

False Killer Whale TRT Charge & Scope

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TRT Charge

- Develop a draft Take Reduction Plan to reduce mortality and serious injury of false killer whales in HI longline fisheries
 - Immediate Goal = $M\&SI < PBR$ level for HI Pelagic stock
(subject to include additional stocks if their status changes from non-strategic to strategic)
 - Long-term Goal = $M\&SI < 10\%$ of PBR levels for relevant stocks of FKWs
- Draft TRP must be developed by TRT consensus
- Draft TRP must be submitted to NMFS by July 19th
- Challenging but possible if TRT is focused and positive

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Scope Considerations

- MMPA requirements
- Aggressive timeline
- Available data/information
- Team size
- Team focus

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TRT Scope: Stocks Included

- Strategic stock
 - HI Pelagic stock of FKWs
- Non-strategic stocks
 - Jan-19 notice solicits public comments on including two stocks:
 - HI Insular stock of FKWs
 - Distribution and fishing effort overlap
 - Stock boundaries likely revised in 2010 SAR and bycatch pro-rated
 - Potential for ESA listing
 - Palmyra Atoll stock of FKWs
 - Documented M&SI incidental to a Category I fishery
- Therefore, NMFS recommends that the TRT address three stocks of FKWs: HI Pelagic, HI Insular, and Palmyra Atoll

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TRT Scope: Stocks Not Included

- American Samoa FKWs
 - No SAR yet; work is in progress but incomplete
 - Unknown abundance, unknown PBR
 - Different fishery, different geographic area
- Other U.S. Marine Mammal Stocks
 - Other assessed stocks within U.S. EEZs
 - M&SI of stocks < 10% of PBR levels
 - Stocks not yet assessed
 - FKWs in other U.S. EEZs
 - Stocks currently without a SAR (i.e., High Seas)

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TRT Scope: Fisheries Included

- HI deep-set longline (Category I)
 - M&SI > PBR for HI Pelagic stock of FKWs
- HI shallow-set longline (Category II)
 - M&SI = >1% and <50% of PBR for HI Pelagic stock of FKWs

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TRT Scope: Fisheries Not Included

- American Samoa longline
 - Fishing gear and practices, target species differ from HI-based longline fisheries
 - Unknown impact on FKWs
- HI shortline
 - Unconfirmed, anecdotal reports of FKW takes
 - Lack of information on the fishery
- Kaka line
 - No reports of interactions with marine mammals
 - Lack of information on the fishery
- Recreational fisheries and Charter operations
 - Take Reduction Program is limited to commercial fisheries by the MMPA

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Public Comments on FR Notice

- Public comment period on the FR notice closes February 18
- Topics raised in the 15 comments to date (2/16)
 - Support for including HI Insular and Palmyra Atoll stocks of FKWs
 - Requests to include American Samoa FKWs
 - Requests to include other fisheries (shortline, kaka line, American Samoa longline)

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Consideration of Other Stocks and Fisheries

- Stocks and fisheries not included in the scope can still be addressed:
 - Work Team(s)
 - Identify information needs
 - Recommendations

- If more information on these stocks and/or fisheries is available in the future, the scope can be modified