

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
PERMANENT AD-HOC WORKING GROUP ON FADS

THIRD MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)
11-12 May 2018

DOCUMENT FAD-03 INF-B

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SAC ADOPTED BY THE FADS
WORKING GROUP**

1. FAD data collection form 9/2016 and its instructions, established pursuant to Resolution C-16-01, and the observer program's *Flotsam Information Record* will be modified to include new fields that will enable FADs to be tracked over time, incorporating options such as interaction with natural objects that are being tracked and buoy changes. The new form will be presented to SAC-09 for adoption. Once this new form is adopted, an electronic version will be developed as an alternative to the paper version.
2. The new form for FAD data collection related to the requirements of Resolution C-16-01 will be the default form to be used by the purse-seine fleet operating in the EPO. Fleets that also operate in other convention areas may use their own form, provided that it includes all the data fields required by Resolution C-16-01.
3. Coordination with the working groups on FADs of other tuna RFMOs to propose the new FAD data form, with a view to developing a possible harmonized form to be used by captains or operators for FAD inventory and activity data collection in all t-RFMOs, while keeping in mind that the definition of a FAD can vary among RFMOs, and that the form may need to be modified based on the needs of each RFMO.
4. CPCs, the IATTC staff, and the staff of national observer programs shall strive to organize training workshops that will train vessel captains, crew and government authorities to properly fill out FAD data forms related to the requirements of Resolution C-16-01.
5. Following the decision of the Commission, the IATTC staff will finalize, before the Commission meeting in August 2018, the development of a common database to be used by the IATTC staff for the management of FAD data collected pursuant to Resolution C-16-01. All data included in the database will be handled in a manner consistent with the Commission's confidentiality standards.
6. CPCs should report, or ask their vessels to report, FAD data from fishing trips required by Resolution C-16-01 to the IATTC staff as soon as possible, and at most with a 4-month delay, to facilitate the processing of the data in advance to the annual SAC meeting.
7. CPCs shall provide to the IATTC staff the same daily raw buoy data received by original users (*i.e.* vessels, fishing companies) in line with the research needs defined in the Strategic Science Plan to be adopted by the Commission.
8. The guidelines for submission of FAD data pursuant to Resolution C-17-02 (Annex 1) will be the reference for complying with the provisions of paragraph 11 of the resolution on a provisional basis

during 2018. The guidelines should be modified to clarify that the latest transmission date is 1 May for January data, 1 June for February data, and so on.

9. The staff shall provide two email addresses to centralize the submission of FAD data required by Resolutions C-16-01 and C-17-02.
10. Incorporate experts from buoy providers as members of the *ad hoc* Permanent Working Group on FADs, to participate in the intersessional work of the group on the Basecamp platform.
11. Organize a workshop on buoy technology and use on the margins of the Commission meeting in August 2018, with the active participation of experts from buoy provider companies.
12. The Working Group, with the collaboration of the IATTC staff, should continue developing definitions intersessionally for a set of terms related to FAD fishing operations. The terms recommended for definition include those related to the utilization of buoys and other relevant terms. This task should be finalized by the annual meeting of the Commission in August 2018.
13. Continue the project on the implementation of biodegradable FADs in the EPO that has been initiated by the IATTC scientific staff. The Working Group also recommends that the IATTC staff develop a robust experimental design and ensure an effective coordination of the project, including with other relevant initiatives. The commitment and active involvement of CPCs in promoting the participation of the industry are critical for the success of the project.
14. The following research initiatives should be undertaken as an absolute priority. They are ranked in descending order of importance:
 - a. Review and prioritize data collection/ FAD marking
 - b. FAD impacts on catch rates of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas
 - c. Influence of vessel, captain, technology used and FAD/gear attributes on catches of bigeye and yellowfin tunas
 - d. Science-based limit on FAD numbers/FAD sets
 - e. FAD-based index of abundance
 - f. Impact of FAD density on the associative behavior of tunas
 - g. Tests of biodegradable FADs (design and implementation of biodegradable materials)
 - h. Bycatch release practices, with special focus on sharks and manta rays
 - i. Pilot project on recovery of FADs
 - j. Estimates of bycatch and discard rates, by species, and identification of hot spots