

## ANGLER REPORT SCYA, July 2016

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At the time of this writing Big Bluefin Tuna over 100 LB and some over 200 LB are showing in U.S. Waters. Finding the fish has been the secret. The Bluefin are very finicky and make it very difficult to hook up. Watch for crashing birds on the bait balls and slide into position slowly to present your offerings. Good Luck!

**Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)....**What are FADs? A fish aggregating (or aggregation) device (FAD) is a man-made object used to attract ocean going pelagic fish such as marlin, tuna and mahi-mahi (dolphin fish). They usually consist of buoys or floats tethered to the ocean floor with concrete blocks. Free Floating FADs are not anchored. Over 300 species of fish gather around FADs. FADs attract fish for numerous reasons that vary by species. Fish tend to move around FADs in varying orbits, rather than remaining stationary below the buoys. Both recreational and commercial fisheries use FADs. Many pelagic species associate with natural FADs in the open ocean, such as logs, seaweed, and coconuts. Man-made FADs are constructed from a variety of materials. Ropes and lines encourage the settlement of marine plants and small crustaceans and mollusks, which in turn attract small fish. Fish finders may be attached to a FAD allowing fishermen to electronically "connect" to the FAD and see how many and at what depth the fish are located. Animals near the FADs are then harvested with seines, hooks, or long lines. .Target Species...tuna, billfish and dolphin fish

**Risks to Sea Turtles...** The largest threat to sea turtles from FADs is entanglement. Old nets, ropes, and lines that are used in constructing FADs entangle turtles that come into contact with them. Turtles can become entangled around their flippers, head, neck, and carapace by any lines or nets associated with the FAD. If a turtle becomes entangled beneath the FAD, the turtle will likely drown due to prolonged submergence. Injuries as a result of entanglement include: broken limbs, exhaustion, and lacerations that may occur as the turtle struggles to free itself from the lines or nets.

**Risks to Marine Mammals...** Static FADs secured to the sea floor are of greatest concern because marine mammals can become entangled or injured in the anchoring lines. Cetaceans and pinnipeds can become entangled around their bodies, neck, or flippers. These entanglements can limit the animals' ability to swim and feed and could eventually lead to drowning if the animal is held underwater. These FADs can also alter marine mammal feeding behavior by habituating them to a temporary and unnaturally aggregated food source.

**By catch Reduction..**There are no current mitigation measures in place for minimizing the impacts of FADs on marine mammals or sea turtles.



