

Proposed guidelines and annotated agenda submitted by the Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs, Dr. Josu Santiago Burrutxaga

(Informal translation)

Once the dates were agreed and a tentative agenda established for the in-person meeting of the IATTC FADs Group, it seemed to me appropriate to prepare the following document with the intention of attempting to increase the efficiency of our work. The issues are many and important and the time available to us short. Therefore I present below a proposal for guidelines for the meeting as well as an annotated Agenda.

Title of the Meeting: First Meeting of the *ad hoc* Working Group on FADs.

Dates and place: The meeting will take place in La Jolla, California, and will be held in two one-day sessions: 15 May and 26 June. A third session (to be defined between 27 June and 1 July) would be available whose utilization will be defined by the Group according to how the two first sessions have progressed.

Objectives of the Group: In 2015, the Commission adopted Resolution C-15-03 "Collection and analyses of data on fish-aggregating devices" which establishes the creation of an *ad hoc* Working group on FADs. In accordance with this Resolution, the terms of reference for this Group are the following:

1. Collect and compile information on FADs in the EPO, including but not limited to data collected by the IATTC and reports prepared by the scientific staff of the IATTC;
2. Review the FAD data collection requirements established in Resolution C-15-XX to assess the necessity for revision;
3. Compile information regarding developments in other tuna-RFMOs on FADs;
4. Compile information regarding developments on the latest scientific information on FADs, including information on non-entangling FADs; and
5. Prepare a preliminary report for the SAC, including specific recommendations, as appropriate.

Agenda: the Provisional Agenda of the meeting is at the following link: <http://www.iattc.org/Meetings/Meetings2016/SAC7/PDFfiles/Ad-Hoc-WG-on-FADs-Provisional-Agenda-May-2016.pdf>

and an annotated agenda is attached below.

Distribution of the Agenda items at the two sessions of the meeting: it is proposed that items 1 to 7 of the Agenda be covered during the 15 May session and the remaining items 8 to 13, during the 26 June session

Presentation of documents:

- Those assigned to items 3 to 8 of the Agenda will prepare their abstracts before 6 May so that they are available on the IATTC website before the meeting. These will be the documents that guide the discussion relating to these agenda items.

- Scientific documents: Participants are encouraged to present scientific documents relevant to the Group's objectives. With the aim of better organization, authors are invited to send a title and summary before 29 April. In any case, the electronic versions of the documents should be available before 6 May for their prior distribution to the participants. Strict time limits will be allocated for their presentation depending on the number of documents that are finally submitted.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON FADS

(La Jolla, California, 15 May 2016)

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

- 1- Opening of the meeting
 - *Opening by Mr. Guillermo Morán, Chairman of the IATTC*
- 2- Adoption of the Agenda
 - *Josu Santiago will present the provisional agenda and explain the arrangements for the meeting. Taking into account that the meeting will have a second part in a one-day session, contiguous to the meeting of the Commission in the month of June, the Group will adopt the strategy for covering the various Agenda items at both sessions in the most efficient manner possible.*
- 3- Review of the intersessional activities of the FADs Group.
 - *Josu Santiago will present a summary of the activities carried out by the Group since its creation. Also, an assessment will be made of the operated in operativeness of the current electronic format of the Group and possible improvements.*
- 4- Summary of the collection and compilation of information on FADs in the EPO; identification of information gaps.
 - *IATTC scientific staff will present a summary describing the type of information that is currently being collected on FADs in the EPO, including information available on patterns of deployment of objects in time and space.*
 - *A discussion would be initiated on the gaps in data collection related to the fishery on FADs and, in consequence, on what need of additional information would be necessary and a viable way of obtaining it to improve the elaboration of scientific management advice.*
- 5- Progress regarding the most recent scientific information on FADs, including information on non-entangling FADs
 - *Kurt Schaefer will present the bibliographic summary he made during the intersessional period, with special reference to recent experiences with non-entangling FADs. Also, the external scientific papers that have been communicated and sent before the meeting and that are of interest for the objectives of the Group will be presented.*
 - *A debate will be held to identify the main gaps in scientific knowledge directly related to the management of FADs, including technological aspects related to improvements in the mitigation of bycatch. The topics to be covered will also include, among others: a) description of the object; b) drift and utilization of the FAD; c) possible modifications to mitigate impact; d) recovery of FADs?*
- 6- Review of the data collection requirements established in Resolution C-15-03; proposal for standard forms
 - *Josu Santiago will present a proposal for the FAD inventory and activity form that vessels should carry so that owners and operators maintain and notify the required information to the appropriate national authorities (in accordance with Resolution C-15-03).*

- *The Group will review the proposal and compare it to the current data collection system, identifying similarities and differences. Finally, it will agree a standard format to propose to the Commission for use by the fleet concerned as of 1 January 2017.*
- 7- Progress with regard to the management of FADs in other tuna RFMOs;
- *Josu Santiago will present a summary of updated information on the results and progress of Working Groups on FADs in other RFMOs. The subsequent discussion will aim to evaluate such progress and its relevance to the work of the Group, together with the identification of future synergies if considered necessary.*
- 8- Identification of potential management measures for FADs: pros and cons
- *Martin Hall will present the paper "Management options for Fish-Aggregating Devices or FADs" which he already circulated to the Working Group during the intersessional period. The following debate will aim to initiate the development of a comprehensive list of the technical elements that would have to be taken into account when defining and putting into action a FADs management program.*
- 9- Elaboration of a Work Plan for the Group for the 2016-2017 period
- *On the basis of the previous discussions, the Group will propose a Work Plan for 2016-2017 for subsequent consideration by the Commission.*
- 10- Research priorities
- *On the basis of the discussion of previous items, especially items 4 and 5, the Group will develop the elements of a Research Plan on FADs, establishing priorities.*
- 11- Recommendations to the Commission
- *On the basis of the discussion of previous items, the Group will develop recommendations on issues related to its mandate for presentation to the Commission at its annual meeting in June 2016.*
- 12- Other business
- 13- Adjournment