

Monday 9th June 2025

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this finds you well. I look forward to seeing you soon for TCAC15 in Zanzibar, Tanzania. The secretariat has uploaded a draft agenda and the workplan for TCAC15 onwards. In the workplan, I have highlighted TCAC15 and deleted TCAC14's completed tasks. As you will see, the agenda for TCAC15 is busy and reflects our agreed workplan. Please email me directly on quentinhanich@gmail.com if you have any proposed revisions or additions.

I note the numerous statements at IOTC29 referring to TCAC and the importance of progressing allocation. With this in mind, it is important that we make significant progress at TCAC15 in July 2025 on the allocation criteria framework, and its key provisions. This will then provide clarity for the secretariat to distribute detailed simulations to inform delegations of potential allocation quota to consider as they seek mandates for TCAC16 in February 2026. TCAC16 will be a critical decision point. If TCAC16 is successful, we can move forward to a resolution as scheduled in our workplan. If TCAC16 is unsuccessful, IOTC30 in 2026 may need to consider alternative options to allocation.

This means that TCAC15 in July 2025 necessarily has a big agenda. We know that a transparent and equitable allocation framework will be integral to the long-term sustainable management and development of the region's fisheries. In the meantime, some delegations perceive existing arrangements to be inequitable, and opt out, while other delegations implement conservation limits that are undermined by their lack of universal application. An allocation framework can address these concerns and ensure that all delegations can manage and develop their fisheries with stability and certainty.

On 20th June, I will circulate three information papers on transferability, catch attribution, and RFMO jurisdiction. I will circulate these as drafts and seek feedback. If your delegation has a view on these papers, I would like to consult virtually with you prior to TCAC15 and ensure that I understand all concerns before TCAC15 begins. I will be available for consultations between 8am – 1pm on 24-27 June, and 7-10 July (Seychelles time). Please email me on quentinhanich@gmail.com if you would like to schedule a virtual meeting.

Lastly, I note that Laura Marot from the EU has had to resign as one of our two vice-chairs due to an internal re-assignment. I would like to thank Laura for her contributions and support and wish her well. We will need to elect her replacement at TCAC15 and ensure an ongoing balance in this important role.

I wish you all well and safe travels.



Professor Quentin Hanich
Chair - IOTC Technical Committee for Allocation Criteria (TCAC)