



**COMMISSION
FOURTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**
Manila, Philippines
3 – 7 December 2017

NON-ENTANGLING BIODEGRADABLE FADs: FROM RESEARCH TO ACTION

SIDE EVENT: MON 4th DEC 2017 LUNCH BREAK

WCPFC14-2017-OP06
20 November 2017

Submission by International Seafood Sustainability Foundation

Non-Entangling and Biodegradable Fads: From Research to Action

A SIDE EVENT

On the occasion of the 14th Meeting of the
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC 14)

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Join us for light refreshments,
provided by the Government of the Philippines on
Monday 4th December 2017
during the **Lunch break** in the
Break out meeting room
Philippine International Convention Centre
Manila, Philippines

Theme

Minimizing the impacts of FADs on both the target species and the marine environment is a common goal shared among stakeholders. Effective FAD management will also be a critical component of the WCPFC14 discussion on new measures for the management of tropical tunas.

The WCPFC Scientific Committee, at its 13th Session, recommended that WCPFC 14 take account of best practices when considering FAD management in the WCPO (para 541). As such, it is critical that governments, vessels, processors, environmental NGOs and other stakeholders are informed of the most current scientific research on FADs and existing and potential solutions to mitigate negative impacts.

For example, research on FADs uncovered significant and previously unknown shark mortality due to entanglement (ghost fishing). This led to the development of new FAD designs that reduce the impacts of drifting FADs on the ecosystem, the designs of which have been adopted by IOTC, ICCAT and IATTC. Ongoing research in collaboration with fishing fleets is also showing promising results for the use of biodegradable materials in FADs. All of this research has implications for FAD management.

Presentation

At this year's ISSF Side Event, Dr. Gala Moreno will present *'Minimizing impacts of FADs by modifying FAD structure: towards the use of non-entangling and biodegradable FADs'*

The presentation by Dr. Moreno will showcase ISSF lead FAD research that has been conducted in collaboration with fishing fleets and NGO partners to:

- Demonstrate the need for non-entangling FAD designs in the WCPO and the degree of use of non-entangling FADs in other oceans.
- Test biodegradable materials so to minimize the impact of FAD structures on the ecosystem. This research is being conducted in collaboration with the International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF) in Indian Ocean and the purse seine fleets in Indian and Atlantic oceans. Progress on the same research in eastern Pacific Ocean will also be discussed.

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