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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND MARKETS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, LAW OF THE SEA AND REGIONAL FISHERIES ORGANISATIONS

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Subject: EU FAD Management Plan

Dear Glenn,

Please find attached the EU's FAD Management Plan.

Please make this available to the other WCPFC parties as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,



Roberto CESARI
Head of EU Delegation to WCPFC

Enclosure: 1



MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES (FAD)

1. Basis and background of this plan

- **Conservation and Management Measure for bigeye and yellowfin tuna (CMM 2008-01).** Pursuant to the provisions of points 23 and 24 of said measure, all the Parties in this Commission shall submit FAD management plans. Moreover, it sets out a FAD fishing closure for the 2009-2011 period.
- **Conservation and Management Measure on the application of high seas FAD closures and catch retention (CMM 2009-02),** which sets out the specifications regarding FAD closure.

2. Objectives

- Improving information collection for scientific advice purposes.
- Contributing to enhanced knowledge of catch composition in FAD sets.
- Increasing knowledge of these devices with regard to their technical features and their possible impact on ecosystems.
- Establishing information-sharing mechanisms among operators, scientists and administrations, in order to achieve better knowledge of progress made in this field and the implications thereof.

3. Scope of application of the present plan

The present plan is aimed at Spanish-flagged freezer tuna purse seiners operating in the Pacific Ocean, within the area of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), targeting tropical tuna.

4. Definitions

The following definitions shall only affect the present plan, in order to enhance understanding thereof.

- **Main vessel:** Fishing vessel making catches and to which catches made are assigned.



- Support vessel: Fishing vessel acting as an auxiliary vessel for main vessels, assisting in fishing; for example in deploying, monitoring and hauling in FADs.
- Fishing activity: Extracting fishing resources in external waters, as well as crustaceans and molluscs, using fishing gears and methods.

Fish Aggregating Device (FAD): Natural or artificial objects deposited on the surface, under which various species aggregate, thus making them more accessible for fishing vessels to locate and catch.

- Types of FADs

- Anchored FADs: Those artificially moored to the seabed to prevent drifting, including support vessels anchored to a seamount.
- Drifting raft with a net: Unanchored FADs composed of a panel—either continuous or grill-shaped—associated with a net used as a sail at sea.
- Drifting raft without a net: Unanchored FADs composed of a panel—either continuous or grill-shaped.
- Natural FADs: Any FAD found at sea (e.g. plant remains, dead animals, man-made waste) used as a FAD.
- Other drifting FADs: Any FAD other than those above.

- FAD-related activities

- Deployment: Operation by which a vessel release a FAD at sea.
- Verification: Operation by which a vessel monitors a previously deployed FAD in order to perform maintenance activities or to check the aggregation of fish around the device.
- Set: Fishing manoeuvre to catch shoals of fish associated with a FAD.
- Hauling: Operation by which a vessel retrieves a FAD from the sea.

- Beacon: Device whose purpose is locating or monitoring a FAD.

- Types of beacons

- GPS beacon: Beacon accompanied by a global positioning system (GPS)
- Radio beacon: Beacon accompanied by a radio system
- Visual beacon: Beacon without any electronic device, only identifiable by sight



- Oceanographic buoy: Buoys used for oceanographic research.

5. Identification of FADs

Each FAD shall have a sequence of characters serving as an identifier for each device to be used. This sequence shall not vary during the device's lifespan.

Operators may choose the identification system, with the only prerequisite that it be individual and unique for each FAD.

Depending on the results obtained through the implementation of the present plan, in the future—if it is considered appropriate—a single marking system may be established for all FADs used by the Spanish fleet.

6. Register and information-sharing regarding FADs

6.1. Inventory

As an initial measure, operators shall send the Deputy Directorate General for Agreements and Regional Fisheries Organizations, by 31 December 2010, a list of operative FADs being used by the fleet at that date.

This list shall include, for each FAD, the information contained in Annex I.

As far as possible, this information should be provided at the detail level of fishing vessels.

This list shall be promptly updated whenever a change takes place, and such updates must be sent at least quarterly.

The aim of this inventory is to provide as much information as possible on the characteristics of FADs being used, and to enable scientists to analyse the data collected in fishing logs thanks to the individual identification of each FAD.

6.2. Specific Activity Register

Operators shall keep a register where FAD-related activities shall be recorded.



The information that must be recorded in this register is included in Annex II of this plan.

If operators use any natural FADs, this information shall also be recorded, and in such cases deployment shall be understood as assigning a beacon, and hauling as withdrawing the beacon. Should this FAD be intended for periodical use, information regarding it shall be included within the inventory envisaged above.

