

FAD Management Plan of Chinese Taipei

Recalling the urgent need to reduce fishing mortality of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna from fishing on fish aggregating devices (FADs) in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, and to comply with the requirements in respect of FAD in CMM-2008-01, Fisheries Agency, Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan (Fisheries Agency) promulgates this Management Plan, which will entry into force in the beginning of January 2010.

1. In this management plan, the term “Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)” means floating object deployed by purse-seine vessel of Chinese Taipei is capable of aggregating fish.

2. The fishing master of purse-seine vessel shall monthly provide FAD deployment information to the Fisheries Agency. The information to be provided shall include;

- (a) The type, structure and specification of FADs;
- (b) The position in latitude and longitude, date of deployment, and number of FAD deployed;
- (c) The species and the weight of catch from fishing on FADs.

3. The strategies to limit the interaction with juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna shall include:

(a) The purse-seine vessel shall not carry more than 30 sets of FAD. Each FAD should be marked with the CT number of carrying vessel and the serial number of FAD.

(b) Any part of a drifting FAD should not be deeper than 25 meters.

(c) Within the area bounded by 20°N and 20°S, purse seine vessels shall be prohibited to fish on FADs from 0000 hours on 1 August 2009 to 2400 hours on 30 September 2009. In 2010, the closure period will be extended from 0000 hours on 1 July to 2400 hours on 30 September in 2010. During these periods,

the purse seine vessel may only engage in fishing operations if the vessel carries on board an observer from the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Regional Observer Program.

(d) The definition of fishing on FADs is that a set with a purse seine net made by a fishing vessel that is within a distance of one nautical mile or less from a FAD at the moment in which the skiff is released into the water for the purposes of that set.

(e) The purse seine vessel shall retain on board and land or transship at port all its bigeye, skipjack and yellowfin tuna regardless whether or not they were caught using FADs. The only exceptions shall be:

i) when, in the final set of a trip, there is insufficient well space to accommodate all fish caught in that set and that excess fish taken in the last set may be transferred to and retained on board another national flag purse seine vessel; or

ii) when the fish are unfit for human consumption for reasons other than size;
or

iii) when serious malfunction of equipment occurs.

4. Fishery Agency will monitor the implementation and compliance of management plan through national observer program or WCPFC Regional Observer Program, with coverage rate 20% in 2009, and that of observer in 2010 will be 100%. In addition, the observer on board will also collect such scientific information where feasible, such as the composition of catch, length and any other biological information that may be required. At the end of an observer trip, the observer shall submit a report to Fisheries Agency.

5. To enhance the knowledge of interaction of juvenile tunas with FAD with a view to minimizing the bycatch of juvenile tunas, the Fisheries Agency encourages collaboration of research between research and the industry. Such research should include the technological solution to reduce fishing mortality of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin, gear configuration, identification of areas with high concentrations of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna, and the areas of closure.

6. This Management Plan may be reviewed from time to time if deemed necessary.