

## **RESOLUTION 12/08**

### **ON A FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES (FADS) MANAGEMENT PLAN**

#### **The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),**

BEARING IN MIND that the Agreement for the implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA) encourages coastal States and fishing States on the high seas to collect and share, in a timely manner, complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities on, inter alia, vessel position, catch of target and non-target species and fishing effort;

NOTING that the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing provides that States should compile fishery-related and other supporting scientific data relating to fish stocks covered by subregional or regional fisheries management organisations and provide them in a timely manner to the organisation;

RECOGNIZING that all gears deployed to target resources under IOTC competence should be managed to ensure sustainability of fishing operations;

AWARE that the Commission is committed to adopt conservation measures to reduce juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna mortalities from fishing effort on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs);

AWARE that the availability of adequate information is fundamental to carrying out the objectives of the IOTC Agreement laid down in its Article V;

NOTING that the Scientific Committee advised the Commission to conduct an investigation of the feasibility and impacts of a temporary FAD closure as well as other measures in the context of Indian Ocean fisheries and stocks;

RECALLING that the objective of the IOTC Agreement is to ensure, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilization of stocks covered by the mentioned Agreement and encouraging sustainable development of fisheries based on such stocks and minimizing the level of bycatches;

ADOPTS, in accordance with the provisions of Article IX, paragraph 1 of the IOTC Agreement, the following:

1. CPCs having vessels fishing on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) shall submit, to the Commission, by the end of 2013, Management Plans for the use of FADs by their purse seiners and bait boat vessels. The Plans shall at a minimum meet the Suggested Guidelines for Preparation for FAD Management Plans for each CPC (Annex 1). For the purposes of this Resolution, the term Fish Aggregation Device (FAD) means drifting or anchored floating or submerged objects deployed by fishermen for the purpose of aggregating target tuna species.
2. The Management Plans shall include initiatives or surveys to investigate, and to the extent possible minimize the capture of small bigeye and yellowfin tuna and non-target species associated with fishing on FADs.
3. These Plans shall be analysed by the Compliance Committee at its 2014 session. The information provided in these Plans will be submitted to the Commission, consistent with the IOTC standards for the provision of catch and effort data and will be made available for analysis to the Scientific Committee on the aggregation level set by Resolution 10/02, and under the confidentiality rules set by Resolution 98/02.

4. From 2015 on, CPCs shall submit to the Commission, 60 days before the Annual Meeting, a report on the management of FADs, including any reviews of the initially submitted Management Plans.
5. The Scientific Committee will analyse the information, when available, and provide scientific advice on additional FAD management options for consideration by the Commission in 2015.

## Annex 1

### **GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF FISH AGGREGATING DEVICE (FAD) MANAGEMENT PLANS**

To support obligations in respect of the FAD Management Plan (FAD–MP) to be submitted to the IOTC Secretariat by CPCs with fleets fishing in the IOTC area of competence, associated to FAD (anchored or drifting), FAD–MP should include:

- An objective
- Scope:
  - Description of its application with respect to:
    - Vessel-types and support and tender vessels,
    - FAD types (anchored (AFAD) AND drifting (DFAD)),
    - FAD numbers and/or FADs beacons numbers to be deployed (per FAD type),
    - reporting procedures for AFAD and DFAD deployment,
    - catch reporting from FAD sets (consistent with the IOTC’s Standards for the provision of and Effort Data),
    - distance between AFADs,
    - incidental by-catch reduction and utilization policy,
    - consideration of interaction with other gear types,
    - plans for monitoring and retrieval of lost FADs,
    - statement or policy on “FAD ownership”.
- Institutional arrangements for management of the FAD Management Plans:
  - Institutional responsibilities,
  - application processes for FAD and /or FAD beacons deployment approval,
  - Obligations of vessel owners and masters in respect of FAD and /or FAD beacons deployment and use,
  - FAD and/or FADs beacons replacement policy,
  - reporting obligations,
  - observer acceptance obligations,
- FAD construction specifications and requirements
  - FAD design characteristics (a description),
  - FAD markings and identifiers, including FADs beacons,
  - Lighting requirements,
  - radar reflectors,
  - visible distance,
  - radio buoys (requirement for serial numbers),
  - satellite transceivers (requirement for serial numbers).
- Applicable areas
  - Details of any closed areas or periods e.g. territorial waters, shipping lanes, proximity to artisanal fisheries, etc.
- Applicable period for the FAD–MP
- Means for monitoring and reviewing implementation of the FAD–MP.