

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

103RD MEETING

**Panama City, Panama
1-5 September 2025**

PROPOSAL IATTC-103 H-1 REV-2

SUBMITTED BY FRANCE-OT

FR-OT PROPOSAL TO AMEND RESOLUTION C-24-06

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

France-Territories is proposing to amend Resolution C-24-06 in order to translate the recommendations of the 9th meeting of the ad hoc working group on FADs as endorsed by the 16th meeting of the scientific advisory committee on FAD retrieval.

The new paragraph 7 is based on the recommendation 5.6 which foresees that FAD satellite buoys that are deactivated pursuant to paragraph 23 of Resolution C-24-01 and drifting south of 10°S Latitude and west of 100°W maintain their signal active exclusively to transmit their position to FAD recovery programs, and remain excluded from buoy limits, provided that sets on these FADs are prohibited for vessels registered with the IATTC, and that they are only maintained active for scientific recovery and analysis purposes.

As the objective of this provision is to support recovery efforts, this proposal seeks to harmonise and streamline the measures relating to FADs retrieval and recovery programs in the resolution C-24-06 related to FAD, without prejudice to the conditions for the activation and deactivation of FAD satellite buoys defined in Resolution C-24-01.

RESOLUTION C-~~254~~-~~XX~~06

**AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION C-23-03 THAT AMENDED
RESOLUTION C-99-07 ON FISH-AGGREGATING DEVICES**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Panama City, Panama, on the occasion of its 103rd Meeting:

Considering that Document SAC-14-16 on the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) to the Commission states the following with respect to fish-aggregating devices (FADs): “Taking into account the importance of FAD recovery, the SAC requests that the Commission clarify if vessels other than authorized purse seiners could carry out this recovery and under what circumstances, and considers, should it be necessary, an update of Resolution C-99-07 on FADs”;

Noting that the fishery on FADs has grown in the last years, in catches of juvenile tunas, in particular yellowfin, in the purse-seine fishery in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Noting that the activity on FADs is one of the main fishing strategies in recent years, making it important to devise solutions for FADs recovery in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Concerned about the reduction in the average size of bigeye tuna caught by the purse-seine fishery in the EPO;

Concerned about the use of non-biodegradable materials in the construction of FADs that might be found abandoned and drifting in the EPO;

Reiterating the need to seek a viable solution to reduce incidental catches of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna in the purse-seine fishery in the EPO;

Reaffirming its commitment to the application of the precautionary approach, which establishes that “[t]he absence of adequate scientific information shall not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures” (Antigua Convention, Article IV, par. 2);

Recalling that under Resolution C- 22-03 (not applicable “to troll vessels, pole-and-line vessels or vessels engaged in the transshipment of fresh fish at sea” par. 3), except under the transshipment monitoring program established by the Resolution, “all transshipment operations in the Antigua Convention Area of tuna and tuna species and sharks (...) must take place in port.” (par. 2);

Recalling that Resolutions adopted by the IATTC at its 61st and 62nd Meetings contained recommendations that the Parties prohibit the use of tender vessels whose role it is to deploy, repair, pick up, or maintain FADs at sea,

1. Recommends to the Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CPCs) under whose jurisdiction vessels operate in the EPO that:
 - (a) CPCs will continue with the scientific working group established in accordance with Resolution C- 99-07 to carry out comprehensive research, in conjunction with the IATTC staff, to include, but not be limited to:
 - i. The relationship between catches of bigeye and yellowfin tuna and the maximum depth of FADs.
 - ii. The effect of the use of baited FADs on catch rates and size composition of the catch of tunas.
 - iii. Estimates of the natural mortality of the various populations of tunas.
 - iv. The establishment of a maximum number of sets on floating objects which the tuna fishery in the EPO can support.
 - v. The catches of tunas and associated and dependent species in the fishery on floating objects between 130°W and 150°W.
 - vi. The impact of permanent or temporary closure of areas to the use of FADs, especially in combination with other regulatory measures being considered by the Commission.
 - vii. The feasibility of a program to place observers on purse-seine vessels smaller than Class 6 (≤ 363 metric tons carrying capacity) and the appropriate level of observer coverage necessary to obtain reliable scientific information.
2. CPCs shall prohibit the use of tender vessels operating in support of vessels fishing on FADs in the EPO, without prejudice to similar activities in other parts of the world.
3. The Director shall continue research into the use of fishing gear and/or techniques to reduce the catch of small tunas and the bycatch of non-target species and continue to report to the Commission on the results of this research.
4. The Scientific Advisory Committee shall, in co-operation with the IATTC staff and fully involving the Ad Hoc Permanent Working Group on FADs, provide advice to the Commission

in view of its 103rd Session on the potential benefits and modalities of implementation of a FAD register, coherently with the approach which is being implemented in other RFMOs.

5. To prevent drifting loss or stranding, CPCs are encouraged to initiate recovery programs of drifting FADs through cooperative initiatives among fishing vessels operating in the Convention Area or vessels implementing projects for the recovery of such FADs. Without restricting regular fishing operations of purse seine vessels fishing with FADs, such recovery activities shall be limited to the collection of drifting FADs for final disposal and not to perform any type of maintenance or adjustment. Except for authorized tuna purse seine vessels, these vessels shall not deploy FADs. Drifting FADs collected under the voluntary recovery program shall be taken on board and brought to port for recycling or disposal. The provisions of this paragraph shall be in effect until 31 December 2028, while the initial results are analyzed. This paragraph shall be applied without prejudice to the existing obligations of fishing vessels including those in other IATTC Resolutions.

