

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON FADs

SECOND MEETING (FIRST PART)

La Jolla, California (USA)

7 May 2017

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Review of the data-collection requirements established in Resolution C-16-01

The proposed new version of FAD form will be uploaded into Basecamp. All members of the working group are requested to review the document and send their comments. It is also very important that, in advance of the the 2nd session of the FAD Working Group meeting in July 2017, representatives of each CPC convey any difficulties they may be having in complying with the collection of information established in Resolution C-16-01. These comments will be evaluated and an amended version of the form will be developed to address comments received. The amended version of the form will be circulated for review to the working group and comments will be solicited. The form will be updated based on any comments received and then reviewed at the next FAD WG meeting in July 2017. The approved version of the form will be submitted to the Commission in July 2017.

The WG agreed on the need to set minimum data requirements and standards for the collection of the data specified in Resolution C-16-01; and for the Commission to consider adopting data reporting standards for FAD data, in electronic format. The WG recommended that this work is carried out with the staff of the IATTC Secretariat and presented to the next meeting of the FAD WG and the Commission.

The WG further recommended that the staff of the Secretariat of the IATTC assist data management through the preparation of a database that allows for the exchange of information being collected on FADs in a harmonized way. An informal working group will be set up in 2017 to discuss preferred methods on how CPCs can transmit the information required by Resolution C-16-01 to the IATTC. Each CPC must define the persons responsible for transmitting the required information to the IATTC. Representatives of each CPC will work together with the scientific staff of the IATTC to coordinate on the scheme of transmission of information to the IATTC (specific database).

CPCs with vessels having difficulties in complying with the data collection should organize, in coordination with the IATTC staff, training programs for their vessels' crew members so that they can fill out the forms adequately. Also, the IATTC and National Programs should train and ask observers to assist the skippers or crewmember responsible for filling out the form with this task, where required.

The need for setting an appropriate level of observer coverage (including EM) in various fleets categories in view of improving FADs related data collection should be considered

2. Definitions of terms related FAD fishing to implement obligations under Resolution C-16-01

Review the work of other RFMOs on definitions to consider incorporating these concepts in the specific definitions of the IATTC as appropriate.

The following terms are considered as priorities for developing tentative definitions: floating object, log, FAD, interaction with floating object, set on floating object, set on free school, set on whale shark, biodegradable FAD, non-entangling FAD.

For the definition of interaction, evaluate what is stipulated in the Antigua Convention.

For the floating object set definition, 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 will work in coordination 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 will also be taken into consideration.

3. FAD research plan [Annex 1]

Support the research plan prepared by the Working Group. Identify priority areas for research in this plan and support those that can contribute to the elaboration and implementation of the Commission's management measures for FADs.

For future development plans of biodegradable FADs, the social, economic and environmental sustainability of the materials to be evaluated must be taken into account.

Need to create work plans and budget for these initiatives and identify alternative funding sources for activities the IATTC cannot cover through its regular budget. Responsible leaders should be assigned for the development of the different components of the research plan.

Support the key areas for future action identified by the joint Tuna RFMO FADS Working Group Meeting. To this end, the IATTC FAD working group in collaboration with the SAC and the Commission staff, will develop a Roadmap in view of planning future action in support of the key areas identified.. Among other, it will include actors, timelines, budget and identification of potential funding sources.

4. Identification of potential management measures for FADs

An additional request to participate in the questionnaire should be sent to the FAD Working Group members.

Brief summaries of the management measures most supported by each group (Managers, NGO, Science, Industry) and a summary of the pro's and con's reported by the respondents from each group will be presented to the 2nd session of the FAD Working Group meeting in July 2017.

Annex 1.

1. Impacts of FADs on target species (SKJ BET YFT)
Sub-regional study of FAD impacts on BET catch rate: global look at % BET composition on FAD sets useful for management, including size structure of BET in catch and hotspot analyses.
Acoustic discrimination of tuna species at FADs using echo-sounder buoys and equipment onboard to address tuna mortality and support science
Influence of vessel, captain, technology used and FAD/Gear attributes on BET catch
Study a science based FAD number/FAD set limit
Impact of FAD density on tuna associative behaviour
Behavior of tuna in the net. And mortality differences within the net by spp/size
Influence of the length of FAD tails on drift trajectories and catch performance
Impact of FAD derived mortality of juvenile YFT and BET and SKJ on spawning stock biomass and availability of free schools
Diurnal, residence time and spatial behavior of tuna at FADs
Local fisheries independent estimates of abundance (using FADs)
Study the use of stimuli (light, bubbles, etc..) to attract or deter tuna species
2. Impacts of FADs on biodiversity (non-target species)
Release by-catch from the net with a special focus on sharks
Acoustic discrimination of species at FADs using echo-sounder buoys and equipment onboard to address mortality and support science
Behavior of non-target species in the net
Estimates of bycatch and discard rates, by species, and identification of hot spots
Diurnal, residence time and spatial behavior of non-target species at FADs
Estimates of numbers of entangling and non-entangling FADs deployed and fished
Avoidance of non-target vulnerable FAD associated species prior to setting
3. Impacts of FADs on the ecosystem (modification of habitat, beaching)
Biodegradable FADs tests (design and implementation of biodegradable materials)
FAD tracking and beaching hostpots to identify areas of high beaching rates and recovery places
Test ecological trap hypothesis