

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION
ON A MULTI-ANNUAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
FOR BIGEYE AND YELLOWFIN TUNAS**

CONSIDERING that the multi-annual program for the medium-term is intended to contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of the bigeye and yellowfin tuna fisheries;

RECALLING recommendations released by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) to address the lack of reliable data collection mechanisms, particularly in bigeye and yellowfin tuna fisheries carried on in association with objects that could affect fish aggregation, including Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs);

REMINDING that in its 2013 report, SCRS also stated the increasing use of FADs since the early 1990s has changed the species composition of free swimming schools, has brought about an increase in skipjack tuna catchability and may also have an impact of the biology of skipjack tuna;

ACKNOWLEDGING that requirements on the recording of the catch and fishing activities in FADs fisheries set out in Recommendation 11-01 do not allow the SCRS to assess properly technical conservation measures, particularly those based on possible spatial and temporal closures;

RECOGNIZING the necessity to adopt data collection and transmission mechanisms to allow improvement of the monitoring and the scientific assessment of the related fisheries and associated stocks;

NOTING a lack of knowledge of the FAD fisheries in the Gulf of Guinea region and that the SCRS has highlighted the chronic data deficiencies in that region;

FURTHER NOTING that in its 2013 report, SCRS stated that the effect of FADs on both sea-turtle and shark by-catch was also acknowledged. The SCRS also recognized the need to provide advice on the design of FADs that would lessen their impact on by-catch species. Therefore, information on dimension and material of the floating part and of the underwater hanging structure should be provided. More particularly the entangling or non-entangling feature of the underwater hanging structure should be reported.

RECALLING the development of provisions related to FAD management plans in other tuna RFMOs;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1) Paragraph 18 of the ICCAT Recommendation 11-01 shall be replaced as follows:

18. CPCs shall ensure that all purse seine and baitboat fishing vessels and all support vessels (including supply vessels) flying their flag, and/or authorized by CPCs to fish in areas under their jurisdiction, when fishing in association with fish aggregating devices (FADs), including objects that could affect fish aggregation, shall collect and report, for each deployment of a FAD, each visit on a FAD, whether followed or not by a set, or each loss of a FAD, the following information and data :

- a) Deployment of any FAD
 - i. Position
 - ii. Date
 - iii. FAD type (anchored FAD, drifting artificial FAD)
 - iv. FAD identifier (*i.e.*, FAD Marking or beacon ID)
 - v. FAD design characteristics (dimension and material of the floating part and of the underwater hanging structure and the entangling or non-entangling feature of the underwater hanging structure)

- b) Visit on any FAD
 - i. Type of the visit (hauling, retrieving, intervention on electronic equipment)
 - ii. Position
 - iii. Date
 - iv. FAD type (anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD, drifting artificial FAD)
 - v. FAD identifier (*i.e.*, FAD Marking or beacon ID or any information allowing to identify the owner)
 - vi. If the visit is followed by a set, the results of the set in terms of catch and by-catch, whether retained or discarded dead or alive.
- c) Loss of any FAD
 - i. Last registered position
 - ii. Date of the last registered position
 - iii. FAD identifier (*i.e.*, FAD Marking or beacon ID)

For the purpose of the collection and the report of the information referred to under paragraphs 18(a), 18(b) and 18(c) and where paper or electronic logbooks already in place do not allow it, CPCs shall either update their reporting system or establish FAD-logbooks. In establishing FAD logbooks, CPCs may use possible templates laid down in Annexes I and II as reporting formats. When using paper logbooks, CPCs may seek, with the support of the Executive Secretary, for harmonized formats.

2) Paragraph 19 of the ICCAT Recommendation 11-01 shall be replaced as follows:

19. CPCs shall ensure that:

- a) Both paper and electronic fishing logbooks referred to in paragraph 17 and the FAD-logbooks referred to in paragraph 18, where applicable, are promptly collected and made available to national scientists;
- b) The Task II data include the information collected from the fishing or FAD logbooks, where applicable, and is submitted every year to the ICCAT Executive Secretariat, to be made available to the SCRS.
- c) The following information is submitted every year to the Executive Secretary, to be made available to the SCRS:
 - i. an inventory of all support vessels associated with purse-seine or baitboat fishing vessels flying their flag, detailing their identification, main characteristics and the fishing vessels they are associated with,
 - ii. the number of FADs actually deployed on a quarterly basis, by FAD type, indicating the presence or absence of a beacon associated to the FAD,
 - iii. for each support vessel, the number of days spent at sea, per 1° grid area, month and flag State.

19. bis To facilitate the submission of the information referred to in paragraph 19a) above, the Executive Secretary shall design or modify electronic forms, as appropriate.

- 3) When implementing provisions laid down in Recommendation [11-01], CPCs should promote FADs whose design can reduce the entanglement of sharks, marine turtles or any other species.
- 4) Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2, of the Convention, developing CPCs may defer the implementation of the above paragraphs 1) and 2) to the 1st of January 2015 provided that they collaborate with the Executive Secretary.

<i>FAD Identifier</i>		<i>FAD & electronic equipment types</i>		<i>FAD Design characteristics</i>				<i>Observation</i>
<i>FAD Marking</i>	<i>Associated beacon ID</i>	<i>FAD Type</i>	<i>Type of the associated beacon and /or electronic devices</i>	<i>FAD floating part</i>		<i>FAD underwater hanging structure</i>		
				<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Materials</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Materials</i>	
(1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(4)	(6)	(7)
...
...

(1) If FAD marking and associated beacon ID are absent or unreadable, mention it and provide all available information which may help to identify the owner of the FAD.

(2) Anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD or drifting artificial FAD.

(3) e.g., GPS, sounder, etc. If no electronic device is associated to the FAD, note this absence of equipment.

(4) e.g., width, length, high, depth, mesh sizes, etc.

(5) Mention the material of the structure and of the cover and if biodegradable.

(6) e.g. nets, ropes, palms, etc... and mention the entangling and/or biodegradable features of the material.

(7) Lighting specifications, radar reflectors and visible distances shall be reported in this section.

<i>FAD marking</i>	<i>Beacon ID</i>	<i>FAD type</i>	<i>Type of visit</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Position</i>		<i>Estimated catches</i>			<i>By-catch</i>			<i>Observations</i>	
						<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>	<i>SKJ</i>	<i>YFT</i>	<i>BET</i>	<i>Taxonomic group</i>	<i>Estimated catches</i>	<i>Unit</i>		<i>Specimen released alive</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(7)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
...
...

(1, 2) If FAD marking and associated beacon ID are absent or unreadable, report it in this section

(3) Anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD or drifting artificial FAD.

(4) *i.e.*, deployment, hauling, retrieving, changing the beacon, loss and mention if the visit has been followed by a set.

(5) dd/mm/yy

(6) hh:mm

(7) °N/S/mm/dd or °E/W/mm/dd.

(8) Estimated catches expressed in metric tons

(9) Use a line per taxonomic group.

(10) Estimated catches expressed in weight or in number.

(11) Unit used.

(12) Expressed as number of specimen

(13) If no FAD marking neither associated beacon ID is available, report in this section all available information which may help to describe the FAD and to identify the owner of the FAD.