The following dictionary defines terms used in the study of fishes (= ichthyology in its widest sense). It includes terms not specific to that discipline but commonly used by it. Definitions of terms are given in brief - many can be Googled for more details. Googling a word can turn up numerous definitions unrelated to fish so this Dictionary helps narrow that search down.

There seems to be various ways of presenting words in an alphabetical sequence. A consistent style is followed here and is fairly obvious. Abbreviations appear as though they were words, e.g. TAC (total allowable catch) appears before tackle, not at the beginning of the letter T. Abbreviations are also gathered together in a separate section. Hyphenated words precede non-hyphenated words. In the latter case, some sources hyphenate words while others combine two words as one. If a term comprising two words is not found it may be lower down in the Dictionary as a hyphenated word or a single word. Note also that many terms may be preceded by the word "fish", e.g. fish gig can appear as such or under gig; most such terms occur in both forms.

The urge to link all terms within definitions was resisted as broken links are frustrating to the reader and tedious for the lexicographer. Similarly, extensive links to websites are not given (the URLs change frequently); various search engines can give access to sites with more information than the definitions here.

Generally, terms that are defined by another term have a definition in parentheses copied from the other term to save the need to scroll tediously. Some terms may have q.v. after them, indicating that this term is related to another term but implying this is too long or distracting to insert here. Occasionally, related terms are indicated by See...., compare...., or cf.... for compare.

Words in italic are from the Latin (or Latinised Greek) and generally are scientific names of species, terms used in nomenclature, or some Latin words and phrases commonly used in English and scientific works, for example et alii meaning "and others". Latin names of bones and muscles are not italicised (usage differs and there is a trend not to use italics, except of course for scientific names). Here italics are used (other than in scientific names) to separate terms and their meanings more clearly without having to state repeatedly that the terms are in Latin. Note that many anatomical terms have both English and Latin versions, the latter less used today but appearing in older works and in some comprehensive studies. Not all Latin versions of terms are included here but most are easily translatable although grammar differs, e.g. ductus endolymphaticus is endolymphatic duct. Plurals are given of Latin and Greek based words as these may not be intuitively familiar to readers of a non-European background or to younger European readers (!).

Spellings of words vary between American and English English. The latter may favour (favor) the letter "s" over the letter "z" and the "ae" combination over the simpler "e". Readers should be aware of these possible variant spellings. English spellings are followed here with some variant forms in American English included as an aid to the British and those whose first language is neither form of English. Note that the æ and œ formats are variably used for ae and oe throughout this work. Latin words often use the more archaic form unless they are in common ichthyological use in English.

A number of terms are simply English words, used in a special sense in ichthyology, but having another meaning; in some cases both definitions are given for clarity. Sometimes they are compounded from correct but obscure English words, prefixes and suffixes, e.g. obbasal. Some words have common roots in Latin or Greek and can easily be understood by those with some familiarity with these languages, e.g. vermiform, vermifuge, vermivore - for non-Eurocentric readers such similar words are defined here although not unique to the study of fishes.

Some entries have fish examples cited, given as the Latin name. The names are either the scientific name (in italics; taxonomy may be dated in some cases - see "Catalog of Fishes" for name changes), the family name (ending in -idae) or the order name (ending in -iformes) (the latter two not in italics). A few other higher groupings are mentioned, particularly Amphioxi (Cephalochordata or lancelets, which are not "fishes" but share some anatomical characters), Myxini (the hagfishes), Petromyzontiformes (lampreys), Holocephali (chimaeras), Elasmobranchii (sharks, skates and relatives), Teleostomi (all the bony fishes), Dipnoi or Dipneusti (lungfishes), Actinopterygii (the ray-finned bony fishes), Teleostei (or teleosts, all the ray-finned bony fishes except Polypteriformes, Acipenseriformes and Amiiformes), and Ostariophysi (usually in the old sense of Cypriniformes, Characiformes, Siluriformes and Gymnotiformes; now including Gonorynchiformes). Nelson (2006) and earlier editions of his work can be consulted for those unfamiliar with fish diversity, as well as web sites such as www.fishbase.org.

