

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

92ND MEETING

Mexico City, Mexico

24-28 July 2017

PROPOSAL IATTC-92 A-1

SUBMITTED BY COLOMBIA

**REGULATION USE OF FADS IN THE PURSE-SEINE FISHERY FOR
TUNAS IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN DURING 2018-2019**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC, gathered in Mexico City, Mexico, on the occasion of its 92nd Meeting:

Aware of its responsibility for the scientific study of the tunas and tuna-like species in its Convention Area and for formulating recommendations to its Members and Cooperating non-Members (CPCs) with regard to these resources;

Recognizing that the potential production from the resource can be reduced if fishing effort is excessive;

Aware that the capacity of the purse-seine fleets fishing for tunas in the Convention Area continues to increase;

Concerned because the capacity of the purse-seine fleets and the number of fish-aggregating devices (FADs) that are being deployed in the Convention Area continues to increase.

Taking into account the best scientific information available, reflected in the IATTC staff's recommendations, and the precautionary approach;

Understanding that the IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee recommended looking for complementary conservation measures such as establishing a limit to the number of FADs deployed in the Convention area as an alternative to an increase in the closure days suggested by the scientific staff;

Recognizing that attempts must be made to reduce the catches of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin mainly associated with FADs;

Reiterating that there is an urgent need to limit the increase in fish-aggregating devices (FADs) deployed in the Convention area; and

Taking into account that the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission have established measures to control the maximum value of FADs that their vessels can utilize per year;

Agrees:

To apply in the Convention Area the conservation and management measures for yellowfin and bigeye tuna set out below for 2018 and 2019, and requests that the staff of the IATTC monitor the fishing activities of the respective CPC's flag vessels relative to this commitment, and report on such activities at the next meeting of the Commission;

I. ANNUAL LIMIT ON DEPLOYMENT OF FADs PER VESSEL

1. CPCs shall ensure that none of their purse-seine vessels of Classes 1-6 shall deploy more than de 500 FADs per year.
2. For monitoring compliance with the FAD deployment and recovery limit by each of its vessels, CPCs shall keep track by using the FAD data collection format established in Resolution C-16-01, as well as the information supplied by the observer aboard IATTC Class 6 vessels.
3. The Commission jointly with the Scientific Advisory Committee and the *Ad hoc* Permanent Working Group on FADs, shall review the progress and results of the implementation of this measure and shall recommend to the IATTC Members possible adjustments to the present Resolution such as changes in the maximum number of FADs or the implementation of a plan for the recovery of FADs prior to the closure.