

PROPOSAL ON REVISING TAC ALLOCATION OF SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA

1. Background

According to the Report of the Twenty Ninth Annual Meeting of the Commission, paragraph 106, 107 and 108, as follows:

Allocation of the TAC for 2024 - 2026

106. Indonesia advised that, as outlined in its opening statement, it would like the EC to review the current allocation of TAC to Members so that it better reflects Indonesia's situation as a developing coastal state with direct access to SBT fishing grounds.
107. Members expressed understanding of Indonesia's position and suggested that Indonesia prepare a proposal for Members to consider at next year's meeting but noted that discussions of allocation can be difficult and often take years to reach agreement in other forums.
108. The EC agreed that Indonesia would provide a proposal for revising TAC allocation to EC 30 for consideration by Members. It was noted that the proposal would be for a simple adjustment to the allocation percentages and not a proposal for a completely new mechanism.

Hereby, we provide an alternative adjustment to the allocation percentages for SBT.

2. Rationale

- Indonesia is a full member of the CCSBT and a developing coastal state;
- Overall current allocation distribution is not yet fully reflecting the situation of developing coastal states with direct access to the resource (southern bluefin tuna);
- Dynamic of tuna fishing capacity of the member countries (Over-Catch/Under-Catch), in particular increase proportion of under catch in recent years;
- SBT has significant multiplier effect on socio-economic impact to coastal communities and industries.

3. Justification to increase Indonesia's allocation

Indonesia believes its current allocation is not sufficient to meet its aspiration as a developing coastal state and there has been an inequality in the allocation to Indonesia with justification as follows:

- a. Indonesia is the only a developing coastal state whose its exclusive economic or fishery zone is where the southern bluefin tuna known to spawns and migrates. Indonesia, has fished for southern bluefin tuna for over than three decades, as described in Attachment A of the Secretariat Review of Catches (CCSBT-ESC/2308/04Rev1). However, the allocation for Indonesia is less than developed coastal state like Australia and New Zealand, and even less compared with developed distant water fishing nations like Japan, Korea and Taiwan.
- b. Historically, prior to joining the CCSBT, Indonesia had a catch recorded in 1997 of 2,210t and 2,504t in 1999 and has to limit the catch to less than 1000t in 2007 and 1200t in recent years after became a member of CCSBT in 2007, while Taiwan and Korea ever caught beyond 2000t.
- c. Indonesian tuna long liners have potential capacity to catch SBT to the level of 1999 catch history. Indonesia experience over-caught its TAC in 2019 by 182t and 2020 by 457t. Despite of its economic problem during the covid pandemic, respectful to the principle of conservation measures for rebuilding stock of SBT Indonesia agreed for a payback plan for its over-catch in 2020 and to pay back 91.3t of 457t over-catch each year from 2022 to 2026 inclusive.
- d. Indonesia has fully engaged in the process of southern bluefin tuna rebuilding stock and its management in CCSBT. Indonesia has been putting its best effort to limit the catch of SBT under the allocation scheme to rebuild the stock at a sustainable level.
- e. Indonesia has several monitoring and controlling system through CDS application and early warning system.
- f. Indonesia also has been putting its best effort to comply with the CCSBT data exchange requirements and engaged in the scientific work by cooperating with CSIRO in conducting data collection of SPR data for stock assessment.
- g. Recall Article 8 of the Convention in paragraph 4, in deciding upon allocations among the Parties, the Commission shall consider:
 - (a) relevant scientific evidence;
 - (b) the need for orderly and sustainable development of southern bluefin tuna fisheries;
 - (c) the interests of Parties through whose exclusive economic or fishery zones southern bluefin tuna migrates;

- (d) the interests of Parties whose vessels engage in fishing for southern bluefin tuna including those which have historically engaged in such fishing and those which have southern bluefin tuna fisheries under development;
 - (e) the contribution of each Party to conservation and enhancement of, and scientific research on, southern bluefin tuna;
 - (f) any other factors which the Commission deems appropriate.
- h. In recent years, the Indonesian longline vessels shifted their fishing ground to the high seas of the Indian Ocean (CCSBT statistical area 2) (CCSBT-ESC/2308/SBT Fisheries – Indonesia (Rev.1)).
 - i. The multiplier effect of SBT fisheries in Indonesia for socio-economic of coastal community and industry (fishers, fishing crews and fish processing workers) that depend on the fishery.
 - j. Indonesia proposed that CCSBT reform and reformulate its TAC distribution to be more fair, equitable, and participatory. Furthermore, Indonesia proposed that CCSBT also acknowledges the nature of respective fishing practices, i.e. small scale fisheries, so that the distribution of TAC not only benefits to developed countries but also coastal developing countries.

4. Proposed A New Allocation

Based on above rationale and justification, Indonesia proposes an alternative adjustment to the allocation percentages of SBT for Indonesia is between 10.75% to 12.15% of the global TAC or a total of 2,219 to 2,508 ton /year [ESC28 recommended that the 2024 global TAC is 20,647 t/year].