
OUTCOMES OF THE 28th SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 1 JUNE 2026

PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 8th Meeting of the Working Group on FADs (WGFAD08) of the recommendations arising from the 28th Session of the IOTC Scientific Committee (SC) held from 1 -5 December 2025, specifically relating to the work of the WGFAD.

BACKGROUND

At the 28th Session of the SC, the SC noted and considered the recommendations made by the WPTT in 2025 that included requests to address the deficiencies in data collection, monitoring and reporting by CPCs, as well as to carry out targeted research and analysis on FADs. The recommendations on the deficiencies in data collection, monitoring and reporting by CPCs in relation FADs will be discussed in paper IOTC–2026–WGFAD08-05 and are therefore not presented in this paper.

DISCUSSION

The following extracts from the SC28 Report (2025) are provided here for the consideration and action of the WGFAD08:

Update in the WGFAD07

(Para 198) The SC **NOTED** the report of the 7th Working Group meeting on FADs ([IOTC-2025-WGFAD07-R](#)). The meeting was attended by 72 participants (90 participants in WGFAD06 respectively in 2024).

(Para 199) The SC **NOTED** the recommendations from the WGFAD.

(Para 200) **NOTING** that the majority of the structure of most FADs are submerged underwater meaning that reading their unique FAD identifier can be challenging, the SC **NOTED** the WGFAD's recommendation to consider the following while developing a marking scheme: 1) including redundancy or checkbits in DFAD (and buoy) identifiers to allow errors to be identified; 2) embedding QR codes and Radio Frequency Identifiers (RFIDs) in buoys and potentially DFADs so that they can be easily scanned to avoid errors with manual input of the identifiers; 3) create standards for including the ID marking on DFADs, focusing on putting them as close to the surface as possible to facilitate reading their ID; and 4) assess the feasibility of marking bio-FADs.

(Para 201) There was no discussion during the SC regarding this point.

RECOMMENDATION

That the WGFAD:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2026–WGFAD08–03 which outlined the main outcomes of the 28th Session of the Scientific Committee, specifically related to the work of the WGFAD.
- 2) **CONSIDER** how best to progress these issues at the present meeting.