

# Progress of FADMO-IWG Priority Tasks 2025

Scientific Committee, 21st Regular Session  
Nuku'alofa, Tonga | 13–21 August 2025  
SC21-EB-WP-06

# Objective

- **Summarize FADMO-IWG10 progress (Apr–Jul 2025) on 6 priority tasks:**
  - a) Satellite buoy data transmission
  - b) FAD recovery strategies
  - c) FAD logbook
  - d) Biodegradable FADs
  - e) DFAD deployment
  - f) Vessel types for FAD-related activities
- **SC21 review the FADMO-IWG progress, provide advice to strengthen scientific basis and guide future work**

# Satellite Buoy Data Transmission

- **Broad support for key data fields:**
  - ✓ Unique ID, vessel info, buoy trajectory, biomass by layers
- **Divergent views:**
  - ✓ Reporting timeframe: 24h vs. 72h vs. Monthly
  - ✓ Environmental/performance data optional
  - ✓ Responsibility for stranding detection unclear
- **SPC emphasized:**
  - ✓ Full buoy trajectories (including EPO)
  - ✓ Biomass by layers critical for stock assessments

# FAD Recovery Programs/Strategies

- **General agreement: coordinated recovery needed**
- **Key program elements:**
  - ✓ Standards, cost-sharing, monitoring, legal frameworks
  - ✓ Regional cooperation (e.g., FAD Watch) & capacity building
  - ✓ Innovation: geofences, support vessels, community involvement
- **Challenges:**
  - ✓ Defining “lost” & “abandoned”
  - ✓ Burden on coastal states vs. fishing states
- **SPC project ongoing; regional workshop planned for Feb 2026**

# FAD Logbook

- **Harmonized FAD logbook considered a priority**
- **Based on:**
  - ✓ PNA SOPs (since 2022)
  - ✓ IATTC FAD logbook
- **Refer to [SC21-ST-WP-07](#)**

# Biodegradable FADs

- Stepwise introduction discussed
- SC19 noted:
  - ✓ Introduce concept of incentives may encourage adoption
  - ✓ Challenges remain with feasibility
- Items for review:
  - ✓ Harmonization of categories & timelines across RFMOs
  - ✓ WCPFC Project 110 and 110a final report is expected at SC22

# DFAD Deployment

- Current limit: 350 active buoys/vessel
- Data shows most vessels use <150
- Discussion points:
  - ✓ Effectiveness of current limit
  - ✓ Improved monitoring of deployments/retrievals
- SPC to provide updated analysis at SC22

# Vessel Types for FAD-Related Activities

- Ambiguity in CNM rights identified
- Recommendations:
  - ✓ Clarify definitions & ensure consistency
  - ✓ Uniform monitoring & reporting for all vessel types
  - ✓ Register retrieval-only vessels under strict controls



# Next Steps



**SC21 advice sought on:**



- Strengthening scientific basis of FADMO-IWG's ongoing work



- Feasibility of FAD recovery programs



- Harmonization of reporting requirements across tRFMOs



**Possible refinement of FADMO-IWG recommendations for TCC21 & WCPFC22**

# Thank you



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