



ON THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL LIGHTS TO ATTRACT FISH

SUBMITTED BY: MAURITIUS, 13 APRIL 2016

Explanatory Memorandum

Resolution 15/07 prohibits the use of lights on DFADs to the purpose of attracting fish.

This new amendment proposes a precautionary approach, at a time when the 18th Scientific Committee classified the yellowfin as being overfished and subject to overfishing.

Hence the same prohibition needs to be extended to all fishing activities and vessels including support, supply or auxiliary vessels.

The ban on the use of lights for the purpose of attracting fish is already present in the legislative framework of some CPCs and is considered as an efficient management measure to control the fishing effort.



RESOLUTION 16/XX15/07

ON THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL LIGHTS TO ATTRACT FISH ~~TO DRIFTING FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES~~

Keywords: DFADs; fishing vessel; supply; support and auxiliary vessel; lights; non-targeted, associated or dependent species (NTADs).

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

AWARE that the Commission is committed to adopt Conservation and Management Measures to reduce juvenile bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna mortalities from fishing effort on Aggregating Devices;

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

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

MINDFUL of the call upon States, either individually, collectively or through regional fisheries management organisations and arrangements in the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 67/79 on Sustainable fisheries to collect the necessary data in order to evaluate and closely monitor the use of large-scale fish aggregating devices and others, as appropriate, and their effects on tuna resources and tuna behaviour and associated and dependent species, to improve management procedures to monitor the number, type and use of such devices and to mitigate possible negative effects on the ecosystem, including on juveniles and the incidental bycatch of non-target species, particularly sharks and marine turtles;

RECALLING that The Rome Consensus on World Fisheries adopted by the FAO Ministerial Conference on Fisheries, Rome, 14–15 March 1995, provides that “States should...reduce bycatches, fish discards...”;

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

1. Fishing vessels and other vessels including support, supply and ~~supply auxiliary~~ vessels flying the flag of an IOTC Contracting Party~~ies~~ or Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (collectively CPCs) are prohibited from using, installing or operating surface or submerged artificial lights for the purpose of aggregating tuna and tuna-like species or non-targeted, associated or dependent species ~~on drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (DFADs)~~. The use of lights on DFADs is also already prohibited.
2. CPCs shall prohibit their flagged vessels from intentionally ~~setting a purse seine net~~ conducting fishing activities around or near any vessel or device a DFAD equipped with artificial lights for the purpose of attracting fish under the mandate of the IOTC and in the IOTC area of competence.
3. DFADs equipped with artificial lights, which are encountered by fishing vessels operating in the IOTC area of competence, should as far as possible be removed and brought back to port.
4. CPCs shall ensure that any of their flagged vessels equipped with such artificial lights for the purpose of aggregating tuna and tuna-like species or non-targeted, associated or dependent species shall have them removed by 31st December 2016 at the latest.