

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**85TH MEETING**

**Veracruz, Veracruz (Mexico)
10-14 June 2013**

PROPOSAL IATTC-85 D-3**SUBMITTED BY MEXICO****A MANAGEMENT PLAN TO REGULATE FISHING EFFORT
ON FISH-AGGREGATING DEVICES (FADs) IN THE PURSE-
SEINE FISHERY OF THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

Reaffirming its commitment to the application of the precautionary approach, which establishes that a lack of scientific information must not be used as a pretext for not taking management measures for the fisheries resources of the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Aware that tunas aggregate naturally under floating objects adrift in the ocean;

Taking into consideration that the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing establishes that the behavior of all existing fishing gears, methods and practices should be examined and measures should be adopted to progressively eliminate those fishing gears, methods and practices that are not compatible with responsible fishing and replace them with other more suitable ones;

Recalling that the regulation of fishing effort is one of the most efficient conservation measures for maintaining tuna stocks at sustainable levels;

Attentive to the provisions of IATTC Resolution C-99-07 on measures related to the regulation of fish-aggregating devices (FADs);

Taking into account Resolution C-04-05 on bycatch, especially with regard to catches of juvenile tunas and bycatches of non-target species, which requires that all sea turtles be released as soon as possible and unharmed, to the greatest extent practicable;

Reiterating the need to reduce bycatches of juvenile yellowfin and bigeye tunas in the purse-seine fishery of the EPO;

Concerned about the difficulties there have been in quantifying purse-seine fishing effort on FADs;

Taking into account Resolution C-12-01 which amends Resolution C-11-01 on a multiannual program for the conservation of tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean in 2011-2013; of the conservation and management measures for yellowfin and bigeye tuna;

Concerned about the effect on the average length of the catches of the three main tuna species, mainly bigeye tuna, caught with purse seines on FADs (Document SAC 02-13), the significant effect that FADs may have on bigeye tuna spawning biomass, according to IATTC estimates (Document SAC-03-06), and that skipjack tuna is captured by FADs and in unassociated schools in the EPO (Document SAC-03-03), and according to IATTC estimates, its exploitation rate has been increasing in recent years (Document SAC-03-07);

Noting that the substantial increase in the number of purse-seine sets made on FADs since 1993, has increased the catches of juvenile tuna and fishing mortality in general for the EPO, the impact of this fishing method being currently much greater than that of the longline fishery for bigeye tuna (Document SAC-02-07);

Conscious of the need to address, as a matter of priority, the elimination and reduction to the lowest possible level of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities;

Define For the purposes of this Resolution, the term fish-aggregating device (FAD) means drifting or anchored floating or submerged objects deployed at sea by vessels for the purpose of aggregating tuna species.

AGREES TO:

1. Ensure that CPCs that utilize FADs provide all the information, data and any other element deemed necessary for the Director to continue the pilot FAD research project.
2. CPCs whose fleets fish with FADs in the area of the EPO shall submit a Preliminary FAD Management Plan by 1 January 2014 that may include the information in Annex I of this Resolution. The Preliminary Management Plan shall include strategies to limit the capture of small bigeye and yellowfin tuna associated with fishing on FADs.
3. The information collected in the framework of the pilot research project and the Preliminary FAD Management Plans submitted by the CPCs shall be made available to the Scientific Advisory Committee for analysis and evaluation at its meeting in 2014, thus generating a Commission FAD Management Plan to regulate fishing on FADs that contributes to the Commission's management objectives .
4. As of 2015, the results of the FAD Management Plan shall be reviewed annually by the SAC, in order to make any necessary adjustments for ensuring the Commission's management objectives.

ANNEX 1

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF THE FAD MANAGEMENT PLAN

To support the obligations of Resolution IATTC-12-XX regarding the FAD Management Plan (FADMP) for each CPC whose fleet includes one or more purse-seine vessels that fish with FADs, even if only sporadically, shall submit to the IATTC a Preliminary FAD Management Plan (FADMP). The FADMP shall include, at a minimum, the following information:

1. Name of country
2. Objective of the FADMP
3. Implementation period of the FADMP
4. Implementing fleet: identification and technical characteristics of the vessels
5. Implementation zone: details of zones authorised for the use of FADs, including spatiotemporal limitations, if any, on their deployment, for example territorial waters, navigation routes, proximity to artisanal fisheries, etc.
6. Means for monitoring and review of the implementation of the FADMP
7. Strategies to limit the capture of small bigeye and yellowfin tuna associated with fishing on FADs.
8. Measures for reducing bycatches with FADs
9. Inventory of FADs per vessel:
 - type
 - dimensions
 - individual identification
 - associated buoy (type and identifier)
 - updated every time a modification is made
10. Record of FAD activity:
 - Information on catch per set on FADs;
 - deployment,
 - recovery,
 - replacement
 - checking

