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# An alternative drifting FAD for reducing turtle and shark mortality in Atlantic Ocean

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## Abstract

Experimental drifting FADs have been tested in eastern Atlantic waters with the main objective of reducing turtle and shark mortality. These sensible species are usually entangled in traditional FADs by the polyamide netting of the submerged structure. The main characteristic of the experimental FADs is that this netting has been replaced by ropes of sisal, a natural fiber. A total number of 56 experimental FADs all of them carrying satellite buoys with echosounder have been deployed until now from November 2010 to May 2012 in an area of Atlantic Ocean limited by coordinates 9° 56'N - 8° 59'S in latitude and 26° 05'W - 6° 00'W in longitude. The final prototype is 100 meters deep and is almost entirely biodegradable made of bamboo canes, palm leaves and sisal ropes. Drift and biomass of the experimental FADs have been monitored and compared with traditional FADs and are discussed for future implementation of the experimental FAD in commercial fishing.

**Keywords:** FAD, Tuna purse seine, incidental catch

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