



TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

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FFA PROPOSAL ON FAD IDENTIFICATION AND TRACKING

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1. FFA Members appreciate the information in the Working Paper. Clearly the advice from the Scientific Committee on the status of the bigeye stock and the projected shortfall in effectiveness of CMM 2008-01 means that more will have to be done on FAD management.
2. Following the discussion in the Scientific Committee on the scientific value of information from identification and tracking of FADs and building on the information in the paper, FFA Members are interested in getting further information on the feasibility and value of FAD identification and tracking for scientific, compliance and management purposes.
3. Therefore, FFA Members request the secretariat to have a feasibility study undertaken on the marking, identification and tracking of FADs and associated electronic devices, including a simple assessment of the use and value of information from FAD identification and tracking. The study should also take into account factors such as:
 - i) the nature of materials used in FAD construction,
 - ii) deployment of FADs by vessels other than fishing vessels,
 - iii) use of FADs by groups of vessels,
 - iv) sub-surface FADs,
 - v) need for FAD marking to be read by observers,
 - vi) scope for tracking FAD electronic devices with VMS,
 - vii) maritime safety and liability,
 - viii) MARPOL requirements,
 - ix) national legislative requirements for marking of fishing gear,
 - x) ownership of FADs by parties other than fishing vessel operators and
 - xi) costs.