



CCSBT-EC/1910/16

Kobe Process

Purpose

This is a standing item on the CCSBT agenda to provide an update on activities associated with the Kobe Process¹ and to provide the opportunity for CCSBT Members to review progress with Kobe Process recommendations that require actions by the CCSBT.

Kobe Process Steering Committee Meeting

No meetings of the Kobe Process Steering Committee (KSC) have been held since CCSBT 25. A KSC meeting is likely to be held in the margins of COFI² during July 2020.

During 2018, the Chair of the Kobe Process (Mr. Stefaan Depypere) provided a draft concept note for consideration by the five tuna RFMOs on adjusting the work under the KOBE process. This note was provided to the Extended Commission (EC) in paper CCSBT-EC/1810/15 and was considered by the EC at CCSBT 25. The views of CCSBT 25 were similar to the outcome of discussions in the various tuna RFMOs, which were:

- Support to continue exchange of information between Secretariats;
- Support for targeted working groups; and
- A general feeling that it might be good if RFMOs could have a forum to discuss joint strategic issues, but there was no appetite for a large-scale Kobe meeting.

Joint Tuna RFMO Activities

The main joint tuna RFMO activities of relevance to the CCSBT that are underway are in relation to the following technical groups and projects:

- Joint Tuna RFMO Meeting on Implementation of Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries (EAF): *A second joint tuna RFMO workshop on EAF is scheduled to be held in Rome, Italy from 17-19 September 2019 with the topic “A Road Map to Operationalize the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries in tuna RFMOs”. No representatives were nominated by the CCSBT to attend this meeting (see Circular #2019/047), but one CCSBT Commissioner will be attending in his own right.*
- Joint Tuna RFMO Bycatch Working Group (BWG): *A meeting of the BWG is scheduled to be held in Porto, Portugal on 16-18 December 2019. This meeting will focus on shark bycatches. As at the date of finalising this paper, no representatives from the CCSBT had been nominated to attend this meeting (see Circular #2019/055). However, the Secretariat may submit paper(s) to relevant agenda item(s) of the meeting to summarise the situation in the CCSBT. The Secretariat does not plan to attend the BWG meeting.*

¹ A cooperative process involving joint meetings of members of the five tuna RFMOs. The first meeting was held in Kobe, Japan.

² The FAO Committee on Fisheries.

- Management Strategy Evaluation Working Group (MSE WG): *There has been little activity from the MSE WG since last year. Some MSE scientists hope to see this group reinvigorated.*
- Tuna Compliance Network (TCN): *This network did not arise though the Kobe process, but nevertheless, it is an important joint tuna RFMO activity which has been supported by the Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project. The [Third meeting of the network](#) was held in Thailand during February 2019. The CCSBT's Compliance Manager and the Chair of the CCSBT's Compliance Committee attended this meeting. A fourth meeting of the network is planned for early 2020.*
- Consolidated List of Authorised Vessels (CLAV): *The CLAV was established through the Kobe Process and it has continued to be updated on a daily basis. The latest "Monthly Brief Report of the CLAV" (August 2019) is provided [here](#) for information. Maintenance of the CLAV requires regular work to resolve errors, discrepancies and duplicates of vessel data in the CLAV. This work is currently being conducted with funding from the Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project. However, this funding ceases during 2019³.*

Although not of direct interest to the CCSBT, a second meeting of the Joint tuna RFMO FADs Working Group was held from 8-10 May 2019. [The report of this meeting](#) is available from the Tuna-org web site. The report notes that: "All t-RFMOs should participate in meetings like this one, including CCSBT, which may not have FAD fisheries for tropical tunas but may be impacted by lost FADs". The Extended Commission may wish to consider whether the CCSBT should be represented at FAD meetings in the future.

There have also been numerous projects conducted through the Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project that may be of direct or indirect relevance to CCSBT and its Members⁴. Reports from these projects are available on the [Common Oceans Tuna section of the FAO website](#).

Prepared by the Secretariat

³ Further details in relation to the CLAV and funding of the CLAV are provided at the end of the Report from the Secretariat (CCSBT-EC/1910/04).

⁴ Including "A pilot study for identifying the risk of potential southern bluefin tuna IUU catch and undeclared transshipment at sea" that is underway and will be reporting to the October 2019 Compliance Committee meeting.