few weeks ago. In case you did not see this, you can find these at <https://iotc.org/meetings/13th-meeting-technical-committee-allocation-criteria-tcac>. As previously noted, I am proposing that we put aside the previous chair's draft resolution for the moment and focus TCAC13 on a broader discussion of key issues and the development of a workplan as I do not have clear instructions on how to revise the previous chair's resolution. I think it would be helpful to make some progress on key principles before revising the text.

I have also suggested that TCAC needs a workplan so that it can finalise negotiations in a reasonable time. I don't yet have a mandate from TCAC to prepare a workplan so am proposing to use a decision tree to guide discussions on the key elements to be included in a workplan. I will provide a presentation and guidance on this approach at TCAC13. During this presentation, I will suggest that TCAC needs to consider the following schedule in order to complete its task:

- Short meeting (i.e 2 hours) during IOTC in April 2025 to adopt workplan and criteria
- TCAC in August/September 2025
- TCAC in January/February 2026
- Short meeting during IOTC in April 2026
- TCAC in August/September 2026
- Optional TCAC in February 2027 if necessary to finalise a resolution
- Resolution for decision by IOTC in April/May 2027

Following discussions of the decision tree and schedule, I will then seek a mandate from TCAC to prepare a draft workplan. If TCAC approves, I will then prepare and circulate a draft workplan for review in early November 2024.

A couple of administrative matters have also arisen. As instructed by the IOTC, I have inserted an agenda item to allow for the election of vice-chair(s). It will be helpful to appoint a vice-chair(s) in case of emergencies, allowing the meeting to continue if I am unable to chair due to unforeseen circumstance. It is up to members to determine if they wish the vice-chair(s) to have any other substantive role beyond this administrative role. On that note, as an independent chair, I intend to operate as transparently and inclusively as possible, consulting regularly and widely with all members as often as possible. I believe that it is important that the independent chair communicates directly with all delegations and avoids any perception of bias or politicisation.

In considering the appointment of vice-chair(s), I have been advised that the TCAC does not have its own, or any, rules of procedure. In this absence, I suggest that we informally utilise the IOTC rules of

procedure. In the longer term, TCAC13 may consider instructing the chair to draft formal rules of procedure, that could then be considered for submission to the IOTC for review and adoption.

Lastly, I have been requested to set aside time for side-discussions and small group caucus meetings. With this in mind, I have also provided an indicative schedule for TCAC that will assist with timekeeping and ensure that we can complete the agenda.

Best wishes,

Q.

Professor Quentin Hanich

Chair
Technical Committee for Allocation Criteria (TCAC)
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)