

Comparison among Proposals on AFADs (Props A and D)

1. Definition

- The colored portions (A: blue, C: red) are those that are different from the current Resolution definitions.

Current Measure	Prop A (EU)	Prop C (MDV&KEN)
<p>a) Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) means a permanent, semi-permanent or temporary object, structure or device of any material, man-made or natural, which is deployed and/or tracked, for the purpose of aggregating target tuna species for consequent capture.</p> <p>c) Anchored Fish Aggregating Devices (AFADs) means a FAD tethered to the bottom of the ocean. It usually consists of a very large buoy and anchored to the bottom of the ocean with a chain.</p>	<p>a) Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) means a permanent, semi-permanent or temporary object, structure or device of any material, man-made or natural, which is deployed and/or tracked, for the purpose of aggregating target tuna species for consequent capture.</p> <p>c) “Anchored Fish Aggregating Device” (AFAD) means a man-made FAD tethered to the bottom of the ocean (full stop).</p>	<p>a) Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) means a permanent, semi-permanent or temporary object, structure or device of any material, man-made or natural, which is deployed and/or tracked, for the purpose of aggregating target tuna species for consequent capture.</p> <p>b) Anchored Fish Aggregating Devices (AFADs) means a FAD tethered to the bottom of the ocean, usually consisting of a buoy and is anchored to the bottom of the ocean (full stop).</p>

2. Application

Current Measure	Prop A (EU)	Prop C (MDV&KEN)
	<p>2. This Resolution shall apply to Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs) having vessels fishing on FADs aggregating tuna species in the IOTC area of competence.</p>	<p>2. This Resolution applies to all CPCs that either deploy AFADs or whose flag vessels fish on AFADs in IOTC area of competence.</p>

3. AFAD Management Plans

Current Measure	Prop A (EU)	Prop C (MDV&KEN)
<p>12. CPCs having vessels flying their flag and fishing on FADs shall submit, to the Commission, on an annual basis, Management Plans for the use of FADs. Due to their specificity in terms of users, type of boat/vessel involved, fishing method and gear used and materials used in their construction, the Management Plans and Reporting Requirements for Drifting FADs (DFAD) and Anchored FADs (AFAD) shall be addressed separately for the purposes of this Resolution. The Plans shall at a minimum follow the Guidelines for Preparation for FAD Management Plans by each CPC as provided for DFADs in Annex I and AFADs in Annex II.</p> <p>13. The Management Plans shall be analysed by the IOTC Compliance Committee.</p> <p>14. The Management Plans shall include initiatives or surveys to investigate, and to the extent possible minimise the capture of small bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna and non-target species associated with fishing on FADs. Management Plans shall also include guidelines to prevent, to the extent possible, the loss or abandonment of FADs.</p> <p>15. In addition to the Management Plans, all CPCs shall ensure that all fishing vessels flying their flag and fishing on FADs, including supply vessels, shall record fishing activities in association with FADs using the specific data elements found in Annex III (DFAD) and Annex IV (AFAD).</p> <p>16. CPCs shall submit to the Commission, 60 days before the Annual Meeting, a report on the progress</p>	<p>31. CPCs shall maintain a register of deployed, lost, abandoned, and discarded AFADs and report this data each year in their annual Implementation Report.</p> <p>32. CPCs with flag vessels fishing on AFADs or with AFADs located in their EEZ shall submit to the Secretariat, each year in their annual Implementation Report, a AFADs Management Plan for the use of AFADs and associated technologies (such as eco-sounder buoy etc...).</p> <p>33. The objectives of the AFAD Management Plan shall be, to the extent possible, to monitor and keep at sustainable levels the impact on small bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna and non-target species associated with fishing on AFADs, include initiatives or surveys to investigate the impact of fishing on AFAD and shall also include the recommendations made by the IOTC Scientific Committee, when available, to prevent the loss or abandonment of AFADs.</p> <p>34. The Management Plan shall at a minimum follow the Guidelines for Preparation for AFAD Management Plan provided in Annex VI and includes the assessment of the implementation of this Resolution and measures taken to achieve the objectives presented in paragraph 30.</p> <p>35. The AFAD Management Plans shall be analysed by the IOTC Compliance Committee and by the IOTC Scientific Committee each in their respective role.</p>	<p>3. CPCs shall develop an AFAD Management Plan in accordance with the Guidelines in Annex I and shall submit this AFAD Management Plan to the IOTC Executive Secretary by 1 January 2024.</p> <p>4. AFAD Management Plans shall be reviewed against the Guidelines in Annex I, by the IOTC Compliance Committee which shall advise CPCs on areas of improvement.</p> <p>5. CPCs shall submit to the Commission, through the Annual Report of Implementation their progress of their AFAD management plans, including, if necessary, reviews of the previously submitted management plans.</p>

