

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
***AD HOC* PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON FADS**
10TH MEETING
La Jolla, California (USA)
3 – 4 Junio 2026

CHAIR'S SUMMARY REPORT

AGENDA

-
1. Opening of the meeting
 2. Adoption of the agenda
 3. Review of recommendations from the 9th meeting of the FAD Working Group
 4. FAD data reporting established in Resolutions C-24-01 and C-19-02
 5. FAD fishery indicators
 6. Advances on biodegradable FADs in the EPO
 7. FAD marking: potential benefits and modalities
 8. Initiatives to reduce impacts of FAD fishing
 9. Conclusions and recommendations
 10. Other business
 11. Adjournment
-

Annotated agenda can be found, [here](#).

The 10th meeting of the IATTC's ad hoc Permanent Working Group on FADs was held in La Jolla, California (USA) on 3-4 June 2026. As the Working Group was not in a position to elect a Chair at the opening of the meeting, the IATTC Secretariat kindly agreed to facilitate the proceedings, and Dr. Jon Lopez, of the IATTC scientific staff, chaired the meeting on that basis. The Working Group agreed that the election of a Chair would be taken up at the 104th meeting of the Commission, to be held in Lisbon, Portugal, later this year.

The list of participants is included in Annex 1.

The list of documents presented and discussed during the meeting is included below and can be found on the website of the 10th meeting of the Working Group, along with the corresponding presentations.

Meeting documents:

[FAD-10-01 – Floating-object fishery indicators: a 2025 report](#)

[FAD-10-02 – Dynamics of Fish Aggregating Devices \(FADs\) in the EPO: a trajectory-based analysis](#)

[FAD-10-03 – Evaluation of bio-based FAD materials in relation to marine biodegradability certification standards](#)

[FAD-10-04 – Options for FAD marking in the IATTC](#)

Related documents:

[RD-A – Preliminary assessment of the behaviour of drifting FADs during stranding events and costs of a recovery vessel at sea](#)

RD-B – Advancing biodegradable materials in Fish Aggregating Devices toward safe and sustainable-by-design fisheries plastics

Background document:

Second International Workshop on Biodegradable Drifting Fish Aggregating Devices

Presentations:

- 3. Review of recommendations from the 9th meeting of the FAD Working Group
- 4. FAD data reporting established in Resolutions C-24-01 and C-19-02
- 5.a Floating-object fishery indicators: a 2025 report
- 6. Evolution of bio-based FAD materials in relation to marine biodegradability certification standards
 - 6.a An analysis of Fish Aggregating Device dynamics in the Pacific Ocean
- 6.c Marine biodegradable materials and how to assess them – basic definitions, standards, methods, potential and gaps
 - 6.d Biodegradable nets and ropes for FADs
 - 6.f Second International Workshop on BioFADs
 - 6.g AGAC’s worldwide transition to biodegradable FADs
 - 6.i EcoFADs – Avances en las acciones del 2025 (ES)
 - 6.j Clarification on some aspects of Resolution C-23-04
- 8.a Regional data collection program on FAD strandings: update and recommendations
- 8.b Report from the international workshop on mitigation of dFAD loss and abandonment in the Pacific: insights from fishing industry communities
- 8.c Preliminary assessment of the behaviour of drifting FADs during stranding events and costs of a recovery vessel at sea

Some participants noted that, while the work on biodegradable FADs remains important, the Working Group should avoid focusing too narrowly on that topic and should also explore other matters of interest. In particular, they identified several areas deserving further attention in the Working Group's future work: the number of FADs deployed and their effects on the ecosystem and on tuna populations; the impacts of FADs on fish mortality and behavior; and FAD recovery programs, incentive systems, and risk-based spatial management options as means to reduce FAD loss and optimize retrievals.

