

IATTC – Common Oceans-GEF-WWF

Workshop on training, communication and evaluation of management strategies for tuna fisheries in the EPO

Date and place: 25 and 26 of August 2018, San Diego, USA

Target audience: Commissioners (or their representatives) and their scientific advisors of the Latin-American developing coastal Members and Cooperating Non-Members.

Language: Spanish (no simultaneous translation)

Scope and objectives of workshop

Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) is a process that includes the use of computer simulation tools to compare the performance of different management strategies in meeting the management objectives of fisheries, using relevant fisheries performance metrics. The results of a MSE can facilitate the adoption of management strategies. The active participation of stakeholders throughout the MSE process is central to its usefulness and success. Key elements of IATTC's management strategy, such as its harvest control rule and reference points, along with alternatives, are currently being evaluated through MSE. Elements, concepts and approaches involved in MSE are relatively new for managers, particularly of Latin-American developing coastal Members and Cooperating Non-Members. A better understanding of the MSE process and its components would help strengthen the communications among scientists, managers and other stakeholders, as well as foster their participation in the process. Workshops like the one outlined here have been taken place in tuna RFMOs during the last three years, including an initial one for the EPO in Panama (2015). Both the Panama Workshop and this one have financial support from the Global Environment Facility's (GEF) Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) project "Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the ABNJ" which in the EPO targets Latin-American coastal members.

The objectives of this workshop are to provide training and to enhance communication between scientists and managers of Latin-American developing coastal Members and Cooperating Non-Members on management objectives, harvest strategies and management strategy evaluation (MSE). This is in line with the recent IATTC Performance Review and the proposed Strategic Science Plan that recommended improving knowledge sharing, human-institutional capacity building and communication of scientific advice.

This workshop aims to provide the background skills for the Latin-American developing coastal Members and Cooperating Non-Members and will explain how MSEs contribute to the development of robust and functional management strategies. The workshop aims to empower the participants with knowledge so they would be able to engage meaningfully on the MSE process for tropical tunas when represent their countries at IATTC meetings, and to intervene effectively at future international negotiations. It is strongly recommended that Commissioners or representatives, together with their scientific advisors, of Latin-American developing coastal Members and Cooperating Non-Members consider attending this workshop.

Likely workshop topics include:

- Management objectives, tactics and strategies,
- Kobe plots and other results from tropical tuna stock assessments,
- Harvest control rules,
- Reference points,
- MSE components, development and implementation of the MSE.

The topics will address general concepts, the specific IATTC context and some case studies. The workshop will have a format of both presentations and hands-on session with MSE simplified models (“toys”) to illustrate the main points, issues, trade-offs, and foster dialogue and understanding among Workshop participants. The final program will be circulated in the near future.