Families and species of fishes are not described in this Dictionary. Scientific names of fishes are best accessed through the website of the "Catalog of Fishes" at the California Academy of Sciences while common names are best found in regional works (see Coad (1995) in the References, for example). Some unusual common and scientific names may be included in the Dictionary for reasons of clarification and education.

Illustrations of certain terms will be added over the long term. They are linked through the term and are highlighted and underlined in blue. Illustrations are not included in the text file so that it loads more quickly. Images taken from older works have an abbreviated author and title, e.g. Boulenger's "Fishes of the Nile", and, as a complete citation, can be found in the "Catalog of Fishes".

Some terms cited here are also used, or originate, in genetics, marine biology, oceanography, limnology, systematics, palaeontology, parasitology, ecology, hydrology, fisheries, museum studies, angling, aquaculture, slang, dialects of English, folklore, etymology, literature, fish processing, fish technology, fishing vessels, cooking, veterinary science, popular culture, etc., and the choice of terms to include from such diverse fields is eclectic. Since it could be argued that a Dictionary of Ichthyology is not needed by a competent ichthyologist, terms from neighbouring disciplines are included for such exemplary people. These are necessarily selective, for example structures associated with nets on fishing vessels are listed but not structures that are found generally on ships. Further entry into these fields may be found through the References herein and Wikipedia.

Certain areas of the English-speaking world were famous for their fisheries and these have contributed many words, e.g. Newfoundland. Other areas also have extensive vocabularies but these are in languages other than English and have not, generally, become familiar to, or used in, English, with some exceptions, e.g. Japan.

Many terms refer to a fisherman or fishermen as, at the time these terms were in common use, the industry at sea and work in fresh waters was almost entirely carried out by men. The politically correct fisher is then anachronistic and incorrect.

A list of references referred to in the text is given. Most terms are widely used and do not require documentation. This reference list is not meant to be exhaustive, nor does it track terms to their origin.

A book by S. D. Nandy and S. N. M. Kazmi (Eds.) published in 2009 (Technical Encyclopaedia of Ichthyology. Dominant Publishers, New Delhi. xxxii + 845 pp., in three volumes) is copied from this Dictionary, without permission, when it had about 14,000 entries. There is even an unauthorised app (https://appadvice.com/app/ichthyology-dictionary/1191310585).

The entries are continually being refined and corrected. Corrections and new terms are welcome. A literature source for any new term is requested as documentation. Refer to www.briancoad.com for contact information.

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† Don E. McAllister (1934-2001) - see Cook et al. (2001; 2002), Cook and Coad (2002), Coad (2011) and Cook et al. (2011) for obituaries. Don had the original concept for a Dictionary of Ichthyology in the 1960s and bequeathed it to me. At his death, the Dictionary contained 2003 entries, including several hundred added by me in 1972 as part of a graduate student course (I seem to recall receiving an A+). It now contains over 24,500 terms and over 610 illustrations.

A

A = abbreviation for acre.

A = abbreviation for anal fin (rays).

A = annual total mortality rate (the number of fish which die during a year divided by the initial number. Also called actual mortality rate, coefficient of mortality (Ricker, 1975)).

a or a = abbreviation for annum, meaning year. Usually used in combination, e.g. Ma, meaning million years.

A1 = abbreviation for first anal fin (rays).

A2 = abbreviation for second anal fin (rays).

A30 = number of anal fin rays anterior to the 31st vertebra, e.g. in Carapidae.

A100 = number of anal fin rays anterior to the 201st vertebra, e.g. in Nemichthyidae.

a posteriori classification = a classification made based on the results of experimentation.

a priori classification = a classification made prior to experimentation.

a- (prefix) = lacking, absence of, not, without; but see below, a-fishing.

A-B direction = in net making, the direction parallel to a rectilinear sequence of mesh bars, each from adjacent meshes.

a-fishing = in the act or process of fishing; gone fishing.