Under item 9 of its agenda, the Working Group adopted several conclusions and recommendations for consideration by the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), the text of which is reproduced in the table in Annex 2 of this summary report, and that can also be found [here](#). As the recommendations could not be fully adopted on Thursday, 4 June, the Working Group resumed and completed their adoption on Monday, 8 June, during the lunch break of the 17th meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee.

With no other matters to consider, the Working Group noted that its next meeting would be held in the days immediately preceding the 18th meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee in

2027.

Annex 1/ Anexo 1
List of Participants / Lista de participantes

Full name	Organization
Elena Quintero	Ministerio del Poder Popular de Pesca y Acuicultura
Arvin Alejandro Rodriguez Rosales	Ministerio del poder Popular de Pesca y Acuicultura
Arlis Salas	Ministerio del Poder Popular de Pesca y Acuicultura
Elizabeth Pereira	Ministerio del Poder Popular de Pesca y Acuicultura
Julio Guevara	INPESCA
Martha Elena Betancourt Aguirre	FIDEMAR
Michel Dreyfus	FIDEMAR
Javier Garcia	MinCIT
Luigi Benincasa Azua	Asociación de Atuneros del Ecuador, ATUNEC
María Lourdes Ramos Alonso	IEO.CSIC
Valerie Post	NOAA Fisheries
Amanda Munro	NOAA
Stuart Chikami	Western Pacific Fisheries, Inc.
Maria Daniela Vivas	Ministerio del Poder Popular de Pesca y Acuicultura
Pallavi Javor	NOAA
Jim Sousa	GS Fisheries Inc
Wilberto Angulo Viveros	Autoridad Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca - AUNAP
Manuel Correia	IATTC
Jefferson Murua	AZTI
Oscar Bolivia Miranda	Ministerio de Defensa – Dirección General de Intereses Marítimos, Fluviales, Lacustres y de Marina Mercante
Willian Olives	Ministerio de Defensa – Dirección General de Intereses Marítimos, Fluviales, Lacustres y de Marina Mercante
Hugo Alsina	Ministerio de Defensa – Dirección General de Intereses Marítimos, Fluviales, Lacustres y de Marina Mercante
Guillermo Estefano Moran Borja	TUNACONS
Cristopher Avalos	DIPESCA/MAGA
Maitane Grande	AZTI
Jon Ruiz	AZTI
Germán Fonseca	Programa Nacional de Observadores de Colombia
José L. García	TUNACONS
Pedro Santistevan	TUNACONS
Satoshi Nirazuka	Fisheries Research Agency of Japan
Hidetada KIYOFUJI	Fisheries Research Agency of Japan
Nicole Nasby-Lucas	NOAA
Thibaut Thellier	France OT
Elena Isabel Munilla Garrido	Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación
Aitor Lekanda	Albacora
Amy Lubrano	U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Pablo Guerrero	WWF Ecuador
Miriam Weber	HYDRA Marine Sciences GmbH
Yaniel Matos	ELVAYKA KYOEI S.A.
Monica Peralta	IATTC
Daniel Fuller	IATTC
Beth Vanden Heuvel	Cape Fisheries Management Company LLC
Enrique Urena	IATTC
Juan Acacio Manas	Secretaría General de Pesca España
Henry Mero	Viceministerio de Acuicultura y Pesca
Hugo Vera	Subsecretaría de Recursos Pesqueros - VP - MAGP
Liliana Rendón	IATTC
Yarkelia Vergara	ARAP
Nicole Suárez	Comisión Interamericana del Atún Tropical
Jimmy Olaya	Ciat
José Salcedo	IMARPE
Juan-Carlos Quiroz	Tunacons
Jose Luis Cotes Angel	1032361890
BERNAL CHAVARRIA	DIRECCION DE NORMATIVIDAD DE PESCA Y ACUIUCLTURA

