

TCAC17

Virtual – 13/14 October



TCAC17 Decisions

- The TCAC **NOTED** that the majority of members were not in favour of Option 3 and stressed that the work of the TCAC should continue.
- The TCAC **NOTED** broad support for Option 2, using elements of Option 1 to provide a preamble text for any Resolution put forward under Option 2. The TCAC **REQUESTED** the Chair to prepare a draft Preamble for TCAC18 to review and tentatively agree, conditional on the subsequent approval of an allocation framework. In the meantime, the preamble will provide guidance to TCAC negotiations on matters of principle.

TCAC17 Decisions

- The TCAC **NOTED** that there were diverging opinions on the various combinations of priorities and that in most cases, these issues are linked. The TCAC generally **AGREED** that jurisdiction, treatment of artisanal fisheries and catch attribution were the key foundational priorities, closely followed by application of catch history and other indicators for measuring fishing interest, such as EEZ size.

TCAC17 Decisions

- The Chairperson noted that jurisdictional concerns would largely be resolved if agreement could be reached on catch attribution, treatment of artisanal fisheries, and the application of catch history and other indicators such as EEZ size.
- TCAC **AGREED** that jurisdiction, catch attribution and artisanal fisheries shall be addressed at TCAC18.
- TCAC **AGREED** to consider the application of catch history and other indicators such as EEZ size at the first opportunity after the Working Party on Tropical Tuna and Scientific Committee review the theoretical basis for a biomass proxy methodology.

TCAC17 Decisions

- The TCAC **REQUESTED** the Chair to prepare draft proposals for TCAC18 that:
 - specify the treatment of artisanal fisheries by an allocation framework
 - specify the attribution of catch history from foreign vessels inside an EEZ, building on the framework agreed at TCAC16
 - specify the jurisdiction of the allocation framework (noting that archipelagic waters will be considered separately at a later time)
- TCAC18 shall review, refine and tentatively agree on these proposals, conditional on a subsequent analysis by the secretariat of the fisheries that would be impacted by these proposals, and the subsequent approval of an allocation framework.

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- The TCAC **NOTED** that some progress has been made towards the development of an allocation framework and **AGREED** that future TCAC meetings must produce tangible outcomes that contribute to the overall effectiveness of IOTC and progress the development of an allocation framework.
- If TCAC18 is unable to reach agreement on at least one of the three priorities (jurisdiction, catch attribution and the treatment of artisanal fisheries), then the TCAC shall **RECOMMEND** that the Commission dissolve the TCAC and **REQUEST** the Chair to prepare a final Chair's report.

TCAC17 Decisions

- The TCAC **NOTED** that during the 30th Session of the Commission (S30), Korea had proposed Terms of Reference for the TCAC as proposal IOTC-2026-S30-PropF.
- The TCAC **NOTED** that at previous sessions of the TCAC there had been some agreement that TORs were not required for the TCAC and this was expressed during the discussions at S30. The TCAC **NOTED**, however that members retain the right to propose TORs in the future should they so choose.

TCAC17 Decisions

- The TCAC **THANKED** India for their generous offer to host the TCAC18 in Kochi for four days from Monday 1st to Thursday 4th February 2027.