

ICCAT Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) Working Group - Sept 2017 (PLE-110)



Objectives

- Review of the information on FADs provided by CPCs
- Evaluate progress made based on the recommendations issued by the Working Group in 2017
- Considerations from the 1st joint t-RFMO FAD Working Group meeting
- Assessment of developments in FAD-related technology
- Describe the effects of FAD use on the fishing mortality of stocks of tropical tuna
- Consideration of recommendations to the Commission for possible additional actions on management of FADs



Synthesis

- 8 CPCs and 3 observers present
- Tropical Tuna Working Group met prior to the FAD working group and has not yet considered recommendations
- SCRS Statistics Subcommittee considered some of the recommendations in their intersessional meeting
- Final report was not available to SCRS plenary
- SCRS recommended that SCRS Chair, Tropical Tunas WG coordinator, Subcomm. Statistics rapporteur and bycatch rapporteur prepare workplan related to recommendations of the report to be presented to the SCRS during 2018

Report recommendations to the Commission

Appendix 6 of ICCAT FAD report

- General issues
 - Increase collaboration between scientists and industry across CPCs.
 - Establish, under the existing Kobe FAD WG, an advisory technical group
 - Ask Panel 1 to begin the process of setting management objectives for all tropical tuna species and for FAD fisheries
 - Increase scientific observer coverage from the current minimum requirement of 5%, for Purse seine and baitboats engaged in FAD fishing
 - Standardize submission of information contained in FAD management plans
 - Anchored FADs should also be managed as many of the issues discussed for drifting FADs are applicable to anchored FADs. Rec [16-01] also references anchored FADs and the necessity to report activities regarding these FADs.

Report recommendations to the Commission

Appendix 6 of ICCAT FAD report

- Mitigation
 - Scientific evidence suggests safe handling techniques adopted by EU PS fleets have been effective in reducing mortality for non-target species. It is recommended that these techniques be adopted across all PS fleets.
 - A combination of measures may be effective in reducing beaching and identifying areas at risk of FAD debris.