Christian Lott	HYDRA Marine Sciences GmbH
María Patricia Díaz de Santamaría	FIPESCA
Enrique Espinosa	PRONAOB
Leonel BOHORQUEZ	Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
PAUL MICHAEL RAFTERY	Zunibal
Alvaro Núñez	Zunibal
Jessica María Mestas Rodríguez	Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca
Bertha Alicia Soler Benitez	Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca
Isabel Cristina Reyes Robles	Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca
Jostyn Sánchez Vinuesa	Viceministerio de Acuicultura y Pesca
stephanie diaz	Pronaob
Rujia Bi	IATTC
Alexander Rayburn	NOAA
emma algotsson	www.catchgreen.net
Cristhian Marrugo Marmolejo	Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural
Cynthia Diez	CARDISO
Sara Pfeifer	GGGI/ Ocean Conservancy
Roberto Chacón	Instituto Nicaraguense de la Pesca y Acuicultura
Lucia Norris	Galapagos Conservation Trust
Jennyfer Mourot	The Pacific Community (SPC)
Kathryn Gavira	Satlink
idoia Gonzalez	ZUnibal
sandra emilia muñoz	Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural
Gaby Retana	IATTC
Leonardo Caicedo	TUNACONS
Leonel Caicedo	FIP SWORDFISH.EC
Cristina De la Cadena	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
Jorge Parraga	IATTC
Diego Mojica	IATTC
Michael Moreno Bustos	IATTC
Luisa Maldonado	AUNAP
Carmen Alicia López Anaya	Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible
Allan Gutierrez	INPESCA
Melanie Hutchinson	IATTC
Luciano Delgado	IDELMAR S.A.
Nerea Lezama-Ochoa	UCSC
Daniel Margulies	IATTC
Jean-Francois Pulvenis	IATTC
Carolina Minte-Vera	IATTC
Ricardo Belmontes	IATTC

Annex 2

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 10TH MEETING OF THE AD HOC PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON FADS

Consistent with its terms of reference established in Resolution C-19-01, Annex III, the Ad Hoc Permanent Working Group on FADs, in reporting to the Scientific Advisory Committee on the results of its 10th meeting, and in the framework of the process of coordination with that Committee and with the scientific staff in the identification and review of FAD management measures, as a preliminary step prior to the presentation of recommendations to the Commission, wishes to recommend that:

1. Deactivations / Reactivations / Active FAD limits

- 1.1. That the IATTC scientific staff convenes a technical workshop with FAD buoy service providers and the other t-RFMOs, with the aim of identifying cost-effective, standardized options for the remote, automatic reporting of buoy deactivations and reactivations, and other buoy data, building on providers' existing data streams to support FAD monitoring.
- 1.2. That the scientific staff conduct additional analyses to better understand and identify the relationship between the deployment of FADs and the risk of loss, as well as the routes and areas through which lost FADs drift, in order to provide better supporting information for optimizing FAD retrieval programs.
- 1.3. The IATTC scientific staff continue to collaborate and harmonize with the WCPFC/SPC to produce joint RFMO FAD analyses for cross-Pacific issues including, but not limited to, data on FAD strandings, FAD recoveries, development of FAD registries and equivalents (e.g. FAD structure ID marking), FAD loss, FAD watch programs, implementation timelines, identifying cost-effective, standardized options for the remote reporting of buoy deactivations and reactivations, and definitions for FAD design. This work should continue to ensure that data from both convention areas are not duplicated.

2. Indicators

- 2.1. To provide to the IATTC staff the historic raw buoy data received by their original users, when available, including both trajectories and acoustic biomass information; where the complete historical series cannot be provided at once, it should at least be supplied progressively over time.
- 2.2. That the IATTC staff develop and incorporate, within the annual FAD indicators, metrics that distinguish among the different categories of biodegradable FADs, in order to monitor the transition to biodegradable materials under Resolution C-23-04 and support evaluation of its implementation.
- 2.3. That the IATTC staff develop and incorporate indicators of the bycatch-to-tuna catch ratio disaggregated by type of fishing-strategy cluster, in order to characterize how

different fishing behaviors affect bycatch relative to target catch and to help identify mitigation opportunities.