A-ft = acre-foot (one acre of surface covered with 1 foot of water (1,233,500 L, 1233.5 m3, 325,850 gal).

A-grade = a freshness grade for fish used in the European community.

a.k.a. = also known as.

aalpricken = a small eel, gutted, fried and packed in a fine edible oil (Germany).

aav(e) = the small round net by which boys pick up herrings that fall from the nets as these are being hauled in (Scottish dialect).

ab = abbreviation for aberration.

ab- (prefix) = from, away from.

Abaia = a large and mythic eel that lives at the bottom of lakes in the Fiji, Solomon and Vanuatu islands. The Abaia protects all other creatures in the lakes. Anyone trying to catch fish is overwhelmed with a large wave caused by its thrashing tail.

abaxial = at a point away from, or distant from, the axis; opposite of adaxial.

abbreviate heterocercal = type of caudal fin in which the vertebral column extends only a short way into the upper lobe of the fin (which is longer than the lower lobe); a heterocercal caudal fin approaching the homocercal type, e.g. Lepisosteidae, Amiidae.

abbreviation = a shortened form of a word or title. In zoological works genus-group names cited in binomial names of species are often abbreviated to one or two letters for convenience, e.g. Salmo trutta may be abbreviated to S. trutta, the abbreviation always being followed by a full stop (or period). The abbreviation should not be used on the first mention of a name. Similarly specific names cited in trinomial names of subspecies may be abbreviated.

ABC = allowable biological catch (a term used by a management agency which refers to the range of allowable catch for a species or species group. It is set each year by a scientific group created by the management agency and is the subjectively estimated amount of catch of a given species from a given region. The agency then takes the ABC estimate and sets the annual total allowable catch (TAC)).

abdomen = 1) the part of the body containing the viscera (intestine, liver, kidney, reproductive organs, etc).

abdomen = 2) the lower part of the body of fish, the belly.

abdominal = pertaining to the abdomen. Pelvic fins are said to be abdominal when they lie behind the posterior tip of normally developed pectoral fins.

abdominal cavity = the part of the body containing the viscera or guts, liver, ovaries, testes, kidneys, etc.

abdominal dropsy = oedema, an accumulation of excess fluid in the abdomen, causing abdominal swelling and marked protrusion of scales. Also called pinecone disease, q.v.

abdominal fishes = those bony fishes having pelvic fins in the abdominal position.

abdominal pore = an external aperture near the vent communicating with the abdominal cavity. Found in Cyclostomata, Elasmobranchii, and in some Teleostomi, e.g. Salmonidae.

abdominal ridge = paired dermal ridges running from pectoral to pelvic fin bases in sharks.

abdominal serra = an abdominal spine, formed from a scale in the ventral region of the fish body. A series of these serrae form a saw-like edge and their numbers can be used in identification of some Clupeidae and Serrasalmidae.

abdominal vertebra = one of the anterior vertebrae bearing ribs but lacking the haemal arch, canal and spine of caudal vertebrae, q.v.

abducens nerve = cranial nerve VI, innervating the lateral rectus eye muscle which rotates the eyeball laterally and the retractor bulbi muscles in part. See cranial nerves.

abduction = movement away from the medial axis of the body, or of two parts away from each other, cf. adduction.

abductor = a muscle that draws a part away from the axis of the body, or separates two parts.

Aberdeen cut = a cut of fish from a frozen block, rhombus-shaped with the sides often squared off or cut with a tapered edge. Usually breaded and battered. Also called diamond cut and French cut.

