



**Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels**

**Third Meeting of Seabird Bycatch Working Group**

*Mar del Plata, Argentina, 08 – 09 April 2010*

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**Title: ACAP Observer Report – Kobe 2 Meeting**

**Author: Secretariat**

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### **ACAP Observer Report – Kobe 2 Meeting**

**Meeting Title:** Second Joint Meeting of Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)

**Meeting Organisation:** European Community

**Date and Location:** 29 June – 3 July, 2009

**Website Address:** <http://www.tuna-org.org/>

**Your Name/Affiliation:** Warren Papworth, ACAP Secretariat

**Capacity of Attendance:** ACAP Observer

**Relevant Paper(s) Tabled:**

Papers tabled at the meeting focused primarily on progress made with the performance reviews of the five tuna RFMOs. Limited opportunities were available for the submission of papers by external organisations.

**Summary of Content:**

Discussion at the meeting focused on the performance reviews of tuna RFMOs, fishing over capacity, the establishment of a global register of active fishing vessels, measures that could be taken to improve compliance with approved measures, and progress made with the course of actions agreed to at Kobe 1.

The key item of relevance to ACAP was the proposal to hold an international workshop on tuna RFMO management issues relating to Bycatch and to call on the RFMOs to avoid duplication of work on this issue.

## **Outcome**

### **C. Terms of Reference for an international Workshop on tuna RFMO management of issues relating to by-catch:**

2. The participants agreed to organize:

c. An international Workshop on tuna RFMO management issues relating to by-catch and to call on RFMOs to avoid duplication of work on this issue. The United States offered to provide support for this Workshop. The Workshop is planned for 2010 [Kobe 1 items 10, 11, 12 and 14].

The Proposed objectives adopted for the Workshop are:

1. To review the available information on incidental catch of non-target species and juveniles of target species.
2. To provide advice to tuna RFMOs on best practice, methods and techniques to assess and to reduce the incidental mortality of non-target species, such as seabirds, turtles, sharks, marine mammals, and of juveniles of target species.
3. To develop and coordinate relevant research programs and observer programs.
4. To make recommendations on mechanisms to streamline the work of the tuna RFMO Working Groups in this field in order to avoid duplication.

In carrying out its work, the workshop will take into account the need to provide adequate capacity building assistance to developing coastal States, in particular small island developing States, territories, and States with small and vulnerable economies to facilitate their participation and preparation for this workshop.

The draft Agenda, the schedule of the meeting, and the relevant documents, will be circulated well in advance and simultaneously to all members of tuna RFMOs, so the participants will have plenty of opportunity to participate in its construction.

### **Outlook for Future ACAP Involvement:**

Participation by ACAP at the proposed workshop should be given a high priority.

### **Recommended Actions for ACAP:**

1. ACAP and NGOs supporting our work have already collected a large amount of information relevant to the first three objectives for the workshop. This information should be offered to the meeting's organizers to facilitate discussion of these issues.
2. ACAP Parties and Range States attending the workshop should be encouraged to promote adoption of FAO's Best Practice Technical Guidelines for IPOA/NPOA Seabirds as a framework for addressing workshop objective 2. Adoption of the ecosystem approach and use of the precautionary principle should also be strongly promoted in the management of incidental catch of non-target species.
3. When addressing objective 4 to streamline the work of tuna RFMOs and to avoid duplication, consideration should be given to promoting the creation of a single working group on bycatch issues, which would provide advice to all five tuna RFMOs.

4. Consideration is required on the terms of reference of this working group and on the process to be followed in the dissemination of its advice.
5. Detailed considered is required on policy issues associated with the establishment and implementation of the working group.

**Have relevant papers been forwarded to Secretariat:** Yes