- 2.4. That the IATTC staff explore the possibility of incorporating “aircraft/helicopter” as one of the location methods recorded by observers, in order to help monitor fishing behavior and practices on FADs.
- 2.5. Expand data transmission reporting beyond the IATTC Convention Area for buoys deployed in the EPO, so that geofencing at 150°W (or any other operational boundary) does not obscure the

analysis of active buoys after leaving the IATTC. This can also be considered as part of measures to retrieve FADs.

3. On biodegradability: materials, certifications, standards and trials

- 3.1. The impact on the marine environment of sinking biodegradable FADs on non-sensitive seabeds should be examined.
- 3.2. Consider improving the design of FADs, including biodegradable ones, to reduce their structural impact on the seabed of sensitive coastal ecosystems.
- 3.3. Continue trials of biodegradable FAD materials and report the results to the FADWG, so that the costs of testing and certifying materials can be optimized through coordination and the avoidance of duplicative testing.
- 3.4. Support the creation and update of a catalogue of successful and failed FAD materials for integration into the IATTC databases. The catalogue should be developed initially through a voluntary pilot program open to interested fishing companies and organizations.
- 3.5. Continue conducting skippers' workshops on biodegradable FADs and other topics of interest, harmonizing and coordinating with IATTC efforts, to the extent possible, other relevant skippers' workshops in the region to ensure a consistent regional approach.
- 3.6. CPCs and other entities be encouraged to engage in further BioFADs trials comparing Category I and II FADs to Category III or IV FADs. Trials should aim to achieve adequate CPUE and continue to deploy FADs in broad regions of the EPO in a random fashion adequate to making scientific comparisons.

4. On the implementation of Resolution C-23-04

- 4.1. That a dedicated technical group be established to assist in the interpretation and consistent implementation of Resolution C-23-04 on the design and biodegradability of FADs. This group would clarify outstanding technical questions—including definitions, the qualification of materials as non-entangling and biodegradable, the application of the Annex I specifications, and verification against recognized standards—to support harmonized compliance across CPC fleets.

5. On FAD marking

- 5.1. The FADWG does not recommend a specific marking method beyond the current buoy-based system at this stage. The objectives of FAD marking should first be clarified as well as the minimum number of FADs that need to be marked to produce accurate scientific estimates of where stranded FADs originate, and prioritizing biodegradable options for marking FADs, as they will determine the appropriate technical approach.
- 5.2. That the IATTC scientific staff engage with the ICES-FAO WGFTFB fishing gear

marking Topic Group to exchange knowledge on gear marking methods, registries, and other relevant elements.

- 5.3. Explore the possibility of carrying forward a pilot on a physical marking system to identify different categories of biodegradable FADs (C-23-04). Any such marking should itself be made of biodegradable materials to remain consistent with the objectives of the bio-FAD transition.

6. On FAD loss, retrievals and recovery programs

- 6.1. To continue to work on the development of indicators to enable monitoring of the performance of FAD retrieval programs to recommend improvements.
- 6.2. The Commission consider urging flag CPCs not already doing so to participate in efforts similar to “FAD Watch” and other FAD recovery programs and collaborative initiatives to minimize the impact of FADs on sensitive habitats.
- 6.3. The Commission amend paragraph 6 of Resolution C-25-07 to replace the reference to “the FAD sighting form from Appendix 3 of FAD-09-INF-A” with “the FAD Sighting and Recovery Form Version developed and harmonized collaboratively by IATTC and SPC staff” (e.g., SAC-17-10b – Appendix A).
- 6.4. Explore supporting FAD recovery programs at sea, including self-funding models and potential incentives for companies that participate.
- 6.5. That the staff continue evaluating incentive mechanisms and systems to promote recovery of lost, abandoned, or beached FADs, and report options to FADWG.