



Report of the 16th Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria

Perth, 3 – 6 February 2026

DISTRIBUTION:

Participants in the Session
Members of the Commission
Other interested Nations and International Organizations
FAO Fisheries Department
FAO Regional Fishery Officers

BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY

IOTC 2026. Report of the 16th Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria. Perth, 3 – 6 February 2026. *IOTC-2026-TCAC16-R[E]*: 36pp.

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication and its lists do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) or the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

This work is copyright. Fair dealing for study, research, news reporting, criticism or review is permitted. Selected passages, tables or diagrams may be reproduced for such purposes provided acknowledgment of the source is included. Major extracts or the entire document may not be reproduced by any process without the written permission of the Executive Secretary, IOTC.

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission has exercised due care and skill in the preparation and compilation of the information and data set out in this publication. Notwithstanding, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, employees and advisers disclaim all liability, including liability for negligence, for any loss, damage, injury, expense or cost incurred by any person as a result of accessing, using or relying upon any of the information or data set out in this publication to the maximum extent permitted by law.

Contact details:

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
Abis Centre, Providence
PO Box 1011
Victoria, Mahé, Seychelles
Email: iotc-secretariat@fao.org
Website: <http://www.iotc.org>

ACRONYMS

| | |
|--------|--|
| AFAD | Anchored fish aggregating device |
| BMSY | Biomass which produces MSY |
| CMM | Conservation and Management Measure |
| CNCP | Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, of the IOTC |
| CoC | Compliance Committee of the IOTC |
| CPs | Contracting Parties |
| CPCs | Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties |
| DCS | Developing Coastal State |
| DFAD | Drifting fish aggregating device |
| EEZ | Exclusive Economic Zone |
| FAD | Fish aggregating device |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| FMSY | Fishing mortality at MSY |
| HCR | Harvest control rule |
| IUU | Illegal, unreported and unregulated |
| LRP | Limit reference point |
| LSTLV | Large-scale tuna longline vessel |
| MSE | Management Strategy Evaluation |
| NCP | Non-Contracting Party |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organisation |
| OT | Overseas Territories |
| RFMO | Regional Fisheries Management Organisation |
| SC | Scientific Committee of the IOTC |
| SCAF | Standing Committee on Administration and Finance of the IOTC |
| SIDS | Small Island Developing States |
| TAC | Total Allowable Catch |
| TCAC | Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria of the IOTC |
| TCMP | Technical Committee on Management Procedures |
| TRP | Target referent point |
| UNCLOS | United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea |
| VMS | Vessel Monitoring System |

HOW TO INTERPRET TERMINOLOGY CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT

This report uses the following terms and associated definitions.

Level 1: From a subsidiary body of the Commission to the next level in the structure of the Commission:

RECOMMENDED, RECOMMENDATION: Any conclusion or request for an action to be undertaken, from a subsidiary body of the Commission (Committee or Working Party), which is to be formally provided to the next level in the structure of the Commission for its consideration/endorsement (e.g. from a Working Party to the Scientific Committee; from a Committee to the Commission). The intention is that the higher body will consider the recommended action for endorsement under its own mandate, if the subsidiary body does not already have the required mandate. Ideally this should be task specific and contain a timeframe for completion.

Level 2: From a subsidiary body of the Commission to a CPC, the IOTC Secretariat, or other body (not the Commission) to carry out a specified task:

REQUESTED: This term should only be used by a subsidiary body of the Commission if it does not wish to have the request formally adopted/endorsed by the next level in the structure of the Commission. For example, if a Committee wishes to seek additional input from a CPC on a particular topic, but does not wish to formalise the request beyond the mandate of the Committee, it may request that a set action be undertaken. Ideally this should be task specific and contain a timeframe for the completion.

Level 3: General terms to be used for consistency:

AGREED: Any point of discussion from a meeting which the IOTC body considers to be an agreed course of action covered by its mandate, which has not already been dealt with under Level 1 or level 2 above; a general point of agreement among delegations/participants of a meeting which does not need to be considered/adopted by the next level in the Commission's structure.

NOTED/NOTING: Any point of discussion from a meeting which the IOTC body considers to be important enough to record in a meeting report for future reference.

Any other term: Any other term may be used in addition to the Level 3 terms to highlight to the reader of an IOTC report, the importance of the relevant paragraph. However, other terms used are considered for explanatory/informational purposes only and shall have no higher rating within the reporting terminology hierarchy than Level 3, described above (e.g. **CONSIDERED; URGED; ACKNOWLEDGED**).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| ACRONYMS | 2 |
| HOW TO INTERPRET TERMINOLOGY CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT | 4 |
| TABLE OF CONTENTS | 5 |
| 1. Opening of the Session | 9 |
| 2. Letters of credentials and admission of observers | 9 |
| 3. Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the session | 9 |
| 4. Election of vice-chair | 9 |
| 5. TCAC Workplan | 10 |
| 5.1. Summary of progress to-date and framework of three criteria | 10 |
| 5.2. Update and secretariat presentation on shiny app | 10 |
| 6. Scope | 11 |
| 7. The Three Allocation Criteria | 13 |
| 8. Compliance | 16 |
| 9. Chair’s Summary and Future of the TCAC | 16 |
| 9.1. Review and update of the workplan | 16 |
| 10. Other Business | 17 |
| 10.1. 2026 meeting schedule and host nominations | 17 |
| 11. Adoption Of Report | 17 |
| Appendix 1. List of Participants | 18 |
| Appendix 2. Adopted agenda of the 16th Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria | 24 |
| Appendix 3. List of Documents | 25 |
| Appendix 4. Opening Remarks: Mrs Sarah-Jane McCormack, First Assistant Secretary of the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry | 26 |
| Appendix 5. Member Statements | 28 |
| Appendix 6. Approach to Catch Distributions | 32 |
| Appendix 7. Special Treatment of Small-Scale Fisheries | 33 |
| Appendix 8. Distribution of Quota from Developing State Criteria | 35 |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 16th Session of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC16) was held in Perth, Australia from 3 to 6 February 2026. The meeting was opened by Elder Nick Abraham who welcomed participants to Country on behalf of the Nyoongar Nation and Mrs Sarah-Jane McCormack, First Assistant Secretary of the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry who provided a welcoming statement (Appendix 4), and chaired by the Independent TCAC Chairperson, Mr Quentin Hanich.

[Para. 10] The TCAC **RECALLED** that at the TCAC15 meeting in 2025, no nominations were received for the vacant second-Vice-Chair position during that session and so had **AGREED** to defer the election to TCAC16.

[Para. 17] While **NOTING** that the simulation tool is a work in progress and will be updated to match TCAC discussions over time, a number of inconsistencies in current terminology usage and application were identified. As such, the TCAC **REQUESTED** that the Secretariat ensure the following amendments are made at a minimum:

- o Consistent usage of CPC (CP and CNCP) versus Fishing Fleet: For example in relation to Taiwan, Province of China, the tool should be clear when referring to CPCs, versus the Fishing Fleet of Taiwan, Province of China (e.g. CPC versus CPC/Fishing Fleet versus Fishing Fleet).
- o Consistent usage and application of the three IOTC membership categories: Coastal State, Non-Coastal State, and REIO members (Article IV of the IOTC Agreement) (e.g. An REIO member is not a 'State' member).
- o Sub-categories/criteria: When categorising Taiwan, Province of China (Fishing Fleet), any sub-allocation criteria for being a 'State' should be listed as 'Not Applicable', as those categories are applied for China as the non-coastal State member.

[Para. 20] The TCAC generally **AGREED**, with the exception of one member, that the approach to attribute catch distribution previously requested at TCAC12 and resulting historical catch data distribution (for CPCs and Taiwan, Province of China), revert to that previously agreed to by the TCAC (Appendix 6).

[Para. 21] The TCAC **AGREED** that alternative approaches for distribution would be welcomed for consideration, but that such proposals need to be brought to the TCAC for discussion and decision before any changes are implemented.

[Para. 35] The TCAC **AGREED** that negotiating a definition for small-scale fisheries could be complex and time-consuming. Participants suggested alternatives, such as allowing states to use their own internal definitions, focusing on "bottom-up" domestic classifications, or limiting exemptions to subsistence fisheries that do not engage in trade. Other members suggested that such definitions would be a pre-condition for agreeing to an Allocation Regime.

[Para. 41] The TCAC **NOTED** the concerns of some members on the self-definition of the artisanal and small-scale fisheries based on their national legislation and/or regulations. Some members viewed that the FAO Guidelines for small-scale fisheries provide guidance on definitions. This could be used as a starting point for the identification of characteristics for the fisheries to receive special provisions (which may include exemptions or other measures). This terminology is also consistent with the terms used in the UNFSA.

[Para. 42] The TCAC **AGREED** that a stepwise process to address this issue should be included in the TCAC workplan to advance these discussions moving forward:

- a. Gather information on livelihood and subsistence fisheries
- b. For the purposes of allocation, agree on a the characterisation of fisheries to be granted special treatment
- c. Calculate the catch represented by this sector
- d. Consider the special treatment of these fisheries

[Para. 67] The TCAC **DISCUSSED** that the intention of the biomass proxy was to address the needs of coastal states for whom catch histories are small or do not exist, but who have the right to develop their fisheries. A member expressed their view that the Biomass proxy using EEZ size should only be applicable for coastal states without catch histories and shouldn't be an option that members can simply choose.

[Para. 68] The TCAC **NOTED** that a difficulty in visualising the implications of these decisions is due to these components being viewed individually when in reality they are part of a package that needs to be agreed in its entirety. The TCAC therefore **REQUESTED** that this option when developed be incorporated into the simulation tool so that its effect can be evaluated.

[Para. 72] The TCAC **AGREED** with Australia's proposal that an independent scientific consultant review the theoretical basis for this methodology and provide this advice through the Working Party on Tropical Tuna and Scientific Committee in the period leading into the next TCAC subject to extra-budgetary funding being available.

