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## ON A FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES (FADS) WORKING GROUP

SUBMITTED BY: KOREA, Rep. of

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### About this revision:

Changes are highlighted in yellow.

### Explanatory Memorandum

Considering FADs have gained increasing importance in the IOTC, it would be beneficial for the Commission to have a working group that specializes in FADs and held regularly when making relevant decisions. At 3rd meeting of ad hoc Working Group on FADs (WGFAD) in 2022, it was noted that there was some uncertainty as to the role and reporting structure of the WGFAD and Resolution 15/09 didn't clarify this. Therefore Republic Korea proposes to amend Resolution 15/09. The major goal of this proposal is to clarify the role and task of WGFAD and streamline the terms used in Annex.

**RESOLUTION ~~15/0923~~/XX****ON A FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES (FADs) WORKING GROUP**

**Keywords:** Fish aggregating device (FAD); working group on FADs; drifting FADs; anchored FADs; purse seine

**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;

MINDFUL of the call upon States, either individually, collectively or through regional fisheries management organizations 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;

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;

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

AWARE that the Commission is committed to adopt conservation measures to reduce juvenile Bigeye tuna 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 IOTC 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;

NOTING that the IOTC Scientific Committee recommended that an ad hoc working group on FADs, drifting and anchored, be created to assess the consequences of the increasing number and technological developments of FADs in tuna fisheries and their ecosystems, in order to inform and advise on future FAD-related management options;

NOTING that ICCAT and WCPFC have already approved at their 2014 sessions the establishment of FAD working groups, and that the SC agreed that at least the ICCAT and IOTC working groups on FADs work jointly whenever possible;

NOTING that ad hoc Working Group on FADs was held three times after adoption of the relevant Resolution in 2015;

RECOGNISING that the 3<sup>rd</sup> ad hoc Working Group on FADs noted that there was some uncertainty as to the role and reporting structure and agreed that the working group should be technical in nature;

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

1. A Working Group on Fish Aggregating Devices (WGFAD) shall be established in accordance with Article XII.5 of the IOTC Agreement and Rule XIII.1 of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2022).
2. The Terms of Reference of the WGFAD shall be those prescribed in Annex.
3. The WGFAD shall meet annually as set out in Annex unless otherwise decided by the Commission.

~~1. An ad hoc working group on FADs (hereinafter WGFADAnnex I), drifting and anchored, is created to assess the effectiveness of management measures on FADs consequences of the increasing number and technological developments of FADs in tuna fisheries and their ecosystems, in order to inform and advise on future FAD-related management options including, but not limited to, DFAD Register and DFAD Monitoring system. This WGFADad hoc working group would be of multi sectorial nature, involving various stakeholders such as scientists, fishery managers, fishing industry representatives, administrators and fishers. The WGFADworking group shall deliver its findings in time for to the 2017 IOTC Scientific Committee to review and recommend Commission to considerexamine them. The terms of reference for WGFAD are set out in Annex I.~~

~~The IOTC Secretariat may consider should liaisinge with other RFMO the ICCAT Secretariat to determine if their FAD working group could work in conjunction with the IOTC WGFADworking group.~~

- ~~1. The WGFAD shall meet at least annually as set out in Annex I.~~

## Annex I

### TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN AD-HOC WORKING GROUP ON FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES (WG FADs)

- 1) The WG FAD is a technical and scientific working group to assess the effectiveness of management measures for FADs and provide advice on other potential future FAD-related management options.
- 2) The objectives of the WG FAD ad hoc working group on Fish Aggregating devices (FADs) would be the following:
  - To collect and compile information about past and present numbers of buoys and FADs, changes in FAD-related technology and activities of supply vessels;
  - To review the requirements relating to the collection of data on FADs established in through the Resolution 23/01 and Resolution 23/02 (or any subsequent revisions) Resolution 15/08 [superseded by Resolution 17/08] and in order to provide advice on potential amendments that may be useful assess the necessity for revision;
  - To assess the effect of FAD's density and spatial distribution on the behaviour, distribution and species composition of the tuna schools;
  - To assess the developments in FAD-related technology notably with regards to:
    - changes in catchability due to technological improvement;
    - using FAD and buoys marking and identification as a tool for monitoring, tracking and control of FADs;
    - reducing FAD's the ecological impacts of FADs through improved design, such as non-entangling FADs and biodegradable material.
  - To evaluate ways to improve the use of information related to FADs in the process of stock assessment, particularly in the standardisation of catch per unit effort; and in ecological risk assessment for non-target species;
  - Through an active exchange of views, to identify potential management options, including the regulation of appropriate deployment limits, area closures, set limits, and and characteristics of FADs, and activities of support vessels;
  - To assess the consequences of these FAD management options, in conjunction with other fleets fishing mortality components, on IOTC-managed species and on the pelagic ecosystems;
  - To facilitate the process of establishing DFAD Register and DFAD Monitoring System (DFAD-MS) through providing science based advice and information;
  - To share scientific and technical experience, knowledge and information on current practices and , including challenges in FAD associated fisheries, on implementing Resolution on FADs, for identifying needs for recommending revise of the Resolutions.
- 3) All types of FADs, anchored or drifting, would be considered in the WG FAD ad hoc working group.
- 4) As several coastal states with limited capacities are primarily concerned by anchored FADs, the IOTC Secretariat should ensure that special provisions be made for those countries in terms of compiling and assimilating the data as required for the WG FAD ad hoc working group. This support could be included in the data collection tasks of the IOTC Secretariat.

- 5) The IOTC Secretariat should consider holding a WGFAD via online format or using the meeting participation fund (MPF) to facilitate the participation of scientists from IOTC coastal states Members who would contribute significantly in the WGFAD/FAD working group.
- 6) The access to data used for the WGFAD/FAD working group will follow the confidentiality policy and procedures presented in Resolution 12/02 (or any subsequent superseding Resolution).
- 7) The WGFAD ad hoc Working Group should be composed mainly by scientists and technical experts, but not limited to fisheries managers, fishing industry Representatives, administrators and other interested stakeholders.
- 8) The discussion should prioritise technical documents.
- 7)9) The WGFAD should bear in mind the elements of the Recommendation 12/15.
- 10) The ~~ad hoc Working Group on FAD~~ WGFAD shall meet at least annually ~~would not happen more than once a year~~, and shall report on its work to the Working Party on Tropical Tunas(WPTT), and Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch(WPEB) and Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics annual sessions as appropriate. WPTT and WPEB Relevant Working Parties should make recommendation, as appropriate, to the Scientific Committee.
- 8)11) The WGFAD should report to the IOTC Compliance Committee when necessary.
- 9)12) The IOTC Commission, at its annual session, will review the progress and outcomes of the ~~WGFAD/FAD working group~~ through the Report of the Scientific Committee and might will decide on possible suggested amend~~ments~~ing of Resolution 23/01 and 23/02 (or any subsequent revisions), as appropriate, to apply appropriate FAD-related management measures. ~~the necessity for its continuation.~~