



Tuna Resource Allocation Working Group Terms of Reference

Versions: 1.2

Type: Steering Committee Working group

Terms: 1 October - 31 January

Working group members:



[To be recruited]

0. Background:

Currently, the GTA Charter states: The GTA was created as a sector-wide, multi-stakeholder initiative of partners to build a shared, global and non-competitive solution to sustainability issues in the global tuna supply chain. The GTA does not engage on, or develop positions on gear-specific issues, nor advocate for, or develop positions on allocations of quotas, or matters which could act to disrupt the attainment of the GTA mission.

Although not specifically dealing with allocations of quota GTA has had a position at some RFMOs such as the IOTC that an allocation be a 'systematic and transparent system of fair and equitable fishing opportunities for all participants according to international law', and GTA Steering Committee has focused on the concept of 'fair and equitable'.

GTA recognises resource allocation is a critical, complex and challenging component of common pool resource governance, particularly for transboundary fisheries. The lack of an adequate allocation system in the IOTC is likely one of the key challenges for the effective implementation of harvest strategies. Most tRFMOs except one (IOTC) have defined resources for allocation and outlined principles to guide allocation based on equity, citizenship, and legitimacy. While we recognise in practice, the predominant criterion for resource allocation across most tRFMOs remains rooted in historical catch or effort data, with other equity principles exerting a less significant influence in the determination of fishing rights¹. It is unclear whether a pre-competitive collaboration, such as GTA, 1) can be involved, 2) could add value to improving this situation globally.

1. Purpose:

To inform the possibilities and scope of GTA's new strategy.

¹ <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-020-01371-3>

2. Scope:

This working group will advise on 1) what aspects of resource allocation a pre-competitive collaboration could be involved with, as well as 2) identify what value GTA could add to these aspects 3) how it could add this value.

3. Membership:

Open to all partners. External experts can be invited.

4. Responsibilities:

Research and Analysis: Conduct research and analysis relevant to the working group's focus area, and provide data-driven insights and recommendations to the organization.

Advice: Formulate and present recommendations to the GTA Steering Committee based on the findings and analysis conducted by the working group.

Stakeholder Engagement: Foster relationships and engage with relevant stakeholders, including members, partners, experts, and external organizations, to gather input and perspectives.

Communication: Ensure effective communication within the working group and with other relevant parties, such as the board, executive director, or other organizational units.

Monitoring and Reporting: Regularly monitor progress towards achieving goals and objectives, and provide reports to leadership on the working group's activities and outcomes.

Conflict Resolution: Address and resolve conflicts or disagreements that may arise within the working group, promoting a collaborative and productive environment.

Documentation: Maintain accurate records of meetings, decisions, and actions taken by the working group, ensuring transparency and accountability.

5. Process:

Volunteers from partners will be recruited for the working group. Virtual meetings will be held, minutes of each meeting to be agreed by the group and will be shared with the Steering Committee and executive. External expertise could be sought.

6. Timeline:

Suggest 2-3 Working Group meetings October – December 2023 – final report and advice presented to the Steering Committee in January 2024.

7. Conflict of Interest:

Please see Annex I for conflict of interest.

8. Reporting:

A final report will be submitted to the executive and steering committee. This will address the questions raised in the scope of the working group.

9. Resources:

Global Tuna Alliance will provide staff support where possible recognising the limited capacity at present within the executive.

10. Amendments:

Amending or revising these terms of reference will be subject to Management Board approval.

Annex I: Conflict of interest

Conflict of Interest Statement:

Members of the Tuna Resource Allocation Working Group are expected to act with the utmost integrity and transparency. Any actual or potential conflicts of interest that could compromise the group's objectives or the organization's mission must be disclosed promptly. A conflict of interest arises when a member's personal, financial, or other interests could influence their decision-making within the working group.

Disclosure Process:

Members of the Working Group are required to promptly disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest to the group when they become aware of them. A conflict of interest arises when a member's personal, financial, or other interests could influence their contributions or decisions within the Working Group.

The disclosure should include details of the conflict, such as the nature of the interest, the parties involved, and the potential impact on the working group's activities.

Handling Conflicts of Interest:

Acknowledgement: Upon receipt of a conflict of interest disclosure, the Working Group will acknowledge the conflict and record it in the meeting minutes.

Transparency: The disclosed conflicts will be shared transparently with all members of the Working Group to ensure awareness and transparency.

Continued Participation: Members with disclosed conflicts can continue participating in discussions and providing advice related to the matter.

Recusal: If a conflict of interest is deemed significant and could compromise the integrity of a decision or action, the member in question may voluntarily recuse themselves from further involvement in the specific discussion or decision-making process related to the conflict.

Confidentiality:

All conflict of interest disclosures will be treated with the utmost confidentiality within the Working Group. Disclosure information will be shared only among the Working Group members to maintain privacy and trust.

Consequences of Non-Disclosure:

Failure to disclose a conflict of interest may result in removal from the working group.

Annex II Anti-trust and Competition Statement

The Global Tuna Alliance (GTA) was created as a sector-wide, multi-stakeholder initiative of Partners to build a shared, global, and non-competitive solution to sustainability issues in the global tuna supply chain..

It is the policy of GTA to comply strictly with the letter and spirit of all domestic and applicable international anti-trust and competition laws. Generally speaking, these laws prohibit any formal or informal understanding among industry members regarding prices, customer policies, production plans or volumes, or any future business plans, so participants in this meeting should not discuss these topics.

If any participant engages in, or becomes aware of any transgression of the GTA anti-trust policy, please bring the matter to the immediate attention of GTA Executive Director Daniel Suddaby.