[Para. 78] The TCAC **NOTED** that there was some uncertainty regarding the utilisation of the shared quota and that this would need to be clarified. The TCAC **AGREED** that introducing a new option to the two agreed during TCAC15 was not beneficial and that it would be preferably to continue without further discussing this option.

[Para. 81] The TCAC **AGREED** to merge option 1 and option 2 and base future discussion on this simplified single option:

1) Catch attribution shall be based on the following:

- In Year 1, X% of the historical catch of a Flag State CPC fishing in another CPC's jurisdictional waters shall be attributed to the corresponding coastal State CPC. The remainder shall be attributed to the Flag State CPC.
- Y-X% shall be attributed to the corresponding coastal State CPC in a stepwise manner over the following Z-year period, concluding with a permanent arrangement according to a pre-agreed schedule. The remainder shall be attributed to the Flag State CPC each year during the Z-year period.

* The value of X and Y will be a range from 0 and up to 100.

[Para. 87] **NOTING** that there was no agreement among members on the future of the TCAC, the TCAC **REQUESTED** that the Commission note the following:

- o Some CPCs questioned the continued relevance of the TCAC citing (a) the evolution of stock management within the IOTC in light of the existence of catch limits for the three tropical tunas in the IOTC Resolutions and a management procedure for swordfish, (b) the limited progress achieved over the past 15 years, and (c) the costs associated with the process.
- o One CPC expressed the view that the TCAC should be terminated while another proposed suspending the work until concrete progress can be achieved on key outstanding issues.
- o Several CPCs emphasised that termination or suspension of the TCAC would remove a critical technical platform for addressing deeply divergent views on allocation, and noted that, notwithstanding slow and resource-intensive progress to date, the TCAC remains the only dedicated forum for structured technical discussions on this matter. A number of delegations expressed continued confidence in the process and support for the continuation of the TCAC, provided its work is refocused and more clearly prioritised.
- o Several coastal State members highlighted that reliance on temporary or interim catch limits does not provide the stability required for long-term investment, capacity development, and equitable sharing of benefits, and stressed the need for a future-proof allocation framework that offers predictability.
- o At the same time, various delegations expressed concerns regarding costs, scope, and the need for sharper focus of the TCAC, with broad support expressed for holding some future meetings virtually to reduce financial burdens.

- o A member proposed changing the name of the TCAC, dropping the word “Criteria” to allow broader discussions and draft a simple Terms of Reference for the Committee.
- o Many members stressed that clarifying the scope of allocation is now the most urgent priority. In particular, there was convergence on the need to better define the treatment of small-scale, artisanal and subsistence fisheries, including how these fisheries apply in EEZs and on the high seas, what data are available, and how they interact with existing catch limits and management procedures. Several members noted that allocation discussions cannot advance meaningfully without first addressing these foundational issues and pre-conditions. Others highlighted that the TCAC should avoid attempting to resolve too many complex matters simultaneously and should instead concentrate each meeting on a limited set of clearly defined questions.
- o Views diverged on the question of numbers and timing. Some members considered it premature to engage in negotiations over allocation figures, arguing that technical groundwork must first be completed, while others called for moving more decisively towards option (iv) as a parallel or back-up pathway, allowing members to express their indicative capacity or expectations based on data and principles.

[Para. 88] The TCAC **AGREED** that the next meeting of the TCAC would be held virtually for two days in October 2026, pending the decision by the Commission on the future of the TCAC.

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The 16th Session of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC16) was held in Perth, Australia from 3 to 6 February 2026. The meeting was opened by Elder Nick Abraham who welcomed participants to Country on behalf of the Nyoongar Nation and Mrs Sarah-Jane McCormack, First Assistant Secretary of the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry who provided a welcoming statement ([Appendix 4](#)), and chaired by the Independent TCAC Chairperson, Mr Quentin Hanich.
2. The meeting was held in a hybrid format that included participants attending in-person and by videoconference.

2. LETTERS OF CREDENTIALS AND ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

3. Letters of Credentials were received from 25 Contracting Parties. China, France OT, Iran, Mozambique, Philippines and Somalia participated virtually. The list of participants is provided in [Appendix 1](#).
4. Pursuant to Article VII of the IOTC Agreement and Rule XIV of the IOTC Rules of Procedure, the Commission admitted the following observers:

Cooperating non-Contracting Party

- Panama

Non-governmental organizations having special competence in the field of activity of the Commission:

- Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources & Security
- Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
- Marine Affairs Program Dalhousie
- Deutsche Stiftung Meeresschutz (DSM)
- International Seafood Sustainability Foundation
- PEW Charitable Trusts
- Sustainable Fisheries and Communities Trust
- South West Indian Ocean Tuna Forum (SWIOTUNA)
- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

Invited consultants and experts:

- Invited Experts

5. Statements by Mauritius, France OT, India and Somalia are included in [Appendix 5](#).

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

6. The Chair provided an overview of the agenda and schedule of discussions for the meeting and noted the documents included in [Appendix 2](#)
7. The Chair stressed the importance of the discussions and the need to make progress at the current session as a precondition for the continuation of the TCAC work. He noted that the components of the allocation scheme are a package and that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed. He outlined the proposed schedule and way forward for the meeting and encouraged participants to engage in constructive dialogue.
8. A member stressed the importance of this meeting and the fact that the discussions are not a zero-sum game. They noted that this principle shouldn't just be stated but should be put into practice. They encouraged all members to engage fruitfully in the discussions and cooperate to achieve the aims of the TCAC.
9. The TCAC **ADOPTED** the revised agenda provided in [Appendix 3](#).

4. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

10. The TCAC **RECALLED** that at the TCAC15 meeting in 2025, no nominations were received for the vacant second-Vice-Chair position during that session and so had **AGREED** to defer the election to TCAC16.

11. The TCAC called for nominations for the vacant Vice-Chair position. No nominations were received. As such, the Chair requested that Korea provide assistance with rapporteuring at the meeting along with the Chair, first vice-Chair and Secretariat, and Korea accepted the request.

5. TCAC WORKPLAN

5.1. Summary of progress to-date and framework of three criteria

12. The TCAC **NOTED** the summary of activities and consultations undertaken by the Chairperson leading up to the current meeting. The Chair noted that through the consultations, members had strongly supported the work of the TCAC and expressed their desire to see it continue to make progress.
13. The TCAC **NOTED** the Chairs reference to the success experienced at the recent WCPFC meeting, although different to the IOTC, proved that commitment, discussion, and compromise can achieve the objective of reaching agreement on an allocation scheme.
14. The TCAC **NOTED** the four papers that the Chairperson had been asked to prepare for the TCAC16. The TCAC **NOTED** the Chair's indication that the expected paper on Compliance issue would be deferred until TCAC17. He also noted that he had merged the papers on Special Requirements of Developing States and Baseline Allocations, as these were more efficient to deal with together.

5.2. Update and secretariat presentation on shiny app

15. The TCAC **NOTED** a presentation by the Secretariat on the revised simulation tool (IOTC-2026-TCAC16-INF01 Rev_1). The Secretariat explained that the tool included updated catch data from 1950-2024 as well as updated national jurisdiction areas. The presentation further outlined the various estimations and assumptions that have been made when developing the tool, including updates/changes to the allocation criteria. A short demonstration of the shiny app was then provided.
16. The TCAC **NOTED** the progress made by the Secretariat during the inter-sessional period towards the further development of the allocation simulation tool, and expressed its appreciation for the ongoing work.
17. While **NOTING** that the simulation tool is a work in progress and will be updated to match TCAC discussions over time, a number of inconsistencies in current terminology usage and application were identified. As such, the TCAC **REQUESTED** that the Secretariat ensure the following amendments are made at a minimum:
- Consistent usage of CPC (CP and CNCP) versus Fishing Fleet: For example in relation to Taiwan, Province of China, the tool should be clear when referring to CPCs, versus the Fishing Fleet of Taiwan, Province of China (e.g. CPC versus CPC/Fishing Fleet versus Fishing Fleet).
 - Consistent usage and application of the three IOTC membership categories: Coastal State, Non-Coastal State, and REIO members (Article IV of the IOTC Agreement) (e.g. An REIO member is not a 'State' member).
 - Sub-categories/criteria: When categorising Taiwan, Province of China (Fishing Fleet), any sub-allocation criteria for being a 'State' should be listed as 'Not Applicable', as those categories are applied for China as the non-coastal State member.
18. The TCAC **NOTED** the indication from the Secretariat that in the latest version of the simulation tool, populated immediately prior to the TCAC16, in cases of overlap between EEZs and the high seas, catches were allocated to the high seas in the absence of evidence of access agreements or other arrangements. This change had been directed by the TCAC Chairperson via IOTC Circular 2025-33, Invitation to the TCAC16.
19. The TCAC **NOTED** the objection raised in relation to changing the approach to attribute catch distribution, previously requested by TCAC12 for simulation purposes, without agreement from the TCAC (see IOTC-2023-TCAC-R, para. 24; and contained within draft 7 of the allocation proposal: IOTC-2024-TCAC13-REF02).
20. The TCAC generally **AGREED**, with the exception of one member, that the approach to attribute catch distribution previously requested at TCAC12 and resulting historical catch data distribution (for CPCs and Taiwan, Province of China), revert to that previously agreed to by the TCAC (Appendix 6).
21. The TCAC **AGREED** that alternative approaches for distribution would be welcomed for consideration, but that such proposals need to be brought to the TCAC for discussion and decision before any changes are implemented.