Aberdeen hook = a hook shape characterised by a slightly-squared round bend and a wide gape used for baiting with minnows

aberrant = adjective for aberration.

aberration = 1) a term used to denote a class of individuals within a species. A name which explicitly refers to an aberration unequivocally treated as an infrasubspecific entity is unavailable.

aberration = 2) an aberrant fish, deviating from the usual or natural type in colour, form, behaviour, etc.

abioseston = non-living components of the seston, q.v.

abio- = without a living, starving.

abiotic = referring to non-living structures, substances, factors, environments, etc.

abnormal = not normal; contrary to the usual structure, position, behaviour or rule.

abnormal host = accidental host.

abnormality = any condition not found naturally in most fishes. Unusual conditions arising during processing fish as food are called defects, q.v.

aboral = opposite or away from the oral or mouth area/cavity. May be used in the sense of opposite to a biting tooth surface where this aboral end of a tooth is not a root, e.g. tooth plates in Chimaeriformes and pavement teeth, q.v., in some rays, skates and sharks.

aboriginal fishery = a fishery by native peoples for food, commercial, social and ceremonial purposes.

aborted name = nomen abortivum (a name contrary to the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature as the Code existed at the time of publication. Abbreviated asnom. abort.).

abortive = remaining or becoming imperfect.

abraded = worn or frayed, e.g. fins of fish after spawning.

Abramis brama = 1) the common bream, a cyprinid found from the British Isles across Europe north of the Pyrenees and Alps eastwards to the Black, Caspian and Aral sea basins.

Abramis brama = 2) a Swedish rock band that even had an album with a line drawing of the fish on it.

abruptotype = an unofficial and joke name for the type of a taxon described in haste to meet some deadline such as for a grant or project.

absolute abundance = the total number of a kind of fish in the population. Usually estimated from relative abundance as it is rarely known.

absolute conversion rate of food = an index calculated by dividing the quantity of food distributed by the extra growth believed to have been obtained only from that food.

absolute fecundity = total number of eggs in a female.

absolute growth rate = the actual increase in size of an individual, stock or population over a given time span and under specified conditions.

absolute recruitment = the number of fish which grow into the catchable size range in a unit of time (usually a year) (Ricker, 1975).

absolute synonym = homotypic synonym (a synonym based on the same nomenclatural type).

absolute tautonym = the identical spelling of a generic or subgeneric name and the specific or subspecific name of one of its originally included nominal species or subspecies.

absolute tautonymy = the action of producing an absolute tautonym.

absorptive feeding = nutrient acquisition during fish ontogeny from an ovarian secretion via flaps, trophotaenia, or trophonemata, or from the environment via body surfaces or special external gut and finfold structures.

abstracting journal = a journal which gives abstracts or summaries of scientific papers, books, theses, etc. published elsewhere.

abundance = degree of plentifulness. The total number of fish in a population, stock, other group or on a fishing ground. Can be measured in absolute or relative terms and may be number per area or per unit fishing effort.

abundance index = data obtained from samples or observations and used as a measure of the weight or number of fish which make up a stock, a segment of a stock such as spawners or in a given area. Most indices are relative units (as opposed to measuring absolute abundance), and simply indicate relative changes in abundance over time. The data is obtained from scientific surveys or inferred from fisheries data.

abyss = water below 4000 metres or 2000 fathoms (= 3660 metres), down to 6000 metres, where light does not penetrate. Occasionally used for depths below 2000 metres. A constant environment with temperatures usually 0-2°C or temperatures are uniform. From the Sumerian abzu, meaning primordial sea.

abyssal = adjective for abyss.

abyssal benthic = pertaining to the ocean floor below 400-600 fathoms (730-1100 metres).

abyssal depth = see abyssal for oceans; in fresh water it may mean the maximum depth or the depth at which water temperature remains uniform.

abyssal floor = abyssal plain.

abyssal plain = the area of the generally flat ocean floor excluding ocean trenches below 2000 fathoms (3660 metres, presumably an older version based on fathoms) or 4000 metres. Very flat with a slight slope.

abyssal zone = the middle zone of the deep sea between 3700 and 6000 metres.

abyss- (prefix) = bottomless.

abyssalpelagic zone = the abyssopelagic area of the ocean.

abyssobenthic = the depth zone of the ocean floor between 4000 and 6000 metres, or from about 3700 m downward, or below the 4°C isotherm.

abyssopelagic = living in the water column at 4000 to 6000 metres (or 2500-4000 metres, or 4000-7000 metres, sources differ), seaward of the continental shelf-slope break. See also abyssalpelagic zone.

