

The Effectiveness of Fish Aggregating Devices in Majuro, Marshall Islands

Gladden Lakmej

Benedict Yamamura, Marshall Island Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA)

Coordinating Center: University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Abstract: Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) are artificial objects strategically placed in the ocean to gather pelagic fish. The project's aim is to determine the FADs effectiveness to local fishermen in remote communities in Majuro regarding income, fuel usage, and whether or not FADs improve the catch rate in their designated locations. The Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA) FAD team collaborated Local Governments to fabricate and deploy FADs in 20 different atolls. These man-made devices are constructed from various materials and are anchored to the seafloor. The ropes and lines encourage marine plants, small crustaceans, and mollusks to settle, which provides food and shelter for smaller fish. Overtime, bigger fishes such as tuna, billfish, dolphin fish, and other predatory fishes become more frequent and facilitate access to fish stocks; promoting food security for remote communities. Subsequently, this project will include interviews with local fishermen on where they fished, kinds of fishing gear(s) used, how much was caught, what sort of fishes were caught, and fuel usage. MIMRA will use to graphs, tables, and percentages from databases and Microsoft software to record their findings. Consequently, the data will be used to introduce and implement required modifications, monitor their success, and serve as a boon for remote islands with potential for further enhancements for fishing activities in the Marshall Islands.

Keyword: fish aggregating device, pelagic

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