6. SCOPE

22. The TCAC **NOTED** the Chair’s presentation of document IOTC-2026-TCAC16-06 on artisanal/small-scale fisheries.
23. Members reiterated that the area of competence of the Commission is the Indian Ocean as defined in Article II of the IOTC Agreement, without prejudice to the sovereignty and sovereign rights of Coastal States.
24. The TCAC **RECALLED** that at TCAC13, it was agreed the initial allocation scheme would prioritise and focus solely on the five principal species (YFT, BET, SKJ, ALB, SWO) with other tuna and tuna-like species to be considered subsequently:
- “Para 53: The TCAC AGREED to focus solely on the five principal species, aiming to submit an allocation resolution for these species to the Commission for adoption in 2027 noting that possible variations in weightings for each species may be necessary. The TCAC AGREED that it would include a recommendation in its submission that a second resolution then be adopted for other species, based on the same allocation criteria, subject to variations in weightings with a timeline to be discussed and agreed.”*
25. The TCAC **NOTED** the Chair's proposal to separate artisanal fisheries into three categories, namely (i) near shore artisanal fisheries, (ii) offshore artisanal fisheries and (iii) semi-industrial fisheries. The TCAC further **NOTED** the proposed options for addressing these separate categories.
26. The TCAC **NOTED** that the characteristics that describe small-scale/artisanal/subsistence fisheries be defined for the purposes of allocation with some members expressing their strong view that a common definition is required.
27. The TCAC **NOTED** the Chairs paper proposing relying on Self-Identification of artisanal fisheries by Coastal States. Some members supported the proposal while others held differing views on the risks of Self-Identification.:
- self-defining artisanal fleets raised concerns about equality and potential loopholes.
 - how self-identification would work in practice and the justification required for their classifications, stating that some members might classify large vessels as "artisanal" to avoid quotas and obligations.
 - the definition of fleet types and TCAC mandate.
 - self-defined classifications require verification and may lead to future disputes.
 - the IOTC would delegate its regulatory mission by allowing potentially divergent CPC definitions
28. The TCAC **NOTED** the indication from the Secretariat that an estimated 40% of the total catch of the 5 primary species, currently falls under the broad "artisanal/coastal" label due to the current classification of fishery types in IOTC and that this estimate is uncertain due to limited data.. The TCAC **NOTED** the views of some members on the need to refine definitions to identify and if considered appropriate, provide specific provisions (which may include exemptions or other measures) for subsistence and small-scale fisheries which would likely be a much smaller percentage. Some members supported exemptions for these fisheries.
29. The TCAC also **NOTED** that some members agreed with the Chairs suggestion that initially only a proportion of the total TAC would be allocated, based on the size of the commercial catch, with the rest being incrementally allocated as artisanal fisheries are defined and included under the allocation regime.
30. The TCAC **NOTED** that a "soft waiver" transition period was proposed to gradually phase artisanal fleets into the management regime. However, there was disagreement on the end goal with some arguing that livelihood fisheries which are non-commercial should be permanently exempt, while others indicated that they must eventually be included to prevent overfishing. Others indicated that there were ways to estimate subsistence and small-scale fisheries catch and to account for these in the TAC. A Member suggested that if artisanal and small-scale fisheries are exempted from the allocation regime, it still has an obligation to report the catch data to the Secretariat which distinguish the catch from artisanal and small-scale fisheries and from industrial vessels, as well as conduct its own national conservation and management measures compatible with the Allocation Regime.
31. The TCAC **NOTED** the concern of some members regarding sovereignty and implementation burdens. Several coastal states expressed concern that regulating artisanal and small-scale fisheries in territorial waters

encroaches on sovereignty of the coastal State, as prescribed by UNCLOS and the UNFSA and creates a disproportionate burden on these countries while interfering with their food security. Some members also expressed concern regarding funding for capacity building to assist member states with addressing the monitoring and reporting of their artisanal fleets and the legal consequences of non-compliance.

32. One member stated that as the issue of artisanal and small-scale fisheries is of great importance for the allocation process, data could be taken from National Reports provided by all CPCs. In the case of data gaps the IOTC Secretariat could request the CPCs to provide the relevant information. The Secretariat informed the TCAC that such data on small-scale fisheries was not available in the National Reports.
33. The TCAC **NOTED** that sustainability of tuna resources couldn't be achieved without at least a broad understanding and estimation of artisanal fisheries catches. The Secretariat explained that the data available for these fisheries is of very poor quality and the estimate of 40% of total catch is uncertain and likely underestimated. The TCAC **NOTED** that data reporting is mandatory for all fleet types to ensure sustainability and in line with the IOTC Agreement and Resolutions 15/01 and 15/02.
34. The TCAC **NOTED** an alternative approach put forward by a member state which is to address the issue of artisanal fisheries under the Criteria of Special Requirements of Developing States rather than under the Criteria of catch history or fishing interest. The member's rationale behind this suggestion was that a number of other RFMOs had been taking that approach in addressing artisanal fisheries and that the issue was often related to Developing Coastal States.
35. The TCAC **AGREED** that negotiating a definition for small-scale fisheries could be complex and time-consuming. Participants suggested alternatives, such as allowing states to use their own internal definitions, focusing on "bottom-up" domestic classifications, or limiting exemptions to subsistence fisheries that do not engage in trade. Other members suggested that such definitions would be a pre-condition for agreeing to an Allocation Regime.
36. The TCAC **NOTED** the concern of some members that while special provisions are desirable for food security of the coastal communities in the Developing States, excluding a fleet segment that accounts for a substantial portion of the total catch would be problematic and would make it difficult to implement the scientific advice and could lead to catches exceeding advised levels.
37. The TCAC **DISCUSSED** the scope of the allocation framework and the special treatment of small-scale/artisanal fisheries. Some members argued that without a clear understanding of which fisheries would receive specific provisions (which may include exclusions or other measures) from the allocation criteria and their nature, they would not be in a position to proceed with negotiations.
38. The TCAC **NOTED** the requested paper and proposed approach to address the special treatment of small-scale/artisanal/subsistence fisheries.
39. The TCAC **THANKED** the Chair for providing this text for discussion but **NOTED** that there was still significant disagreement on certain aspects of the proposal. As such, changes to the proposed text were provided and incorporated into a revised text (Appendix 7). This draft text is attached for information for future discussions.
40. The TCAC particularly **NOTED** the need to ensure the total catch did not exceed the scientifically estimated TAC and noted that some members expressed the following concerns:
 - The self-definition of the fisheries to be excluded
 - The monitoring of these fisheries based on the data available
 - The percentage of the catch to be exempted
 - A common definition of the characteristics of the fisheries to be excluded
 - The quality of the data that could be provided
41. The TCAC **NOTED** the concerns of some members on the self-definition of the artisanal and small-scale fisheries based on their national legislation and/or regulations. Some members viewed that the FAO Guidelines for small-scale fisheries provide guidance on definitions. This could be used as a starting point for the identification of characteristics for the fisheries to receive special provisions (which may include exemptions or other measures). This terminology is also consistent with the terms used in the UNFSA.

42. The TCAC **AGREED** that a stepwise process to address this issue should be included in the TCAC workplan to advance these discussions moving forward:
- Gather information on livelihood and subsistence fisheries
 - For the purposes of allocation, agree on a the characterisation of fisheries to be granted special treatment
 - Calculate the catch represented by this sector
 - Consider the special treatment of these fisheries
43. Some members stressed that this issue should be addressed before finalising the allocation framework.

7. THE THREE ALLOCATION CRITERIA

44. The TCAC **NOTED** the Chair’s presentation of document IOTC-2026-TCAC16-04 on an explanatory memo on an allocation framework as well as a proposed approach.
45. The TCAC **NOTED** the chairs summary of how these issues have been discussed previously at the TCAC and possible avenues for advancing the discussions on these criteria ensuring consistency with international law.
46. The TCAC **NOTED** the concept of indicators that could be used to monitor or quantify the implementation of the Criteria. In the document, the catch history/biomass proxy criterion is redefined as fishing interest. The Chair then discussed how these indicators could be viewed or applied (figure 1)

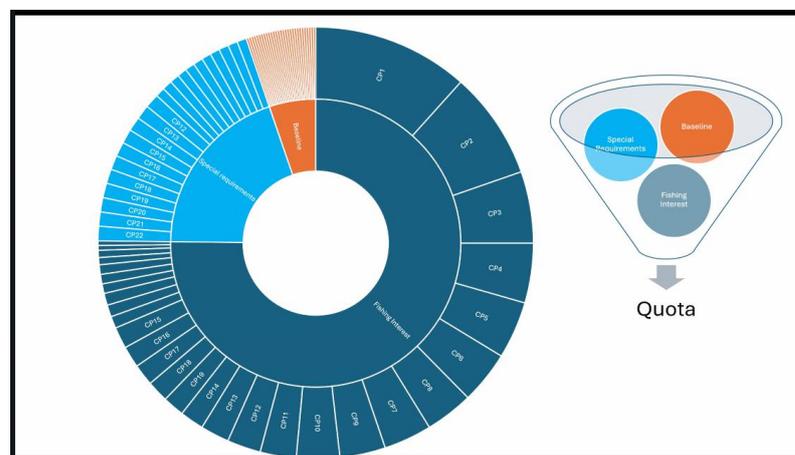


Figure 1: Criteria applied to determine quota. Proportion of weighting between criteria is arbitrary and would need to be agreed.

47. The TCAC **NOTED** diverging views on the use of fishing interest as included in Figure 1. Some Members expressed their view that the criteria overlap and that fishing interest should not replace catch history as a criterion. Other members expressed their support for the inclusion of fishing interest as a criterion, noting that catch history looks backwards to the past state of the fisheries, while fishing interest is forward-looking and may address many of the concerns and developmental aspirations of coastal states. Some members stressed their view that catch history is a fair representation of the evolution of the fisheries in the IOTC Area of Competence and has been used as a criterion for the recent attribution of catch limits for tropical tuna species in IOTC Resolutions.
48. The TCAC **NOTED** that members recognized current limitations in available data to directly calculate biomass at the EEZ scale, and discussed potential proxy approaches, including using EEZ area adjusted by regional biomass scalars derived from stock assessments. The TCAC further **NOTED** suggestions that any biomass-related proxy be subject to independent scientific review through the relevant scientific bodies, and that the Secretariat be requested to present options and assumptions clearly before such proxies are used in simulation testing or package comparisons.
49. The TCAC **NOTED** the Chairs discussion regarding the consultations he has held with members. Feedback indicated that baseline criteria could be assigned 5 – 10% of the TAC. There was little interest in seeing a higher level than this. With regards to the Special Requirements criteria, it is logical that a higher percentage for this would require a lower percentage for the Fishing Interest criteria which would harm the developmental

aspirations of member countries. As such this could be assigned 10 – 25% of TAC. This would leave between 65 -85% to the Fishing Interest criteria. These percentages need to be discussed and agreed.