Whenever an activity is conducted involving a FAD that does not initially belong to the fishing or auxiliary vessel that detected it, all the information regarding this activity shall also be reported. The word "external", together with the visible character sequence leading to its identification, shall be recorded in the section corresponding to identification.

Finally, for each activity conducted involving a FAD, every incident regarding accidental catches shall be recorded: species, number of specimens, and number of specimens released alive.

This activity register shall be sent at least quarterly to the Deputy Directorate General for Agreements and Regional Fisheries Organizations.

6.3. Records in fishing logs

In addition to the specific register set forth above, ship captains shall continue to record in the fishing logbook the following information relating to FAD activity.

- FAD sets: The position, date, identification and result of the set shall be recorded.
- As in the above section, all sets involving FADs that do not initially belong to the fishing vessels must be recorded, as well as sets involving natural FADs which will be part of the inventory.
- Catches associated with marine mammals, basking sharks, seamounts, or any element that could affect fish aggregation (dead animals, concentration of diverse materials, etc.), in order to provide the most complete information possible on the set, indicating position, date and result of the set.

7. Monitoring FADs

As far as possible, vessels must record monitoring information for each FAD that has a satellite beacon, based on its assigned number.



Moreover, efforts should be made to record information obtained from other beacons (e.g. visual, radio).

There shall be no obligation to communicate the recorded information. However, such information may be requested in order for the designated scientific personnel to conduct specific studies. This information may be requested, prior approval by the operators for its use.

8. Measures to prevent loss of FADs

Vessel operators shall prevent, as far as possible, loss of FADs at sea.

In the event of a loss or of the impossibility of hauling in a FAD (areas or seasons closed to fishing), operators must record, in the Specific Activity Register, its last known date and position.

9. Measures to mitigate the catch of juvenile tuna and non-target species

The Parties to this plan may propose pilot actions in order to advance in some of the aspects described below.

More selective methods shall be promoted in order to prevent the catch of juvenile fish and associated species, such as sorting grids incorporated into the purse seine, with the aim of reducing the catch of juvenile tuna and associated species.

The use of acoustic methods (sounders, echo sounders) shall be encouraged, aimed at more selective fishing, identifying undesired species or sizes, prior to the set.

Research on alternatives to nets hanging from FADs shall be promoted, in order to prevent the entanglement of some marine species, especially turtles, by using other materials or smaller mesh to minimize these adverse effects.

The Protocol for releasing turtles established for purse seiners by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) shall be taken into account.

10. Specific closures on fishing with FADs

Between 1 July and 30 September, fishing with FADs is forbidden in the area of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), where the following conditions have been established:



- During this closure, operators may not make sets within 1 nautical mile around the FAD.
- Operators may not catch the fish aggregated under a ship, nor may they move these fish, including the use of lights and chumming to attract them.
- FADs and beacons may only be hauled in, following authorization, provided that they are kept on board until disembarkation or the end of the closure, and that no set is made in the 7 following days or within 50 nautical miles around the FAD hauling point.
- Furthermore, regarding the above section, two ships may not cooperate to avoid this measure, and sets made by any ship within 1 nautical mile around the FAD hauling point are forbidden during the 24 following hours.

During the closure, FADs may not be deployed or hauled in.

Finally, it is forbidden to make sets using oceanographic buoys as FADs, given the damage that such operations can inflict on these scientific instruments.

11. Measures to monitor and follow up the present plan

The relevant authorities may perform documentary monitoring of the provisions envisaged in the present plan, and they may require, if necessary, the data described in section 6.

The Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO), as the Spanish scientific authority in this regard, shall be responsible for processing and monitoring the information provided by the operators, and shall be authorized to draft the follow-up reports for this plan and to propose the measures it deems appropriate in order to improve the functioning thereof.

Moreover, the General Secretariat for the Sea may determine, in coordination with the IEO, the participation of other scientific bodies in order to fulfil the objectives set forth in the present plan.

12. Confidentiality measures for the information provided by operators

The information provided by the operators shall be treated as confidential at all times, and its use shall be restricted solely to scientific or monitoring purposes, if necessary. The General Secretariat for the Sea undertakes not to disclose this sensitive information, other than for the aforementioned purposes, without the express consent of the shipowners.



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13. Amendments to the present plan

This plan shall be amended in line with future measures adopted within the WCPFC and with the conclusions of the reports envisaged in **section 11**.



ANNEX I

IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIPTION OF THE FAD		
SIZE	WIDTH	
	LENGTH	
	DEPTH	
NET	SIZE	
	MATERIAL	
	MESH SIZE	
	OTHER	
MATERIAL		
ASSOCIATED BEACON NUMBERS		



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CI SPECIFIC FAD ACTIVITY REGISTER

Vessel _____ Code: _____ Registration No.: _____

Identification	Date	Ship's clock time	Activity	Position	Observations