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Global Experts Explore Ideas to Implement Catch Shares in Tuna Fisheries

Allocation Key to Limiting Fishing Capacity

YOUNTVILLE, CALIFORNIA – 11 February 2011 – An intensive 3-day technical workshop convened in California today, focused on advancing the development of best practices for allocation, an area critical to creating a sustainable global tuna supply.

Allocation is related to the much broader issue of fishing capacity – the amount of tuna that vessels would be able to harvest throughout the year if operating at maximum efficiency. There is general agreement that it is unsustainable for every vessel currently on the water to fish for tuna. However, in order to limit and manage capacity there must be a framework for allocating catch and effort shares fairly among all nations that have a right to fish a shared tuna stock.

“Governments, especially those in countries still developing fishing fleets, will ultimately benefit from workshops like this that advance knowledge and explore new ideas,” said Dr. Victor Restrepo, Chair of the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) Scientific Advisory Committee. “The goal this weekend is to brainstorm with a diverse group of experts in natural resources and then, later in the year, share the results with fisheries management leaders that are in a position to put real solutions into practice.”

Nations often fail to agree on fishing limits for tuna stocks, citing a lack of ability to allocate catch shares. An example can be found in the Indian Ocean where governments recently agreed in principle on a science-based catch limit for yellowfin tuna but failed to agree on a method to designate catch shares.

The workshop is sponsored by ISSF, the Center for Environmental Economics at the University of California, San Diego and the Institute on Global Cooperation and Conflict. Panel discussions will be held on topics that include:

- Theoretical Approaches to Allocation of Common Resources
- Allocation Models for Specific Resources (water, forests, fisheries, atmospheres, marine mammals)
- International Allocation in Fisheries: Application and Experience

“This group of experts is likely one of the capable ever assembled to address this issue. It represents the realization that there is a unique role for economists, attorneys, government representatives, biologists and environmentalists to play in moving allocation best practices forward.”

Following the Napa Valley workshop a detailed report will be published to serve as a road map for future work.

ABOUT ISSF

Founded in 2008, International Seafood Sustainability Foundation is a global partnership among leaders in science, the tuna industry and WWF, the world's leading conservation organization. ISSF

promotes the long-term conservation and sustainable use of tuna stocks through science-based initiatives, reducing bycatch and protecting the overall health of the world's oceans. Since inception ISSF has funded scientific research, provided expert testimony on sustainability issues and co-hosted international conferences on the importance of science-based initiatives to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of tuna. The ISSF Bellagio Conference on Sustainable Global Fisheries (May 2010) generated "Bellagio Framework for Sustainable Tuna Fisheries: Capacity controls, rights-based management, and effective MCS," which was a key background paper presented to the Kobe Process, through the Kobe Workshop hosted by the FFA from June 29 – July 1, 2010 in Brisbane, Australia. For more information about about ISSF, visit www.issf-foundation.org.

ABOUT CEE, University of California, San Diego

The Center for Environmental Economics (CEE) promotes research in environmental economics and provides a community for scholars (faculty, graduate students, and others) interested in various topics on environmental economics. Research is organized by various Programs under the umbrella of the Center. For more information about CEE, visit www.econ.ucsd.edu/CEE.

ABOUT IGCC

Institute on Global Cooperation and Conflict (IGCC) is a research unit serving the entire University of California system. IGCC researchers study a wide range of topics involving security, environmental, and economic policies that shape our ability to prevent conflict and promote cooperation across the globe. IGCC builds bridges between the theory and practice of international policy. For more information about IGCC visit, <http://igcc.ucsd.edu>.