50. The TCAC **ACKNOWLEDGED** that the final weighting between the criteria would be dependent on the factors or indicators included under each criterion. Some members expressed their view that they would need to ensure that certain rights such as sovereign rights and developmental aspirations need to be included, but it was yet to be agreed under which criteria. As such it was reiterated that the allocation criteria are a package deal and need to be agreed together.
51. The TCAC **NOTED** that additional factors could be included under the criteria of the allocation regime. Consideration of socio-economic factors, contributions to scientific work, management measures adopted by coastal states contributing to the sustainability of stocks, compliance with IOTC CMMs as well as other factors could be considered. The Chair noted that the current three criteria were agreed during the TCAC13 and so formed the bases for the discussions going forward but that additional aspects could be considered.

Special Requirements of Developing States

52. The TCAC **NOTED** the chairs summary in document IOTC-2026-TCAC16-05 on how special requirements of Developing States has been discussed at IOTC in the past and how it has been addressed in other RFMOs.
53. The TCAC **NOTED** the three options provided on page 6 in the paper on how to distribute the quota. The TCAC further **NOTED** that the aim of this criterion is mainly to reflect the principles in UNFSA (Article 24:2) including vulnerability, dependency and the need to avoid a disproportionate burden on developing states and also the socio-economic impacts to developing coastal states..
54. The TCAC **NOTED** that it may be possible to combine the 3 options to provide a solution that could be acceptable to all members, addressing the need to acknowledge the vulnerability of SIDS and least developed, developing countries, while also taking into account the economic importance of fisheries and additional socio-economic indicators that could be verifiable, internationally accepted and easily quantifiable. One Member requested due consideration of the vulnerability of island territories of large Coastal States in line with SIDS while taking the discussions forward in the future and that the indicators considered be assessed as absolute values instead of per capita/percentage values.
55. One member stressed the need to prioritise SIDS and least developed CPCs under this allocation criteria.
56. The TCAC **NOTED** that there was no agreement on these options and tasked the Chair with revising them in order to address member concerns. The TCAC **NOTED** the revised text developed by the Chair and included in Appendix 8.
57. The TCAC **NOTED** that there was general agreement on the process for addressing the needs of developing states, and that the proposed draft options included in Appendix 8 will be used to guide discussions moving forward.
58. The TCAC **NOTED** the reiteration by some CPCs that artisanal and subsistence fisheries should be permanently excluded from any quota-based allocation regime, opposing the application of any time-bound exemption. One CPC cited Article 24 of the UNFSA and food security imperatives in support of this position, requested explicit text within the report noting their position to exempt such fisheries from allocation quotas.

Baseline Criterion

59. The TCAC **NOTED** the general agreement at past TCAC meetings that eligibility for the baseline criterion would be limited to current CPs, recognising the requirements under the UNFSA and noting that non-discrimination of new entrants could be addressed in a separate component of the allocation framework. This can be treated on a case-by-case basis during the accession process.
60. The TCAC **NOTED** a request from the invited experts to formally acknowledge that their fishing fleet should be treated the same as distant water fleets for baseline criteria application.

Catch History/Biomass proxies (Fishery Interest criterion)

61. The TCAC **NOTED** that several CPCs underscored that biomass distribution is central to stock assessment and therefore relevant to any discussion of TAC and allocation. These CPCs emphasized that “fishing interest” should not be assessed only through catch history or biomass proxies, but should also reflect proximity to

fishing grounds, geographical tuna migration patterns, and the spatial distribution of the stocks within the Area of Competence, including within EEZs of coastal States.

62. The TCAC **NOTED** a presentation by Australia on the Interest in the Fishery Criterion (IOTC-2026-TCAC016-INF02). The presentation provided examples of how this would be applied to the allocation regime.
63. The TCAC **NOTED** that the presentation included an option to include EEZ size as a factor for determining the biomass proxy for inclusion into the estimation of catch history and therefore interest in the fishery. Effectively, a contracting party can choose either the reference years for catch history or could choose to use their EEZ size as a percentage of the IOTC area of competence multiplied by a given species recommended biological catch. The choice would then be used in this component of the allocation criteria.
64. The TCAC **WELCOMED** an innovative method to advance discussions on this important criterion, **NOTING** that agreement on this critical issue had yet to be reached.
65. The TCAC **NOTED** that for EEZ size to be considered as a proxy for biomass, some consideration should be given to species distribution. This could be done taking into account known distributions by species or looking at historical fishing patterns and catches to demonstrate species availability.
66. The TCAC **NOTED** the view of a member, that EEZ size alone did not indicate fishery interest as such. The member noted a wide list of interests including fishing activities targeting tuna and tuna-like species or socio-economic factors. In addition to this, other members expressed their concern with the term “Fishing Interest” preferring Catch History/Biomass proxy.
67. The TCAC **DISCUSSED** that the intention of the biomass proxy was to address the needs of coastal states for whom catch histories are small or do not exist, but who have the right to develop their fisheries. A member expressed their view that the Biomass proxy using EEZ size should only be applicable for coastal states without catch histories and shouldn’t be an option that members can simply choose.
68. The TCAC **NOTED** that a difficulty in visualising the implications of these decisions is due to these components being viewed individually when in reality they are part of a package that needs to be agreed in its entirety. The TCAC therefore **REQUESTED** that this option when developed be incorporated into the simulation tool so that its effect can be evaluated.
69. The TCAC **ENCOURAGED** Australia to take the comments from members into consideration when revising their proposal so that the concerns expressed are taken into consideration and accounted for in the next iteration.
70. Some members expressed their views on the importance of catch history, noting the migratory nature of tropical tuna and the link between the location of historical catches and access agreements
71. The TCAC **NOTED** a revision to the proposal by Australia which included a weighting or scaling factor for the regional biomass - $(\% \text{ area of the IOTC AoC}) \times [(\text{weighting for regional biomass})] \times (\text{Recommended TAC})$. This option would apply regional biomass scalars as a weighting to the EEZ size, which would adjust the influence of EEZ size to better reflect the relative biomass in each region of the Indian Ocean.
72. The TCAC **AGREED** with Australia’s proposal that an independent scientific consultant review the theoretical basis for this methodology and provide this advice through the Working Party on Tropical Tuna and Scientific Committee in the period leading into the next TCAC subject to extra-budgetary funding being available.
73. The TCAC **NOTED** that Australia will continue to work on the proposal based on members’ comments as well as potential options for the work of the scientific consultant. In addition the consultant would review the resolution of the data reported by grid as well as fishery independent information.
74. The TCAC **NOTED** that the TCAC15 agreed on two options for future discussion on catch attributions.

“Appendix 6 - Option 1: Historical catches taken within waters under the national jurisdiction of a CPC shall be attributed to the coastal State CPC with sovereign jurisdiction over that area. To minimize economic disruption and maintain fishing and processing industry stability, this re-attribution shall be implemented through a phased transition over a defined period. During this transitional period: -

- In Year 1, X% of the historical catch of a Flag State CPC in another CPC’s jurisdictional waters shall be attributed to the corresponding coastal State CPC.

- The remaining (100 – X)% shall be reallocated in a stepwise manner over the following [Y]-year period, according to a pre-agreed schedule. Coastal State CPCs may, under mutually agreed terms, grant

surplus quota to Flag State CPCs. This approach aims to balance the rights of coastal States with the economic interests of industrial fishing and processing CPCs, while ensuring a predictable and equitable transition.

Option 2: Attributes catch history to the flag State, regardless of where the catches have been caught so to reflect the migratory nature of tuna species. Over a period of X years, Y% of the catches caught in the EEZ of a Coastal State will be gradually allocated to that Coastal State.”

75. The TCAC **NOTED** a summary by the Chair on an operational approach to this catch attribution as provided in document IOTC-2026-TCAC16-04.
76. The TCAC **NOTED** that the proposal begins with the immediate and permanent attribution of a percentage of catch history from foreign vessels in EEZs to the coastal State and harvesting CPC. The Chair’s proposal suggested that 20% of the catch history from these foreign vessels be attributed to the coastal State, and 20% to the flag State. Should this suggestion be accepted, then focus on negotiating a transition for the remaining 60% of the catch history would be needed.
77. The TCAC **NOTED** that alternatively, if no agreement could be reached on the transition period and percentages, then the Chair’s proposal suggested that they consider a shared compromise pathway. This would include 20% of the catch history from foreign vessels in an EEZ being attributed to the coastal State, and 20% to the flag State. The remaining 60% would then be attributed to a shared catch history that will generate a shared quota. This shared quota would then be available to both the coastal and the flag State to fish in the coastal State’s EEZ, consistent with coastal State’s sovereign rights under UNCLOS to determine access fees and conditions. The quota should prioritise domestically based vessels.
78. The TCAC **NOTED** that there was some uncertainty regarding the utilisation of the shared quota and that this would need to be clarified. The TCAC **AGREED** that introducing a new option to the two agreed during TCAC15 was not beneficial and that it would be preferably to continue without further discussing this option.
79. The TCAC **NOTED** the views of coastal CPCs that attributing the historical catch in the EEZs to the coastal States is consistent with the principle of sovereign rights under UNCLOS and UNFSA. Some harvesting CPCs expressed their concerns that such catches were the result of their capacity and access agreements/contract, so such catch should be attributed to the harvesting CPCs.
80. The TCAC **NOTED** that there was disagreement on the attribution of historical catch between harvesting CPCs and coastal states for catch taken in EEZs. .
81. The TCAC **AGREED** to merge option 1 and option 2 and base future discussion on this simplified single option:
- 1) Catch attribution shall be based on the following:
 - In Year 1, X% of the historical catch of a Flag State CPC fishing in another CPC’s jurisdictional waters shall be attributed to the corresponding coastal State CPC. The remainder shall be attributed to the Flag State CPC.
 - Y-X% shall be attributed to the corresponding coastal State CPC in a stepwise manner over the following Z-year period, concluding with a permanent arrangement according to a pre-agreed schedule. The remainder shall be attributed to the Flag State CPC each year during the Z-year period.

