

1: Marine Structures - Journal - Elsevier

The purpose of the Ship Structure Committee (SSC) is to promote safety, economy, education, and marine environmental protection in the U.S. and Canadian maritime industry through the advancement of marine structures technology.

Traditional FADs are large structures, typically with buoys, netting, or other components made of long-lasting, plastic materials. When FADs are lost or abandoned, there are impacts associated to marine litter and interference with other economic activities such as tourism. Lost FADs can persist in the ocean for years as marine litter, or damage vulnerable habitats such as coral reefs. Plastics used in FADs that remain in the ocean can break down into smaller micro-particles and could enter the food web. Potential Solutions Examined in the Workshop At the workshop, participants acknowledged both the lack of global data on FAD beaching events and the importance of studying FAD trajectories to understand the fate of those structures and ultimately find solutions to minimize their impact. They also shared opinions on the feasibility of each approach in the short and long term – eliminating the options they felt would be ineffective. Concluding Recommendations from Workshop Participants The workshop resulted in eight initial recommendations for continuing research and actionable steps to avoid or minimize FAD ecosystem impacts: Develop a guide of good practices for tuna purse seiners and auxiliary vessels with the aim to reduce the loss and abandonment of FADs, as well as to facilitate their collection. Identify main beaching zones by establishing priority areas based on the vulnerability of the habitat and the degree of stranding. If possible, based on real FAD trajectories, collaborate with ship owners and buoy manufacturers or, failing that, use FAD drift models. Simplify the structure of the FAD as much as possible. Conduct studies to find simple structures that meet the needs of the fleets. Study the trajectories of FADs based on the position and time of deployment to determine the deployment areas with the highest risk of FAD loss and causing ineffective fishing effort. Study the dynamics of deployment and stranding events in fishing areas close to shore, in order to better manage those areas change deployment zone, limit deployment according to distance to coast, or season of the year – with reference to currents – use anchored FADs, etc. In the projects on FAD retrieval from the coast, ensure the efficiency of the collection system, determine the minimum requirements for the vessels that would recover FADs, as well as ensure the proper management of the waste on land. Carry out workshops in each ocean with the participation of scientists and fishers to define the potential solutions and recommendations of this document, based on the characteristics of each ocean. In parallel and as an important complementary initiative, ISSF is researching non-entangling biodegradable FADs made of natural materials to avoid marine pollution and reduce bycatch in tuna fisheries. Related pilot projects are underway in the three oceans where FADs are fished. The workshop report is authored by G. This Project harnesses the efforts of a large and diverse array of partners, including the five tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, governments, inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and private sector to achieve responsible, efficient and sustainable tuna production and biodiversity conservation in the areas beyond national jurisdiction. To learn more, visit <https://>

2: SSC Re-Soliciting Research Project Recommendations

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6: Ocean Engineering | Mechanical Engineering

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