AC = a series of ventro-lateral photophores extending between a vertical at the anal fin origin and the end on the caudal peduncle. The AC row may begin posterior to the anal fin origin if it is offset from other ventro-lateral photophores.

ac = abbreviation for acre.

ac ft = acre-foot.

acantho- (prefix) = with spines.

acanthoid = spiny or spine-like.

acanthotrich = a spiny dorsal or anal fin ray.

acanthotrichia = plural of acanthotrichium.

acanthotrichium (plural acanthotrichia) = acanthotrich.

acanthostedion = postlarval stage of the Peristediidae characterized by long parietal spines and development of rostral exsertions.

acaudal = lacking a tail.

acceptable biological catch = subjectively estimated amount of catch of a given species from a given region. The sustainable harvest used to set the upper limit of the range of potential annual total allowable catch. Also called allowable biological catch.

acceptable catch estimate = an approximate estimate of the catch of a given species that could be taken from a stock in a given region. Also called allowable catch estimate.

acceptable impact = a negative, or potentially negative, alteration of the fishery resulting from human activities. The impact is acceptable since it represents a low risk to the resource. As it is under continuous review, it may be revoked.

acceptable name = 1) a name in accordance with the Code of Zoological Nomenclature.

acceptable name = 2) an established name that is not a (non-conserved) later homonym and thus may potentially be an accepted name (q.v.).

accepted = a scientific manuscript that has been through the peer review process, revised, approved for publication by the editor of the journal, and is ready to be sent to the printer or website. The date when the manuscript was accepted often appears in the printed or online version.

accepted name = 1) a name adopted by an author as the correct name for a taxon where names are in dispute.

accepted name = 2) the acceptable name (q.v.) that must be adopted under the rules of the Code of Zoological Nomenclature.

access = 1) the means by which a person enters a water body, usually with a boat.

access = 2) access right.

access right = the authorisation given to a user, e.g. a vessel owner, by a fishery management authority or by legislation, to exploit a resource, a particular species, or a share of a total allowable catch. Access rights may be free of charge or require payment and are usually conditional and used under constraints specified in a management plan.

accessibility = the condition of fish occupying a locality where they can be caught using the appropriate gear.

accession = 1) the formal acceptance into museum custody of a specimen or a collection of fishes, and the recording of such.

accession = 2) a specimen(s) acquired by a museum for its permanent collection.

accession = 3) the act of recording and processing an addition to a permanent collection.

accession list = a document in which accessions are recorded, usually chronologically by date of receipt; may be a bound volume and/or a computer file.

accession number = a unique number assigned to an accession, usually sequentially in chronological order of receipt.

accessioning = accepting legally a fish collection, containing one to many specimens and species, with date of receipt, ownership, donor, etc.

accessory breathing organ = labyrinth organ (a much folded suprabranchial accessory breathing organ found in Anabantoidei. Formed by vascularised expansion of the epibranchial of the first gill arch. Used for respiration in air).

accessory caudal ray = one of a series of short, procurrent rays on the upper and lower margins of the of the caudal peduncle.

accessory dorsal branch = a lateral line branch found in some flatfishes, running from the head for varying lengths below the base of the dorsal fin.

accessory growth centre = a growth centre outside the core of the fish otolith from which new growth may occur. May result from metamorphosis. Also incorrectly called accessory primordia.

accessory lateral line = accessory dorsal branch.

accessory male = a male fish which attempts to fertilise eggs of a breeding female at the expense of a dominant male.

accessory olfactory sac = olfactory ventilation sac (an extension of the olfactory cavity, often characteristic of inactive bottom dwellers living in still water such as flatfishes, dipnoans, and eels but also found in clupeids, salmonids, mugilids and scombrids. Primarily used for ventilation but also produce mucus. There may be up to four sacs, usually the additional sacs are smaller but in Osmeridae the sole accessory sac is larger than the main sac).

accessory pectoral scale = accessory scale.

accessory pelvic appendage = a tapered fleshy lobe above the base of the pelvic fin. May be covered by a scale.

