



WESTERN PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

WPRFMC Community FAD Program Questionnaire for Interested Communities

Introduction

Fish aggregation devices (FADs) have been used in Hawaii for decades as an effective method to attract pelagic species targeted by commercial, recreational, and subsistence fishermen. The State of Hawaii maintains a network of FADs to promote fisheries production and maintain recreational fishing opportunities, however, criticism by fishermen of the State's FAD system has focused on FAD design and the time it takes the State to replace a detached FAD.

In recent years, fishermen have been deploying private FADs (PFADs) within State (0-3 nm) and Federal (3-200 nm) waters around Hawaii. The majority of these PFADs are illegal in that the owners have not acquired appropriate authorization from the U.S. Coast Guard or, if applicable, other authorizing agencies. The proliferation of PFADs in Hawaii has raised questions such as what effects, if any, are the PFADs having on the movements or migration patterns of species such as yellowfin and bigeye tuna; what types of fish are attracted to FADs (including their life stage); the rate or duration of retention; and the effects on seasonal fish movements.

Community FADs

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (Council) recognizes that legally deployed community FADs (CFADs) have the potential to provide a wide range of community benefits, as well as ability to provide the responsibility, design, and location of the CFADs under the care of a community. The Council also recognizes that FADs are increasingly becoming a management issue, and that scientific information regarding the effect of FADs on targeted pelagic species is missing, thus CFADs offer an opportunity for valuable cooperative research. For these reasons, the Council supports CFADs to enhance fishing opportunities and to provide community benefits as well as to promote cooperative fisheries research involving local fishermen and fisheries scientists.

The following questionnaire is directed at communities that are interested in receiving support from the Council to establish a CFAD.

For further information regarding the Council's CFAD program, contact Eric Kingma at (808) 522-8220.

Questionnaire

- 1). What community are you a member of, and is this community interested in a CFAD?

- 2). How many people are in your community?

- 3). How many fishermen from your community would use the CFAD?

- 4). Where would the CFAD be located and at what depth?

- 5). What type of fish would be targeted, and what types of fishing gear would be used?

- 6). Will the fish caught off the CFAD be sold? If so, what are the primary markets?

- 7). Will the fish caught off the CFAD be shared within the community?

- 8). Have fishermen within your community formed an association, club, or cooperative?

- 9). Would fishermen in your community be willing to submit trip or monthly catch reports from fishing off the CFAD to the Council?

- 10). Would fishermen in your community be willing to participate in tagging studies or other types of cooperative research?