

**COMMON OCEANS ABNJ TUNA PROJECT
ICCAT ACTIVITIES**

Following consultation between the Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project Coordinator and the ICCAT Executive Secretary, a meeting between staff members of the ICCAT Secretariat and the Project Management Unit was held at the ICCAT Headquarters in Madrid on September 12, 2016. The purpose of the meeting was to identify possible activities of direct benefit to members of ICCAT that could be led by the ICCAT Secretariat under the scope of the FAO Common Oceans/ABNJ Tuna Project (herein after “the Project”).

After a fruitful discussion, the following components for possible activities were identified:

1. ACTIVITY #1: Joint tuna-RFMOs FAD Management Working Group

Framework: Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) are being used extensively in tropical tuna purse seine fisheries all over the world. In order to better manage their use, several tuna RFMOs have created specific FAD Working Groups, which are promoting to address issues related to tuna FAD fishing. As a consequence, the Chair of the Kobe process Steering Committee (SC) recently noted that there is an agreement to create a joint t-RFMOs FAD Working Group and discussions are being held between the Executive Secretaries/Directors. During the last Kobe process SC meeting the ICCAT Executive Secretary offered to coordinate such meeting, which will be an open joint tuna RFMO WG meeting. This initiative was endorsed by the SC and the participants agreed that the process for the FAD meeting could proceed.

Through this activity, the Project will contribute towards this joint meeting, which will be extended to all t-RFMOs dealing with the same issue. Although CCSBT does not has a particular interest on this issue, it will be kept informed of any developments.

Objective(s): Help harmonize data collection and management of tuna FAD fisheries Ocean wide

Main task(s): To contract an expert consultant to conduct a study and analysis of FADs data available at the relevant t-RFMOs Secretariats and propose the possible harmonization of FAD data collection through these RFMOs and improvements required to make an effective use of such data as regards FAD fisheries management. The report of this study will be presented to the joint t-RFMOs FAD Working Group meeting co-organised by these tuna RFMOs and the Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project.

Indicative Budget:

<i>Tasks</i>	<i>Indicative budget</i>
Study/analysis	US\$ 40,000
Joint FAD meeting	US\$ 120,000
Total	US\$ 160,000

2. Activity #2: EAFM Joint tuna-RFMOs Working Group

Framework: Although several t-RFMOs have taken steps towards the implementation of an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM), there are several challenges to address, particularly when a wide range of actions can be interpreted as being part of an implementation of an EAFM and there is no formal agreement on what constitutes an effective operationalization of the EAFM. Given the large number of target and bycatch species that could potentially be directly or indirectly managed, it would be necessary

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to first carry out a prioritization exercise such as an Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA), and implementation of EAFM would be carried out in a step-wise approach. As a first step, ICCAT was invited, with support of the Project, to have a joint Working Group, to review the EAFM work conducted within all t-RFMOs and to explore possible ways to forward the discussion of the issues.

This activity will be conducted under Output 1.1.5 of the Project “Integrated Ecosystem Evaluations and Plans prepared for each t-RFMO to support an EAFM”.

Objective(s): Review t-RFMO and other relevant RFO experiences and identify best practices and collaboration opportunities for the implementation of EAFM/EBFM.

Main tasks: hold a joint Working Group on EAFM, which will take place in Rome in the first week of December 2016.

Indicative Budget

<i>Tasks</i>	<i>Indicative budget</i>
Joint EAFM meeting	US\$ 8,000
Total	US\$ 8,000

3. Activity #3: Feasibility study to develop a web data submission and validation system

Framework: In general, the t-RFMO’s have similar reporting requirements, including fisheries statistics and information on compliance towards Conservation and Management Measures, although they have adopted different formats and specifications. In 2015, ICCAT recommended the Secretariat to study the feasibility of developing a “web based data collection system” that centralizes and manages all the reporting requirements (currently nearly 60 data forms) of the Commission. Given the heterogeneity and quantity of data handled by the t-RFMO’s Secretariats, this project could be further extended to envisage harmonizing, to the extent possible, the submission of information to other t-RFMO’s. A feasibility study should look at a system that:

- adopts the highest technological standards and tools in its development, and a system;
- is developed in a transparent and open way (whenever possible, using “open-source” technologies);
- aims to facilitate technology share and code reuse by the various t-RFMOs and their CPCs;
- integrates validation and cross-checking systems

The Feasibility Study will also provide an estimated budget for the development of the electronic reporting system at ICCAT. A functional version of such system shall be produced and allowing t-RFMO secretariats and CPCs to operationally test and evaluate the operational aspects of the web based tool and its efficiency as a user friendly system.

This activity will be conducted under Output 1.1.2 of the Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project “Increased capacity of ten coastal developing states to comply with t-RFMO member states obligations”.

Objective(s): To facilitate web based reporting of validated information by CPCs to ICCAT and eventually to other relevant t-RFMOs.

Tasks to be developed: conduct the Feasibility Study for an ICCAT electronic system and propose harmonization of reporting requirements amongst all RFMOs.

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Indicative Budget:

<i>Tasks</i>	<i>Indicative budget</i>
Study/analysis	US\$ 80,000
Demo production	US\$ 242,000
Total	US\$ 322,000

4. Activity #4: Joint t-RFMOs MSE technical Working Group

Framework: At the Third Joint Tuna RFMOs meeting (Kobe process) it was recognised that Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) needs to be widely applied in order to implement the Precautionary Approach for tuna fisheries management. Therefore a Joint MSE Technical Working Group was created to work electronically initially. Following discussions of the Steering Committee of Kobe Process it was agreed that an MSE workshop would be held in Madrid, Spain (1-3 November 2016). After consultation with the tRFMOs Executive Secretaries/Directors, an initial list of potentially interested experts was provided by each tRFMOs and an agenda has been prepared for this meeting, which is open to all interested experts.

