

Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO/COMHAFAT)

29th meeting of LDAC Working Group 1
Highly Migratory (Tuna and Tuna-like) Stocks and its RFMOs
ATLAFCO CONTRIBUTION



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Outline of the presentation



- The status of the study on FADs
- The regional program of observers at sea
- The regional program of harmonization of port control protocols



The status of the study on FADs and the application of ICCAT standards in ATLAFCO countries



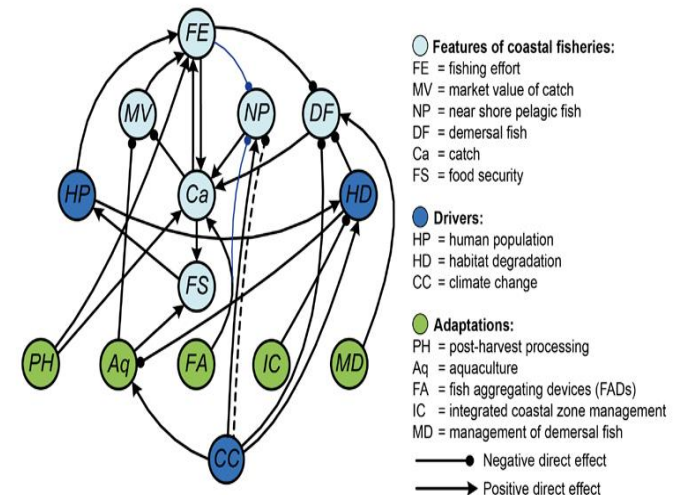
-Context of the consultation-

- For more than 10 years, scientists, managers and NGOs have been sounding the alarm about **the harmful consequences that can result from the irrational use of these FADs**
- They point out that these techniques are likely to **harm both the target species and the species caught incidentally** and that this technique **should be practiced in accordance** with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (adopted by the FAO in 1995)
- There is therefore a **risk that the waters of the ATLAFCO convention area will be threatened by overexploitation of their fishery resources**
- The tuna RFMOs have set up a **WG** to study the use of FADs, but so far the results of its work have not resulted in recommendations that can come into force



Consistence and objectives of the study

- ❑ In this context (ATLAFCO) contracted in 2021, (IRD) to carry out an evaluation of the use of these fishing's tools within its convention area
- ❑ This project has been structured around 05 major axes, namely:
 - ❑ **Compile existing information** on the extent of FADs use in the ATLAFCO convention area;
 - ❑ **Examine the impacts** of their use on the yields of the various fisheries in the area
 - ❑ **Examine the impacts** of their use on the fishery resources present in the ATLAFCO convention area, on marine biodiversity and on pelagic and coastal habitats,
 - ❑ **Examine the impacts** of FADs on the economy and food security of communities in ATLAFCO States;
 - ❑ **Assess the management options of drifting FADs** aimed at mitigating their effects and guaranteeing the good health of offshore marine ecosystems and the sustainability of the fisheries of ATLAFCO States





Conclusions and recommendations to manage/mitigate the effects and use of FADs



- The responsibility is institutionally borne by **ICCAT**, which **has made significant progress in the management of FADs in recent years**
- Its initiatives in favor of a more sustainable use of **personal data are mainly organized around regulatory provisions aimed at:**
 - **Improve the collection and provision of data** relating to the use of FADs by the various flags;
 - **Control the use of FADs through limitations** imposed on the number of active FADs per vessel, and spatio-temporal closures of fishing under these devices;
 - **Mitigate environmental impacts** arising from the entanglement of non-target species, loss and standings of FADs, through regulatory requirements on the use of non-entangling FADs and the promotion of a transition of fleets to FADs designed with materials biodegradable;



