# 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 3<sup>nd</sup> meeting 2017

#### • 35 Contracting parties

Scientists Commissioner Managers Industry NGOs



### key areas for future action (I)

KEY AREAS	SPECIFIC ACTIONS	KOBE	RFMO	CPC
	Legal aspects: – Definition of a FAD – Definition of ownership and responsibilities	X X	X X	
	Definitions and common indicators:			
C	DEFINITIONS			
	LEGAL			
	TECHNICAL		Х	
AL ISSUES	<ul> <li>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</li> </ul>	Х	Х	

#### key areas for future action (II)

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GENERAI

Enhanced cooperation:

- Collaboration between industry and scientists for the improvement of the collection of data, scientific research and to develop effective mitigation
- ENHANCED COOPERATION
- ELABORATION OF APPROPRIATE
   MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORKS

<ul> <li>Assess the effectiveness of various management options for FADs within the framework of general tropical tuna fisheries management (e.g. overall fishing capacity)</li> </ul>	Х	
<ul> <li>Address monitoring (e.g. 100% observer and VMS coverage) and compliance issues</li> </ul>	Х	Х

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### key areas for future action (III)

	Data:				
	<ul> <li>Identify data gaps and needs</li> </ul>		Х		
	<ul> <li>Optimize and harmonize the collection of data and develop common minimum standards and formats</li> </ul>	х	Х	Х	
	<ul> <li>DATA COLLECT</li> </ul>	ION		Х	
VEEDS	<ul> <li>ACCESS TO DAT</li> </ul>	ΓA			
AND N					
APS				Х	
DATA GAPS AND NEEDS	<ul> <li>conect new types of data on the operational and technical fleets' characteristics, including on supply vessels</li> </ul>		Х	Х	
	<ul> <li>Facilitate access by scientists to acoustic records of the echo-sounder buoys as a potential source of fishery independent indices</li> </ul>		Х	Х	
	<ul> <li>Develop appropriate framework of confidentiality</li> </ul>	Х	Х	Х	
	<ul> <li>Ensure/facilitate access to data for scientists and managers</li> </ul>		Х	Х	

### key areas for future action (IV)

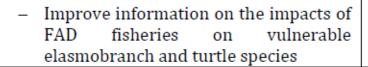
- Mitigate the impact of FADs, consider establishing limits on the number of FADs deployed, and consider feasibility
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    - x x

MITIGATION

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- FAD limits
- Hotspots for FAD use
  - Gear modifications
  - Handling of bycatch



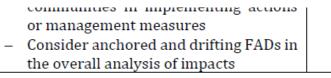
Х

Х

MITIGATION

### key areas for future action (V)

- 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 FADe
- HABITAT
  - TRACKING FADS
  - MANAGING FAD LOSSES
  - ANCHORED FADS



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## 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)