<p>of the management plans of FADs, including, if necessary, reviews of the initially submitted Management Plans, and including reviews of the application of the principles set out in Annex III.</p>		
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4. AFAD Identification and Tracking

Current Measure	Prop A (EU)	Prop C (MDV&KEN)
	<p>28. When endorsed by the Commission, CPCs shall respect the scheme to operationalise the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear (VGMFG) in the deployment of AFADs.</p> <p>29. CPCs with flag vessels fishing on AFADs or with AFADs located in their EEZ shall conduct inspections at sea to ensure that the buoys of AFADs are clearly and permanently marked with a specific IOTC AFAD unique identifier to be attributed by the IOTC Secretariat. The standards for the individual marking of AFADs shall be developed by the IOTC Scientific Committee, following preparatory work by the <i>ad hoc</i> working group on FADs and in close collaboration with the Secretariat, at the latest at its 2024 session.</p> <p>30. CPCs with flag vessels fishing on AFADs or with AFADs located in their EEZ shall communicate the number and outcome of inspections conducted on a yearly basis in their implementation report.</p>	<p>6. Until a scheme to operationalise the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear (VGMFG) is developed CPCs shall ensure that their vessels only use AFADs whose buoys contain a physical and unique reference number that identify the CPC and that are clearly visible.</p> <p>7. CPCs shall maintain a register of deployed, lost, abandoned, and discarded AFADs and report this data to the IOTC Executive Secretary in their annual Implementation Report.</p> <p>8. CPCs shall conduct inspections at sea to ensure that the buoys of AFADs are clearly marked.</p>

5. Reporting and Analysis

Current Measure	Prop A (EU)	Prop C (MDV&KEN)
<p>11. All CPCs shall ensure that all fishing vessels as referred to in paragraph 2 shall record fishing activities in association with FADs using the specific data elements found in Annex III (DFAD) and Annex IV (AFAD) in the section of the “FAD-logbook”.</p>	<p>23. CPCs shall ensure that all vessels fishing on AFADs shall record fishing activities in association with floating objects using the specific data elements found in Annex V in the relevant section of the fishing logbook.</p> <p>24. CPCs shall submit these data and information to the IOTC Secretariat, following the IOTC standards for the provision of catch and effort data; these shall be made available for analysis to the IOTC Scientific Committee at the aggregated level set by IOTC Resolution 15/02, and under the confidentiality rules set by IOTC Resolution 12/02.</p> <p>25. CPCs with vessels fishing on AFADs or with AFADs located in their EEZ should encourage the collection and reporting of additional relevant scientific data to help understand the impact of the AFAD fisheries.</p>	<p>9. CPCs shall submit the data elements provided in Annex II to the IOTC Executive Secretary, consistent with the IOTC standards for the provision of catch and effort data, and this data shall be made available for analysis to the IOTC Scientific Committee on the aggregation level set by Resolution 15/01 <i>On the recording of catch and effort data by fishing vessels in the IOTC area of competence</i> and Resolution 15/02 <i>Mandatory statistical requirements for IOTC Members and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPC’s)</i> (or any subsequent superseding Resolutions), and under the confidentiality rules set by Resolution 12/02 <i>Data Confidentiality Policy and Procedures</i> (or any subsequent superseding Resolution).</p>

