



Synthesis of the Starting Point for the TRT Process

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Summary of the Issues

- Takes of false killer whales (Hawaii pelagic stock) incidental to the deep-set longline fishery are unsustainable
- False killer whale depredation on catch:
 - May lead to interactions
 - Poses economic cost to the fisheries
 - May be increasing
- Need to find a solution that works for everyone

MMPA Requirements

- NMFS is required to convene a TRT, which will develop a TRP addressing false killer whale bycatch in the longline fisheries
 - Pending FY10 budget appropriations
- Statutory deadlines
 - Develop TRP within 6 months of convening TRT
 - Reduce bycatch of false killer whales to below PBR within 6 months of TRP implementation

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

Scope of the TRT/TRP

- Scope not yet determined
- Category I deep-set component of HI-based longline fishery, and Hawaiian Pelagic stock of false killer whales
- Other stocks to consider:
 - Hawaii Insular or Palmyra Atoll stocks of false killer whales
 - Other marine mammal stocks taken by the fisheries
- Other fisheries to consider:
 - Category II shallow-set component of Hawaii-based longline
 - Category II American Samoa longline
 - Category II Hawaii shortline
- Consider potential effects on other protected species

Scope of the TRT/TRP

Needs to strike a balance

- If scope is framed narrowly
 - May not fully address the issue, and may not reduce levels of serious injury and mortality as required
 - May need to re-convene TRT
- If scope is framed widely
 - May divert focus
 - Stretches available resources
 - May be difficult to achieve given short period of time allotted for this process under the MMPA

Questions?

