

Comisión Interamericana del Atún Tropical
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission



Update on the recommended regional data collection program on FAD strandings (FAD-07-05 Para 3.5; IATTC-101-03, Para A.3.5)

Leanne Fuller, Jon Lopez, and Marlon Román

Background

- Analyses of the regional database of stranded drifting-fish aggregating devices (dFADs) in the Pacific Ocean presented by SPC colleagues in 2023 ([FAD-07 INF-A](#))
- Characteristics and magnitude of the loss or abandonment of FADs in EPO fisheries are not well known
- Potential impacts on the environment and ecosystems are also not well known
 - (e.g., ghost fishing, entanglement, marine pollution)

Background

- Analyses of the regional database of stranded drifting-fish aggregating devices (dFADs) in the Pacific Ocean presented by SPC colleagues in 2023 ([FAD-07 INF-A](#))
- Characteristics and magnitude of the loss or abandonment of FADs in EPO fisheries are not well known
- Potential impacts on the environment and ecosystems are also not well known
 - (e.g., ghost fishing, entanglement, marine pollution)
- IATTC recognized the importance and urgency of the issue and adopted measures “*to prevent loss or drifting*” of FADs (Res. [C-23-03](#), Para. 3)

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

101ST MEETING

Victoria, B.C., Canada
7 - 11 August 2023

RESOLUTION C-23-03

AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION C-99-07 ON FISH- AGGREGATING DEVICES



Recommendations

- Recommendations of the FADWG: [FAD-07-05](#) (Para. 3), endorsed by the SAC ([IATTC-101-03](#), Para. A 3)
- *3. On stranding FADs*
 - *“3.5. Create awareness of FAD strandings and encourage the expansion of the in-country data collection efforts on FAD strandings in the EPO to harmonize with SPC-WCPFC efforts in the WCPO”*
- CPCs were invited to participate in the development and implementation of an IATTC regional data collection program on FAD strandings (Memorandum Ref: 0008-410)
- Objectives of memorandum aimed at:
 - *“facilitating a better understanding of the extent of environmental impacts of drifting or stranded FADs both in the EPO, and in the WCPO, when crossing over to that area;*
 - *contributing to improved management advice on FADs”*

Harmonization with WCPFC

- Memo states, development of this program will harmonize IATTC's efforts with those already established by the WCPFC's data collection program described in [FAD-07 INF-A](#)
 - *“fosters Pacific-wide research as recommended by the SAC (“Increase Pacific-wide collaboration on drifting FAD research...” See document [IATTC-101-03](#), Para A 5.1);*
 - *facilitates collaboration on FAD stranding events and guidance of potential management options*
 - *particularly for events that span both regions,*
 - *e.g., strandings observed in French Polynesia were documented as primarily originating from vessels fishing in the IATTC Convention Area (see document [FAD-07 INF-A](#))”*

Harmonization with WCPFC

- Following WCPFC's lead:
 - A data collection program requires engagement from local communities
 - Communication and dissemination of information is critical
 - e.g., through posters, radio and television broadcasts, and public speaking
 - Findings of lost and abandoned FADs by fishers and/or local communities will need to be reported to the respective fisheries authorities using established data forms and submitted to IATTC

Recommendations: [SAC-15-13](#) (Non-Target Species, Para 7.3)

- To date 5 CPCs have expressed interest in participating in a regional data collection program:
 - El Salvador, Peru, USA, France-OT, Colombia

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. CPCs participate in a regional data collection program on FAD strandings originating from EPO fisheries—following to the extent possible, the system of data collection and dedicated data forms already established by the WCPFC and described in [FAD-07 INF-A](#)—to improve our understanding of the extent of environmental impacts of drifting or stranded FADs and to guide potential management options.
2. CPCs create awareness of FAD strandings by engaging local communities to communicate and disseminate information (e.g., through posters, radio and television broadcasts, and public speaking) and improve reporting of lost and abandoned FADs data found by fishers and/or local communities.

- Data collection forms will be harmonized, to the extent possible, with WCPFC-SPC efforts
- A meeting with SPC and the interested CPCs will be organized in the near future



Questions