6. Site Selection and construction of AFADs

Current Measure	Prop A (EU)	Prop C (MDV&KEN)
<p>17. To reduce the entanglement of sharks, marine turtles or any other species, CPCs shall require their flagged vessels to use non-entangling designs and materials in the construction of FADs as outlined in Annex V.</p> <p>18. To reduce the amount of synthetic marine debris, the use of natural or biodegradable materials in FAD construction should be promoted. CPCs shall</p>	<p>26. To reduce the entanglement of sharks, marine turtles or any other species, CPCs deploying AFADs or with vessels deploying AFADs shall ensure that the following guidelines are respected in the design and construction of any AFADs to be deployed in the IOTC Area:</p> <p>a) the use of mesh materials shall be prohibited for</p>	<p>10. CPCs deploying new AFADs or replacing existing ones, shall take into account the nature and profile of the sea bottom when choosing a site and, where possible, avoid sites with steep slopes to minimise the risk of AFAD loss.</p> <p>11. CPCs shall ensure that the upper floatation of AFADs is suitable for offshore, high current</p>

<p>encourage their flag vessels to use biodegradable FADs in accordance with the guidelines at Annex V with a view to transitioning to the use of biodegradable FADs, with the exception of materials used for the instrumented buoys, by their flag vessel from 1 January 2022. CPCs shall, from 1 January 2022, encourage their flag vessels to remove from the water, retain onboard and only dispose of in port, all traditional FADs encountered (e.g. those made of entangling materials or designs). The Page 54 of 307</p> <p>reference year prescribed above shall be reviewed in light of the Scientific Committee’s recommendation pursuant to Resolution 18/04 On BioFAD experimental project.</p>	<p>any part of a FAD; and</p> <p>b) only non-entangling material and designs shall be used.</p> <p>27. To reduce the environmental impact of AFAD loss, CPCs deploying AFADs or with vessels deploying AFADs shall ensure that the following guidelines are respected:</p> <p>a) CPCs deploying new AFADs or replacing existing ones, shall take into account the nature and profile of the sea bottom when choosing a site and, where possible, avoid sites with steep slopes to minimise the risk of AFAD loss;</p> <p>b) CPCs should aim to undertake AFAD deployments during calm weather and low current conditions.</p> <p>c) CPCs shall ensure that the upper floatation of AFADs is suitable for offshore, high current deployments by using designs which are streamlined to reduce drag and resistance to currents and waves;</p> <p>d) CPCs shall consider using a buoy with appropriate radar reflector and/or strobe light on AFADs to assist in locating its low-profile upper floatation system and to reduce its navigational hazard;</p> <p>e) CPCs shall consider using a combination of nylon (sinking) and polypropylene (floating) ropes to create a catenary curve in the mooring system, acting as a shock-absorber to counter elements of the sea (storms, waves, currents);</p> <p>f) CPCs should ensure that AFADS are provided with supplementary buoyancy when deployed at depths</p>	<p>deployments by using designs which are streamlined to reduce drag and resistance to currents and waves.</p> <p>12. CPCs shall ensure that only non-entangling materials are used in the sub-surface aggregates of AFADs.</p> <p>13. CPCs shall encourage to construct AFADs from materials that will ensure increased longevity so that they continue to retain their integrity for the longest lifespan possible.</p> <p>14. The IOTC Executive Secretary in consultation with the Scientific Committee shall develop a best practice guideline for construction of AFADs and submit it to the Commission for adoption no later than the 29th Annual Session of the IOTC.</p>
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	<p>less than 1,500 m to lift the mooring line off the ocean floor;</p> <p>g) CPCs shall consider using AFAD designs where the weight of the anchor is at least three times the buoyancy of the floatation system to counter the constant upward pull on the main line and anchor system; and</p> <p>h) CPCs should construct AFAD from materials that will ensure increased longevity so that they continue to retain their integrity for the longest lifespan possible.</p> <p>i) To reduce the amount of synthetic marine debris, CPCs should ensure that, where sub- surface aggregators are attached to the mooring line, these are constructed from biodegradable materials such as biodegradable aggregator rope or coconut fronds;</p>	
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