
ALLOCATION MATTERS/DECISIONS EMANATING FROM OTHER RFMOSPREPARED BY: SECRETARIAT

PURPOSE

To provide the TCAC with a perspective on allocation discussions and decisions that have taken place in other Regional Fisheries Management Organisations.

BACKGROUND

In 2018, the IOTC Executive Secretary reported to the TCAC that he had sent a correspondence to the other tuna RFMOs inquiring how each one addressed allocation. The only response received was from CCSBT. This request was again sent out in 2019 and in this instance, there was an increased response, with information provided by CCSBT, ICCAT, IATTC, SPRFMO, CCAMLR and WCPFC. These responses are summarised below.

1) Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)

The CCSBT explained that there had been few developments since the report it provided to the TCAC04 meeting in 2018. In 2018 CCSBT reported that it had recently updated and adopted an allocation resolution which constituted a simple division of allocation among members providing each Member with a set amount and a limited ability to change the allocated amounts. The process to change the set allocation requires a negotiation among its Commission. The work undertaken by the CCSBT in this area was based on historical catch as well as consideration of the aspirations of developing countries, many of whom did not have historical catch history or equal temporal historical catch. The allocated amount was not derived from a definitive, quantitative formula but was instead based on a qualitative discussion. The current allocation arrangements are described in the CCSBT [Resolution on the Allocation of the Global Total Allowable Catch](#). This Resolution was updated in 2017, but the update only incorporated previous meeting decisions into the Resolution

Subsequently, CCSBT has had some discussion regarding whether to set up additional rules for allocations of the global TAC, particularly in relation to non-Members and potential new Members (allocations already exist for current Members). However, consensus has not been achieved to establish such rules it is unlikely that further discussion on this topic will take place in the next few years unless a new Member joins and applies for an allocation. A discussion paper from New Zealand on this topic is publicly available on the CCSBT web site at:

https://www.ccsbt.org/en/system/files/SFMWG5_05_NZ_FutureAllocationModel.pdf

A summary of the views/discussion following presentation of this paper is provided at paragraphs 36-38 of the Report of the [Fifth Meeting of the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group](#)

2) International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT)

ICCATs most recent development on allocations was the conversion of the 2001 agreement of the allocation criteria into a Resolution in 2015 (<https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2015-13-e.pdf>)

3) Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

Until now no new decisions have been taken by the IATTC Commission on this subject.

4) South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO)

The developments on allocation of orange roughy are explained in Paragraph 128 of the 2019 [SPRFMO Commission \(COMM 7\) report](#) leading into the adoption of the final proposal (COMM7-Prop16_rev2). This proposal will be made available soon on the SPRFMO web site.

5) Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

CCAMLR has never made allocations to individual members. CCAMLR fisheries that take place in high seas waters are therefore still managed as Olympic fisheries, and the most notable being the krill fishery and the toothfish fishery in the Ross Sea. These are monitored closely by the Secretariat which is charged by the Commission with calculating projected closure dates and informing Members when the fisheries should close.

CCAMLR's high seas toothfish fisheries are currently classified as "exploratory" fisheries and prioritise research. They are limited to those Members and vessels that have pre-notified and submitted a fishery operations plan and a research plan, but allocations of catch are not made. CCAMLR has encouraged cooperation around the development of research plans. For some of the areas where there are small catch limits the Members interested in research fishing have come together and submitted joint research plans, which generally include an agreement on allocation as well as who will do which bit of research where and when. However, this remains a private arrangement between the Members, and is not recognised or reported by CCAMLR, which only recognises the global catch limit for that area. An example is in the southern Atlantic ocean, where three Members (Japan, South Africa and Spain) are cooperating this year on a joint research plan ([SC-CAMLR-XXXVII](#) paragraph 3.129-3.133), and which is managed according to [Conservation Measure 41-04](#).

6) Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

In the WCPFC, nothing official has been done about allocations, although the issue has been noted and is awaiting the opportunity for substantial discussion. There are, however, current commitments under the tropical tuna measure to agree on hard limits for high seas purse seine efforts or catch; and hard limits for bigeye for the long line fishery and a framework to allocate those limits by 2020. There was an attempt at the last annual meeting (2018) to develop a TOR to initiate discussion of allocation issues but no agreement was reached on the TOR.