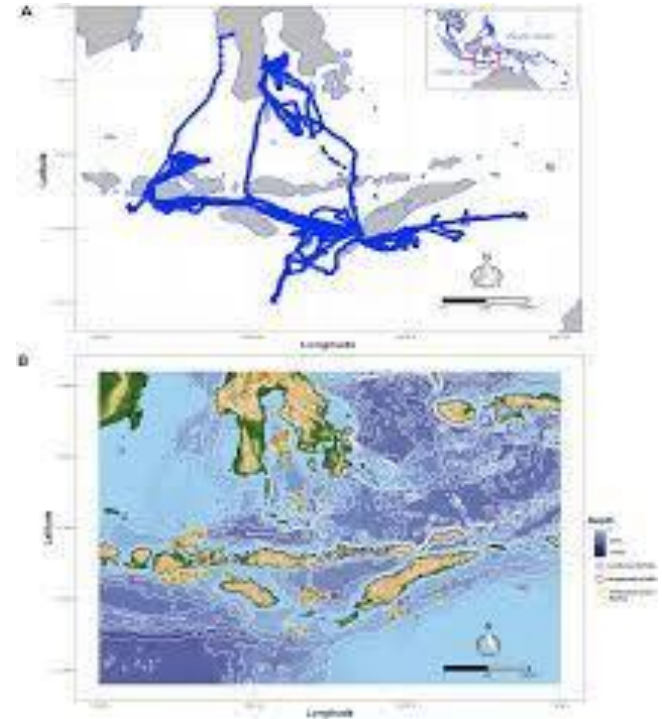
The analysis of the regulatory system deployed by ICCAT has however made it possible to identify **points for improvement likely to contribute to more effective management of FADs**, particularly with regard to the **socio-economic and environmental challenges of African coastal States**



Summary of recommendations and proposed management options to manage/mitigate the effects of FADs



- ❑ **Improving** provision and availability of FADs data
- ❑ **Reinforcing** FADs use control measures
- ❑ **Improved** monitoring and traceability of deployed FADs
- ❑ **Implementing** FADs recovery and end-of-life strategies
- ❑ **Deploying** additional efforts vis-à-vis the impacts of FADs on bycatch, particularly bony fish other than sharks and rays
- ❑ **Strengthening** the mechanisms for monitoring compliance with the provisions relating to the design of FADs



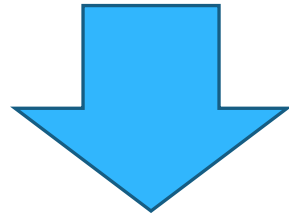


The regional program of observers at sea and the regional program of harmonization of port control protocols



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- ❑ The regional dimension of IUU fishing in the ATLAFCO area
- ❑ The need to strengthen the monitoring of fishing vessel activities



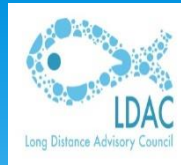
Require consideration of on-board observation and port inspection in the context of an integrated regional approach, ensuring sustainable exploitation of fishery resources

- ❑ In supporting the African region of the Atlantic, following the Rabat Declaration on Regional Cooperation in the fight against IUU fishing adopted by the 9th Ministerial Conference ATLAFCO in September 2014 and the recommendations of the Marrakech workshop on MCS of October 2015, the Secretariat of ATLAFCO commissioned 02 studies for the region.
- ❑ One relating to the implementation of a regional observation onboard program and the other related to the establishment of a Regional Harmonized Port Inspection Program.





The regional program of observers at sea and the regional program of harmonization of port control protocols



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- ❑ With the assistance of the Grouping of African Maritime Training Establishments (REFMA), a specialized body, ATLAFCO entrusted
- ❑ The Regional Academy of Maritime Sciences and Techniques (ARSTM) of Abidjan(Côte d'Ivoire) with the training of onboard observers which brought together 20 auditors from eleven (11) African member countries of ATLAFCO and took place from 08 to 26 November 2021
- ❑ The Higher Institute of Marine Fisheries (ISPM) of Agadir(Morocco) with the training of port inspectors which brought 15 senior fisheries inspectors from eleven (11) African member countries of ATLAFCO and took place from 25 November to 09 December 2021
- ❑ Both sessions were for the benefit of participants from French speaker countries
- ❑ These training sessions were for each of the participants and each of the trainers, a great opportunities for discussion and sharing of experiences



Regroupement des Etablissements de Formation Maritime Africains
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The regional program of observers at sea and the regional program of harmonization of port control protocols



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- The objective of these sessions is to strengthen the capacities of executives operating within the Directorates and bodies in charge of inspections and Fisheries MCS as well as observers of ATLAFCO countries on topics related to regulations relating to fisheries management



- At the end of these training session, the following capacities were sought at the level of the participants:
 - Mastering ethics, the inspection and observation missions and **being able to exercise its function in complete transparency with integrity**
 - Master the national and international legislation in force and applicable in terms of **good governance of fisheries**
 - Master the procedures for monitoring and sharing information at **the national, sub-regional and regional levels**
 - Master the ICCAT **Standard Operating Procedures**
 - Master the Port State Control **measures**



Thanks for your attention



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The End

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