

It is important for the representatives of each t-RFMO at the steering committee to obtain a clear mandate from their membership to participate in cross t-RFMO activities. As already previously agreed, the Kobe process will feature as a point on the agenda of the annual meeting of each t-RFMO.

Practical work

Work would be arranged in three main categories:

Cooperation, exchange of information and coordination within the steering committee. This may involve participation in the annual meeting or other events organised by fellow t-RFMOs.

Organisation of meetings of existing⁸ or new working groups covering particular topics. (MSE, FADs, By-catch, catch documentation, external communication, best practices in science, compliance,..)

Such cooperation will need to rely on the initiatives and on the voluntary contributions (intellectually, financially, logistically) by contracting parties, stakeholders and t-RFMO themselves. Participation would be open to everybody who wishes to cooperate.

All parties are invited to reflect on possible topics and to consider contributing. The steering committee will act as a broker for such information and will facilitate forms of cooperation.

The organisation of a new large-scale meeting⁹ will also be considered. On the one hand, such a large-scale meeting poses quite a challenge. Preparation is a daunting task. On the other hand, it is considered very beneficial in terms of inclusiveness and transparency. It would only make sense, however, if all t-RFMO and enough contracting parties and stakeholders were ready to prepare this content-wise and to attend actively. The FAO is considering whether it can finance and host such a meeting. Tentative timing would be September 2019.

Invitation

All t-RFMO are invited to discuss these ideas at their annual meeting or otherwise.¹⁰

⁸ The list of existing working groups and their chairs will be communicated separately.

⁹ A "Kobe IV".

¹⁰ Due to the scheduling of Annual Meetings, fixing suitable calendars and deadlines is very difficult.