

Progress on allocation and management of fishing capacity by IOTC

A short road so far...

- Early efforts to allocate fishing opportunities directed at limiting access (vessel registry in 2002) and fishing capacity control (2003 onwards).
- Until recently (2009), no urgent need to impose a quota system. No stocks had exceeded reference points.
- A process initiated in 2010 towards allocation mechanisms.

First steps: Resolution 2003/01

- Response to concerns about fishing mortality of bigeye tuna
- Limit tonnage of Contracting and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CPCs) with more than 50 vessels to tonnage recorded in the IOTC Record in 2003.
- Provision for Fleet Development Plans for any CPCs.
- Special considerations given to developing coastal states.

Bigeye conservation: Resolution 2005/01

- Freeze on catches of bigeye tuna to recent levels.
- Commits to review limits for CPCs catching more than 1000 t, and develop mechanisms for allocation of bigeye quota.
- CPCs with catches under 1000 t allowed to submit Fleet Development Plans during a 3-year period
- Superseded by other resolutions in later years.

Limitation of fishing capacity: 2006-2007 (Res 06/05-07/05)

- Limit to the tonnage of **active** vessels in 2006(2007) fishing for tropical tunas (swordfish and albacore).
- Included a provision for representative historical presence since 2000.
- Res 07/05 specifies that CPC with less than 10 vessels can present a Fleet Development Plan in 2008.
- To be applied in 2007-2009, to be reviewed in 2009(2010).

Resolution 09/02: extending the limits.

- Extends in the future earlier provisions and tightens control of development of fishing capacity.
- Implementation of Fleet Development Plans to be monitored annually.
- Concerns about the size of the resulting fleet.

Work towards quota allocation: 2009 -2010

- Scientific Committee recommended catch limits in 2008 and 2009, especially for yellowfin tuna as reference points were being exceeded.
- No agreement in 2009 on proposed allocations based on recent fishing presence
- In 2010, in addition to agreement on a close-area management action, a process for allocation for established

The work in 2010

- A technical committee meeting prior to the Commission Plenary session in 2011 to discuss on allocation criteria
- Recommend an allocation quota system or any other relevant measures.
- CPCs are encouraged to submit proposals one month prior to the meeting.
- The Commission shall adopt an allocation quota system or any other relevant measure in 2012.