* The value of X and Y will be a range from 0 and up to 100.

82. The TCAC **NOTED** that the value of Z in the revised option needs to be discussed and should not allow for an indefinite transition period.

8. COMPLIANCE

83. The TCAC **NOTED** that this issue would be deferred until TCAC17.

9. CHAIR’S SUMMARY AND FUTURE OF THE TCAC

9.1. Review and update of the workplan

84. The TCAC **NOTED** the work plan proposed by the Chair at TCAC15 and his suggestion that this would not be further discussed during the current meeting.

85. The TCAC **DISCUSSED** the guidance to the Chair and options for the future of the TCAC.
86. The Chair proposed 4 options for the future of the TCAC. These included:
- i. Review and update workplan
 - ii. Amend TCAC and re-focus
 - iii. Terminate TCAC
 - iv. CPs propose numbers to Chair, supported by references to data and principles. Chair then prepares proposal for review by TCAC17
87. **NOTING** that there was no agreement among members on the future of the TCAC, the TCAC **REQUESTED** that the Commission note the following:
- Some CPCs questioned the continued relevance of the TCAC citing (a) the evolution of stock management within the IOTC in light of the existence of catch limits for the three tropical tunas in the IOTC Resolutions and a management procedure for swordfish, (b) the limited progress achieved over the past 15 years, and (c) the costs associated with the process.
 - One CPC expressed the view that the TCAC should be terminated while another proposed suspending the work until concrete progress can be achieved on key outstanding issues.
 - Several CPCs emphasised that termination or suspension of the TCAC would remove a critical technical platform for addressing deeply divergent views on allocation, and noted that, notwithstanding slow and resource-intensive progress to date, the TCAC remains the only dedicated forum for structured technical discussions on this matter. A number of delegations expressed continued confidence in the process and support for the continuation of the TCAC, provided its work is refocused and more clearly prioritised.
 - Several coastal State members highlighted that reliance on temporary or interim catch limits does not provide the stability required for long-term investment, capacity development, and equitable sharing of benefits, and stressed the need for a future-proof allocation framework that offers predictability.
 - At the same time, various delegations expressed concerns regarding costs, scope, and the need for sharper focus of the TCAC, with broad support expressed for holding some future meetings virtually to reduce financial burdens.
 - A member proposed changing the name of the TCAC, dropping the word “Criteria” to allow broader discussions and draft a simple Terms of Reference for the Committee.
 - Many members stressed that clarifying the scope of allocation is now the most urgent priority. In particular, there was convergence on the need to better define the treatment of small-scale, artisanal and subsistence fisheries, including how these fisheries apply in EEZs and on the high seas, what data are available, and how they interact with existing catch limits and management procedures. Several members noted that allocation discussions cannot advance meaningfully without first addressing these foundational issues and pre-conditions. Others highlighted that the TCAC should avoid attempting to resolve too many complex matters simultaneously and should instead concentrate each meeting on a limited set of clearly defined questions.
 - Views diverged on the question of numbers and timing. Some members considered it premature to engage in negotiations over allocation figures, arguing that technical groundwork must first be completed, while others called for moving more decisively towards option (iv) as a parallel or back-up pathway, allowing members to express their indicative capacity or expectations based on data and principles.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1. 2026 meeting schedule and host nominations

88. The TCAC **AGREED** that the next meeting of the TCAC would be held virtually for two days in October 2026, pending the decision by the Commission on the future of the TCAC.

11. ADOPTION OF REPORT

The report of the 16th Session of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (IOTC–2026–TCAC16–R) was **ADOPTED** on the 6th February 2026.

APPENDIX 1.
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

CHAIRPERSON

Mr Quentin Hanich
hanich@uow.edu.au

AUSTRALIA**Head of Delegation**

Mr George Day
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry
George.Day@aff.gov.au

Alternate

Ms Sarah-Jane McCormack
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry
sarahjane.mccormack@aff.gov.au

Alternate

Mr Patrick Sachs
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry
Patrick.Sachs@aff.gov.au

Advisor(s)

Mr Neil Hughes
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry
Neil.Hughes@aff.gov.au

Ms Lakshmi Gudipati
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry
Lakshmi.Gudipati@aff.gov.au

Mr Don Bromhead
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry
Don.bromhead@aff.gov.au

Ms Selina Stoute
Australian Fisheries
Management Authority
Selina.stoute@afma.gov.au

Mr David Ellis
CEO Tuna Australia
CEO@tunaaustralia.org.au

Mr Terry Romaro Oam
Ship Agencies Australia
terry@saa.com.au

Mr Kim Newbold
Hawkness Pty Ltd
knewbold@wn.com.au

Mr Alan Gray
Tasmanian Seafoods Pty Ltd
tankgray@bigpond.com

Mr Sean Romaro
Ship Agencies Aus
sean@romaro.name

Mr Biagio Spinella
Austop Fisheries
biagio@austopfisheries.com.au

BANGLADESH

Absent

CHINA

Head of Delegation
Mr Xiaobing Liu
Shanghai Ocean University
xiaobing.liu@hotmail.com

Alternate

Ms Yanan Li
Shanghai Ocean University
ynli@shou.edu.cn

COMOROS

Absent

EUROPEAN UNION

Head of Delegation
Mr Marco Valletta
DG MARE, B2
Marco.valletta@ec.europa.eu

Mr Stijn Billiet
DG MARE, B2
Stijn.billiet@ec.europa.eu

Mr Benoit Marcoux
DG MARE, B2
Benoit.Marcoux@ec.europa.eu

Ms Juliette Haziza
DGAMPA
juliette.haziza@mer.gouv.fr

Mr Miguel Angel Herrera
OPAGAC
miguel.herrera@opagac.org

Mr Michel Goujon
ORTHONGEL
mgoujon@orthongel.fr

FRANCE(OT)**Head of Delegation**

Mr Mafal Thiam
Direction générale des
affaires maritimes, de la
pêche et de l'aquaculture
mafal.thiam@mer.gouv.fr

Alternate

Ms Lucie Orozco
Direction générale des
affaires maritimes, de la
pêche et de l'aquaculture
lucie.orozco@mer.gouv.fr

INDIA**Head of Delegation**

Mr Sijo P. Varghese
Fishery Survey of India
varghesefsi@hotmail.com

Alternate

Ms Neetu Kumari Prasad
Department of Fisheries
jsfy@nic.in

Advisor(s)

Mr K. Mohammed Koya
Department of Fisheries
fdc-india@dof.gov.in

Ms Shoba Joe Kizhakudan
Central Marine Fisheries
Research Institute
jkshoba@gmail.com

Ms Muktha Menon
Central Marine Fisheries
Research Institute
muktham@gmail.com

INDONESIA

Head of Delegation

Mr Syahril Abd Raup
Ministry of Marine Affairs
and Fisheries
syahril.abd.raup@kkp.go.id

Alternate

Mr Indra Jaya
Head of National
Committee on Fish Stocks
Assessment
indrajaya123@gmail.com

Advisor(s)

Ms Putuh Suadela
Ministry of Marine Affairs
and Fisheries
putuhsuadela@gmail.com

Mr Adipati Rahmat
Ministry of Marine Affairs
and Fisheries
adipatirahmat@gmail.com

Mr Hamdan Nurul Huda
Ministry of Marine Affairs
and Fisheries
hamdankkp@gmail.com

Ms Dominique Virgil
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
dominique.virgil@kemlu.go.id

Ms Handayani P.U. Panjaitan
Ministry of Marine Affairs
and Fisheries

handayani.panjaitan@kkp.go.id

IRAN (ISLAMIC REP OF)

Absent

JAPAN

Head of Delegation

Mr Takaaki Suzuki
Fisheries Agency
takaaki_suzuki620@maff.go.jp

Alternate

Ms Yuka Matsuzawa
Fisheries Agency
yuka_matsuzawa450@maff.go.jp

Advisor(s)

Ms Chika Fukugama
Fisheries Agency
chika_fukugama740@maff.go.jp

Mr Sota Ueno
Fisheries Agency
sota_ueno180@maff.go.jp

Mr Kiyoshi Katsuyama
Japan Tuna Fisheries
Cooperative Association
david.vilon@gmail.com

Mr Hiroyuki Yoshida
Japan Tuna Fisheries
Cooperative Association
yoshida@japantuna.or.jp

Mr Nozomu Miura
Japan Tuna Fisheries
Cooperative Association
miura@japantuna.or.jp

KENYA

Head of Delegation

Mr Davies Makilla

State Department for the
Blue Economy and Fisheries
dmmakilla@yahoo.com

Alternate

Ms Lucy Obungu
State Department for the
Blue Economy and Fisheries
lucyobungu@gmail.com

Advisor(s)

Ms Elizabeth Mueni
State Department for the
Blue Economy and Fisheries
emuenibf@yahoo.com

Mr Stephen Ndegwa
State Department for the
Blue Economy and Fisheries
ndegwafish@gmail.com

Mr Jacob Ochiewo
State Department for the
Blue Economy and Fisheries
jacobochiewo@gmail.com
Mr Benedict Kiilu
State Department for the
Blue Economy and Fisheries
kiiilub@yahoo.com

Ms Nyokabi Waititu
State Department for the
Blue Economy and Fisheries
nyokabih@gmail.com

KOREA

Head of Delegation

Mr Ilkang Na
Ministry of Oceans and
Fisheries
ikna@korea.kr

Alternate

Ms Soomin Kim
Korea Overseas Fisheries
Cooperation Center
soominkim@kofci.org

Advisor(s)

Mr Sangjin Baek
Korea Overseas Fisheries
Association
Korea Overseas Fisheries
Association
sjbaek@kosfa.org