accessory primordium = an additional growth centre outside the otolith core but lacking primordial granules. Accessory growth centre is preferred.

accessory respiratory organ = a superficial or internal organ which complements the gills in exchange of gases with the environment when the fish is in poorly oxygenated water or in air. In some cases it may also function as a hydrostatic organ.

accessory scale = axillary scale (a small triangular appendage or a modified scale at the upper or anterior base of a paired fin. Also called fleshy appendage and inguinal process. Functions apparently to streamline the fin when held against the body while swimming).

accidental catch = other fishes caught during a fishery directed to a target species. The fish may be taking bait meant for other fish, chasing the target species or are swept up by the gear used. Also called incidental catch or by-catch.

accidental host = a fish serving as a host for a variable length of time for a parasite of another animal. Also called abnormal host.

accidental parasite = a parasite which has infected an unusual host.

accidental species = normally marine species occasionally found in fresh waters but not in any regular or predictable manner. Records are usually few.

acclimation = the process by which fish become used to new circumstances. Often used in adjusting to changes in temperature, water quality, lighting regimes, being netted, etc. in aquaculture or aquaria. Fish may be more susceptible to pathogens and eat poorly while acclimating.

acclimation pond = a pond or temporary structure used for rearing juvenile fish, acclimating them to specific conditions and, for migratory fish, imprinting the water of a particular stream.

acclimatisation = adaptation to a new environment by a population by selection.

Acclimatisation Society = an organisation in Australia in the mid-nineteenth century set up to introduce familiar European species, e.g. roach, Rutilus rutilus, a cyprinid.

acclivous = having a gentle upward slope.

accommodation = changing the focus of the eye; in fishes the lens moves back and forth in relation to the retina like a camera.

accumulated lethality = F-value (in food inspection, the total lethal effect of heat applied; the time/temperature process at the cold spot of the product. The value is expressed as equivalent minutes at a specific reference temperature (Tref) and a specific z-value, e.g. F (Tref = 65°C, z = 6.7 C°) = 5.9 minutes).

acentrous = without vertebral centra, with persistent notochord, e.g. Dipnoi, Holocephali.

acequia = an irrigation ditch or canal, often community run (southwest United States).

acetic acid = an organic acid, CH3COOH, used in diluted form in preparation of fish marinades, q.v.

achondral bone = dermal bone (any of the superficial bones in Teleostomi derived from the dermis and overlying the deeper elements of the skull. Primitive fishes have more dermal bones than higher ones, e.g. the armour of Ostracodermi. Dermal bones are a form of membrane bones, i.e. they arose directly from connective tissue membranes without the cartilaginous precursors which precede endochondral bones. They may be divided into laterosensory canal bones that develop in relation to the sensory canals, bones derived from mesenchymous tissue and anamestic bones (q.v.). Also called covering, membrane and investing bones).

achyliasis = an external fungal infection of fishes, genus Achyla.

acicular = needle-shaped.

aciculate = needle-like.

acid curing = marinating or preparing a marinade (a marinade is acidified brine, acetic acid, olive oil or vinegar with or without spices in barrels or special containers in which fish are soaked. The cured fish are packed in mild acidified brine variously with spices, sugar, wine, vegetables and flavourings, e.g. rollmops, Bismarck herring. Salt helps firm the flesh. Chilled marinades have a shelf life of 1-2 months, canned marinades much longer. The pH must not exceed 4.5 as below this spoilage does not occur and food poisoning bacteria do not grow. However some bacteria and enzymes are active and aid ripening, contributing to texture and flavour. Cold marinades are preserved by their acid and salt content, cooked marinades by this and by heat or pasteurisation).

acid death point = the pH at which fish die from acidity of water, usually about pH 4.0.

acid deposition = the addition of acidic material to the ground or water, usually from sulphur and nitrogen compounds emitted by factories and deposited far from this source. Wet deposition is also called acid rain, q.v., and is the result of rain, snow or fog while dry deposition results from particle fallout or acidic gases.

