Progress made by ICCAT on the key areas for action for the joint t-RFMO FAD WG

ICCAT Secretariat

2nd Meeting of the Joint Tuna RFMOs Working Group on FADs San Diego, California USA, 8-10 May 2019

ICCAT CICTA CICAA



ICCAT Recommendation 16-01

Management of FADs

- Area/Time closure in relation with the protection of juveniles
 - Between 1 January and 28 February
 - Eastern Equatorial Atlantic (5°N-4° S, 20°W and African coast)
 - Prohibition of setting FADs and fishing associated with natural or artificial objects

Limitation of FADs

> No more than 500 FADs with or without instrumental buoys active at any one time in relation to each of the purse-seine vessels

FAD Management Plans

- Purse seine and baitboat vessels fishing in association with objects that could affect fish aggregation, shall submit annual Management Plans for the use of such aggregating devices by vessels flying their flag
- > Plans shall be drawn up by following the Guidelines for Preparation for FAD Management Plans

FAD logbook and list of deployed FADs

- Deployment of any FAD, visit on any FAD and loss of any FAD
- Vessels shall keep updated (monthly basis and per 1°x1° statistical rectangles) list of deployed FADs and buoys
- Reporting obligations on FADs and on support vessels
 - No. actual FADs an buoys deployed, av. no. beacons/buoys activated and deactivated, av. no. lost FADs, etc
- Mandatory use of non-entangling FAD and gradually use of biodegradable FADs



General issues

Legal aspects

- Definitions of FADs, ownership and responsibilities
 - > ICCAT adopted in 2016 a set of definitions following the suggestions made by the EU CECOFAD research project
 - ▶ Pending on the proposals/agreements from the 2nd joint tRFMO FAD WG meeting

Definitions and common indicators

- Work conducted within the ICCAT FAD WG and the SCRS between 2015-2017
- Pending on the proposals/agreements from the 2nd joint tRFMO FAD WG meeting

Enhanced cooperation

- Several initiative are ongoing involving national scientists and industry regarding the improvement of the collection of data, research and development of mitigation measures
- > Some of the initiatives have a wider regional scope

Elaboration and implementation of appropriate management frameworks

- Intersessional work on going within Panel 1 aiming to revise ICCAT Rec. 16-01
- Proposals from the 2nd joint tRFMO FAD WG meeting



Data gaps and needs

- Collection of data, optimize and harmonize the collection of data and develop common minimum standards and formats, etc
 - Ongoing work within the FAD WG (limited data collected between 2016-2018)
 - Updated e-form for FAD data submission approved by the Tropical WG, SCRS and Commission 2018
- Facilitate access by scientists to acoustic records of the echo-sounder buoys, ensure/facilitate access to data for scientists and managers
 - Limited ongoing work by a few Contracting Parties SCRS scientists/operators





Submitted information

Legend:

AFAD - Anchored FAD

DFAD - Drift artificial FAD

FADA - Artificial FAD

FADN - Natural FAD

GPS - GPS signal transmitter

NA - Unknow

RDDGPS - Radio directing Finder & GPS

SAT – Satellite signal

SATES – Satellite signal & Echosounder

Summary of available information:

Time frame: 2011 to 2017

No. FADs deployed by type: available for a limited

number of CPs

No. beacons followed: available for recent years only

No. FADs lost: very limited info

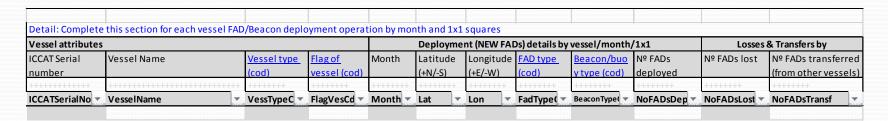
							25	
Year	СРС	FAD type	Beacon type	No. deployed FAD with beacon	No. beacons followed	No. deactivated beacons	No. deployed FAD w/o beacon	No. lost FADs
2011	EU.France	FADN - FADA		2869				
2012	EU.France	FADN - FADA		3320				
2013	Curacao	FADA		1696				
	EU.Spain	FADA		19933				
		FADN		41				
	EU.France	FADN - FADA		3293				
	Panama	FADA		314				
	St Lucia			6				
2014	Belize	FADA		1013				
	Curacao	FADA		1693				
	EU.Spain	FADA		17380				
	•	FADN		26				
		NA		2178				
	EU.France	FADA		1273				
	Ghana	FADA		9100				
	Panama	FADA		288				
	St Lucia	FAA		10				
2015	Belize	FADA		993				
	Curacao	SAT		85	37			11
		SATES		1294	2110			639
	EU.Spain	FADA		17327	950.1			14689
	•	NA		1248	74.3			1877
	EU.France	FADA		1287	3043			
	Panama	FADA		1525	1319			238
2016	Belize	DFAD		1291		207		36
	EU.France	DFAD		2845				1090
		DFAD		4				4
	Ghana	DFAD		17600	1310			
	Curacao	DFAD		22	4504			
	Panama	DFAD		27	5158			
2017	Belize	DFAD	SAT	9	0			
			SATES	132	11389			
	Curacao	DFAD	SATES	25	4509			
	EU.France	DFAD		1549	3206	2018		
			SATES	4123	6000	3998		
	Ghana	DFAD	RDFGPS	24825	1932	2,,0		
	Guatemala	DFAD	SATES	25	4800			
	El Salvador	DFAD	SATES	22	4389			
	UK.StHelena		GPS	8	-307			



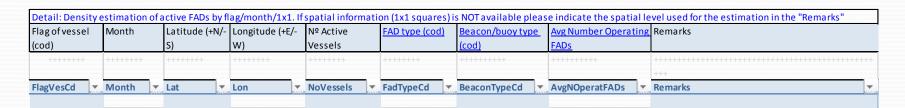
ST08 FAD new form 2019

Updated e-form

- Improve detailed information on FAD deployment by vessel, month, type of buoy and 1°x1° Lat Lon area
- Record by vessel of the number of FAD loss and or transfer FADs/buoys



• Estimation of the density of FADs by Month, 1°x1° Lat Lon grid, including the number of active vessels, and number of operating FADs with buoys within grid





Mitigation

FAD design/material and research

- Design and materials used
- Research on pre-set echo-sounder discrimination of species, and size
 - > Several works/studies conducted by CPCs together with the industry and presented to the SCRS

Target species

- Identification of hotspots for juvenile BET and YFT
- Effectiveness of time-area closures
 - Ongoing work within the SCRS and the AOTTP (tagging program)

Non-target species

- Impacts of FAD fisheries on vulnerable elasmobranch and turtle species
 - Several studies conducted by CPCs and presented to the SCRS
- Identification of hot spots for vulnerable species
 - Ongoing work within the SCRS
- Best practices for handling and safe release of by-catch species, training of operators, non-entangling FADs
 - Ongoing activities and active under current Recommendations



Mitigation

Habitat

- Mapping and recognition of sensitive areas
- Tracking positions and trajectories of FADs
- Promote involvement of coastal communities in implementing actions or management measures
 - Very limited (capacity building) or no ongoing activities
- Develop innovative FAD designs to mitigate the habitat impact of FAD fisheries
 - > Several works/studies conducted by CPCs together with the industry and presented to the SCRS
- Consider anchored and drifting FADs in the overall analysis of impacts
- Assess the effect of establishing limits on numbers of FADs deployed as well as on areas or periods of deployment
 - Ongoing discussion within FAD WG