Ms Salsabilaizzati Syalianda
Dongwon Industries
salsa@dongwon.com

Ms Jiwon Kim
Korea Overseas Fisheries
Association
jwkim@kosfa.org

MADAGASCAR**Head of Delegation**

Mr Haingo Razafimbelo
Direction de la Pêche et de
l' aquaculture
rmhaingo@hotmail.com

Alternate

Mr Mahefa Randriamiarisoa
Direction de la Pêche et de
l' aquaculture
sgpt.dp.mrhp@gmail.com

Advisor(s)

Mr Marolova
Rasolomampionona
Direction de la Pêche et de
l' aquaculture
lovastat.mrhp@gmail.com

MALAYSIA**Head of Delegation**

Mr Ahmad Omar
Department of Fisheries
faizal@dof.gov.my

MALDIVES**Head of Delegation**

Mr Hussain Sinan
Ministry of Fisheries and
Ocean Resources

hussain.sinan@fisheries.gov.mv

Alternate

Ms Munshidha Ibrahim
Ministry of Fisheries and
Ocean Resources
munshidha.ibrahim@fisheries.gov.mv

Advisor(s)

Mr Adam Ziyad
Ministry of Fisheries and
Ocean Resources
adam.ziyad@fisheries.gov.mv

Ms Hawwa Raufath Nizar
Ministry of Fisheries and
Ocean Resources
hawwa.raufath@fisheries.gov.mv

Mr Ahmed Shifaz
Ministry of Fisheries and
Ocean Resources
ahmed.shifaz@fisheries.gov.mv

MAURITIUS**Head of Delegation**

Ms Meera Koonjul
Ministry of Agro-Industry,
Food Security and Fisheries
mkoonjul@govmu.org

Alternate

Ms Prema Appadu
Mauritius High Commission,
Canberra
pappadu@govmu.org

Advisor(s)

Ms Marie Clivy Lim Shung
Ministry of Agro-Industry,
Food Security and Fisheries
clivilim@yahoo.com

Mr Vageesh Ramduny

Alba Fishing Ltd
vageesh@albfishingltd.com

Ms Veronique Garrioch
IBL Seafood
vgarrioch@iblseafood.com

MOZAMBIQUE**Head of Delegation**

Absent

OMAN**Head of Delegation**

Mr Yaqoub Al Busaidi
Ministry of Agriculture and
Fisheries
Yaqoob.AlBusaidi@mafwr.gov.om

Alternate

Mr Abdul Aziz Al Marzouqi
Ministry of Agriculture and
Fisheries
aa.almarzouqi@ymail.com

Advisor(s)

Mr Obaid Al-Jassasi
Ministry of Agriculture and
Fisheries
Obaid.ALJasasi@mafwr.gov.om

Mr Khalid Al Haddabi
Ministry of Agriculture and
Fisheries
Khaled.ALHedabi@mafwr.gov.om

Mr Al-Muatasam Al-Habsi
Ministry of Agriculture and
Fisheries
muatasim4@hotmail.com

Mr Jose Ramon Gallardo
Legal Expert
ramon@g-gallardolegal.eu

PAKISTAN

Absent

PHILIPPINES**Head of Delegation**

Ms Jennifer Viron

Bureau of Fisheries and
Aquatic Resourcesjennyviron@bfar.da.gov.ph**Advisor(s)**

Mr Severino Escobar

Bureau of Fisheries and
Aquatic Resourcesjojo_escobar@yahoo.com

Mr Isidro Tanangonan

Bureau of Fisheries and
Aquatic Resourcesitanangonan@bfar.da.gov.ph

Mr Marlo Demo-Os

Bureau of Fisheries and
Aquatic Resourcesmbedemoos@bfar.da.gov.ph

Ms Maria Joy Mabanglo

Bureau of Fisheries and
Aquatic Resourcesmj.mabanglo@gmail.com

Ms. Kristel Joy C. Baje

Bureau of Fisheries and
Aquatic Resourceskristeljoycbaje@gmail.com

Mr Benjamin Tabios

Bureau of Fisheries and
Aquatic Resourcesbenjotabios@gmail.com**SEYCHELLES****Head of Delegation**

Mr Roy Clarisse

Ministry of Fisheries,
Agriculture and the Blue
Economyrclarisse@gov.sc**Alternate**

Mr Vincent Lucas

Seychelles Fisheries
Authorityvlucas@sfa.sc**Advisor(s)**

Ms Sheriffa Morel

Ministry of Fisheries,
Agriculture and the Blue
EconomySheriffamorel@gov.sc

Mr Howard Tan

DFMG group

Dfm@dfmgroup.com**SOMALIA****Head of Delegation**

Mr Abdi Dirshe

Ministry of Fisheries and
Blue Economydg@mfbe.gov.so**Alternate**Mr Abdirahim Ibrahim Sheik
HeileMinistry of Fisheries and
Blue Economyabdirahim.ibrahim@dal.ca**Advisor(s)**

Mr Abdullahi Abdi Addow

Ministry of Fisheries and
Blue Economytechadvisor@mfbe.gov.so

Mr Stepen Mbith Mwikiya

Ministry of Fisheries and
Blue Economydr.stephenmbithi@gmail.com**SOUTH AFRICA****Head of Delegation**

Mr Qayiso Mketsu

Department of Forestry,
Fisheries and the
EnvironmentQMketsu@dffe.gov.za**Alternate**

Mr Mandisile Mqoqi

Department of Forestry,
Fisheries and the
EnvironmentMMqoqi@dffe.gov.za**Advisor(s)**

Mr David Wilson

Department of Forestry,
Fisheries and the
Environmentdavetroywilson@gmail.com**SRI LANKA****Head of Delegation**

Mr Nuwan D P

Gunawardane

Department of Fisheries
and Aquatic Resourcesnuwan.dfar@gmail.com**Alternate**

Mr Dinesh Peiris

Department of Fisheries
and Aquatic Resourcesdineshdfar@gmail.com**SUDAN**

Absent

TANZANIA (UNITED REP. OF)**Head Of Delegation**

Mr Zahor El Kharousy
Deep Sea Fishing Authority
zahor1m@hotmail.com

Alternate

Mr Saleh A. Yahya
Deep Sea Fishing Authority
saleh.yahya@dsfa.go.tz

Advisor(s)

Mr Mathew O. Silas
Deep Sea Fishing Authority
mathew.silas@dsfa.go.tz

Ms Tumu A. Mussa
Deep Sea Fishing Authority
tumu.mussa@dsfa.go.tz

THAILAND**Head of Delegation**

Mr Pavarot
Noranarttragoon
Department of Fisheries
pavarotn@gmail.com

Advisor(s)

Ms Chonticha Kumyoo

Department of Fisheries
chonticha.dof@gmail.com

Mr Thanakrit Chanthaphat
Department of Fisheries
tc.docif@gmail.com

Ms Orawan Prasertsook
Department of Fisheries
orawanp.dof@gmail.com

Mr Titipat Tongdonkruang
Department of Fisheries
g.titipat@gmail.com

Ms Jidapa Setthatham
Department of Fisheries
jidapa.stm@gmail.com
Ms Supranee Chatthong
Department of Fisheries
supranee7c@gmail.com

Ms Supanaree Boonsri
Department of Fisheries
Internationallaw60@gmail.com

Ms Prompan
Hiranmongkolrat
Department of Fisheries

prompan.hiranmongkolrat@gmail.com

Mr Jirachai Leelarojana
Department of Fisheries
jirachai.dof@gmail.com

**UNITED KINGDOM
Head of Delegation**

Mr Carlo Bella
Department for
Environment, Food & Rural
Affairs
Carlo.Bella@defra.gov.uk

Alternate

Ms Jess Keedy
Department for
Environment, Food & Rural
Affairs
jess.keedy@defra.gov.uk

Advisor(s)

Mr James Clark
Mrag
j.clark@mrag.co.uk

YEMEN

Absent

COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES**LIBERIA**

Absent

PANAMA

Absent

INVITED EXPERTS

Mr Yu Chen
chenyu@ms1.fa.gov.tw

Mr Po-Hsiang Liao
liao.p.hsiang@gmail.com

Mr Ken Ke-Chen Yang
yunker.yang@gmail.com

Mr Chia-Chun Wu
jiachun@ms1.fa.gov.tw

Mr Ken Chien-Nan Lin
chiennan@ms1.fa.gov.tw

Mr David Lee
davidlee@ofdc.org.tw

OBSERVERS

**AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
CENTRE FOR OCEAN
RESOURCES AND SECURITY
(ANCORS)**

Ms Bianca Haas
bhaas@uow.edu.au

**COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF
SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA
(CCSBT)**

Head of Delegation
Mr Dominic Vallières
dvallieres@ccsbt.org

Alternate

Mr Akira Soma
asoma@ccsbt.org

**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
(MAP)**

Ms Megan Bailey

Mr Paul De Bruyn
Paul.DeBruyn@fao.org

Mr Emmanuel Chassot
Emmanuel.Chassot@fao.org

Mr Guillaume Fleury
gfleury_sg@yahoo.com.sg

megan.bailey@dal.ca
Mr Scott Schrempf
sc348923@dal.ca

**INTERNATIONAL SEAFOOD
SUSTAINABILITY
FOUNDATION (ISSF)**

Ms Kerrie Robertson
[krobertson@issf-
foundation.org](mailto:krobertson@issf-foundation.org)

**THE PEW CHARITABLE
TRUSTS (PEW)**

Mr Glen Holmes
gholmes@pewtrusts.org

**SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES
AND COMMUNITIES TRUST
(SFACT)**

Mr Valentin Schatz
v.j.schatz@gmail.com

Ms Santa Mervien
Alexandra
[Santamervien.alexandra@
mail.com](mailto:Santamervien.alexandra@gmail.com)

Mr Shiham Adam
shiham.adam@sfact.org

**SOUTH WEST INDIAN
OCEAN TUNA PLATFORM
(SWIOTUNA)**

Mr John Kareko
Jkarekok@gmail.com

Mr Elijah Ngoa
elijahngoa@tufakenya.com

Ms Doreen Simiyu
[doreen.simiyu@swiotuuna.
org](mailto:doreen.simiyu@swiotuuna.org)

