

## INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

### RESOLUTION ON FISH-AGGREGATING DEVICES

OCTOBER 1998

*The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)* expresses its concern that the fishery for tunas in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) associated with artificial floating objects, known as fish-aggregating devices (FADs), results in catches with very high proportions of tunas which have not yet reproduced and are of no commercial value, with the result that they are discarded, and also the bycatch of a great diversity of non-target associated species, and

*Recommends* that the High Contracting Parties adopt the following measures:

1. Prohibit the use of tender vessels, whose role is to deploy, repair, pick up, or maintain FADs at sea;
2. Prohibit the transshipment of tuna on the high seas by purse-seine vessels fishing for tunas in the EPO;
3. Limit the number of FADs that a purse-seine vessel can carry aboard in the tuna fishery in the EPO. This limit shall be decided through consultations among the Parties, based on recommendations of the Working Group.

*Invites* states which are not members of the Commission, but which fish for tunas in the EPO, to adopt these measures.

*Agrees* to establish a working group for the study and determination of short- and medium-term measures for regulating the fishery for tunas associated with floating objects which will contribute to the sustainable use of the tuna resources of the EPO.

*Agrees* to consider the results of the deliberations of the Working Group and the advice of the IATTC staff during the next regular meeting of the Commission in order to take the appropriate actions.