There are several ways in which the Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project can support the MSE process in ICCAT and other tuna RFMOs: First, conducting capacity building workshops in all oceans to help familiarize stakeholders with the principles and practice of MSE. Third, providing financial support to facilitate the attendance of some participants at the meeting of the joint t-RFMO Management Strategy Evaluation, which was established by all tuna RFMOs in 2011, under the Kobe process, with ICCAT acting as Chair, to look at global issues concerning the process of adoption of management procedures. However, no specific resources were set aside to support its meetings, so progress was slow. The Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project will provide financial support to facilitate the attendance of some participants at the first meeting of latter WG in November 2016. This should advance the development of harvest strategies in all tuna RFMOs.

This activity will be conducted under Output 1.1.1 and 1.1.4 of the Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project.

Objective(s): to make presentation, discuss and draft working plans for the t-RFMOs Technical MSE Working Group. The following themes will be treated during the workshop: Development of a dialogue (between managers and scientists); Conditioning of operating models (how to develop OM hypotheses, weight and rethem); Computational aspect (development and sharing of code, cloud computing and parallel processing); Albacore Case Study (to help develop practical examples it is intended to focus on albacore stocks worldwide); and, Dissemination (glossary of terms, bibliography, common databases, shiny apps, publications, etc).

Main tasks to be developed:

- support of participants to the meeting of the joint t-RFMOs Technical MSE working group hosted by ICCAT in November 2016;
- Discuss and agree on working plans for the t-RFMOs Technical MSE Working Group;
- Liaise with the leading partners under Output 1.1.1 for the organisation of additional capacity building workshops.

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Other Potential Areas of Collaboration

Other project possibilities were also discussed, although for the time being no specific decision were made. These include the following:

1. Implementation of Port State Measures in ICCAT

Framework: to date, 20 ICCAT Members are signatories of the PSMA (12/09/2016), *i.e.* Barbados, Cabo Verde, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, EU, France, Gabon, Gambia, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Iceland, Norway, Korea, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and Grenadines, South Africa, USA, Uruguay., and six of them are also part of an FAO Inter-regional TCP-Project (Cuba, Dominica, Gabon, Guinea, Guyana, South Africa) that will proceed with an gap assessment for the implementation of the PSMA.

In recent years, there has been development of materials and training to support an effective implementation of the Agreement by the signatory countries. Under the Project, PSM legal templates were developed to allow countries to easily introduce provisions for the implementation of the PSMA into their national legislation. Different training packages have also been developed by IOTC, in response to their needs, and according to IOTC Resolution 10/11 *on Port State Measures to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing*. The Project can help facilitate contacts across t-RFMOs, sharing knowledge and experiences in capacity building.

This activity will be conducted under Output 1.1.2 of the Project.

Objective(s): to assist ICCAT Members parties of the PSMA to implement the Agreement and to incentivize other Members to become party of the Agreement.

Main tasks to be developed:

- An inception workshop for interested ICCAT CPC's to review activities under the PSMA and identify follow-up activities. Such a workshop could be conducted under the umbrella of the global support to PSMA by FAO.
- Training of Trainers targeting ICCAT CPC's and Secretariat's staff, targeting two types of audiences:
 - o National administrators. This training will cover what each country will need to set up an effective PSM plan, from changes in national legislation, to inter-agency arrangements concerning roles and responsibilities.
 - o Port inspectors. Training to cover what is necessary for a successful port inspection scheme, targeted to field personnel and their supervisors.

These training could benefit from inter-RFMO communication and support, building on the experiences of other RFMOs that have developed PSM training programmes, in particular the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

- Facilitation of Coordination with the FAO IUU umbrella programme. Following the entry into force of the PSMA, FAO has received a mandate to assist signatories to implement its provisions.

2. MCS Best Practices and sub-network of the International MCS Network / Compliance

Framework: under the Project, Best Practices for Monitoring Control and Surveillance should be developed and a subnetwork under the International MCS Network focusing on tuna issues should be created. These two Outputs will involve the compliance personnel of all the t-RFMOs through the creation of an advisory group.

These activities will be conducted under Project Outputs 2.1.1 "Global Best practices for MCS in tuna fisheries prepared and agreed by the five t-RFMOs " and 2.2.2 "Pilot trials of electronic observer systems aboard tuna purse seine vessels successfully completed in Ghana with lessons learned and best practices disseminated to all t-RFMOs for up scaling".

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Objective: to form an advisory group of MCS practitioners including Compliance section of tRFMOs and to develop ICCAT specific activities related to MCS and support to compliance.

Main tasks to be developed:

- Participation of the compliance section of ICCAT to the advisory group for the development of MCS Best Practices;
- Participation of the compliance section of ICCAT to the tuna sub-network under the International Monitoring Control and Surveillance Network, (led by H. Koster, IMCNS Director, possible meeting early 2017 in Madrid);
- Other potential activities in support of the ICCAT compliance section (e.g. Compliance support missions, availability of training materials, production of implementation sheets for support to compliance, etc.).

Other matters: It was agreed that these identified activities would be further circulated to the Project's partners and to the SCRS and the Commission, for endorsement. Once endorsed, ICCAT will work closely with the Project Management Unit in order to start the implementation phase.