

Original: English

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT FOR THE ALLOCATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SMALL HARVESTER CPCs TO BE BUILT INTO A REVISED MULTI-ANNUAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR TROPICAL TUNAS

(Proposal submitted by South Africa)

Introduction:

South Africa is of the view that small harvesting Contracting Parties or non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) should not be subject to a binding limit that is based on a historical reference period during which capacity had not yet been developed.

Restricting these CPCs to very low levels of catch is not consistent with principles of equity, and is unreasonable given the minimal impact that these CPCs have on the stock. Given the low levels of harvest by this group, South Africa believes that flexibility can be provided without compromising the sustainability of the stock. However, South Africa do recognise the need for some triggers to monitor and manage development.

In light of the above, South Africa has therefore developed a proposal for the allocation and management of small harvester CPCs to be built into a revised tropical tuna management measure, which addresses the following points:

- Small harvesting CPCs should not be subject to a binding limit based on a reference period we had not yet developed our capacity. Limiting small harvesting CPCs does not recognise the minimal effect the catch of these CPCs have on the stock.
- Small harvesters should have a reasonable level of flexibility to undertake responsible levels of fishing within and beyond their EEZs.
- Developing coastal States (DCS) have particular rights, enshrined in international law, to manage and exploit the fisheries resources in their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and to participate in high seas fisheries.
- DCSs should not be required to apply to Panel 1 for modest amounts of additional allocation for development of fisheries from an "equalisation pool" (or similar) or compete with bids from other DCS CPCs. This approach was not applied to larger catching CPCs when they developed their fisheries.
- Recognising that some checks need to be in place to prevent unsustainable development, a trigger limit for individual CPCs and the total harvest of different small harvesting groups could apply.

Version 2 of this proposal builds upon comments made by CPCs in the second intersessional meeting of PA1 in relation to small harvesters and the preferential allocation of development opportunities to developing Coastal States.

South Africa retain the right to argue that the trigger limits and total proportional allocations to smaller harvesting countries and DCSs should be higher and/or increased over time.

Description of proposal:

1. All small harvesting CPCs (those with an average annual catch of less than 1,000 t in the period 2014-2018) are subject to an individual CPC annual catch 'trigger limit' of 1,000 t. If any CPC in the small harvesting category triggers this annual limit, Panel 1 will determine a binding CPC catch limit to apply to the CPC for future years. In practice this means the CPC will graduate to a different category in the allocation approach.
2. Every CPC (or even many CPCs) in this category will not suddenly increase their catches to the 1,000 t trigger limit, therefore this does not need to be allowed for within allocation of the total TAC. However, to ensure that this group is recognised and management within the TAC, allocation to the small harvesting CPCs will be split into three harvesting groups. These small harvesting group categories (and their proposed allocation) reflect the differential rights of these CPCs in international fisheries law. Each group would have a total group trigger limit that applies to the combined catches of the group. These groups would be:
 - a) Small harvesting developing coastal States¹,
 - b) Small harvesting developed coastal States²,
 - c) Small harvesting developed States that are not coastal States of ICCAT³.

If the group trigger limit is exceeded in any one year, then a review of the arrangements applying to this group and/or specific CPCs within this group would be undertaken.

Draft text:

1. CPCs whose average annual catches over the period 2014-2018 were less than 1,000t shall be subject to the following trigger limits:

<i>Small harvesting group</i>	<i>Individual CPC trigger limit</i>	<i>Group trigger limit</i>
Developing coastal States	1,000 t	8% of the TAC
Developed coastal States	1,000 t	3% of the TAC
CPCs that are not coastal States of ICCAT	1,000 t	2% of the TAC

2. If a CPC breaches their individual CPC trigger limit, Panel 1 will determine a binding catch limit to apply to that CPC in future years.
3. If the total sum of catches of all CPCs within a small harvest group exceeds that groups trigger limit, Panel 1 will review the arrangements applying to this group and may revise the arrangements that apply to the group or individual CPCs within the group.

¹ Our calculations indicate that these CPCs caught 3.3% of the total average catch for 2014-2018.

² Our calculations indicate that these CPCs caught 1.5% of the total average catch for 2014-2018.

³ Our calculations indicate that these CPCs caught 0.5% of the total average catch for 2014-2018.