
Temporal patterns of yellowfin and skipjack tuna associated with anchored and drifting FADs

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Abstract

Using acoustic tagging data, we investigated temporal patterns of the association of yellowfin (*Thunnus albacares*) and skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) tuna with FADs in different situations and locations (anchored FADs in Mauritius, Maldives, Hawaii; drifting FADs in the Western Indian Ocean). We explore the temporal patterns of association characterized by the time of the day at which tuna arrive and depart from FADs to find behavioral trends within species, between species, at different study sites and different types of FADs. This fine scale analysis of behavior is used to determine the preferred time of association for the different species, a major parameter in the catchability of tunas at FADs by fishers.

Keywords: tuna, FADs, acoustic tagging, temporal patterns, behavioural ecology

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