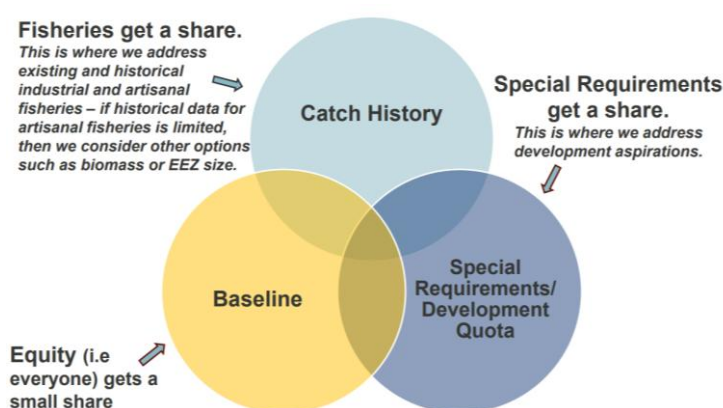


Allocation Decision Tree

Allocation should reflect regional and global commitments to sustainability and development - engaging all CPCs and ensuring the long term sustainable use of the fisheries. CPCs have committed to global and regional instruments that promote key related principles:

- Participation
 - Should include all regional coastal States, and flag States with vessels that fish in the region (inc REIOs).
- Cooperation and compatibility
 - IOTC fisheries are largely migratory and require cooperative and compatible management across high seas and EEZs. Coastal States have sovereign rights over EEZs, flag States have exclusive jurisdiction over vessels on high seas. CPCs shall promote optimum utilisation, but coastal States have exclusive discretion in determining surplus, access conditions and fees.
- Special Requirements of Developing States
 - The IOTC Agreement requires recognition of the special interests of developing countries in the Indian Ocean region to benefit equitably from the fishery resources, while the UN Fish Stocks Agreement requires IOTC to avoid applying a disproportionate burden of conservation on to developing States.
- Science-based conservation and management.
 - IOTC must ensure the long term sustainability of the fisheries.

Within this context, the allocation framework should enable conservation, management and equity objectives, balance the interests of existing fisheries and development aspirations, and be implemented through national administrations supported by a regional framework. In October 2024, TCAC13 agreed to three foundation allocation criteria.



In February 2025, TCAC14 adopted a complex and ambitious workplan to define and apportion (i.e. percentage weightings) these foundation criteria, and develop an allocation framework that will ensure the long term sustainable use of the fisheries. To help monitor progress and prioritise decision-making, a 'decision tree' is provided below. This is intended to identify critical elements and assist delegations to collectively monitor progress towards a package deal.

Decision required	Factors to be considered	Progress
➤ Define species to be allocated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Differing characteristics of species, fisheries, range and participants. 	✓ TCAC13 agreed focus on swordfish, yellowfin, bigeye, albacore, skipjack.
➤ Identify foundation allocation criteria.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishing interests, coastal State sovereign rights, flag State jurisdiction, special requirements of developing States, data availability, compliance, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ TCAC13 agreed focus on three foundation criteria (catch history, special requirements, baseline). ✓ TCAC13 agreed further discussion required regarding coastal State use of biomass proxies in place of catch history.
➤ Define allocation criteria framework.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catch attribution for foreign fishing vessels in EEZs. Transition process and period for catch attribution. Options for reference years. Options, if any, for biomass proxies instead of catch history. Options for distribution of special requirements criteria. Simulations estimate catch history from alternate reference year options, catch attribution options and biomass proxies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? TCAC15 to agree criteria framework 'in-principle', pending identified conditions to be met, and simulations. ? Final agreement scheduled for TCAC16 informed by simulations.
➤ Define jurisdiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compatibility of EEZ/High Seas to manage migratory fisheries. Consistency with rights and responsibilities. Implementation in archipelagic waters/territorial seas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? TCAC15 to identify conditions for agreement ? TCAC16 to agree jurisdiction.
➤ Determine transferability framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transferability can provide flexibility and support optimum utilisation. Options for quota transfers between CPCs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? TCAC15 to agree if transfers to be allowed, and if so, principles for transferability framework. ? TCAC16 to agree transferability framework.
➤ Determine compliance framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine whether/how quotas should be adjusted, temporarily or permanently, according to compliance with quota limits, and if compliance with any other measures should be included. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? TCAC15 to agree on whether quotas should be adjusted for compliance. ? If agreed, TCAC15 to identify key principles and mechanisms. ? TCAC16 to agree compliance framework.

Decision required	Factors to be considered	Progress
➤ Advise implementation needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing States may need capacity building to monitor and report fishing activities, and implement quota limits. • IOTC may need to amend data reporting requirements to provide necessary data. 	<p>? TCAC17 to identify capacity building and data needs, if any.</p> <p>? TCAC18 to agree capacity building and data recommendations.</p>
➤ Determine treatment of new entrants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine whether/how allocation criteria is adjustable for future new entrants. 	<p>? TCAC17 identifies options</p> <p>? TCAC18 agrees on treatment of new entrants.</p>
➤ Determine criteria weightings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Options for different criteria weightings that assign a percentage of TAC to each of the three criteria (i.e 5/15/80, 10/20/70, 10/30/60, etc). • Simulations will estimate CPC quota derived from each option. 	<p>? TCAC17 to identify options for criteria weightings.</p> <p>? TCAC17 to agree on whether individual species require different weightings.</p> <p>? TCAC18 to agree criteria weightings.</p>
➤ Determine review arrangements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine if quotas should be adjustable and under what circumstances. • Determine if framework should be reviewed at set time in future. • If yes, determine timing and detail, if any. 	<p>? TCAC17 to agree on review arrangements, if any.</p>
➤ Draft resolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft resolution and recommendation to IOTC. 	<p>? TCAC15 to agree on process for drafting resolution.</p> <p>? TCAC16 to agree on resolution structure.</p> <p>? TCAC17 to review draft resolution.</p> <p>? TCAC18 to agree resolution and recommendation to IOTC.</p>