ISSF research on Fish Aggregating DeviceS

Over 40% of global tuna catch is based on floating objects, including FADs



The controversy surrounding FAD use is about the number of small tuna and non-target species captured or entangled

Of highest concern are effects on sharks and small bigeye tuna (region-dependent)

FAD fishing can also impact sea turtles and other finfish such as wahoo, dolphinfish, rainbow runner and billfish

FADs are floating rafts designed to attract fish often with hanging components

Many FADs have tracking devices attached

Marine species are drawn to any floating object

> A purse seine vessel encircles the FAD and species aggregated near by



ISSF is investigating ways to lessen the impact on non-target species

ISSF Recommendations





can reduce bycatch with little impact on total target catch

Ongoing FAD Research

Technical methods to reduce catch of small bigeye tuna and impacts to sharks and other finfish by purse seine vessels, include:

> Echo-sounder buoys to remotely assess the amount of small bigeye tuna around FADs



potential reduction of under-sized tuna caught

Acoustic & visual means to assess the species composition and behavior of fish aggregations around FADs and in the net

Acoustic tagging and tracking of bigeye and non-target species around FADs

Comparison of shallow vs deep hanging components on bigeye catch

Double FAD experiments to examine potential to separate bycatch from tuna on adjacent FADs





potential reduction of bycatch through avoidance or selective release; i.e. escape panels, backdown procedure

potential avoidance of small bigeye and non-target species

potential avoidance of small bigeve

potential avoidance of small tuna and non-target species

For More Information, visit iss-foundation.org