

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

90TH MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)

27 June-1 July 2016

RESOLUTION C-16-01

**AMENDMENT OF RESOLUTION C-15-03 ON THE COLLECTION
AND ANALYSES OF DATA ON FISH-AGGREGATING DEVICES**

SECTION 5. *AD HOC* PERMANENT WORKING GROUP ON FADS

14. An *ad hoc* Permanent Working Group on FADs (Working Group) is established.
15. This Working Group shall be multi-sectorial, involving various stakeholders such as scientists, fishery managers, fishing industry representatives, administrators, representatives of non-governmental organizations, and fishers. Expressions of interest to participate in the Working Group shall be provided to the Director, who shall inform CPCs and the Chair of the FADs Working Group.

Terms of reference [Res. C-16-01]

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 this Resolution to assess the need for revision;
3. **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;
4. **Compile information** regarding developments on FADs in other tuna RFMOs;
5. **Compile information** regarding developments on the latest scientific information on FADs, including information on non-entangling FADs, and identify priority areas for research;
6. **Prepare annual reports for the SAC**, including specific recommendations, as appropriate; and
7. **Identify and review possible FAD management measures**, in coordination with the scientific staff and the SAC, and make recommendations to the Commission, as appropriate.

3rd Meeting of the ad-hoc Permanent Working Group on FADS

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



3. Review of the 2017 Recommendations of the Working Group on FADS

The following recommendations are based on advice received from the [2nd Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on FADs](#):

- Data on FADs:** The SAC agrees with the *Ad Hoc* Working Group regarding the need to set minimum data requirements and standards for the collection of the data specified in Resolution [C-16-01](#). The SAC recommends that efforts to revise data collection on FADs continue intersessionally, using the *Basecamp* virtual forum and with the help of IATTC staff, with a goal of submitting a revised form for consideration by the next meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group scheduled for July 2017, which will in turn pass the document to the Commission for consideration at its 92nd Meeting
- FAD database:** The SAC also recommends that the Commission request that the IATTC staff develop a common database for the management of FAD data collected pursuant to Resolution C-16-01. This work should be informed through an informal workshop to be held in 2017 with broad participation of relevant CPCs and IATTC scientific staff. The SAC recommends that, following the development of a common database, CPCs designate a representative responsible for transmitting the relevant data to IATTC.
- Workshops on FAD data:** The SAC acknowledges that some fleets may have difficulty in complying with FAD data collection requirements, and therefore recommends that CPCs, IATTC staff and staff from national observer programs should organize training workshops that will help vessel captains and crew learn how to properly fill out FAD data forms.

4. **Collection of data on FADs:** The SAC recommends that the Commission consider the appropriate levels of observer coverage (using both observers and electronic monitoring systems) in various fleet categories with the goal of improving FAD-related data collection.
5. **Definitions of FAD-related terms:** The SAC recommends that the Commission, through the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on FADs, develop definitions for a suite of terms related to FAD fishing operations, within the context of Resolution [C-16-01](#), taking into consideration the definitions used by other tuna RFMOs, as appropriate. The terms recommended for definition include: floating object, log, FAD, interaction with floating object, set on floating object, set on unassociated school, set on whale shark, biodegradable FAD and non-entangling FAD. The development of a definition for “interaction with floating object,” should take into account the definition of “interaction” provided in the Antigua Convention. Regarding the definition of “floating object set”, the Working Group should explore the possibility of developing a checklist that would allow the validation of the definition based on the fulfillment of some specific criteria. The Working Group should also work with the staff of the IATTC to review the biological information of population structure associated with floating objects to support the development of this definition. Legal aspects of this definition should also be evaluated, including, among others, ownership of the floating object. The current definition of floating object sets used for data reporting should also be taken into consideration.

6. **FAD research:** The SAC recommends that the Commission support the research plan prepared by the *Ad Hoc Working Group* (Appendix 1) and work to identify priority areas for research. The research should proceed with the support of those that can contribute to the elaboration and implementation of the Commission's management measures for FADs.
7. **Biodegradable FADs:** The SAC recommends that future work on the development of biodegradable FADs take into account the social, economic and environmental sustainability of the materials evaluated.
8. **Funding for FAD research:** The SAC recommends the development of work plans and budgets for priority FADs research, and identify possible sources of alternative funding for initiatives that cannot be covered by the regular budget of the IATTC. Project leads should be identified to oversee the development of these priority research projects.
9. **Future actions on FADs:** The SAC agrees with the key areas for future action identified by the Joint Tuna-RFMO FADs Working Group Meeting. Accordingly, the SAC recommends that the IATTC FAD Working Group, in collaboration with the SAC and the Commission staff, develop a planning roadmap for future actions to be taken in support of progress on these key areas. The roadmap should identify the necessary participants and actors, timelines for progress, and budgets, including identification of potential funding sources.
10. **FAD questionnaire:** The SAC recommends that the Commission circulate an additional request to the FAD Working Group members, asking them to complete the questionnaire designed to inform its work.

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3. Review of the inter-sessional activities of the Working Group on FADs

WG FADs – 2018 Workplan

What	Who	When	Outcome	
Data Collection				
Evaluate the implementation of the new FAD inventory and activity form [Res C-16-01]	Consultation in basecamp about the implementation	EV	15 March	-
	Summary of the level of implementation and problems encountered	EV	30 March	Report of the analysis to [WG-01]
Train captains and crew on the use of FAD data forms	Consultation to identify the needs of training support in the different CPCs	EV	30 March	-
	Prepare common materials to be used in the training workshops	WG-01	1 May	Set of materials to support the training workshops
	Conduct training workshops at CPC level	CPCs	31 July	Training workshops Report of the training initiatives to [WG-02]
Develop a common database for the management of FAD data	Propose a first tentative design of the database	EV	1 February	Document with a first tentative design of the database
	Agree on the final specifications of the database	WG	May	Report the database specifications to [WG-01]
Review the guidance on reporting on FADs in accordance with Res C-17-02]	Propose revised guidelines	JS-Staff	15 February	Draft document with the revised guidelines
	Agree on the revised guidelines	WG-b	30 March	Document with the revised guidelines
Evaluate the implementation of the reporting on FADs [Res C-17-02]	WG-01	May	-	

Research

Prepare work plans and budgets for priority FADs research projects, and identify possible sources of alternative funding	Propose a first draft	GM	15 February	Document with a first draft on FAD research projects
	Agree on the workplan and budget	WG-01	May	Report the plan to [WG-01]
	Recommend the adoption of the workplan and budget	SAC	May	SAC recommendations, if appropriate

Management

Additional request to the FAD Working Group members, asking them to complete the questionnaire on management measures options	JS	1 February	
Analyze pros and cons of the different potential measures identified	JS	WG-02	Report the analysis to [WG-01]
Continue developing definitions of terms related to FAD fishing	Share the latest version of definitions that were discussed by the WG in 2017	EV	1 February
	Propose a set of definitions of terms after consultations in base camp	JS	May
	Recommend the adoption of a set of definitions	SAC	May

Other tRFMOs

Inform the Group on the developments of similar groups in other tuna RFMOs;		JS	-	Milestones in other tRFMOs
Develop a planning roadmap for future actions to be taken in support of progress on the key areas defined by the inter tRFMO FAD WG	Prepare a first draft of the roadmap	JS	May	Report to [WG-01] and SAC
	Recommend the adoption of a roadmap	SAC	May	SAC recommendations, if appropriate
Participate in the joint tRFMO Meeting on FADs				

General coordination [includes reporting]

Report to SAC	JS	May	-
Report to COM	JS	August	-