

Background Information on the Kobe II By-catch Workshop

The Kobe II By-catch Workshop (K2B), which is being co-hosted by the United States and the Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), will be held June 23-25, 2010 in Brisbane, Australia, just prior to the FFA-hosted Kobe II Tuna Management Workshop scheduled for the following week. The objectives for K2B were adopted by the participants of the second joint meeting of the tuna RFMOs (Kobe II) in San Sebastian in 2009 and are as follows:

Review available information on incidental catch of non-target species and juveniles of target species

Provide advice to tuna RFMOs on best practices, methods and techniques to assess and reduce the incidental mortality of non-target species, such as seabirds, turtles, sharks, marine mammals, and of juveniles of target species.

Develop and coordinate relevant research programs and observer programs.

Make recommendations on mechanisms to streamline the work of tuna RFMO Working Groups in this field in order to avoid duplication.

In carrying out its work, the organizers of K2B will take into account the need to provide adequate capacity building assistance to developing coastal States, in particular small-island developing States, territories, and States with small and vulnerable economies to facilitate their participation and preparation at the workshop. To that end, funding will be provided to the maximum extent possible to assist with travel costs for developing coastal States/SIDS participation. Additionally, the outcomes of the conference will consider the needs for capacity building projects for by-catch assessment and mitigation.

A Steering Committee has been formed and is comprised of a representative subgroup of Tuna RFMO members: Australia, Brazil, EU, El Salvador, FFA, Japan, Mauritius, South Africa, Uruguay and the USA. The Steering Committee is committed to ensuring transparency throughout the preparatory phases of the meeting and broad participation at the workshop.

As agreed at Kobe II, the draft agenda, the schedule of the meeting, and any relevant documents will be circulated well in advance and simultaneously to all members of the tuna RFMOs. Attached to this document is a proposed agenda for the K2B workshop. It will also be posted on the Tuna-Org website. The Steering Committee welcomes review and subsequent comments on the agenda. Please send any thoughts to the chair of the Steering Committee, Dr. Rebecca Lent (Rebecca.Lent@noaa.gov), with a cc to Elizabethann English (Liz.English@Noaa.gov) by March 24, 2010.

As this meeting is geared towards policy makers, it is expected that the participants at K2B will be the national Commissioners from the relevant RFMOs. The Steering Committee notes that registration details and additional logistical information will be available shortly.

Kobe II Bycatch Workshop
June 23-25, 2010
Brisbane Convention Center
Brisbane, Australia

DRAFT AGENDA

Day 1/Wednesday, June 23:

- Opening Ceremonies
- Keynote Speaker
- Current knowledge of by-catch (by taxa or by fishing method, etc). A panel of experts will provide presentations followed by a question and answer period.
- What's being done by RFMOs to address by-catch (Assessing, Mitigation, and Collaboration). A panel of experts will provide presentations followed by a question and answer period.
- Comments from States (Statements?)
- Chair wrap up

Day 2/Thursday, June 24:

- Day 2 will begin with a recap of day 1, including any outcomes/recommendations from the previous day.
- Moderator(s) will facilitate discussions on three topics (within plenary):
 - Improving assessment of by-catch within and among T-RFMO
 - Improving ways to mitigate/reduce by-catch within and among T-RFMOs
 - Improving cooperation and coordination across RFMOs
- Chair wrap-up

A drafting group will be formed and will meet on the evening of day two. This group will draft recommendations based on the outcomes of discussions from days one and two. Their work will be discussed by the plenary on day 3, with the goal to have a finalized report at the completion of the workshop.

Day 3/Friday, June 25:

- Chair-led Discussion: Potential Recommendations to RFMOs
- Review of draft report