

ON ESTABLISHING A QUOTA ALLOCATION SYSTEM FOR THE MAIN TARGETED SPECIES IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE

Submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran

Background

This proposal responds to IOTC Resolution 10/1 which requires CPCs to adapt a quota allocation system, or any other relevant measures, for the management of the main targeted species, Yellow fin and Big eye tunas and Swordfish, under the IOTC competence. A technical committee is going to be held in February 2011 in Kenya to discuss about allocation criteria and developing allocation systems which both of them necessarily are complementary.

In order to presenting a proposal that through a combination of suitable quota allocation criteria and develop a fair and equitable quota allocation system we need to consider historically fished in the IOTC area, social economic aspects of tuna fishing activities, investment of countries in this field and, responsible fishing activities and also experiences of other share stocks quota allocation systems in the other regions or commissions.

Without any doubt, access to responsible fishery and conservation of tuna fish stocks need all CPCs and none CPCs countries cooperation and their assist. For these the allocation system must be consider to all countries benefit specially in developing countries which their local people and fishermen livelihood and income totally corresponded with this activities. In the other hand the technical committee must be develop a kind of system which it will be able to conserve tuna fish stocks and stockholders benefits at the same time, because these have been the approach of FAO and main goals of regional organizations establishment like IOTC .

RECOGNIZING that based on past experiences in the fishery, the potential production from the resources can be negatively impacted by excessive fishing effort;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the available scientific information and advice, in particular the IOTC scientific committee conclusion whereby the yellowfin and bigeye tuna stock might have been over fully exploited in recent years;

RECOGNIZING that during the 13th IOTC scientific meeting held in December 2010, the scientific committee recommended the yellowfin and bigeye tuna catches should not exceed the MSY levels which have been estimated at 300 thousands tones for yellowfin and at 102 thousands tones for bigeye tuna;

RECOGNIZING that IOTC resolution 10/1 requires the development of a quota allocation system for yellowfin and bigeye tuna stocks and for swordfish stocks;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the implementation of a TAC without a quota allocation system would result in an inequitable distribution of the catches and fishing opportunities among the CPCs and non CPCs;

NOTING the importance of applying the precautionary approach for the management of the tropical tuna and swordfish stocks, in particular yellowfin and bigeye tuna in the Indian Ocean;

ADOPTS, in accordance with the provision of the Article IX, paragraph 1 of the agreement establishing the IOTC, the following:

1- Objectives

- 1.1. Having a responsible fishing activities in IOTC authority area with considering to sustainability in local people occupation, particularly fishing activities and preserve their job in economical level;
- 1.2. Define a suitable allocation mechanism with effective criteria amongst members and cooperating non contracting parties of IOTC to a share of the catch of any fish for which IOTC sets a total allowable catch for swordfish stocks and yellowfin and bigeye tuna in the Indian Ocean for 2012;
- 1.3. Define a mechanism for develop the quota allocation system for all the species and identifying duties and responsibilities of CPCs and non-CPCs of IOTC to implement the system during a period of time.

2- Allocation criteria

2.1. History of tuna fishery (Base of quota)

The history and background of tuna fishing activities in the IOTC area by different countries, is one of the main important criteria, which needs to consideration in quota allocation system. Because these countries mostly belong to the Indian Ocean region or Indian Ocean basin and historically they are familiar with concerns and problems in the IOTC authority. Also the countries have had a main role in establishment of IOTC and it's continuously programs in the Indian Ocean. They have had close cooperation with the commission and beside of their fishing activities have gotten a big role to develop a responsible fishery system base on FAO and IOTC regulations in their own country. They also invested a huge amount of money in this way.

Base on our study and experiences, and in order to choose a suitable base for allocation quota, I.R.Iran recommends, the average of each country catch, during past ten years 2000 -2009, as a base to setting quota for each party. For example if we suppose a country average catch, related with different species of Tuna, have been 150 thousand tons during 2000-2009, this amount of catch will accept as a base of quota for the country. In detail we need to go the country catch history and calculate the amount of quota for each species. According to this criterion all the countries obtain their quotas base on their nominal average catch during past decade and 100% of their efforts accept as base level for their quota. But base on the other five criteria which are mentioned as a below, their quota may be decrease, because of unsuitable work. The advantages of I.R.Iran suggested method is, there is not possibility the total catch in IOTC area goes up than average amount of catch during past decade. In the other hand if all the countries completely obey all the legislations and roles and in the best condition, there is possibility the amount of catch will reach up to average catch in past decade not more than it.

In this regard I.R.Iran recommends the amount of quota will calculate base on this method for Swordfish and yellowfin and bigeye tuna and will apply in 2012 as a quota allocation for each country. Obviously calculation of quota will be possible with the use of this method for the other species. In this way scientific research results lead us to get better understanding about total allowable catch and consequently sustainable fishing activities in the IOTC region.

2.2. Social and economical role of tuna fisheries (30% Rate)

Food security and preparation enough food for human in quality and quantity is the main objective of FAO. Basically the main propose of establishment an international or regional organization like FAO and IOTC is having a kind of actions which lead our world and consequently all the countries to have a safe and healthy life.

For access this aim, necessarily IOTC members need pay more attention to role of Indian Ocean fishing activities in social-economic aspects of CPCs and non-CPCs. Base on available information, the livelihood of many people in the region are closely corresponding with fishing activities in the Indian Ocean. While during past years most of the governments, private sectors, companies, fishermen cooperatives and etc have invested a huge number of money in different divisions, like construction of vessels, cold storage, processing centers and the other activities. Because of these investments and beside of improving fishing activities, many prior and astern industries and jobs have been created for local people. The important point is, the income of most jobs located in economical border. So constraining a little pressure or changes in their activities, negatively affected their jobs, incomes and there life, the points that FAO completely have been avoided from it during its life.

