

Joint Tuna RFMO Working Group on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) (PLE 111)

April 2017, Madrid



Objectives, to review and assess:

- **State of play and progress on tuna (anchored and drifting) FAD fisheries in three t-RFMOs (IOTC, ICCAT, IATTC)**
 - **Use of FADs in tuna fisheries in all three t-RFMO Convention areas**
 - **Impact of FAD fishing on the tropical tuna stocks**
 - **Developments in FAD related technology and in the mitigation of its impact**
 - **Data requirements needs and data collection systems**
 - **Current research plans**



Participation 3rd meeting 2017

- 35 Contracting parties



Scientists
Commissioner
Managers
Industry
NGOs

- 8 NGOs

key areas for future action (I)

KEY AREAS	SPECIFIC ACTIONS	KOBE	RFMO	CPC
AL ISSUES	Legal aspects:			
	– Definition of a FAD	X	X	
	– Definition of ownership and responsibilities	X	X	
	Definitions and common indicators:			
	<p>DEFINITIONS</p> <p>LEGAL</p> <p>TECHNICAL</p>		X	
	– Need to develop harmonized FAD fishery indicators (e.g. number of FADs, FAD sets, ratio of FAD-associated sets to unassociated sets, numbers of vessels deploying FADs and supply vessels etc.) to estimate the contribution of FADs to the overall effective fishing effort and capacity in tropical tuna fisheries across ocean regions	X	X	

key areas for future action (II)

GENERAL	Region			
	Enhanced cooperation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaboration between industry and scientists for the improvement of the collection of data, scientific research and to develop effective mitigation 			X
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess the effectiveness of various management options for FADs within the framework of general tropical tuna fisheries management (e.g. overall fishing capacity) 		X	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Address monitoring (e.g. 100% observer and VMS coverage) and compliance issues 		X	X

- ENHANCED COOPERATION
- ELABORATION OF APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORKS

key areas for future action (III)

DATA GAPS AND NEEDS	<p>Data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify data gaps and needs - Optimize and harmonize the collection of data and develop common minimum standards and formats 	X	X	X	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DATA COLLECTION • ACCESS TO DATA 			X	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collect new types of data on the operational and technical fleets' characteristics, including on supply vessels 		X	X	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate access by scientists to acoustic records of the echo-sounder buoys as a potential source of fishery independent indices 		X	X	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop appropriate framework of confidentiality - Ensure/facilitate access to data for scientists and managers 	X	X	X	

key areas for future action (IV)

MITIGATION	Ta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mitigate the impact of FADs, consider establishing limits on the number of FADs deployed, and consider feasibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MITIGATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAD limits • Hotspots for FAD use • Gear modifications • Handling of bycatch 	X	X	X	
	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve information on the impacts of FAD fisheries on vulnerable elasmobranch and turtle species 	X	X		

key areas for future action (V)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of hot spots for vulnerable species - Implement best practices for handling and safe release of by-catch species as appropriate - Introduction of non-entangling FADs 		X	X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HABITAT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TRACKING FADS ● MANAGING FAD LOSSES ● ANCHORED FADS 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider anchored and drifting FADs in the overall analysis of impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communities in implementing actions or management measures 	X	X

NEXT STEPS

- Review of report by:

ICCAT FAD Working Group – **DONE!**

SCRS plenary – **DONE!**

Commission

Create a Technical Joint tRFMO FAD working group
(would work primarily electronically)