

Progress of FADMO-IWG Priority Tasks for 2026

SC22 Scientific Committee

Apia, Samoa | 11 –19 August 2026

Presented by: FADMO-IWG Chair

WCPFC-SC22-2026-EB-WP04 (A3.1.5.1 and A6.3.3)

FADMO- IWG13 Discussion

- Email communication: 24 April – 10 July 2026
- Topics
 - i. Satellite Buoy Data Transmission Requirements
 - ii. FAD Recovery Programs/Strategies
 - iii. FAD logbook
 - iv. Biodegradable FADs
 - v. DFAD Deployment

Agenda 6.3.3

[Updates on FAD Management Options IWG](#)

Mandate and progress FAD Recovery Programs/ Strategies

- **Commission task:** Consider how to implement effective FAD recovery programs and strategies, including their economic aspects and necessary standards.
- **SPC work :** Assessment of the economic, scientific, operational, feasibility and logistical aspects of dFAD recovery and loss-reduction measures.
- A workshop held in French Polynesia on 9–11 February 2026 brought together approximately 110 participants from 25 countries to identify practical approaches to reducing dFAD loss, abandonment and stranding.
- SC22 papers: [WCPFC-SC22-2026-EB-WP03](#) and [WCPFC-SC22-2026-EB-IP07](#)

Advice sought from SC22

SC22 is invited to:

- Review the findings and recommendations from SPC's work.
- Advise on feasible approaches and the costs, responsibilities, minimum standards and monitoring needed for practical, effective and economically viable FAD recovery programs.
- Advise whether the evidence is sufficient for FADMO-IWG to advance this work in 2026, or whether detailed consideration should continue in 2027 after the SPC results have been fully assessed.

Mandate and progress Biodegradable FADs

- WCPFC20 tasked the FADMO-IWG with considering the stepwise introduction of biodegradable dFADs.
- SPC will report on WCPFC Projects 110 and 110a at SC22 ([WCPFC-SC22-2026-EB-WP02](#)).
- Although some additional data are expected after SC22, the report should contain substantially final conclusions, recommendations and outcomes.

Key issues raised by the FADMO- IWG

- A possible phased transition was suggested:
 - From July 2027: prohibit Category V.
 - From January 2029: permit only Categories I and II.
 - From January 2031: deploy or redeploy only Category I.
- No timetable was agreed by the IWG.
- Effective implementation would require appropriate monitoring and reporting through the FAD logbook and observer data collection.
- The adequacy of existing observer data for monitoring FAD materials and designs may need to be assessed.

Advice sought from SC22

SC22 is invited to advise on:

- Whether Projects 110 and 110a provide a sufficient scientific basis for recommending a stepwise transition and timetable, or whether further work is required.
- The monitoring and data needed to verify implementation and evaluate effectiveness.

Mandate and current status DFAD Deployment

- **Mandate:** Provide advice to WCPFC23 on the effectiveness of the current dFAD deployment limit under paragraph 21 of CMM 2025-02 (*previously CMM 2023-01*).
- **Required evidence:** Updated SPC analysis of the number of FADs and satellite buoys used per vessel.
- **Current timing:** The analysis is now expected at SC23 in 2027, as part of the review of the tropical tuna measure, rather than in time for SC22.
- Some members supported aligning the work with the broader tropical tuna measure review; others suggested deferring further FADMO-IWG consideration to 2027 if SC22 cannot make sufficient progress.

Key issue and advice sought from SC22

SC22 is invited to advise whether:

- sufficient information is available to assess the effectiveness of the current dFAD deployment limit; or
- further consideration should be deferred to SC23, when SPC's updated analysis will be available.

Thank you

- [WCPFC-SC22-2026-EB-WP04](#): *Progress of the FADMO-IWG Priority Tasks for 2026*

