



**TO ALL COMMISSION MEMBERS, COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS AND
PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES**

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FAD Management Options Working Group – Revision 1

Dear All,

At WCPFC11 the Commission approved the establishment of a WCPFC Working Group on FAD Management Options. Its terms of reference may be found in Attachment E of the WCPFC11 Summary Report and is attached for ease of reference. This circular is to update CCMs on the proposed inter-sessional work of the Working Group as discussed with the Chair Mr Brian Kumasi (PNG), and Vice-Chair Mr Raymond Clarke (USA).

There are five issues that were noted in the terms of reference for the Working Group to review and to recommend ways forward to the Commission, as follow:

1. Collection of additional data on FADs and their use in WCPO fisheries;
2. FAD marking, and identification, and use of electronic signatures;
3. FAD monitoring, tracking and control
4. FAD management options; and
5. Advise on options for FAD marking and monitoring for WCPO wide application.

The Working Group is open to all CCMs and shall include participation by PNAO, FFA, SPC, industry, and NGOs, and is also open to other interested WCPFC observers. It is required, to the highest degree possible, to conduct its work electronically, or if convenient and cost-effective, in targeted face to face meetings.

The proposed work of the Working Group will be in three stages as in the subsequent paragraphs.

- i) **Stage one: Consolidate list of reference papers for the Working Group to consider (April – June 2015)**

The Working Group will review the reference papers and study reports identified by terms of reference. CCMs are requested if they have additional papers, document and information that they wish to be considered by the working group, to provide them to the Chair and the Secretariat. Copies of all reference papers deemed relevant to the work of the Working Group will be posted on a page on the secure CCM-side of the website: <https://www.wcpfc.int/FADMgmtOptions-IWG>

ii) **Stage 2: Develop a draft consultation document (April – July 2015)**

All CCMs and other interested stakeholders are requested to submit comments and views on how to progress each of the five issues by **Friday June 15, 2015**.

On receipt of comments and views the Secretariat will work closely with and under the guidance of the Chair and Vice Chair, to analyse and consolidate those comments and views with the view to develop a ‘consultation document’ for the review and comment of all CMMs.

Subject to progress on the inter-sessional discussions, the “consultation document” or parts thereof, if in a suitable form may be presented to SC and TCC in their sessions in August and September 2015 respectively for their review and input.

iii) **Stage 3: Review of progress of inter-sessional work and decide on next steps (July, 2015)**

The Chair and Vice Chair are engaged in ongoing discussions with the Secretariat on the options for a face to face meeting of the Working Group in 2015. The likelihood for such a meeting is contingent on inter-sessional discussions and the progress and status of the ‘consultation document’ that addresses the five issues, however, one opportunity for such a meeting if there is to be one in 2015 is prior to the CDS-IWG and TCC11 meeting in Pohnpei on the 18 – 20 September, 2015. CCMs will be advised well in advance, if there is to be a face to face meeting of the Working Group.

CCMs and other interested stakeholders are kindly requested to submit their comments on the five issues and suggestions of additional reference papers directly to the Chair Mr Brian Kumasi, (BKumasi@fisheries.gov.pg), and the Vice Chair, Dr Ray Clarke, (Raymond.clarke@noaa.gov), with a copy to the Secretariat Compliance Manager, Dr Lara Manarangi-Trott (lara.manarangi-trott@wcpfc.int).

Sincerely,



Feleti P Teo, **OBE**
Executive Director



TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A WCPFC FAD MANAGEMENT OPTION WORKING GROUP

Background

1. At WCPFC10 in adopting CMM 2013-01 the Secretariat was tasked with preparing a report for consideration by the SC, TCC and Commission in 2014. Paragraph 38 of CMM 2013-01 says:
38. The Commission Secretariat will prepare a report on additional FAD management options for consideration by the Scientific Committee, the Technical & Compliance Committee and the Commission in 2014, including:
 - a. Marking and identification of FADs;
 - b. Electronic monitoring of FADs;
 - c. Registration and reporting of position information from FAD-associated buoys; and
 - d. Limits to the number of FADs deployed or number of FAD sets made.
2. As a response to this tasking, on 23 July 2014 the Secretariat sent out WCPFC Circular 2014/60, which provided a number of relevant papers and draft proposals, and proposed the establishment of a working group on FAD Management Options.
3. These terms of reference define the objectives, scope and responsibilities of the working group. They set out the expectations of the Commission with respect to the outputs of the working group. These TORs may be subject to review or modification by the Commission.

Objective

To review the reference papers listed below, as well as other relevant information and advice from SC and TCC, and to recommend a way forward for the Commission on the following issues:

- a. Collection of additional data on FADs and their use in WCPO fisheries;
- b. FAD marking, and identification, and use of electronic signatures;
- c. FAD monitoring, tracking and control;
- d. FAD Management options; and
- e. Advise on options for FAD marking and monitoring for WCPO wide application.

Working group

1. The working group shall be open to all Commission Members and Participating Territories.
2. All CCMs are encouraged to provide input to the work of the working group.
3. To the highest degree possible, the working group shall conduct its work electronically or, if convenient and cost effective, in targeted face to face meetings.

4. The working group shall report to TCC and SC, as appropriate, where the advice and recommendations shall be considered.
5. The working group shall consult with or seek advice from technical experts and industry as necessary.
6. The working group shall include participation by PNAO, FFA, industry, SPC and NGOs, and will be open to participation by any other interested WCPFC observer.
7. The working group shall consider the fisheries information management systems that are proposed or established in the WCPO and other RFMOs for FAD registration and tracking.

Timeframe

The working group and its progress will be reviewed at WCPFC12

References

1. Papers attached to WCPFC Circular 2014/60
 - Feasibility study – PNA FAD tracking and management (Oct 2013)
 - Conservation and Management Measure for the Collection and Analyses of Data on Fish Aggregating Devices – Proposal by the United States of America (WCPFC10-2013-DP05) 5 November 2013
 - Attachment E of CMM 2013-01 – Preparation of FAD Management Plans
 - FFA Proposal on FAD identification and tracking (WCPFC-TCC5-2009/DP-21) 5 October 2009
 - FAD Management – A study on the impacts of fish aggregating devices (FADs) and the development of effective management strategies for their responsible use by industrial tuna fishing fleets – A report prepared for the WTPO (June 2009)
2. Other papers, studies and information suggested at TCC10 to be reviewed by the Working Group
 - a. Preliminary analysis of the Regional Observer Programme data on FAD design (WCPFC-SC10-ST-IP09)
 - b. SPC study which looked at the comparative value of catches from FAD and free school sets, taking into account the relative prices of fish by size class.
 - c. Review measures adopted by other RFMOs on FAD management.
 - d. Any other papers submitted as well as relevant information from SC and TCC
 - e. [Proposed consultancy study to be commissioned in 2015, to analyse commercial implications of FAD usage in order to inform a sensible debate on FAD limits and controls.]