



CCSBT-EC/1210/15

## Kobe Process

### Purpose

To report on the Kobe Process Steering Committee Meeting that took place in the margins of COFI during July 2012.

### Discussion

In accordance with the recommendation from the Third Joint Meeting of Tuna RFMOs (Kobe 3), a Kobe Process Steering Committee meeting was held in the margins of the COFI meeting in Rome during July 2012. The meeting was Chaired by the Chair of Kobe 3 (Mr Russell Smith) and was attended by many of the Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Executive Secretary's of the five tuna RFMOs.

The meeting was a short meeting (less than one hour in duration) and concluded that:

- It is premature to decide on a date or theme for the next Kobe meeting. That should happen after there has been sufficient time to allow the t-RFMOs to consider and act upon the recommendations from Kobe III;
- Steering Committee members should be kept abreast of the work being done by the various groups that have been created in response to recommendations coming out of the Kobe Process;
- The t-RFMOs are already receiving reports from their Executive Directors/Secretaries on efforts to consider and implement the Kobe III recommendations during annual meetings. Those reports will be forwarded to ICCAT for posting on the [tuna-org.org](http://tuna-org.org) website as they become available in order that all of the t-RFMOs will have an opportunity to consider how others are addressing the recommendations;
- The Steering Committee will reconvene in about a year to take stock of what has occurred over the preceding year and to consider when the next plenary meeting in the Kobe process should convene and what the theme or themes of that meeting should be;
- The importance of transparency and broad participation of the members of the t-RFMOs in these matters was noted; and
- Mr Russell Smith will continue to serve as chair/coordinator of the Steering Committee for the time being.

The meeting also noted that the Joint Management Strategy Evaluation Technical Working Group, which was recommended by Kobe 3, has formed and is expected to commence its work soon. With its considerable experience in developing the CCSBT Management Procedure, CCSBT is expected to have an important input to the group and six scientists from CCSBT Members and the CCSBT's independent scientific advisory panel have agreed to participate in the group.