Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

SC14

Draft FAD MO IWG3 Guidelines for Biodegradable and Non-Entangling FADs

Naiten Bradley Phillip Jr.

Chair FADMOIWG3

BACKGROUND

At WCPFC14 in Manila, Philippines, the Commission agreed that the FAD Management Options Intersessional Working Group (FADMgmtOptions-IWG) would be held on Wednesday 3rd October 2018 in Majuro, Republic of Marshall Islands immediately after TCC14. In adopting CMM 2017-01 Conservation and Management Measure for Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack tuna, the Commission tasked the FADMgmtOptions-IWG with providing the Commission with advice and recommendations on the following:

Non-Entangling and/or Biodegrable FADs

22. The Commission at its 2018 annual session, based on specific guidelines defined by the FAD Management Options Intersessional Working Group and advice from SC14 and TCC14 shall consider the adoption of measures on the implementation of non-entangling and/or biodegradable material on FADs.

Drifting FAD Numbers

23. A flag CCM shall ensure that each of its purse seine vessels shall have deployed at sea, at any one time, no more than 350 drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) with activated instrumented buoys. An instrumented buoy is defined as a buoy with a clearly marked reference number allowing its identification and equipped with a satellite tracking system to monitor its position. The buoy shall be activated exclusively on board the vessel. A flag CCM shall ensure that its vessels operating in the waters of a coastal State comply with the laws of that coastal State relating to FAD management, including FAD tracking.

Drifting FAD Numbers

24. The Commission at its 2018 annual session, based on consideration in the FAD Management Options Intersessional Working Group, shall review whether the number of FADs deployed as set out in paragraph 23 is appropriate.

Draft Guidelines Non-entangling and biodegradable FADs

Based on existing ICCAT Guidelines

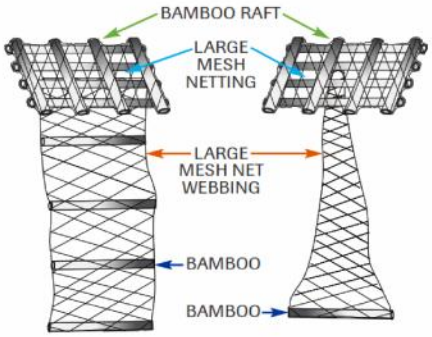
a) **The surface structure of the FAD shall not be covered or only covered with material implying minimum risk of entangling by-catch species.**

b) **The sub-surface components shall be exclusively composed of non-entangling material (e.g. ropes or canvas).**

c) **When designing FADs the use of biodegradable materials should be prioritised.**

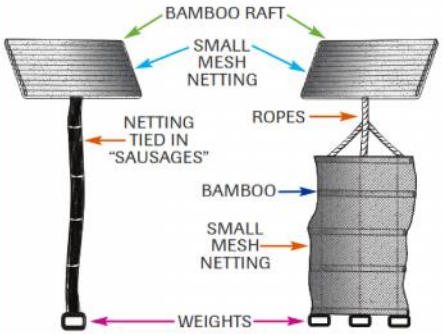
High Risk < > Low Risk

HIGHEST ENTANGLEMENT RISK FADs:



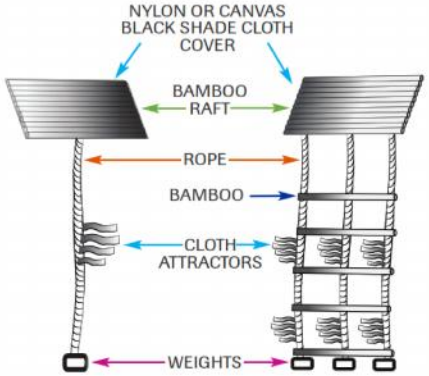
- Constructed with any netting materials, including old purse seine netting, used to cover rafts or suspended beneath in open panels
- These DFADs are known to cause entanglements with turtles and sharks

LOWER ENTANGLEMENT RISK FADs:



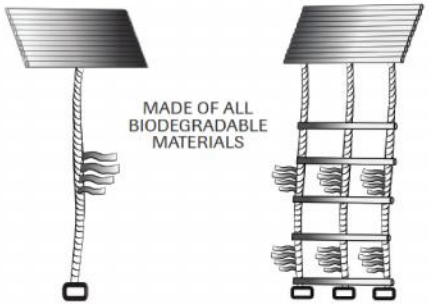
- Only small mesh netting used (e.g. < 2.5 inch (7 cm) stretched mesh)
- Rafts are tightly wrapped with small mesh netting, with no loose netting hanging from it
- The underwater structure is tightly tied into bundles (sausages)
- A single panel can be used instead of bundles, but the panel must be weighted to keep it taut
- The panel should consist of either netting with a stretched mesh of 2.5 inches (7 cm) or less, or a solid sheet (e.g., canvas or nylon)
- Despite using netting, these design elements reduce the risk of entanglement events

NON-ENTANGLING FADS:



- No netting is used in their construction
- The raft is not covered or covered with shade cloth or canvas
- The subsurface structure is made with ropes, canvas or nylon sheets, or other non-entangling materials
- These FADs are expected to have minimum risk of causing entanglement

BIODEGRADABLE NON-ENTANGLING FADS:



- In addition to having minimal risk of entanglement, they are constructed exactly like other non-entangling FADS, but using only natural and/or biodegradable materials, further reducing the environmental impact of DFADs on the oceans

HIGHEST RISK ⟵ ⟶ LOWEST RISK

The Chair received no objections regarding a proposal that guidelines should require adoption of 'lowest risk' FAD construction whilst appreciating a 'partial solution' in the interim?

Thank You