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FISH AGGREGATION DEVICE (FAD) MANAGEMENT PLAN – EL SALVADOR

**WCPFC8- 2011-OP-12
26 March 2012**

**REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE (CENDEPESCA)**

**FISH AGGREGATION DEVICE (FAD)
MANAGEMENT PLAN – EL SALVADOR**

BACKGROUND

The term FAD is a catch-all word that can mean simple floating objects, such as a log or a coconut, or it can mean a highly technical anchored device with sonar and satellite capabilities. FADs are used to exploit the fact that tuna and other pelagic fish naturally aggregate around floating objects in the open ocean.

These man-made imitations are termed as “Fish Aggregating Devices” (FAD) and are deployed in the fishing grounds. The FADs vary in shape and size but they are either anchored or drifting. In some cases, fishermen have tied together floating natural logs to act as FADs.

Vessels from El Salvador have been fishing during years with FADs but no detailed information has been gathered about the number, use and location where had been placed.

The bases for the present plan are the Conservation and Management Measure for bigeye and yellowfin tuna (CMM 2008-01), pursuant to the provisions of points 23 and 24. Furthermore, it sets out a FAD fishing closure for the 2009-2011 periods; and the Conservation and Management Measure on the application of high seas FAD closures and catch retention (CMM 2009-02), which sets out the specifications regarding FAD closure.

OBJECTIVE OF THE PLAN

- Collect all basic information related to the use of Fish Aggregating Device for its management.
- Contribute to enhanced knowledge of catch composition in FAD sets.
- To collect information of these devices with regard to their technical features.
- To improve the control in the use of FAD.

SCOPE OF APPLICATION

The present plan applies to El Salvador fleet fishing within the area of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), targeting tropical tuna.

MEASURES TO BE TAKEN

Inventory

Ship owners shall send to the El Salvador Directorate General for Fisheries and Aquaculture a list of operative FADs being used by the fleet.

This list shall include, for each FAD information detail with the: FAD identification, Materials, description of the FADs in detail. This list shall be promptly updated whenever a change takes place.

Specific Activity Register

Ship owners shall keep a register where FAD-related activities must be recorded on the official template (Annex 1). All information related must be record, including any use of natural FADs, this information have also to be recorded, and in such cases deployment shall be understood as assigning a beacon, and hauling as withdrawing the beacon. In addition, for each activity conducted involving a FAD, every incident regarding accidental catches shall be recorded: species, number of specimens, and number of specimens released alive. In conclusion all the information related with FAD must be recorded and report to the Directorate General. Every four months (during May, September and January), the ship owners have to send to CENDEPESCA all the data (inventory and Specific Activity Register) of the FADs by email to: cendepesca@mag.gob.sv, moreover, the print information have to be submitted to CENDEPESCA Santa Tecla.

Monitoring FADs

Vessels must record monitoring information for each FAD that has a satellite beacon, based on its assigned number. Furthermore, efforts should be made to record information obtained from other beacons (e.g. visual, radio).

Mitigation of catch of juvenile tuna and non-target species

CENDEPESCA and the Industry will work together to propose pilot actions in order to advance in some of the aspects like:

- a) Selective methods to prevent the catch of juvenile fish and associated species;
- b) The use of acoustic methods (sounders, echo sounders) aimed at more selective fishing, prior to the set;
- c) Research on alternatives to nets hanging from FADs, to prevent the entanglement of some marine species, especially turtles, as well as, the Protocol for releasing turtles

established for purse seiners by the Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) shall be implemented as much as possible.

For this purpose, the Industry and CENDEPESCA will meet at least twice a year: in the middle of the year; and before the Regular session of the Commission to present the results of the meetings to the WCPFC Commission.

Closures on fishing with FADs

Salvadorian Vessel fishing in the WCPFC Area are obligated to comply all the measures referring to the management of FADs, established by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) in their annual session, furthermore, CENDEPESCA will regulate the measures approved in the WCPFC Commission by national resolution.

During 2011 these measures were:

- During this closure, operators may not make sets within 1 nautical mile around the FAD.
- Operators may not catch the fish aggregated under a ship, nor may they move these fish, including the use of lights and chumming to attract them.
- FADs and beacons may only be hauled in, following authorization, provided that they are kept on board until disembarkation or the end of the closure, and that no set is made in the 7 following days or within 50 nautical miles around the FAD hauling point.
- Furthermore, regarding the above section, two ships may not cooperate to avoid this measure, and sets made by any ship within 1 nautical mile around the FAD hauling point are forbidden during the 24 following hours. During the closure, FADs may not be deployed or hauled in. Finally, it is forbidden to make sets using océanographie buoys as FADs, given the damage that such operations can inflict on these scientific instruments.

Monitoring the present Plan.

The authority will reviewed and follow up the present measures and be responsible for processing and monitoring the information provided by the operators, and shall be authorized to draft the follow-up reports for this plan and to propose the measures it deems appropriate in order to improve the functioning. This Plan shall be under continual review and may be amended at any time.



Annex 1



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FAD ACTIVITY TEMPLATE

VESSEL: _____ CODE: _____ REGISTRATION No. _____

IDENTIFICATION	DATE	SHIP'S CLOCK TIME	ACTIVITY	POSITION	OBSERVATION