
Overview of the current status of FAD deployments in Australian waters

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Résumé

Australia has a substantial recreational fishing sector, with many millions of people across the country ‘wetting a line’ on a regular basis. In Australia, Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) are generally installed for the direct benefit of recreational fishers by providing new target fishing locations. These FADs provide a focal point for fishing activities where fishers primarily target fast growing, short lived pelagic species. They are usually installed in tropical waters to attract pelagic species such as dolphinfish and tunas. In Australia, FAD programs operate in New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia. FAD deployments in the southern waters of Australia (Victoria) are currently being considered. Species such as yellowtail kingfish, southern bluefin tuna, albacore tuna, blue shark, mako shark and dolphinfish are regularly being taken by recreational fishers. FADs may have the potential to increase opportunities for targeting these species. This presentations will provide a broad overview of the current status of FAD deployments in Australian waters. Consideration of the southern FAD deployments will be covered, providing some context to why FADs may be increasingly effective in these waters.

Mots-Clés: FADs, Australia, artisanal fisheries, recreational fisheries

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