



2nd MEETING OF THE FAD MANAGEMENT OPTIONS INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia
28 – 30 September 2016

REVIEW OF WCPFC FAD MGMTOPTIONS IWG ACTIVITIES 2015/16

WCPFC-2016-FADMgmtOptionsIWG02-02
23 August 2016

Paper by the WCPFC Secretariat

Purpose

1. This paper overviews the progress made by the WCPFC FAD Management Options Intersessional Working Group (the “Working Group”) since its establishment. It reviews, in particular, the progress on activities in 2015/16 as contained in the approved workplan for the Working Group.

Background

2. The terms of reference for the FADMgmtOptions-IWG were agreed in December 2014 (WCPFC11 Summary Report, Attachment E), and Mr Brian Kumasi (Papua New Guinea) was appointed to be the Chair and Raymond Clarke (United States of America) the Vice-Chair. The FADMgmtOptions-IWG is open to all CCMs and shall include participation by PNAO, FFA, SPC, industry, and NGOs, and is also open to other interested WCPFC observers. It is required, to the highest degree possible, to conduct its work electronically, or if convenient and cost-effective, in targeted face to face meetings.
3. There are five issues that were noted in the terms of reference for the Working Group to review and to recommend ways forward to the Commission, as follows:
 - a. collection of additional data on FADs and their use in WCPO fisheries;
 - b. FAD marking, and identification and use of electronic signatures;
 - c. FAD monitoring, tracking and control;
 - d. FAD management options; and
 - e. Advise on options for FAD marking and monitoring for WCPO wide application.
4. The first FADMgmtOptions-IWG meeting was held on 27 – 28 November 2015 in Bali immediately prior to WCPFC12.

2015 activities – consolidate reference papers and develop a consultation document

5. In March 2015, the FADMgmtOptions-IWG's webpage on the Commission website was launched. By the end of 2015, the webpage included over 20 documents identified as of relevance to the Working Group's work. The URL is: <https://www.wcpfc.int/FADMgmtOptions-IWG>
6. In August 2015, there were opportunities for informal discussions between the FADMgmtOptions IWG Chair and interested parties. These discussions took place during the 11th Regular Session of the Scientific Committee and the Majuro Workshop on options to help improve the WCPFC bigeye conservation and management, hosted by the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council and Marshall Islands Resource Authority.
7. In September 2015, a draft consultation document was prepared and circulated by the FADMgmtOptions-IWG Chair to TCC12 (WCPFC-TCC11-2015-24). This document called for a formal meeting of the FADMgmtOptions-IWG to be held prior to WCPFC12.
8. In late November 2015, the first meeting of the FADMgmtOptions-IWG was held. The agreed priorities for the meeting were:
 - a. Develop a draft research plan on FADs
 - b. Marking and Monitoring of FADs
 - c. Review data standards for paper-based and e-forms
 - d. Discuss next steps
9. The report of the FADMgmtOptions-IWG was adopted by the Commission during WCPFC12 (WCPFC12-2015-22_rev2), and a workplan for 2016 was also approved (WCPFC12 Summary Report, Attachment V).

2016 activities – progressing 2016 workplan

10. There were four parts agreed to the 2016 workplan:
 - a. develop a FAD Research Plan;
 - b. collection of additional data on FADs and their use in WCPO fisheries (TOR a);
 - c. FAD marking, and identification and use of electronic signatures (TOR b)
FAD monitoring, tracking and control (TOR c)
Advise on options for FAD marking and monitoring for WCPO wide application (TOR e); and
 - d. FAD management options (TOR d).
11. In respect of a. and b. two draft documents were circulated for comment by the FADMgmtOptions IWG Chair to SC12:
 - a. SC12-ST-WP06: A proposal for a research plan to inform FAD management options for the WCPFC
 - b. SC12-ST-WP08: A proposal for data to inform FAD data collection through vessel catch logsheetsRevised versions of these papers are being developed taking into consideration comments received.

12. The advertisement for a consultant to produce *a report on monitoring of FADs Deployed and Encountered in the WCPO* was circulated on 19 May 2016 (WCPFC Circular 2016/21). The consultancy was awarded to MRAG-Australia in July 2016. The final report will be circulated to CCMs in early September 2016 for discussion at the FADMgmtOptionsIWG02 meeting later in the same month.
13. It is expected that a discussion on FAD Management Options will take place during the FADMgmtOptionsIWG02 meeting in September 2016.

Recommendation

14. FADMgmtOptions-IWG02 is invited to consider and note the paper.

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