21105 Market Street, Sute 17110 215.575.9050 Phone
Phladephia. P.4 19103-7077 215.575 4919 Fax
001 E Sfwct NW 10th Floor 202.5522000 Phone

Washington, DC ZOO04 202.552.2299 Fan
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Fish Aggregating Devices:
In November 201 1, experts from 40 countries attended the International Symposium, "Tuna Fisheries and FADs." The outcome of the symposium included several important conclusions regarding FAD use. These conclusions are as follows:
The unconstrained proliferation of FADs has resulted in negative impacts on target and non-target species.
. Bycatch levels for FAD fisheries are high, and include catches of oceanic sharks, marine turtles, billfish and some pelagic bony fish.
lncreased FAD use has led to large increases in fishing mortality ofjuvenile yellowfin
and bigeye tuna, which contributes to "growth 0vertishing"- the catching of too many
fish before they reach a size at which maximun growth and productivity would be
obtained from the stock.

The outcome of the syn~posium also yielded a number of recommendations to tackle these challenges and improve FAD management. A summary of these recominendations can be found in a factsheet compiled by Pew."

ICCAT implemented measures in 201 1 to collect data on FAD use and required FAD
management plans by flag States using this gear. However, a lack of observers on vessels using
this gear and fishing in ICCAT waters severely limits the verification of FAD data. The Inter-
American Tropical Tuna Con~mission (IATTC) has 100% observer coverage for its vessels using
this gear and they are required to report when FADs are deployed and retrieved, but it has failed
to manage FAD use. The Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) calls for
volunt Tc -0.0109 Tc 3.914(Pasub(WCPFC) 55)-11(rec-264(The4(plans)]TJ ET /Suspect << 0 0 11.5 19.878urThe in developing FAD management plans; there have

some effective
efforts to control FAD proliferation.

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Philadelphia, PA 1W303-7077 215515 4939 Fax

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Washington. DC 20004 202.552 2299 Fax
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catch data provided to the FAO.~ This analysis suggests that shark fisheries are likely to be well managed in only a few of the Top 20 and moreover, where National Plai~s of Action for sharks (NPOAs) are in place, there is no evidence to indicate that the NPOAs are respotisible for the effective management of shark fisheries.

Pew would also like to highlight a gap in existing information. To date there are very few comprehensive species-specific shark assessments. This hampers efforts to adequately evaluate the implementation of the IPOA-Sharks. In landing statistics, sharks are often lumped into a single category inaking it impossible to know how many sharks of each species, including those which have been categorized as near threatened, threatened or endangered, are caught in a given year.

There have been a handful of measures adopted by

(NPOAs)

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We thank Mr. Tarassenko and DOALOS for the invitation to submit information relevant to the implementation of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution 66168 adopted 6 December, 201 1 on "Sustainable Fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisioils of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, and related instruments." We hope you find the following information a helpful resource for the preparation

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Washington. DC 2UW4 iV2552 2279 Fax

Worthy of note: most FADs are tracked with satellite buoys and some important information on FADs is currently being collected by members of industry, but is not being shared with the global community. This information could be a helpful resource for fisheries managers.