6. CPCs that decide voluntarily to initiate these programs shall report all associated information on FAD recovery activities to the IATTC Secretariat by either directly entering data into the IATTC/SPC Recovery database or by completing and submitting the FAD sighting form from Appendix 3 of FAD-09-INF-A, so that exclusively and for scientific purposes, the scientific staff, complying with rules of confidentiality, can analyze the data on a year-by-year basis and report these results to the Ad Hoc Permanent Working Group on FADs and the SAC, information which may be used exclusively for the corresponding purposes.

7. ~~For the purpose of assisting FAD recovery efforts and without prejudice to the active buoy limits established in Resolution C-24-01~~, CPCs shall require vessel owners and operators flying their flag to keep the FAD satellite buoys signal active when drifting between south of 10°S and 25°S¹ Latitude and west of 100°W exclusively to share their position to FAD recovery programs or other vessels capable of retrieving FADs as described in paragraph 5. These satellite buoys shall be considered “non-fishing dFADs” ~~The buoys and~~ remain excluded from ~~buoy-active dFADs~~ limits pursuant to paragraph [23] of Resolution [C-24-01], provided that ~~sets on these FADs are prohibited, and they are only maintained active for recovery purposes.~~

- i. The buoys only send data on location for recovery purposes²;
- ii. CPC shall prohibit vessels from fishing on these dFADs ;
- iii. The buoy location is provided by the buoy service providers ;
- iv. The data shall be shared with a frequency of at least one position per day;
- v. The position shall not be visible for the owner of the dFADs;
- vi. The buoys of “non-fishing dFADs” shall emit location for at least 6 months when drifting in the area as defined in this paragraph ;
- vii. In 2027, the FAD WG and SAC should analyse dFAD recovery data and make an appropriate recommendation to the Commission for adjusting the length of time dFAD locations must be shared with FAD recovery entities.

~~7. Deactivation of a satellite buoy~~

¹ This paragraph will amend the corresponding latitude in paragraph [23] of Resolution [C-24-01]

² A field for “echosounder = on/off” shall be added to the required data fields in Annex IV of Resolution [C-24-01]

~~a. As required in Resolution [C-24-01], deactivation of a satellite buoy attached to a FAD may only be done in the following circumstances:~~

- ~~i) complete loss of signal reception;~~
- ~~ii) appropriation of a FAD by a third party;~~
- ~~iii) temporarily during a selected closure period;~~
- ~~iv) for being outside of:
 - ~~(1) the area between the meridians 150° W and 100° W, and the parallels 8° N and 25°S³ (see Figure 1); or~~
 - ~~(2) the area between the meridian 100° W and the coast of the American continent and the parallels 5° N and 15°S; or~~~~
- ~~v) or transfer of ownership.~~

~~CPCs shall report, or require their vessels to report, deactivations to the Secretariat using the specific data fields indicated in Annex II of Resolution [C-24-01]. The reports shall be submitted at monthly intervals with a time delay of at least 60 days, but no longer than 90 days after the deactivation. The FAD Working Group, based on advice from the IATTC scientific staff, shall provide to the SAC and the Commission advice on any required adjustments.~~

~~b. CPCs shall require vessel owners and operators flying their flag to share real time location data for satellite buoys on FADs that drift to a location that is south of 10° S, and west of 100° W with FAD recovery programs described in paragraph 5 or other vessels capable of retrieving FADs. Satellite buoys south of 10° South and west of 100° W that are not deactivated and only providing location data for the purpose of final disposal shall be considered “non-fishing FADs” and shall not count towards active FAD limits in paragraph [20] of Resolution [C-24-01], provided that:~~

- ~~i) data is shared as described in this paragraph;~~
- ~~ii) the buoys only send data on location⁴;~~
- ~~iii) CPCs or their vessels share the real time buoy location data to entities engaged in FAD recovery operations or other vessels capable of retrieving FADs as described in paragraph 5; and~~
- ~~iv) the CPC prohibits vessels from fishing on the FADs described in this paragraph and Resolution [C-24-01].~~

³ ~~This paragraph will amend the corresponding provision in paragraph [23] of Resolution [C-24-01]~~

⁴ ~~A field for “echosounder = on/off” shall be added to the required data fields in Annex IV of Resolution [C-24-01]~~

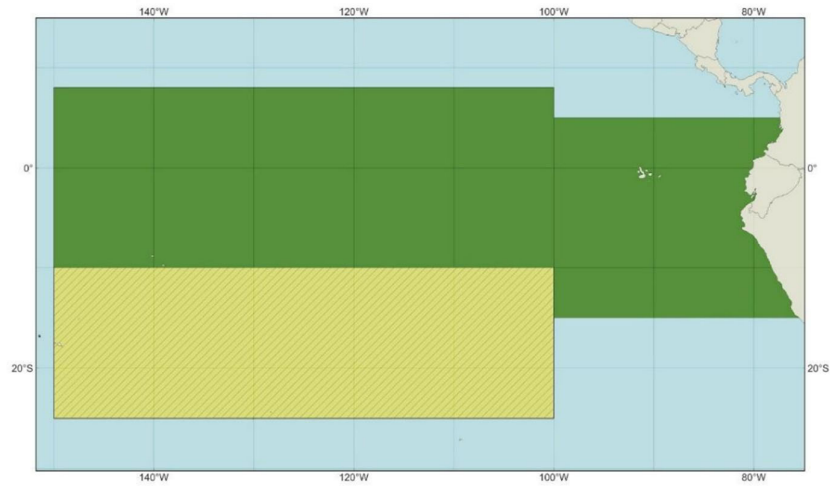


Figure [1]. Dark green is the current area where buoys must remain active. The yellow area is the expanded area for buoys to be active as described in paragraph [7].