



**1<sup>st</sup> MEETING OF THE FAD MANAGEMENT OPTIONS INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP**

Stones Hotel, Bali, Indonesia  
27 – 28 November 2015

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**COMMENTS ON CHAIRS DISCUSSION PAPER TO TCC11 (TCC11-2015-24)**

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**WCPFC-2015-FADMgmtOptionsIWG01-DP01**

**29 October 2015**

**Paper by European Union**

## ***Comments on WCPFC FAD working group recommendations (Document WCPFC-TCC11-2015-24)***

### **1) FAD DATA COLLECTION:**

- Recommendations by WCPFC to increase FAD data collection (e.g. construction, deployment, use and loss) are welcome. Specific information on anti-entanglement characteristics and biodegradability of materials making the raft and underwater appendage should be included. Examples of FAD data of this kind currently collected by other t-RMFOs exist and should be examined to try to maximize potential harmonization of logbook information gathered by SPC observers with those of other RMFOs.

FAD data currently collected in other tRFMOs are defined in:

- o [ICCAT Rec. 14-01](#) [Recommendation by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management program for tropical tunas]
  - o [IOTC Res. 15-08](#) [Resolution 13/08 Procedures on a fish aggregating devices (FADs) management plan, including more detailed specification of catch reporting from FAD sets, and the development of improved FAD designs to reduce the incidence of entanglement of non-target species]
  - o [IATTC Res. C-15-03](#) [Collection and analyses of data on Fish-Aggregating Devices]
- School aggregation times. We do not consider this an issue related to a systematic data collection system but to a specific research project. A system including FAD-logbooks and vessel-logbooks with the proper FAD identification scheme can contribute to estimate colonization times. But it is probably more efficient to consider additional approaches such as tagging and the analysis of echo-sounder buoy information such as trajectories and biomass estimations of FADs in the context of specific research projects.
  - The recommendation of bycatch characterization in FADs and logs is important. Maybe trials with electronic monitoring systems (EMS) would be advisable as a person observer can only be either in the top or lower deck during brailing, and does not see what is happening with the bycatch in the other deck. The information collected should inform the commission also about release methods currently used to help identify if resolutions for better bycatch release methods for certain species are required.
  - Inputs on catch (including bycatch) and FAD data collected by skippers should be easy and clear to fill in as possible to maximize data entry quality. The eTUNALOG product, developed by SPC is a good example that facilitates the easy collection and transfer of data to the Commission's databases.

## **2) FAD MARKING AND IDENTIFICATION:**

- Ideally the FAD marking system should have identification options for both the buoys and the FAD structure (i.e., raft) as fishers can often swap buoys when they find other vessels' FADs. However this could be very difficult to implement and it is probably more efficient just using buoy ID (as this can also be linked to changes in FAD structure). The use of the buoy ID together with 100% observer coverage should be sufficient references to facilitate the proper monitoring of the FAD fishing activity.
- The idea of a marking system that is compatible with other RMFO'S is very welcome, as FADs in the WCPO can drift to the IOTC and/or IATTC regions. The marking system proposed by [IATTC \[Res. C-15-03\]](#) can be a good candidate option.