

BACKGROUND FOR AGENDA ITEM VII.c.i.¹

Topic: Harmonized IUU Vessel Lists across T-RFMOs

As a tool to help curtail illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, four of the five tuna regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) have established IUU vessel listing procedures. The listing process differs slightly among each organization, and only ICCAT provides for cross-listing vessels from other tuna RFMOs' IUU vessel lists. The lack of cross-listing can limit the effectiveness of the IUU vessel list as a tool, given that fishing vessels are capable of moving across ocean basins, even within a single year. The Kobe III meeting presents an opportunity to make progress on efforts to create a harmonized IUU vessel list across all five t-RFMOs. Such an outcome would be consistent with the Kobe I and Kobe II recommendations, and it would contribute to the development of a global IUU vessel list.

A possible product of Kobe III is a model measure on the establishment of a common IUU vessel list. This model measure could provide each tuna RFMO with a process for adding other tuna RFMOs IUU-listed vessels to its IUU list. The process could be based on the ICCAT procedure in ICCAT [Recommendation 09-10](#), which provides for cross-listing once an IUU vessel list and supporting information is received from another tuna RFMO. As procedures for addition or deletion of a vessel from the list are different in each RFMO, the model measure should leave the specifics of such procedures up to each organization. A provision of information supporting the listing on other t-RFMO vessel lists could address due process concerns. If this model measure were adopted by each t-RFMO, this could be an important first step in the creation of a global IUU tuna vessel list.

¹ This background paper was developed to provide information and help frame the discussion on this agenda item. It does not necessarily reflect the position of any delegations participating in Kobe III, and is not meant to limit the discussions on this or any other topic.