For these we need to consider to social-economic aspects of activities in all the CPCs and non-CPCs and influences of allocation quota system on their life. In this way a close cooperation between countries and IOTC to analysis condition of each country is very necessary. So for implementation a system for allocation quota, the working group has to continue its activities and will make an individually decision for each country base on suggested criteria. On the other hand the number of fishermen, number of vessels, number of fishing harbors or boarding places, processing centers, cold storage, refrigerator facilities, ship building factories, sellers or builders of fishing equipments and devices, amount of investment by government or private sectors, local people and fishermen councils, cooperation or companies and etc are most important factors which the allocation quota working group have to consider to them in creation an appropriate system.

Because of this criterion importance and its effects on fishermen livelihood and region country food security, I.R.Iran recommended 30% rate for this criterion. In the other hand base on social-economic condition of a country maximum 30% of quota would be approved because of this criterion.

2.3. Responsible fishery (25% Rate)

This criterion leads the region to have a sustainable tuna fishing activities. The manual of responsible fishery has printed by FAO and is available for all the countries. In addition many countries have developed different plane to implementation of FAO code of conduct, but in most of them it needs to improve. Control of fishing devices and their standards, control of Catch data and produce useful information like CPUE and combination of catch, develop a plan for port state measures, market state measures, Combating with illegal catch, unreported and unregulated catch, implementation VMS system, implementation an observer program, eliminate transshipment, conserve and protect endangered or sensitive species like Sharks and marine mammals and some other measures which lead the region to responsible and sustainable fisheries, are some of the responsible fishery elements.

In this way all the IOTC CPCs or non-CPCs which are active in the region must be develop a plan and implement it during the scheme period. Also countries must develop a documentation system with enough evidences to show these roles and legislations apply and their effectiveness. An appropriate manual for develop a documentation, monitoring and control system shall be develop and introduced by IOTC scientific committee. All the countries must implement this monitoring and control with suitable documentation system on all their eligible flag state vessels.

Because of responsible fishery importance, the rate of this criterion is suggested 25% by I.R.Iran. For detail calculation and amount of influences of each factors, the allocation quota working group needs more and detail discussion.

2.4. Being IOTC basin country (15%rate)

Beside of history and background of tuna fishing activities in the IOTC area, the location of countries in Indian Ocean basin is the other factor which gives to the region countries some priority. In the other hand recognizing the legitimate sovereign rights of coastal states in Indian ocean basin and their interest to distance water fishing activities and historically invested in Indian Ocean fisheries give them rights to have a more quota in comparison with the other countries from other regions.

In this case the rate of this criterion is recommended by I.R.Iran 15%. For detail calculation and amount of influences of each factors, the allocation quota working group needs more and detail discussion.

2.5. Being IOTC Membership (15%Rate)

The main purpose of these criteria is strengthening of IOTC commission authority in the area and gathering all the CPCs or non-CPCs under IOTC umbrella. Because, all the management system related with Tuna fishing activities in the Indian Ocean need to unify and these criteria encourage all none member countries to join with IOTC. In the other hand being a member of IOTC will consider as an advantage for the CPCs countries and increase their quota rate in this system.

Also ratifying of 1995 agreement related with conservation of highly migratory species in the sea and Oceans and cooperation in this field, are the other important factor to get this criteria scores.

In this case the rate of this criterion is recommended by I.R.Iran 15%. For detail calculation and amount of influences of each factors, the allocation quota working group needs more and detail discussion.

2.6. Cooperation with IOTC (15 %Rate)

Base on responsible fishery and related monitoring and control scheme, the countries must produce a huge amount of data and information. So exchanging of information with IOTC base on the organization orders is necessary. Also for better management of fishing activities, sometimes IOTC needs more cooperation, like access to detail data and information, cooperation in some studies or researches and the other issues. In these cases the cooperation of CPCs and non-CPCs is necessary. In the other hand base on working groups, scientific committee and annually meeting decisions, all the countries must will prepare related data and information base on IOTC order and make them on available on a appropriate ways. Surely the quality and quantity of the ordered information by IOTC must be as a normal request not out of the countries potential.

Surely in addition to scientific data and information cooperation, IOTC for doing its duties needs financial aids and supports. Base on current legislation countries must pay an annually membership payment to the organization. Nowadays this money is one of the important resources for covering IOTC costs. So paying the membership payment on time is one of the important cooperation with IOTC and delay on it can influence negatively in rate of this criterion.

All the necessary cooperation will harmonize during different IOTC meetings, like scientific meetings, working group meetings or main annually meetings and etc. Because of importance of this kind of cooperation, the rate of this criterion is suggested 15% by I.R.Iran. For detail calculation and amount of influences of each factors, the allocation quota working group needs more and detail discussion.

3-Conclusion

In conclusion the mentioned criteria have tried to cover all different aspects of allocation quota system in the IOTC region as an appropriate way. Base on this criteria CPCs and non-CPCs is going to make a decision about their quota for three main targeted species, Yellow fin and Big eye tunas and Swordfish, under the IOTC competence. Base on was made decision during the 13th IOTC scientific meeting in 2010, the committee recommended the yellowfin and bigeye tuna catches should not exceed the MSY levels which have been estimated at 300 thousands tones for yellowfin and at 102 thousands tones for bigeye tuna. For this I.R.Iran recommend the committee discusses about this two species and swordfish during February meeting in Kenya and make a decision about their quota for 2012. In addition continuing of discussions about allocation quota criteria for the other species is another important agenda which need to making a decision during the meeting.