IOTC SECRETARIAT

Mr Howard Whalley
Howard.Whalley@fao.org

Ms Mirose Govinden
Mirose.Govinden@fao.org

INTERPRETERS

Ms Isabelle Guinebault
isabelle.guinebault@gmail.com

Mr Benoit Malmontet

b.malmontet@aiic.net

Ms Nathalie Pasquier
npasquier1@yahoo.com

APPENDIX 2.**ADOPTED AGENDA OF THE 16TH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON ALLOCATION CRITERIA**

Date: 3 - 6 February, 2026

Location: Perth, Australia

Time: 9:00AM – 8 hours, daily

Chairperson: Mr Quentin Hanich

- 1. OPENING OF THE SESSION**
- 2. LETTERS OF CREDENTIALS AND ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS**
- 3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION**
- 4. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRS**
 - Nominations
 - Election
- 5. TCAC WORKPLAN**
 - Summary of progress to-date and framework of three criteria
 - Update and secretariat presentation on shiny app
- 6. JURISDICTION**
 - Presentation of paper on artisanal/small-scale fisheries
 - Decision on jurisdiction and consideration for artisanal/small-scale fisheries
- 7. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING STATES**
 - Presentation of paper on allocation criteria for developing States
 - Decision on options
- 8. BASELINE AND THREE CRITERIA RATIO/WEIGHTINGS**
 - Presentation of paper on baseline options
 - Decision on eligibility for baseline quota share
 - Decision on options for three criteria ratios/weightings
- 9. CATCH ATTRIBUTION AND PROXIES**
 - Discussion and decision on way forward
- 10. COMPLIANCE**
 - Presentation of options paper for assessing and addressing quota compliance
- 11. CHAIR'S SUMMARY AND FUTURE OF THE TCAC**
 - Review and update workplan
 - Discussion of progress against workplan
 - Discussion and guidance for chair's report to IOTC on the future of the TCAC
- 12. OTHER BUSINESS**
 - 2026 meeting schedule and host nominations
- 13. ADOPTION OF REPORT**

APPENDIX 3.
LIST OF DOCUMENTS

All documents are available on the IOTC website [[click here](#)]

| Document | Title |
|----------------------------|--|
| IOTC-2026-TCAC16-01a | Draft: Agenda of the 16 th Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria |
| IOTC-2026-TCAC16-01b | Updated: Agenda of the 16 th Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria |
| IOTC-2026-TCAC16-01c | Indicative Schedule for the 16th Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria |
| IOTC-2026-TCAC16-03 | Chairs Explanatory Note |
| IOTC-2026-TCAC16-04 | Chair’s Explanatory Memo Allocation Framework and Proposed Approach |
| IOTC-2026-TCAC16-05 | Criteria for Addressing the Special Requirements of Developing States, and Baseline Options |
| IOTC-2026-TCAC16-06 | Artisanal Fisheries and Allocation |
| Information Papers | |
| IOTC-2026-TCAC16-INF01 | Simulation Tool for Allocation Criteria: Data, Assumptions and Outputs (Updated Version) |
| IOTC-2026-TCAC16-INF02 | Interest in the Fishery |
| Reference documents | |
| IOTC-2025-TCAC15-REF01 | Statement by Mauritius |
| IOTC-2025-TCAC15-REF02 | Statement by France OT |
| Datasets | |
| IOTC-2026-TCAC16-Data01 | CPC and Coastal State Status |
| IOTC-2026-TCAC16- Data02 | Annual retained catches allocated between the high seas and National Jurisdiction Areas, 1950–2024 |

APPENDIX 4.**OPENING REMARKS: MRS SARAH-JANE MCCORMACK, FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY**

- Distinguished Chair, Executive Secretary, Heads of Delegation, Distinguished delegates.
- It is a privilege to be standing on Country, and I thank you for your warm Welcome to Country.
- I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are meeting, the Whadjuk Noongar people, and pay my respects to Elders past and present. For tens of thousands of years, their culture and livelihoods have been deeply connected to the ocean — a reminder that stewardship of marine resources is not a modern concept, but an enduring responsibility.
- On behalf of the Australian Government, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to Perth, Western Australia, for this meeting of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.
- My name is Sarah-Jane McCormack and I am the First Assistant Secretary of the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.
- Perth is often described as one of the most remote capital cities in the world. Yet our meeting here today is testament that distance has never meant isolation. Quite the opposite.
- The Indian Ocean connects us. It connects us to Africa, to South and Southeast Asia, and to the island nations that share both opportunity and vulnerability in these waters. It is therefore deeply fitting that discussions about the future of Indian Ocean tuna fisheries take place here.
- As delegates to this Committee, you carry significant responsibility. The work of the TCAC goes to the heart of one of the most complex and sensitive challenges facing regional fisheries management organisations: how to fairly, transparently, and sustainably allocate fishing opportunities for shared resources.
- The history of these discussions is well known to everyone in this room.
- Year after year, members have brought forward firmly held views — shaped by geography, development status, historical participation, and legitimate national interests. Those discussions have not always been easy. Progress has at times felt incremental, and frustrations have been real.
- But that history should not discourage us. In fact, it should do the opposite.
- The very fact that these discussions continue — that members remain engaged, and willing to return to the table — demonstrates a shared commitment: that allocation is essential to the long-term credibility, effectiveness, and sustainability of the IOTC.
- Being here, on the edge of the Indian Ocean, reminds us that these fisheries are not abstract numbers or negotiating positions. They are living systems that support food security, jobs, cultures, and economies across the region. They are also resources under pressure — pressure that none of us can address alone.

- We should recognise that the challenges we face are not signs of failure. They are the natural consequence of diversity — diversity of fleets, of economies, of development pathways, and of relationships with the ocean. The challenge before us is not to erase those differences, but to manage them constructively.
- This meeting is not about asking any member to abandon its interests. It is about recognising that no single set of interests can define a regional outcome.
- To move forward, we must be prepared to acknowledge differences honestly — and accept that consensus, by definition, requires compromise.
- Compromise does not mean winners and losers. It means finding solutions that are workable, durable, and fair enough that all members can stand behind them — even if no one gets everything they might prefer.
- In that sense, allocation should not be viewed as a zero-sum exercise. A transparent, agreed approach to allocation strengthens compliance, builds trust, and underpins effective conservation. It creates certainty for industry and coastal communities alike. And ultimately, it helps ensure that tuna stocks — our shared resource — remain productive for generations to come.
- Australia firmly believes that this 16th meeting of the TCAC will be critical in resolving allocation in line with the workplan.
- We encourage delegates to use this time in Perth not only in formal sessions, but in informal conversations — over coffee, over meals, and along our coastline — to deepen understanding and explore new perspectives.
- Australia stands ready to support constructive dialogue and pragmatic outcomes. We believe strongly that a fair and transparent allocation framework is not only compatible with sustainability — it is essential to it.
- Let us use this meeting to reaffirm our shared commitment to cooperation in the Indian Ocean. Let us treat our differences not as obstacles, but as the raw material from which durable solutions can be shaped.
- I once again warmly welcome you to Perth. I wish you productive discussions, renewed energy, and success in the important work ahead.
- Thank you, and I wish the Committee every success.

APPENDIX 5.
MEMBER STATEMENTS

16th Meeting of IOTC Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria 3-6
February 2026. Perth. Australia

Agenda Item 9: Catch Attribution and Proxies

Statement by the Republic of Mauritius

The Republic of Mauritius reiterates the statements which it had made with regard to the Chagos Archipelago and the Island of Tromelin under agenda item 6 at the 10th meeting of the Technical Committee held from 20 to 23 June 2022 in Seychelles and which are annexed to the report of that meeting (Document IOTC-2022-TCAC10-R[E], Appendix 4).

The Republic of Mauritius also reaffirms that since the Chagos Archipelago and the Island of Tromelin form an integral part of its territory, no State other than the Republic of Mauritius can be granted any allocations in respect of the Chagos Archipelago and the Island of Tromelin.

The Republic of Mauritius requests that this statement be annexed to the report of this meeting.

16th Session of the IOTC Technical Committee on allocation Criteria**Perth, Australia, february, 3-6, 2026****Statement by the French Republic in response to the statement by the Republic of Mauritius**

In response to the declaration of the Republic of Mauritius, the French Republic reiterates the declaration relating to the island of Tromelin made at the 19th session of the Compliance Committee held from 08 to 10 and 12 May 2022 in the Seychelles, and which is annexed to the report of the quoted meeting (Document IOTC-2022-CoC19-R[E], Appendix 4) and which recalls that France does not recognize any legal value to the registration of this objection submitted to the IOTC Secretariat by the Republic of Mauritius, as it disregards the fact that Tromelin Island is a French territory over which France consistently exercises full sovereignty. The French Republic requests that this declaration be annexed to the report of this meeting.

Statement by India

India reiterates, with the utmost emphasis, that artisanal and small-scale fisheries operating within the EEZs of coastal States must be permanently excluded from any quota allocation framework. These fisheries are fundamentally distinct from industrial tuna fisheries in terms of scale, fishing capacity, technological intensity, and socio-economic purpose. They are predominantly livelihood-oriented, low-impact, multi-species operations that underpin food security and employment for millions of coastal households.

This position is firmly grounded in Article 24 of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA), which obliges States to give due consideration to the needs of subsistence, small-scale, and artisanal fishers, particularly in developing coastal States. Subjecting such fisheries to industrial quota systems would be scientifically unjustified and socially disruptive, with disproportionate and adverse impacts on vulnerable fishing communities.

India further reiterates that, for operational purposes within the IOTC, all tuna fishing vessels below 24 metres operating exclusively within the national jurisdiction of coastal States should continue to be treated as artisanal or small-scale fisheries for allocation considerations, consistent with established IOTC practice.

