The impact of FAD on food security of Coastal Community in Somalia

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Introduction

The widespread use of fish aggregating devices (FADs) in tuna fisheries has become an increasingly important management concern. FADs are floating objects, either natural or artificial, used by fishers to attract fish and make them easier to catch. There are two basic designs of FAD: those that are anchored in place (anchored, or aFADs) and those that are untethered and free to drift on the ocean surface (drifting, or dFADs). While fishers regard the use of FADs as a highly effective way to improve catch rates and reduce operating costs. FADs are anchored to the sea floor, close to the coast to allow access for coastal communities, improve work conditions and safety, possible job creation, decrease in search time and fuel use.

In Nov 2015, through an initiative of FAO with international support and finance, 25 FADS were deployed at the strategic sites along the coastal regions in Somalia, to try to lay the foundation for an expanding Somali fishery based on exploitation of the migratory large pelagic stocks of the Somali coast. These migrating stocks are made available to artisanal fishermen using low impact fishing gears. Through the use of FADs, each individual fishing trip has become more productive, use less fuel and, through vessel co-ordination, a much safer visit to the offshore fishing grounds were provided. The increased catches from around the FADs, plus the existing fish landings provided the basis for the value chain development, job creation and associated employment, FADs can result in high retention of larger, high-value target fish; make fishing a more sustainable livelihood.

This paper sets out the impact status of FADs on the Somali artisanal fisheries identifying a number of key challenges and opportunities, as well as contributes to filling the information deficit in the use of near shore FADs as fisheries management tools and as contributors to food security in the Somali region.

In order to place the impact of these fishing techniques in context, this study firstly conducted a baseline of a descriptive analysis of the marine fishery in terms of catch, effort and participation of fishers over period of Five months (Nov 2018 to Jan 2019)

Methodology

The study gives the focus on coastal villages in the east and northern-east districts of the country and the specific location deployed the FAD Tools. The study employs purposive sampling technique to select individuals ranging from the coastal areas of Mogadishu (the Capital of The Country) to the villages to north east of EYL region of the country. At each village, fishing catch and effort is collected by using mixed of data collection method. Social statistics package (19.0) is used to analytically interpret the research data, tables, pie charts and bar charts are used to graphically demonstrate the results of the study

Results

With population growth, rising food prices, Small-scale fisheries have always played an important role in providing livelihoods for coastal communities in the country, much of the fish consumed is caught by artisanal or subsistence fisheries and some are sold, contributing to the livelihoods where FADs are very important tool that provide food and livelihoods for coastal communities in the country and economically take advantage of pelagic fish resources to make a valuable contribution toward filling any potential shortfall in fish needed for food security.

There are about 10,000 artisanal fishers in Somalia, and 90,000 individuals (family members, processors, traders and other service providers) whose income depends indirectly on fishing.

Drawing on the findings of this study, a range of evidence-based conclusions began to emerge about the implementation of near shore FADs. As coastal populations pursue development of a national FAD program, the technical aspects of deployment to maximize FAD longevity, such as site selection and the design of the FAD becomes critical. The experience of villagers continues to augment expertise and bring new innovations in

design, maintenance and redeployment. Communities need the information and space to assess the likely benefits and trade-offs needed to manage the introduction of such a livelihood opportunity.

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