



False Killer Whale TRT Process Overview

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Background

- 1994 - Mandatory observer program for HI-based longline fishery began
 - Documented bycatch of sea turtles, seabirds, and cetaceans
- 2000 SAR – False killer whales designated as strategic
- 2004 LOF – HI-based longline fishery elevated to Category I
 - Triggered MMPA requirement for development of TRP, but insufficient funding to do so
- 2004 – Separate fishing regulations for deep-set (tuna target) and shallow-set (swordfish target) components of HI-based longline fishery

Background

- 2008 SAR - Hawaii Stock complex of false killer whales separated into 3 stocks: Hawaii Insular, Hawaii Pelagic and Palmyra Atoll
 - Only Hawaii Pelagic stock is strategic as of 2009 SAR
- 2009 LOF – HI-based longline fishery split into Category I Deep-set component (tuna target) and Category II Shallow-set component (swordfish target)

Background

- March 2009 – Lawsuit
 - Plaintiffs allege violations of MMPA and Administrative Procedure Act for not establishing a TRT or developing a TRP
 - October 2009 - judgment in favor of NMFS
 - November 2009 – Plaintiffs file notice of appeal
- April 2009 – Omnibus Appropriations Bill
 - Allowed NMFS to hire TRT coordinator and consultant during FY09 to begin the TRT process
 - Full funding for FY10 is needed to complete the whole TRT process

Take Reduction Process

- Goal: develop a consensus draft Take Reduction Plan to reduce serious injuries and mortalities of false killer whales to sustainable levels
- Collaborative process; multiple formats anticipated
 - Full Team discussions, work groups, etc.
 - Meetings open to public
- Team composed of an equitable balance of users and non-users

Take Reduction Plan

- TRP: Consensus recommendations to reduce serious injuries and mortalities of false killer whales to sustainable levels
- Plan may include:
 - Regulatory, voluntary measures, or combination of both
 - Recommendations for research or additional data collection

FKWTRT Timeline

Dependent upon budget appropriations:

- February 2010: Convene TRT for first meeting
- February – August 2010: Three additional meetings (approx. 1 meeting every 6 weeks), with potential for additional teleconferences
- August 2010: TRT submits draft TRP
- NMFS initiates rulemaking process
 - NMFS issues proposed rule, considering draft TRP
 - TRT may meet during public comment period
 - NMFS issues final rule, taking into account public comments
- Monitor the plan; if necessary, re-convene the TRT to discuss amendments to the TRP

Scope of the TRT/TRP

- Not yet determined
- Deep-set component of the Hawaii-based longline fishery and the Hawaii Pelagic Stock of false killer whales meet the MMPA trigger
- Other fisheries that may be included:
 - Category II Shallow-set component of the Hawaii-based longline
 - Category II American Samoa longline
 - Category II Hawaii shortline fishery
- Other stocks that may be included:
 - Hawaii Insular or Palmyra Atoll stocks of false killer whales
 - Other marine mammals taken by the fisheries (e.g., Risso's dolphins)
- Keep in mind potential effects on sea turtles, sea birds, and other species of concern during TRP development process

FKWTRT Membership

- Individuals bring specific expertise to the table
 - False Killer Whale biology and/or conservation
 - Acoustics
 - Fishing gear & techniques
 - Marine mammal-fishery interactions
 - Fishery management
- Membership is voluntary, but certain allowable costs are covered for TRT meetings

FKWTRT Membership: Selection Criteria

- Expertise in conservation or biology of marine mammal species covered by the plan
- Expertise in the fisheries covered by the plan
- Able to balance regional perspective with localized knowledge
- Willing to express fundamental interests (as opposed to fixed positions), and to clearly convey the interests of one or more stakeholder groups
- Capable of working collaboratively

FKWTRT Membership: Selection Criteria

- Able to access and use effective communication network to reach members of constituency not attending TRT meetings
- Available and willing to travel and participate in meetings
- Able to foster constructive TRT deliberations

Questions?