acid detergent fibre = the carbohydrates in an aquaculture feed that are not solubilised by acid detergent. This plant material is not easily used by fish. Abbreviated as ADF.

acid lake = any lake with a pH less than 6.0.

acid neutralising capacity = the property of water that reacts with an acid; formerly alkalinity. Abbreviated as ANC.

acid pickle = an acid solution for curing or marinating fish.

acid rain = rain falling through an atmosphere containing sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide pollutants thus making the rain acidic (pH less than 7.0); in lakes without the ability to neutralise the acid survival of fish eggs and young is compromised. Also referred to as acid deposition and wet deposition.

acid-cured fish = fish preserved or marinated in acidified brine with or without spices.

acidic stress index = a function of pH, calcium and inorganic monomeric aluminium conditions in natural waters; used in fish toxicity models.

acidity = a measure of the hydrogen ion concentration, a pH less than 7.0, or the quantitative capacity to neutralise a base to a designated pH.

acidophile = fish from acid waters, like the Amazon and forest pools in West Africa, preferring a pH below 7.

acidophilous = having an affinity for or thriving in acidic conditions, e.g. in a bog or marsh. Also called acidophilic.

acidotrophy = waters where the hydrogen ion concentration is high, producing highly acidic reactions, and in which humic material is lacking.

acinaciform = slender sword, of scimitar-like form, e.g. acinaciform branchiostegal rays in Perciformes.

acini = plural of acinus.

acinus (plural acini) = a lobule of a secretory gland formed by a group of exocrine glandular cells, e.g. in the pancreas.

acipenserin = a toxic substance reputedly obtained from the gonads of sturgeon, Acipenser.

acker = the break or movement made by a fish in the water (English dialect).

acmic = referring to periods of seasonal change in an aquatic population.

acoustic = concerned with hearing or sound.

acoustic bait = a device making sounds or vibrations used to attract fish, e.g. shark rattles, q.v., beating the water surface, spraying the water surface with hoses in the tuna line fishery, croakwood, q.v., bells, etc.

acoustic device = 1) an acoustic harassment device.

acoustic device = 2) a pinger (a sound-emitting device. Attached to static nets to discourage dolphins and porpoises from their vicinity so that the mammals do not become entangled).

acoustic fish tag = a transmitter implanted or attached to a fish to monitor fish movement.

acoustic harassment device = an underwater device that generates sounds to deter marine mammal predators from salmon farms.

acoustic survey = a method of gathering information on fish availability and abundance by using echo sounders and sonar.

acoustic tag = a sound transmitter attached to a fish.

acoustico-lateralis system = the sensory system consisting of the lateral line and the inner ear.

acquisition = transfer of title for a specimen(s) to a museum. Acquisitions may be gifts, purchases, bequests, exchanges or the results of field work.

acre = 4046.9 m2, 0.405 ha, 43,560 ft2, 4840 yd2, 0.00156 mi2. There are 640 acres in a square mile. The metric version is the hectare, q.v.

acre-foot = one acre of surface covered with 1 foot of water (1,233,500 L, 1233.5 m3, 325,851 gal.). Used to measure volumes of water used or stored, such as in reservoirs. Abbreviated as ac ft or af in the U.S.A.

acriflavin = a chemical used in aquaria to combat protozoan and fungal infections and to disinfect fish eggs. It is orange or brown in colour and is a dye which stains the skin. Also spelled acriflavine.

acrodin = tissue forming a cap on teeth found in ray-finned fishes.

acrodont = type of tooth ankylosed to the jaw along the midline of the jawbone, rather than to the inner edge, the condition in most fishes. Attachment is by connective collagenous tissue with impregnated calcium salts and, in maxillary and mandibular teeth, by a bony piece between the tooth and the bone.

acronurus = postlarval stage of Acanthuridae.

acronym = any abbreviation using the initial letters of the words abbreviated. Museum collections of fishes are catalogued with an acronym and a number; these acronyms are listed in Leviton et al. (1985) and Leviton and Gibbs (1988).

