

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

INTERNATIONAL OCEAN GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES
REGIONAL FISHERIES ORGANISATIONS

Brussels, **22 FEB, 2019**
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Mr Don MacKay
Independent Chair of the TCAC

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Subject: Preparation of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC05)

Dear Don,

I am writing with regard to the forthcoming meeting of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC05) and in relation to your letter published on the IOTC website for the meeting.

We have analysed with interest the consultant's report; while we do concur with you that the meeting should not only focus on the results of the simulations, a thorough analysis and understanding of the impacts of the different proposals and approaches is the basis for any progress and possible adjustments of the different positions. I therefore trust that you will allow sufficient time for the discussion.

In regards to that, I have two remarks. First, while we recognise that the consultant has made an effort to make the report more readable compared to its first version, we still feel that it would be beneficial to have the information presented in a more user-friendly manner. In particular, the impacts of the different scenarios on different members by stock would be easier to read if they were presented with numbers (tonnes) rather than only with graphics. In addition, it would be important to pick a reference year or baseline (e.g. 2017) and measure the variations compared to that year for each member to put the impacts in context. Second, as the consultant will not be present at the meeting, it would be essential that he prepare a matrix that can be used during the meeting to simulate and assess the results of possible changes in the parameters of the proposals. I am sure that the IOTC Secretariat will be able to assist in the exercise during the TCAC05 meeting and measure impacts by using such matrix even in the absence of the consultant.

On the substance of the proposals, we do agree with you that it is now time to focus on possible progress and try to build bridges across the two proposals.

In that respect, we consider that it would be extremely useful if you, as independent chair and under your responsibility, would prepare a Chair's text at least on some of the key issues, building on the points of convergence (and divergence) of the two proposals and consolidate them into one text, that would assist in the discussions. Where differences

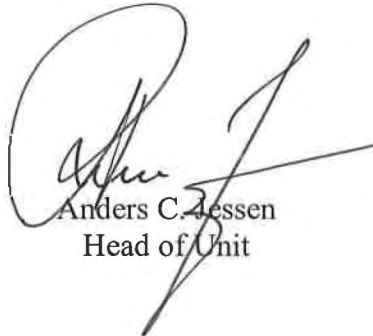
exist these could be presented in the text as alternatives in bracketed text. This approach could help in identifying possible “low hanging fruits” and advance the discussion.

We believe that moving away from an antagonistic approach where discussion focuses on which proposal to discuss and how much time is devoted to one proposal as opposed to another is essential. Working constructively towards one compromise proposal that intends to take into account the needs and views of different members is the basis for a successful negotiation. This approach would also allow integrating new ideas into the proposal.

The EU looks forward to the discussion in Seychelles and wishes you a successful chairmanship of the meeting.

I would be grateful if you could have this letter published on the IOTC website for the TCAC meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Anders C. Jessen
Head of Unit