

# Comisión Interamericana del Atún Tropical Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission



Session 6: Minimum standards and formats to optimize and harmonize the collection of data on FADs and definition of systems to accurately quantify numbers of FADs and active buoys

2ª Reunión del Grupo de Trabajo conjunto de las OROP atuneras sobre plantados  
2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Joint Tuna RFMOs Working Group on FADs  
San Diego, California USA, 08-10 May 2019

# Introduction

## 1<sup>st</sup> Joint Tuna RFMO FAG WG

Chair – *“to date, although management plans have been adopted in several t-RFMOs allowing for a better monitoring and data collection on FADs associated fisheries, there is still lack of sufficient information and data on FADs”*

However

Progress has been made since the last meeting...

- Creation of data collection forms
- Modification/Improvement of existing forms
- New Resolutions/Recommendations
- WG/WP meetings and data analysis



## Precedent for data collection

In 2017 - Resolution C-17-02 on conservation measures for tropical tunas was adopted that includes new measures for the fishery on fish-aggregating devices (FADs), including limits on the number of active FADs per vessel.

- Para 11 – report, or require their vessels to report, daily information on all active FADs to the Secretariat (monthly) with a time delay of at least 60 days, but no longer than 90 days
- Para 12 - at the latest by 30 November 2017, guidance on the reporting of FAD data in accordance with Paragraphs 10 and 11 of this Resolution, including the format and specific data to be reported (IATTC scientific staff and the Ad Hoc Permanent Working Group on FADs).





## Data Collection forms

Adopted FAD forms (Skippers FAD logbooks)

- Excel file with tables with buoy codes to standardize buoy ID collection

ROF (Floating object form)

- Modified to incorporate buoy changes and be consistent with skippers FAD form

Lastly Buoy data under Resolution C-17-02 has been reported during 2018 in 3 Formats

- Raw" (i.e. one position per day)
- INF1
- INF2

Reporting format varies between CPCs and/or fishing companies



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## Data Collection

Rec [16-01] and Rec [16 – 02] provide precedents for data collection/management of FADs

Since 2015 – Data collection with form ST08.

- Few CPCs have submitted data
- Several changes in forms = lack of consistency in data reporting
- Difficulty in interpreting Rec requirements (Rec [16-01]) particularly which data is required at which resolution (1 x 1, monthly etc.).



## Data Collection progress

ICCAT Tropical Tunas Working Group and the Sub-Committee on Statistics discussed modifications.

New ST08a

- information on buoy densities

New ST08b

- collect activities on FADs

ICCAT SCRS proposed the best standards for data collection included in the document SCRS/2018/159 to be considered as a minimum standard for data collection



## Precedents for Data Collection

IOTC Resolution 18/08 on *Procedures on a fish aggregating devices (FADs) management plan, including a limitation on the number of FADs, more detailed specifications of catch reporting from FAD sets, and the development of improved FAD designs to reduce the incidence of entanglement of non-target species* (superseding 17/08 and 15/08).

- Provides details about FAD data collection
- management plans
- reporting requirements (in combination with Res 15-02 (*on Mandatory statistical reporting requirements for IOTC Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CPCs)*))



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## Data Collection forms

IOTC Form 3FA\_01

- Current structure is a trade off (usability and necessity of information to be collected)
- Continuing development of form in light of WP discussions
- Improving definitions and clarity of form

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## Developments

FAD Management Options – Several CMMs, but specifically related to data collection - Intersessional Working Group (FADMgmtOptions-IWG) 1<sup>st</sup> meeting (2105), recommended vessel operators provide data on FADs covering 2 major areas:

- FAD design and construction of FAD to be deployed or encountered (materials, electronics, size etc.)
- FAD activity (deploying, retrieving, setting, visiting, loss etc.) and that data collected by observers on FADs can be used for verification of FAD activities of vessels (PNA FAD tracking data)
- FAD form Gen 5 – data provided by observers (100% coverage)
- Logsheet data on FAD sets

Discussions and agreements are ongoing to advance process



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# Conclusions

1. Progress has been made since 2017
2. Progress is somewhat variable
3. Several complications still exist – limiting data availability, suitability

## Solutions?

- Minimum standards across RFMOs?

Many CPCs are common across oceans so common standards are beneficial for simplification of process

Current data collection forms can be used to guide/advise processes.





Questions