

False Killer Whale Take Reduction Team Meeting Schedule

CONCUR, Inc.
February 19, 2010

Timeline and Focus

- Approach:
 - Put forward proposed work program that responds to aggressive six-month deadline
 - Rely on mix of full team and interim work group deliberations
 - Choose meeting locations that foster both formal and informal deliberations

Timeline and Focus

- Meeting #1: Feb 17-19 (Honolulu)
 - Familiarize Team members with background, approach, participants
 - Identify near-term information needs
 - Frame analytic work to be undertaken
 - Initial brainstorming on potential measures

- Possible Interim Work/Work Team
 - Data compilation and analyses, shortline fishery, initial Draft TRP Table of Contents

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Timeline and Focus

- Meeting #2: Week of April 5 (Maui)
 - Consider implications of recent data analyses
 - Briefing on enforcement efforts
 - Review 2010 Draft SAR (if available)
 - Develop candidate mgmt/research options
 - Review Draft TRP language developed to-date
 - Identify early-on consensus recommendations

- Possible Interim Work/Work Team
 - Options development/refinement, continued drafting of TRP; additional analyses

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Timeline and Focus

- Meeting #3: Week of May 3 (Big Island)
 - Consider implications of additional analyses
 - Refine options/preliminary packages
 - Track emerging agreement
 - Weigh key feasibility and legal considerations
 - Continue review of Draft TRP language
 - Briefing on NMFS rule-making process

- Possible Interim Work/Work Team
 - Options refinement, continued drafting of TRP, including regulatory language; additional analyses

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Timeline and Focus

- Meeting #4: Week of June 14 (Maui/Kauai)
 - Consider implications of final stage data/analyses
 - Final discussion of options and packages
 - Final development of consensus recommendations

- Mid-June to July 19
 - Final revisions, confirmation and submission to NMFS of Draft Take Reduction Plan
 - Via email and teleconference only

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Timeline and Focus

□ Post-July 19

- NMFS publishes proposed rule and request for comment in the *Federal Register*
- Likely in-person Team meeting during public comment period
- NMFS publishes final rule in the *Federal Register*

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Team Web Pages

NMFS PIRO

Pacific Islands Regional Office
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service

False Killer Whale Take Reduction Team

During fishing operations, false killer whales become hooked or entangled in fishing gear and, as a result, may become seriously injured or killed (i.e., mortality). Currently, these takes are occurring at unsustainable levels. In response, the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) requires the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to develop a Take Reduction Plan (TRP) to draft a plan for reducing serious injuries and mortalities of false killer whales that occur incidental to commercial fishing activities.

NMFS is convening the first meeting of the TRT February 17 - 19, 2010. The TRT will meet at least four times within six months to develop a draft Take Reduction Plan (TRP) by consensus, and will then submit that draft to NMFS.

The TRT's recommendations result from the best of federal regulations. NMFS will finalize and implement a TRP after considering comments from the public. Once the plan is in place and becomes effective, NMFS will monitor its progress and ensure the TRP meets the MMPA's goal of reducing false killer whale mortalities and serious injuries in the fisheries by appropriate levels. If not, NMFS will re-convene the TRT to develop additional consensus recommendations for reducing mortalities and serious injuries and amending the TRP.

TRT Meeting Dates and Locations

Meeting #1
Dates: February 17, 2010, Sat - Sun; February 18, 2010, 8:30am - 5pm; February 19, 2010, Sat - Sun.
Location: Sheraton Waikiki, 2255 Kalanianaʻola Highway, Honolulu, Hawaii.
Phone: (808) 922-4422, Fax: (808) 933-8883

Meeting #2 TBA
Meeting #3 TBA
Meeting #4 TBA

http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/PRD/prd_FKW_take%20reduction%20team.html

NMFS OPR

Office of Protected Resources

False Killer Whale Take Reduction Team

Background
In January 2010, NMFS established a "Take Reduction Team (TRT)" to address the incidental mortality and serious injury of 3 stocks of false killer whales (Pseudorca crassidens) in the Hawaii-based deep-sea and shallow-sea longline fisheries.

The TRT will draft a Take Reduction Plan (TRP) for reducing that mortality and serious injury, as required by the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).

In November 2009, NMFS convened an informational public meeting to provide:

- Background information on the MMPA Take Reduction Program and TRT
- An overview of key marine mammal abundance and incidental take information, including mortality and serious injury data
- An opportunity for affected stakeholders to develop a common understanding of the problem and parameters prior to formally convening a TRT

Though the information meeting was not intended to generate recommendations to NMFS, a [summary \(pdf\)](#) is available.

Presses
The TRT will meet at least four times within six months to develop a draft TRP by consensus and will then submit the draft to NMFS. NMFS will consider the TRP submitted by the TRT and develop a proposed rule, which will be available for

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/interactions/trt/falsekillerwhale.htm>

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