

Original: English

**REPORT ON THE ACTIONS TAKEN AND ISSUES
FOR CONSIDERATION UNDER THE KOBE PROCESS**

ICCAT Secretariat

The last joint meeting of the tRFMOs was held in 2011 (Kobe III). Since then, work has been ongoing and progress is monitored by a Steering Committee. Below are some of the main recommendations from Kobe III. In some cases, possible future actions have been identified for the Commission for consideration.

1. Data confidentiality and data sharing

The ICCAT confidentiality protocol was adopted in 2010, and has not been reviewed since. Provision for sharing data with other tRFMOs was included in this protocol.

Possible future actions: None identified, but the Commission may wish to review the guidelines, available at https://www.iccat.int/Data/REP_EN_10-11_I_1_Annex_6_Confidentiality.pdf

2. Addressing common issues in RFMO's scientific bodies

- a) Developing a checklist of minimum standards for stock assessments;
See below item (d)
- b) Developing a template for the Executive Summaries of Scientific Committee reports;
In 2013, the Commission adopted the *Resolution by ICCAT to Complete the Standardization of the Presentation of Scientific Information in the SCRS Annual Report* [Res. 13-15] in line with this recommendation.
- c) Establishing an annotated list of common issues in two priority lists;
Nothing to report;
- d) Creating a new Joint Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Technical Working Group.
The activities of the joint Tuna RFMO Working Group are intended to aid in the implementation of MSE and the development of tools and methodologies by promoting collaboration, i.e. by sharing code and data, working on collaborative papers and keeping each other updated on the various activities being conducted by the tRFMOs. In order to facilitate this work, a dedicated webpage (<http://rscloud.iccat.int/mse/mse.html>) was created to ensure coordination and exchange of information. To date, CCSBT have developed a Management Procedure (MP) for southern bluefin using MSE; IOTC are using MSE to evaluate Limit Reference Points (LRPs) for albacore and skipjack; IATTC is using Stock Synthesis to develop OMs; ICCAT are using MSE to evaluate LPRs as part of a Harvest Control Rule (HCR) for temperate tunas and swordfish. A new management framework will also be developed for bluefin using MSE; and WCPFC are using simulation without feedback to evaluate LRPs. This Group is coordinated by Dr. Laurie Kell of the ICCAT Secretariat. It is envisioned that several meetings of this Group will be held in 2016. ICCAT have been asked to organise and chair these meeting, pending the approval of the ICCAT Commission.

Possible future actions: To be determined during the two meetings mentioned above.

3. Capacity and Allocation

3.1 Consolidated List of Authorized Vessels (CLAV)

The Consolidated List of Authorized Vessels (CLAV) is a list containing the lists of authorized vessels of the five tuna RFMOs. The initial merging was carried out by the IOTC, and considerable efforts made by all tRFMOs to standardise their lists and detect and delete duplications. After this initial merging, it became clear that, administration and maintenance of the lists involved significant manual work by officials in each of the RFMOs involved. With funding from GEF/ABNJ, expertise and tools were provided to automate the exchange of information between the five tuna RFMOs, so that any changes in their individual vessel registries get automatically incorporated into the CLAV. Notwithstanding, the system will continue to require maintenance/hosting and quality control.

Possible future actions: The IOTC has to date been maintaining the CLAV data base and hosting the system. The Kobe members will need to determine with IOTC if it can continue with these tasks or otherwise agree on a strategy for the future. In addition, currently, the GEF/ABNJ is financing a consultant to review the CLAV entries and to detect duplicates and missing information. The contract for this consultant has been temporarily extended, but the tRFMOs will need to consider how to carry out this work once the contract has finished.

3.2 Capacity measurement and freezing of Purse Seiners

The ICCAT Record of Vessels does not currently distinguish between authorized vessels and active vessels. In 2014, the Commission adopted a new format for the submission of fleet characteristics which could be used to determine activity for the previous year.

Given the complexity of reliably measuring capacity, this has been limited to a few fisheries in ICCAT, with the most work being done on eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin. The results of this are used to determine the capacity management of the CPCs involved in East bluefin tuna fisheries.

Limits on numbers of purse seiners are currently in force for BFT-E and tropical tuna species.

Possible future actions: If the Commission wishes to continue work on capacity estimation, the data required needs to be determined and collected. The Commission may wish to consider the necessity of distinguishing authorised vessels from active vessels, or consider whether the newly adopted ST01 form is sufficient for this purpose.

4. Decision-making principles

The *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* [Rec. 11-13] was adopted by ICCAT in 2011 on the basis of the principles outlined by Kobe.

Possible future actions: None identified

5. Unique Vessel Identifiers and Harmonized IUU list

Work on the CLAV and in the ICCAT data base has been carried out which should address this issue. Please see section 3.1 above. ICCAT has adopted Resolution Establishing Guidelines for the Cross-Listing of Vessels Contained on IUU Vessel Lists of Other Tuna RFMOs on the ICCAT IUU Vessel List in Accordance with Recommendation 11-18

Possible future actions: None identified, continue cooperation with CLAV process.

6. Standardized Report Cards on Data Submission

ICCAT Report card are contained in **PLE-105/15**

Possible future actions: Currently not standardized among tRFMO, for possible future discussion.

7. Port State Measures

ICCAT adopted Rec. 12-07 on Port Inspection in 2012.

Possible future actions: Work remains to be done regarding capacity building for developing countries in order to improve implementation of and compliance with this measure, particularly in the area of training. The IOTC has developed an electronic system for the recording of Port Inspection and related elements (ePSM). Given that the formats for the AREPs and Port Inspection Reports for IOTC and ICCAT are almost identical, and that IOTC has indicated a willingness to share the system, this could be discussed bilaterally or through the Kobe process, if other tRFMOs are interested.

8. Market Measures/CDS/Trade Tracking

It is expected that the eBCD will become more or less fully operational during 2016. Despite no funding being allocated through ABNJ, ICCAT is willing to share this system with other interested tRFMOs once finalised.

Possible future actions: Once the system is operative, the Commission may wish to consider extending it to other species / oceans.

9. Issues relating to By-catch

A group of Tuna RFMO experts on long-line observer programmes met on 27-29 January 2015, in Keelung (Chinese Taipei) to provide advice on the harmonisation of longline by-catch data collected by observer programs operating in each tRFMO for the purposes of interoperability and cross tRFMO analyses. This was a follow up meeting that held in 2012 which focused on the harmonisation of purse seine by-catch data collection. The purpose of this meeting was fourfold:

1. To summarise across all tRFMO the data fields in existing observer forms that are common (by name and definition) and those that are RFMO unique;
2. To provide a forum for discussion on LL observer database structures to facilitate future data exchanges between tRFMOs;
3. To identify common issues that could be answered by tRFMO wide analyses of LL Observer data;
4. To identify common gaps in current LL observer data collection.

Possible future actions: Continued collaboration between tRFMOs on by-catch issues of mutual interest and the creation of a central meta-database repository on by-catch data and information.