



**COMMISSION  
FIFTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Honolulu, Hawaii, USA  
10 – 14 December, 2018

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**ISSF FAD Presentation**

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**WCPFC15-2018-OP15**

**10 December 2018**

**1540**

**Submitted by  
ISSF**



# ISSF Sponsored FAD Research

WCPFC 15 – Side Event  
December 10, 2018  
Honolulu

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Vice President, Policy & Outreach



# Collaborative research with universities & institutes worldwide



MARINE RESEARCH CENTRE  
Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



UNIVERSITAT  
POLITÈCNICA  
DE VALÈNCIA



# FAD Research Priorities in the Field

✓ Address undesired mortality of tuna

✓ Lessen the impact of FADs on by-catch species, with special focus on sharks.

✓ Reduce **FAD structure impact** on ecosystem

# Impact of FAD structure on ecosystem

## Research

Coconut fiber tests under **controlled** conditions (Hawaii)

Cotton ropes tests under **controlled** conditions (Maldives)

**Large scale** test of cotton ropes in fishing conditions, IO

2015

2016

2017

2018

ICCAT, IATTC, IOTC  
RES: undertake research, promote use of biodegradable materials

Workshop on the use of biodegradable FADs (fishers + scientists from 3 oceans)

WCPFC CMM 2017-01 promotes use of natural or biodegradable materials.

Biodegradable FAD design workshop with **Ghanaian** fleets

FAD retrieval workshop

## Workshops

2010

Regular skippers workshops: ideas & opinions on biodegradable FADs

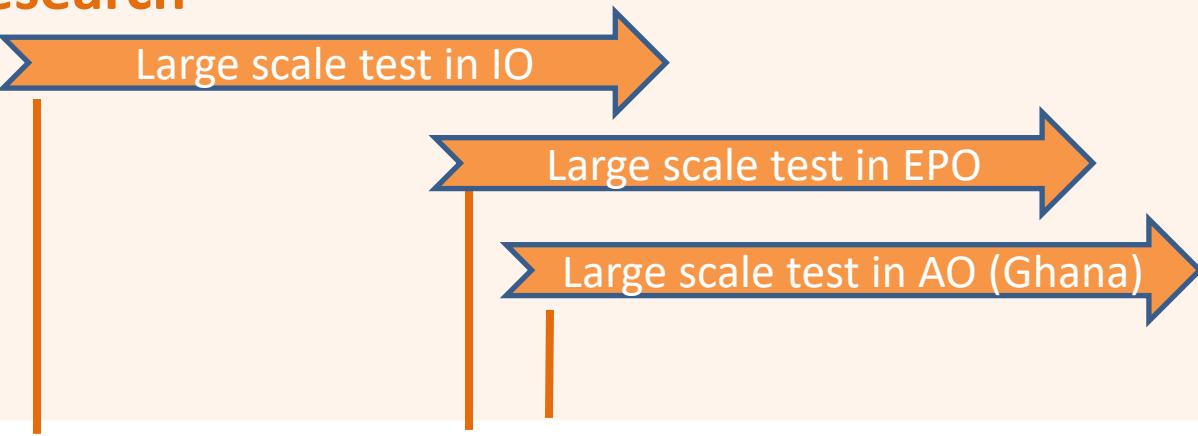
# 2015-2018 projects & workshops: Lessons learned

## Biodegradable Materials

- ✓ Twisted cotton ropes are best alternative to replace current synthetic materials in submerged part of FAD
- ✓ There are other fibers from natural origin with potential in South America & Africa, but there is not presently industrialization to support the demand required for FADs
- ✓ Research is needed to find a biodegradable material for the floatation (which is a key factor for the lifetime of a FAD); in South America, balsa wood could be an option (under test).
- ✓ There are synthetic biodegradable materials that could be tested if they are innocuous for the marine environment

# FAD Research: NEXT STEPS

## Research



2018

2019

2020

Biodegradable FAD design workshop with fleets in the Western Pacific

**Exploring:** (1) FAD retrieval workshop in the WCPO  
(2) Pilots to test bioFADs in the WCPO  
(3) Pilots to retrieve FADs in the EPO

Participation on FAD retrieval workshop in EPO

## Workshops



Since  
2010

Regular skippers workshops: share research results on biodegradable FADs

# Next Steps

## BIODEGRADABLE FAD WORKSHOP—2016

<http://iss-foundation.org/knowledge-tools/technical-and-meeting-reports/download-info/issf-2016-11a-workshop-on-the-use-of-biodegradable-fish-aggregating-devices-fads/>

- ✓ Testing in fishing conditions a significant large number of biodegradable FADs – Atlantic and Indian Oceans
- ✓ Workshops with fishers and scientists for the recovery of FADs
- ✓ Explore opportunities for pilots to test bioFADs and hold retrieval workshop n the WCPO
- ✓ Test retrieval options in the EPO

# THANK YOU!