Means for reporting to the Commission

Additionally and voluntarily, the following information may be included:

- Institutional arrangements for management of the FAD Management Plans:
 - Institutional responsibilities,
 - application processes for FAD deployment approval,
 - Obligations of vessel owners and masters in respect of FAD deployment and use,
 - FAD replacement policy,
 - reporting obligations,
 - observer acceptance obligations,
 - relationship to Catch Retention Plans,
 - conflict resolution policy in respect of FADs.
- FAD construction specifications and requirements
 - FAD design characteristics (a description),
 - FAD markings and identifiers,
 - Lighting requirements,
 - radar reflectors,
 - visible distance,
 - radio buoys [requirement for serial numbers],
 - satellite transceivers [requirement for serial numbers].

A MANAGEMENT PLAN TO REGULATE FISHING EFFORT ON FISH-AGGREGATING DEVICES IN THE PURSE-SEINE FISHERY OF THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

Reaffirming its commitment to the application of the precautionary approach, which establishes that a lack of scientific information must not be used as a pretext for not taking management measures for the fisheries resources of the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Aware that tunas aggregate naturally under floating objects adrift in the ocean;

Taking into consideration that the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing establishes that the behavior of all existing fishing gears, methods and practices should be examined and measures should be adopted to progressively eliminate those fishing gears, methods and practices that are not compatible with responsible fishing and replace them with other more suitable ones;

Recalling that the regulation of fishing effort is one of the most efficient conservation measures for maintaining tuna stocks at sustainable levels;

Attentive to the provisions of IATTC Resolution C-99-07 on measures related to the regulation of fish-aggregating devices (FADs);

Taking into account Resolution C-04-05 on bycatch, especially with regard to catches of juvenile tunas and bycatches of non-target species, *which requires that all sea turtles be released as soon as possible and unharmed, to the greatest extent practicable;*

Reiterating the need to reduce bycatches of juvenile yellowfin and bigeye tunas in the purse-seine fishery of the EPO;

Concerned about the difficulties there have been in quantifying purse-seine fishing effort on FADs;

Taking into account *Resolution C-12-01 which amends Resolution C-11-01 on a multiannual program for the conservation of tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean in 2011-2013; of the conservation and management measures for yellowfin and bigeye tuna;*

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Concerned about the effect on the average length of the catches of the three main tuna species, mainly bigeye tuna, caught with purse seines on FADs (Document SAC 02-13), the significant effect that FADs may have on bigeye tuna spawning biomass, according to IATTC estimates (Document SAC-03-06), and that skipjack tuna is captured by FADs and in unassociated schools in the EPO (Document SAC-03-03), and according to IATTC estimates, its exploitation rate has been increasing in recent years (Document SAC-03-07);

Noting that the substantial increase in the number of purse-seine sets made on FADs since 1993, *has increased* the catches of juvenile tuna and fishing mortality in general for the EPO, the impact of this fishing method being currently much greater than that of the longline fishery for bigeye tuna (Document SAC-02-07);

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Conscious of the need to address, as a matter of priority, the elimination and reduction to the lowest possible level of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities;

Define For the purposes of this Resolution, the term fish-aggregating device (FAD) means drifting or anchored floating or submerged objects deployed at sea by vessels for the purpose of aggregating tuna species.

AGREES TO:

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1. Ensure that CPCs that utilize FADs provide all the information, data and any other element deemed necessary for the Director to continue the pilot FAD research project.
2. CPCs whose fleets fish with FADs in the area of the EPO, shall submit a Preliminary FAD Management Plan by 1 January 2014 that may include the information in Annex I of this Resolution. The Preliminary Management Plan shall include strategies to limit the capture of small bigeye and yellowfin tuna associated with fishing on FADs.
3. The information collected in the framework of the pilot research project and the Preliminary FAD Management Plans submitted by the CPCs shall be made available to the Scientific Advisory Committee for analysis and evaluation at its meeting in 2014, thus generating a Commission FAD Management Plan to regulate fishing on FADs that contributes to the Commission's management objectives.
4. As of 2015, the results of the FAD Management Plan shall be reviewed annually by the SAC, in order to make any necessary adjustments for ensuring the Commission's management objectives.

Deleted: <#>Ask the Director to make, in coordination with the Members and Cooperating non-Members (CPCs), the arrangements necessary for carrying out the pilot research project and data collection on FADs that are used to aggregate tunas in the EPO, in accordance with paragraph 14 of Resolution C-11-01. For the purposes of this Resolution, the term Fish Aggregation Device (FAD) means drifting, floating or submerged objects deployed and/or tracked by vessels, including using radio and/or satellite buoys, for the purpose of aggregating target tuna species for purse seine or ring-net fishing operations.¶

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