

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS

(arising from ScC-SC8)

FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES

UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.25.1.3

(ScC-SC8 Agenda item 8.1.3)

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

The Sessional Committee noted the following issues:

- The regulations mentioned in Annex 1, page 7 have been repealed by the binding Recommendation GFCM/46/2023/14 (repealing Recommendations GFCM/30/2006/2, GFCM/43/2019/1 and GFCM/44/2021/11);
- GFCM has a Multi-annual Fisheries management plan for Mahi mahi as well as a regional action plan for fisheries interaction with vulnerable species in place with similar recommendations;
- Relating to draft Decision 15. BB b) an observer noted that ACCOBAMS will be implementing its second survey initiative (ASI2) in summer of 2026 (using vessels and airplanes) – this could be a source of information to gather further information regarding FADs;
- The recommendations in Annex 1 are useful but a collaboration between CMS and RFMOs will be key if there should be implementation.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP15

The Scientific Council recommends to adopt the draft Decisions with amendments as specified below.

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS/ INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR TEXT REVISION

The following text is proposed for deletion in draft Decisions (page 9 of the document):

15.AA b) [Parties are encouraged to] report to the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on implementation of the Decision.