

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
AD-HOC PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON FADS
THIRD MEETING (SESSION 2)

San Diego, California (USA)
22 August 2018

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSION

The *Ad-Hoc* Permanent Working Group on FADs recommends that the Commission:

1. consider the set of terms listed in Annex 1 as interim draft definitions related to FAD fishing operations. Some of these terms reflect the IATTC staff's definitions used for data analysis, such as those for floating objects, and none of the terms are intended to prejudge interpretations of existing resolutions or domestic regulations.
2. assign the following tasks as priority matters for the intersessional period before the 2019 Commission meeting.
 - Capacity-building [C-16-01 and C-17-02]
 - Data gaps – improvement of data collection related to C-16-01 and C-17-02
 - Definitions
 - Indicators of FAD fishing
 - Follow the research activities related to FAD fisheries
 - Participate in the joint t-RFMO FAD working group and the small technical joint t-RFMO FAD working group
 - Develop an appropriate confidentiality framework

Annex 1. Interim definitions of terms related to FAD fishing

Resolution C-16-01, *Amendment of resolution C-15-03 on the collection and analyses of data on Fish-Aggregating Devices*, Annex III, establishes the Terms of Reference for the *ad hoc* Permanent Working Group on FADs. One of the objectives assigned to the Working Group (WG) is to “develop data reporting formats and definitions of terms related to FAD fishing (e.g. biodegradable FADs, non-entangling FADs, etc.), to implement obligations under this Resolution, in cooperation with the scientific staff, to be submitted to the Commission for consideration”.

The WG has been working coordinately with the scientific staff to produce a set of definitions of terms related to FAD fishing. A first set of tentative definitions was presented at the first session of the 3rd meeting of the WG (La Jolla, May 2018). The WG and Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC-09) recommended that “the WG, 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.”

After some intersessional work by the WG and the IATTC staff, at the second session of the 3rd meeting of the WG (San Diego, August 2018), the WG agreed that the following interim definitions be submitted to the Commission for consideration:

1. FLOATING OBJECTS

Floating object: Any natural or artificial floating (*i.e.* surface or subsurface) object with no capability of moving on its own.

Fish Aggregating Device (FAD): Any floating object, anchored or drifting, that has been constructed or modified, deployed and/or tracked, for the purpose of aggregating fish. Modified means the addition of any component for the purpose of improving its functionality. Tracked means the capacity of determining the location of the FAD or its actual determination.

Floating object interaction: Any physical activity involving a floating object. A physical activity includes, but is not limited to, deployment, maintenance, modification, monitoring, retrieving or setting. Monitoring means checking physically the floating object with any equipment belonging to the vessel, excluding any instrumentation attached to the floating object.

2. SET TYPES

Marine mammals set: Deploy a purse-seine net to catch tuna associated with one or more live marine mammals.

Unassociated set: Deploy a purse-seine net to catch tuna not associated with marine mammals or floating objects.

Floating object set: Deploy a purse-seine net to catch tuna associated with a floating object.

Whale shark set: Deploy a purse-seine net to catch tuna associated with live whale sharks.

3. OPERATIONAL TERMS

Buoy: Any device that sends visual, radio or satellite signals to facilitate determination of its location.

The following definitions refer to **satellite buoys**:

Satellite buoy: A buoy that uses satellites to indicate its geographical position. As required in Resolution C-16-01, all satellite buoys must be clearly marked with a unique identification code.

Buoy in stock: Any buoy that is in the inventory of the vessels and undeployed.

Activation of a buoy: The act of initializing network service. It is done by the buoy supplier company at the request of the vessel owner or manager. From then on, the vessel owner pays for the communication service. The buoy can be transmitting or not, depending if it has been switched on.

Deactivation of a buoy: The act of cancelling network service. It is done by the buoy supplier company at the request of the vessel owner or manager. From then on, the communication service is no longer paid for, and the buoy stops transmitting.

Reactivation of a buoy: The act of re-initializing network service. The procedure is the same as the one to be followed when activating a buoy.

Activated buoy: A buoy that has already been subjected to activation and, therefore, is capable of transmitting.

Operational buoy: Any activated buoy that is deployed at sea and is transmitting data to facilitate determination of its location.

4. OTHER TERMS APPEARING IN IATTC RESOLUTIONS C-16-01 Y C-17-02

Vessel operator and/or manager: Any legal or natural person that is recorded in the IATTC Regional Vessel Register and in the flag State registry as operating and/or managing the vessel. The operator may or may not be the owner of the vessel.

Owner of the buoy: the owner, operator or manager of the vessel, who is paying for the communication service for the buoy associated with the FAD, and who has the capacity to receive information from the satellite buoy, as well as to request its activation and/or deactivation.

Tender vessel: A vessel that operates in support of vessels fishing on FADs, and whose role is to deploy, repair, pick up, or maintain FADs at sea (Resolution C-99-07)