



## KOBE PROCESS

Brussels,  
MARE B/AM/ ARES(2018)

### To the Members of the KOBE PROCESS Steering Committee

**Subject: Joint t-RFMOs MSE Working Group**

Dear Steering Committee members,

I have the honour, in my capacity as Chair of the KOBE Process Steering Committee, to inform you that a Joint Tuna RFMO Management Strategy Evaluation Working Group will be held from the 13-15 June 2018, at the University of Washington in Seattle, USA.

Attached please find the objectives and tentative Agenda of the meeting. I would appreciate it very much if you could distribute this announcement to scientists who may contribute by participating in the meeting. This announcement will also be published on the tuna-org web site (<http://www.tuna-org.org/mse.htm>).

In order to have an estimation of the number of participants in advance of the session I would also appreciate it if participants could confirm their attendance with the Working Group Chair ([paul.debruyne@iccat.int](mailto:paul.debruyne@iccat.int)).

I thank the ICCAT Secretariat, and my good friend Driss Meski in particular, for having facilitated the preparation of this meeting.

More generally, it is my intention to try to restructure the KOBE Process and I would like to share with you my thoughts. We have learned by experience that very big events, like the three KOBE meetings we had in the past, are difficult to organise and not necessarily very fruitful. Our small Steering Committee has accomplished a lot in the last years, however we have to recognise that because of our limited resources we have not achieved the intended progress and visibility.

It is in my view that the t-RFMOs absolutely need to show the Ocean Governance community that they can coordinate and cooperate between themselves and that this leads to effective and better results. It should be our joint endeavour to ensure that t-RFMOs lead discussions on ocean governance in the areas of their competence.

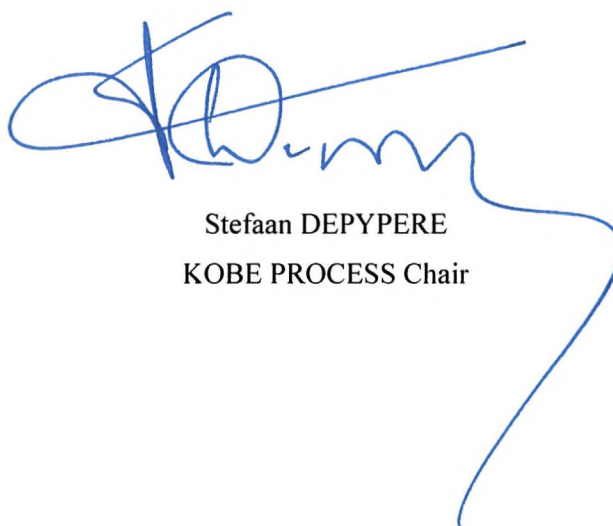
For this reason, I suggest to organise the KOBE Process as a sequence of practical meetings on well-defined and topical issues. We have already had a successful meeting on FADS in Madrid last year and I hope more similar meetings will take place in the future.

I consider that topics such as MSE, by-catch, data reporting, compliance, scientific methods and presentation of scientific results, traceability would be suitable to be addressed in such meetings and benefit from enhanced cooperation and coordination. Each meeting should be well prepared technically in advance and then bring together a critical group of managers and scientists. Participation could come from within the t-RFMOs and from other relevant stakeholders.

I have been developing some ideas on the content, logistics and financial support of such process with the ABNJ project, which I would like to present to the KOBE Steering Committee in the margins of the COFI meeting next July.

I hope that you can all attend and I will contact you soon to find an appropriate time to discuss.

Yours sincerely,



Stefaan DEPYPERE  
KOBE PROCESS Chair

Enclosures: 1

**2018 JOINT TUNA RFMO MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION WORKING GROUP**  
*(Seattle, USA – 13-15 June 2018)*

**Objectives**

The second meeting of the Kobe joint Tuna RFMO MSE Working Group will follow on from the 1st meeting held in Madrid Nov 1-3 2016.

The objectives of that meeting were to:

- Review current MSE practice, successes, failures and potential areas for collaboration.
- Discuss progress on MSE
- Identify future actions focusing on areas for collaboration

and was organised around five themes: namely 1) The MSE process and stakeholder dialogue, 2) Conditioning operating models, 3) Albacore case study currently underway across tRFMO's, 4) Computational aspects and 5) Dissemination of results.

The intention of this second meeting is to follow up on the progress of those themes, taking into account several MSE related meetings that have taken place in the interim. The meeting may follow a more conventional structure than the 1st meeting, in order to facilitate the reviews and discussions on progress.

**Tentative Agenda**

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. MSE process and stakeholder dialogue
  - 2.1. Review of the approaches and processes used when developing MPs across tRFMOs
  - 2.2. Stakeholder dialogue. Selling and communicating the process to managers. Discuss “intermediary group(s)” suggested to be established between the Commissions and their Scientific Committees.
  - 2.3. Feedback from other MSE meetings (eg. San Diego, January 2018)
  - 2.4. Identification of additional key issues required to further facilitate adoption of Management Procedures in the tRFMOs
  - 2.5. The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) – harmonisation with MSE process
3. Conditioning operating models
  - 3.1. Multispecies MSEs (Such as for Tropical Tunas)
  - 3.2. Spatial issues in OM and multi-stock/species structures
4. Albacore Case Study
  - 4.1. Progress at the various RFMOs
    - 4.1.1. ICCAT
    - 4.1.2. IOTC
    - 4.1.3. IATTC/ISC/WCPFC

- 4.2. Progress on key research areas (if any)
  - 4.2.1. How to select, weight and reject scenarios for OMs (Addressing Risk/Probability)
  - 4.2.2. meta-analyses use of for difficult to estimate parameters that are difficult to estimate
  - 4.2.3. Comparison of Harvest Control Rules (HCR)
  - 4.2.4. The relative merits of model-based vs empirical MPs
- 4.3. Future cross RFMO collaboration on ALB MSE.
5. Provisions for Exceptional Circumstances
6. Computational aspects
  - 6.1. Software and Code validation
  - 6.2. Available tools to facilitate MSE
  - 6.3. Organisation of the MSE exercise (consultants, centralised, individuals)
7. Dissemination of results
  - 7.1. Tools to facilitate dissemination (wiki, websites, github, email lists, templates etc)
  - 7.2. MSE glossary
  - 7.3. Available visualisation tools (shiny apps and others)
  - 7.4. Future avenues of development
8. Group recommendations
9. Closure and adoption of report