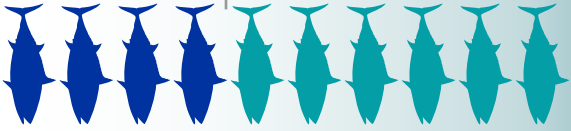


**Over 40%** of global tuna catch is based on floating objects, including FADs

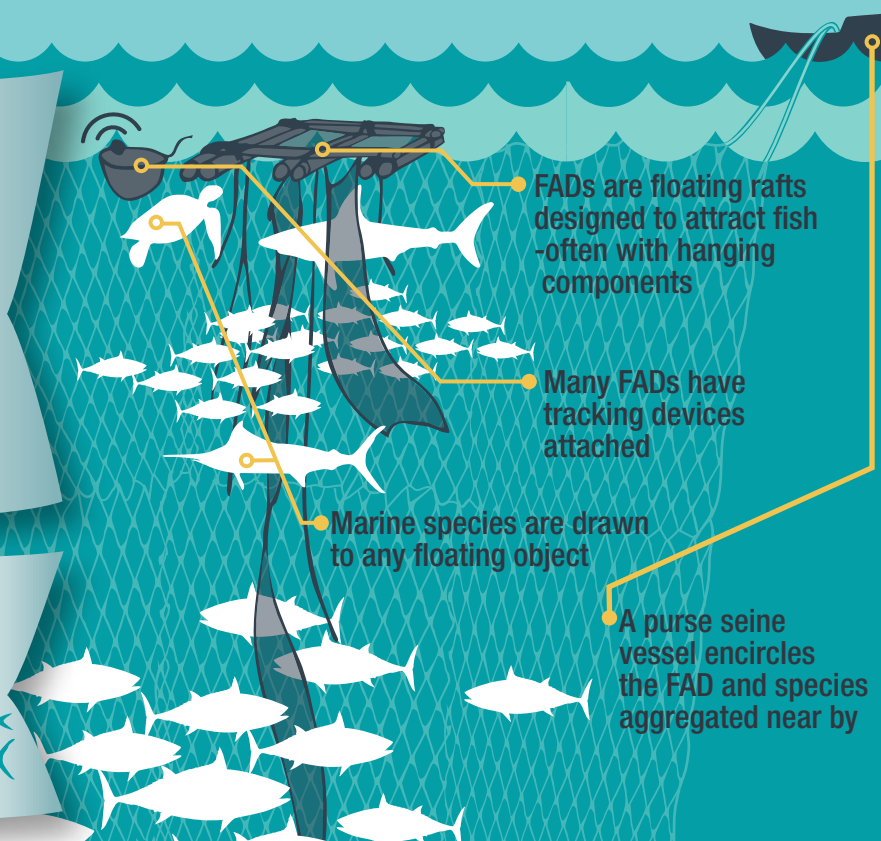
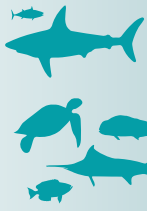


The controversy surrounding FAD use is about the number of small tuna and non-target species captured or entangled




Of highest concern are effects on sharks and small bigeye tuna (region-dependent)

FAD fishing can also impact sea turtles and other finfish such as wahoo, dolphinfish, rainbow runner and billfish




ISSF is investigating ways to lessen the impact on non-target species


## ISSF Recommendations

- 


**Do not cover FAD surfaces with mesh**

reduces turtle entanglement
- 

**Use non-meshed materials** such as ropes or canvas sheets for hanging components

reduces shark entanglement
- 

**Use natural or biodegradable materials** such as bamboo, palm leaves and brush

reduces ocean debris
- 

**Avoid setting on small schools**

can reduce bycatch with little impact on total target catch

## Ongoing FAD Research

Technical methods to reduce catch of small bigeye tuna and impacts to sharks and other finfish by purse seine vessels, include:

- Echo-sounder buoys** to remotely assess the amount of small bigeye tuna around FADs

potential reduction of under-sized tuna caught
- Acoustic & visual means** to assess the species composition and behavior of fish aggregations around FADs and in the net

potential reduction of bycatch through avoidance or selective release; i.e. escape panels, backdown procedure
- Acoustic tagging and tracking** of bigeye and non-target species around FADs

potential avoidance of small bigeye and non-target species
- Comparison of shallow vs deep** hanging components on bigeye catch

potential avoidance of small bigeye
- Double FAD experiments** to examine potential to separate bycatch from tuna on adjacent FADs

potential avoidance of small tuna and non-target species



For More Information, visit [iss-foundation.org](http://iss-foundation.org)