
PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT OF RESOLUTION 17/08: 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 DESIGN TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF ENTANGLEMENT OF NON-TARGET SPECIES

SUBMITTED BY: JAPAN

Explanatory Memorandum

At the 21st Session of IOTC in 2017, the Commission considered the revision of Resolution 15/08 and adopted Resolution 17/08: 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 Design to Reduce the Incidence of Entanglement of Non-Target Species.

Paragraph 3 of Resolution 17/08 allows activations of instrumented buoy only on board the purse-seine vessel or supply vessel. There was a practice of buoy activation on board support vessels, which subsequently deployed instrumented buoys before Resolution 17/08 entered into force. While Japan does not consider that the practice of activating and deploying buoys by support vessels is different from those by supply vessels, Resolution 17/08 is not clear whether such practice is allowed under Resolution 17/08. At the same time, Resolution 17/01 does not clearly cover support vessels. Consequently Japan did not register its support vessel as supply vessel stipulated in Paragraph 3 of Resolution 17/01.

Accordingly, Japan would like to propose minor amendments to Paragraphs 3 and 16 of Resolution 17/08 as shown below in order to avoid such ambiguity regarding support vessels.

If these changes are agreed, Paragraph 3 of Resolution 17/01 should also be amended in order to close any possible loophole. In that case, Japan suggests attaching a small footnote to “Supply vessels” in sub-para c), which says, “For the purpose of this Resolution, the term “supply vessel” includes “support vessel”.”

Japan also would like to request that one support vessel be registered as derogation to Paragraph 3 c) iii of Resolution 17/01, which should be discussed at the Compliance Committee.

RESOLUTION 18/XX**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 DESIGN TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF ENTANGLEMENT OF NON-TARGET SPECIES**

3. This Resolution sets the maximum number of instrumented buoys active and followed by any purse seine vessels at 350 instrumented buoys at any one time, the active number being calculated as the number of active buoys operated by a purse seine vessel. The number of instrumented buoys that shall be acquired annually for each purse seine vessel is set at no more than 700. An instrumented buoy is considered active when it has been switched on and then deployed. Activation of an instrumented buoy results in an entry in the logbook or the FAD logbook, which specifies the buoy number and the geographical coordinates of its activation. An instrumented buoy may be activated only when physically present on board the purse-seine vessel to which it belongs or its supply or support vessel.

16. Resolution ~~15~~17/08 Procedures on a fish aggregating devices (FADs) management plan, including more detailed specification of catch reporting from FAD sets, and the development of improved FAD designs to reduce the incidence of entanglement of non-target species is superseded by this Resolution.