India also recalls that the IOTC has historically demonstrated the capacity to tailor conservation and management measures and to provide differentiated treatment to distinct fisheries segments, even in the absence of a universally agreed definition. Equating artisanal and small-scale fisheries with industrial operations solely on the basis of vessel length risks imposing disproportionate regulatory burdens on traditional fishing communities in developing coastal States and would run counter to both equity and sustainability objectives.

India submits these observations in a spirit of constructive engagement and shared responsibility. We remain committed to working towards a fair, equitable, and sustainable allocation framework that respects coastal State sovereign right, corrects historical inequities, protects artisanal and small-scale fisheries, and ensures the long-term conservation and sustainable use of tuna stocks in the Indian Ocean.

India further requests that this statement be fully reflected and duly recorded in the meeting report.

Please accept, Chair, and distinguished CPCs, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Statement by Somalia

Somalia presented a statement of foundational principles as a necessary basis for engaging in substantive negotiations on allocation and emphasized that any allocation package must:

- (i) Avoid creating perverse incentives or rewarding overfishing, including by ensuring that future fishing opportunities are not determined solely by uncorrected historical catch;
- (ii) Be grounded in, and informed by, the best available science, with due consideration given to the current distribution of biomass; and
- (iii) Protect small-scale fisheries and coastal communities, notably by preventing the incorporation of artisanal catch data into industrial quota systems.

APPENDIX 6.
APPROACH TO CATCH DISTRIBUTIONS

- (3) [The spatial separation of historical catches, by each CPC, as between areas within and beyond national jurisdiction shall be made on the following basis[, excluding those taken by vessels on the IOTC IUU Vessels List created pursuant to Resolution 18/03, and any predecessor or successor lists]:
- (a) Where the IOTC Secretariat holds fine-scale spatial information about the distribution of a CPCs' catches that information shall be used to spatially attribute the catch history;
 - (b) Any CPC may provide fine scale spatial information to the IOTC Secretariat no later than 60 days before the Commission annual meeting. Once vetted by the IOTC Secretariat, that information shall be used to spatially attribute the catch history for that CPC;
 - (c) Catches reported for 5x5 or 1x1 degree grid squares that:
 - i) wholly fall within areas under national jurisdiction are to be considered as being taken in areas under national jurisdiction of a coastal State;
 - ii) wholly fall within the high seas are to be considered as being taken in the high seas;
 - iii) overlap one or more areas under national jurisdictions of coastal States and/or the high seas, shall be distributed proportionately by area. In cases where there is disagreement by one or more CPCs, the supporting evidence shall be provided to, and considered by the Commission in accordance with the process established by the Commission pursuant to Article 6.8(1)(a);
 - iv) are taken by vessels of a coastal State CPC fishing within its own area under national jurisdiction, shall be considered as being taken within that CPCs' area under national jurisdiction;
 - v) are taken by vessels flagged to a Member State of the REIO CPC within the exclusive economic zone of the REIO's Outermost Regions shall be considered as being taken within that REIO CPC's national jurisdiction;
 - vi) are taken by vessels of a CPC fishing within the exclusive economic zone of that CPC's Overseas Territories shall be considered as being taken within that CPC's national jurisdiction.
 - (d) Catches reported or estimated without associated spatial effort data (as required by IOTC Resolution 15/02, or any superseding Resolution), shall be considered as being taken on the high seas by that CPC. In cases where the flag State is in disagreement with another CPC, supporting evidence shall be provided for consideration by the Commission in accordance with the process established by the Commission pursuant to Article 6.8(1)(a);
 - (e) Notwithstanding paragraph 6.8(3)(d) and unless otherwise demonstrated by the coastal flag State, catches by small artisanal vessels of a limited range of a coastal State CPC in its coastal fisheries as defined in Resolution 15/02 are assumed to have been taken within the area under the national jurisdiction of that coastal State CPC, irrespective of whether spatial effort data is available.]

APPENDIX 7.
SPECIAL TREATMENT OF SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

1. International legal frameworks and development commitments have long recognised the special circumstances of small-scale fisheries and their significance for food security and livelihoods. Their significance, diverse and distributed characteristics, and management challenges for developing State governments requires special treatment.
2. Most IOTC coastal States provide special treatment for these small-scale fisheries and define them accordingly within their national regulations and/or policies. Similarly, many IOTC coastal States differentiate between small-scale and industrial fishing vessels so as to prohibit industrial vessels from operating in near shore fisheries and avoid conflict with coastal communities.
3. In recognition of these circumstances, TCAC proposes the following special treatment for explicitly identified small-scale fisheries:
4. Consistent with the IOTC Agreement and its resolutions, coastal States shall monitor and report all catch of IOTC species, including small-scale fishing fleets.
5. Coastal States shall inform the IOTC of their national legislation and/or regulations for small-scale fishing fleets and provide information and data on their operations and catches.
6. Coastal States shall identify fishing fleets, along with their associated catch, which includes all of the following characteristics:
 - a. Small-scale (i.e vessels of less than (x) tonnage, less than (x) metres length, non-motorised [or outboard engine, small inboard engines])
 - b. livelihoods and subsistence (i.e owner-operator, non-corporate)
 - c. domestic consumption (i.e non-export/ [export only to adjacent/neighbouring/regional/countries/limited export])
7. Coastal States shall estimate the total catch of these identified small-scale fisheries. Based on these estimates, the [IOTC/coastal State] shall set aside this estimated total catch for these specifically identified small-scale fisheries [from within its allocation] and treat these fisheries separately from the quotas provided by the allocation framework.
8. Coastal States should provide this information to the secretariat so that it can be made available to all CPCs before TCAC17.
9. On the basis of this information TCAC17 should be devoted to agreeing on a suitable definition for the purposes of allocation of small-scale/artisanal/subsistence fisheries.
10. [TCAC will then discuss how to define any specific treatment for these fisheries within the allocation provided to each CPC].
11. [Coastal States shall identify data gaps and capacity building priorities to implement IOTC monitoring and reporting obligations. Based on these priorities], the IOTC shall assist coastal States to develop their monitoring, reporting and management frameworks for these small-scale fisheries. Funding will be sought from global grants to support this work.

12. [The IOTC shall monitor catches by these identified small-scale fisheries and notify the coastal State and Commission if [any coastal State's] exceeds its set-aside estimate by more than 20%. If these small-scale fisheries exceed the set-aside by >20% for 3 years in a row, or more than 3 years in 5, then their special treatment shall be reviewed [and the coastal State shall reduce its non-small-scale fisheries allocation so as not to exceed its total allocation/their set aside shall be included within the allocation quota]
13. [All other fisheries within an EEZ and on the high seas shall be included within the quotas provided by the allocation framework.
14. Within x years following the commencement of this special treatment, coastal States shall manage their small-scale fisheries catch, if caught beyond territorial seas or archipelagic waters, using their allocated national quota or catch limit and ensure that it is not exceeded.

APPENDIX 8.

DISTRIBUTION OF QUOTA FROM DEVELOPING STATE CRITERIA

The development criteria recognises the special requirements of developing States and implements international commitments and obligations in the IOTC Agreement, UN Fish Stocks Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. This criteria should enable the sustainable development of reasonable fishing aspirations within a science-based management framework. Transferability ensures that any unused surplus quota can be transferred or traded to other CPs, thereby minimising negative impacts on fishing operations.

Eligibility for quota derived from this criteria is limited to [coastal] developing States [that are located within the IOTC Convention Area]. Eligibility for this quota will be reviewed every [X] years. As States develop and graduate from the criteria, eligibility for the fund will naturally reduce, thereby ensuring that benefits are focused on the special requirements of developing States.

Quota from this criteria will be distributed according to one of these three options.

Option 1:

1. [40%] of the quota will be distributed evenly among CPs who are classified by the United Nations as SIDS and LDCs.
2. [>20%] of the quota will be distributed evenly among CPs who are classified by the World Bank as Lower Income and Lower Middle Income Developing States.
3. [20%] of the quota will be distributed evenly among CPs who are classified by the World Bank as Upper Middle Income Developing States.
4. [20%] of the quota will be distributed evenly among CPs who are assessed as meeting two or more of the following indicators:¹
 - High per capita fish consumption
 - High proportion of fish workers employed in small-scale and artisanal fisheries
 - High proportion of workers employed in fish processing
 - Vulnerable as assessed by the Commonwealth universal vulnerability index
 - High contribution to GDP from tuna fisheries
 - High proportion of total export value made up of fisheries exports
 - Low Human Development Index (HDI) status:

Option 2:

1. [40%] of the quota will be distributed evenly among CPs who are classified by the United Nations as SIDS and LDCs.
2. [20%] of the quota will distributed according to the World Bank GNI Ranking, assigning the highest share of [X%] to the lowest income CP, then incrementally distributing the remainder according to their GNI ranking, with the smallest share of [X%] assigned to the Middle-Income CP with the highest GNI ranking.

¹ Refer to WPSE for Indexes and threshold reference points.

3. [20%] of the quota will be distributed evenly among CPs who are assessed as meeting two or more of the following indicators:²
 - High per capita fish consumption
 - High proportion of fish workers employed in small-scale and artisanal fisheries
 - High proportion of workers employed in fish processing
 - Vulnerable as assessed by the Commonwealth universal vulnerability index
 - High contribution to GDP from tuna fisheries
 - High proportion of total export value made up of fisheries exports
 - Low Human Development Index (HDI) status:

Option 3:

1. [40%] of the quota will be distributed evenly among CPs who are classified by the United Nations as SIDS and LDCs.
2. [40%] of the quota will be distributed evenly among other CPs who are classified Developing States by the World Bank and other globally available indexes.
3. [20%] of the quota will be distributed evenly among CPs who are assessed as meeting two or more of the following indicators:³
 - High per capita fish consumption
 - High proportion of fish workers employed in small-scale and artisanal fisheries
 - High proportion of workers employed in fish processing
 - Vulnerable as assessed by the Commonwealth universal vulnerability index
 - High contribution to GDP from tuna fisheries
 - High proportion of total export value made up of fisheries exports
 - Low Human Development Index (HDI) status:

² Indexes and threshold reference points must be globally recognised

³ Indexes and threshold reference points must be globally recognised