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*Authorship,[[1]](#footnote-1)*

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The management of bycatch is an issue of common interest to tRMFOs. Through the KOBE process, tRMFOs have met to discuss bycatch through joint technical working groups. The tRFMO joint technical working group on by-catch was established in 2009 and had its first meeting in 2011 at the IATTC in la Jolla, California, U.S.A. The meeting was followed by others in 2014, 2015, in 2016. The terms of reference for the tRMFO bycatch working group were defined in Appendix 3 of the Report of the International Workshop on Tuna RMFO Management of Issues Relating to Bycatch. The Terms of Reference are included in **Appendix A**. But for sharks and rays, there has been no dedicated meeting. Therefore, the Chair of the Kobe process Steering Committee (SC) recently decided that there should be a meeting of Joint tRFMOs Bycatch Working Group on sharks and rays. We are pleased to inform you that the European Union and FAO’s Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Program (ABNJ) have offered to finance the meeting, and that the ICCAT Secretariat was invited to organize it. The main goal of the meeting to promote discussions on the assessment and management of elasmobranchs (sharks and rays) from a global perspective within the Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (tRFMOs). The upcoming joint tRMFO Bycatch Working Group Meeting will be held between 16-18 December 2019, at the Sheraton Porto Hotel & Spa (Porto, Portugal).

1. Entity, address, e-mail. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)