acrosome = a cap over the nucleus of spermatozoan heads having enzymes involved in sperm penetration of the egg and possibly fusion of egg and sperm. Absent in most Teleostei.

acrylic = a plastic material used in aquaria construction and for aquarium accessories such as filters.

act, nomenclatural = a published act which affects the nomenclatural status of a scientific name or the typification of a nominal taxon; available nomenclatural act is one that is published in an available work; invalid nomenclatural act is any nomenclatural act which is not valid under the provisions of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature; unavailable nomenclatural act is one published in an unavailable work; valid nomenclatural act is one that is accepted under the provisions of the Code, i.e. the earliest available act not contravening any provision of the Code.

actiniariophil = a reproductive guild (q.v.) where adhesive eggs are deposited in a cluster at the base of a sea anemone. Parents guard the eggs and coat them with mucus as protection against nematocysts. Free embryos are phototactic, planktonic and early juveniles select the host anemone, e.g. Amphiprion allardi.

actic = pertaining to rocky shores; between the low and high tides; intertidal; littoral.

actinic = a type of lighting used in aquaria. It provides the blue end of the spectrum for photosynthesis.

actinophore = the pterygiophore(s) and the associated fin ray.

actinost = one of a series of endochondral bones in the pectoral and pelvic girdle on which the fin rays insert. Most teleosts lack or have greatly reduced pelvic actinosts. Teleosts have one row of actinosts between the fin rays and supporting skeleton (coracoid and scapula for the pectoral, basipterygia for the pelvic) while other fishes may have more rows, referred to as radials.

actinotrich = a slender, horny, flexible, unsegmented fibril which strengthens the embryonic fin fold and which may persist in the outer edge of the adult fin membrane or in the adipose fin. It develops intercellularly rather than cellularly. Persists in fins of Elasmobranchii, Holocephali, and sometimes in Teleostomi distal to the lepidotrichia that replace them. Actinotrichia are translucent, exhibit birefringence (double refraction) and are composed of a scleroprotein called elastoidine. They may be homologous with ceratotrichs found in cartilaginous fishes because of their horny or keratinous nature.

actinotrichia = plural of actinotrichium.

actinotrichium (plural actinotrichia) = actinotrich.

action = 1) the performance of a fishing rod while fighting a fish. Measured as the time elapsed between flexion and a return to a straight configuration. Action can be slow (the most flexion, 90% of the rod bends) to fast (30% of the rod bends); also referred to as stiff, parabolic, etc. May also refer to the rod strength, a light rod being limber and a heavy rod stout.

action = 2) the gear of fishing reels.

action = 3) the movement and performance of a fishing lure in the water.

action = 4) when fish are biting.

action = 5) dragging a fishing fly across the current resulting in an unnatural drift.

activated carbon = pure carbon in porous form used in aquaria to adsorb dissolved organic matter, chlorine, and yellowing compounds (and hence in the latter case keeps water clear). Must be changed regularly as it clogs and can release phosphates into the water which promote algal growth.

activated charcoal = activated carbon.

active = fish intent on feeding. Also called positive.

active capture gear = equipment used in active fishing, such as trawls.

active fishing = fishing with gear that is not stationary, e.g. trawls.

active forager = a predator that actively seeks its prey, cf. ambush predator.

activity coefficient = ratio of the metabolic activity of a fish at rest with that at maximum activity.

actomysin = a combination of actin and myosin, the two main proteins in all fish muscles.

actophilous = thriving on rocky shores.

actual mesh size = stretched mesh size of a net as determined by a standard process such as use of a mesh gauge, q.v.

actual mortality rate = annual mortality rate.

aculeate = bearing a sharp point.

aculeiform = needle-shaped, e.g. pipefishes.

acuminate = tapering gradually to a point, e.g. the tail of Anguilliformes.

acute = 1) ending in a sharp point

acute = 2) running a short and intense course as in toxicity or inflammation.

acyprinid zone = those regions lacking Cyprinidae - South America and the tropical Pacific Islands approximately east and south of Wallace's Line including Australia.

A.D. or AD = abbreviation for anno domini, or Year of the Lord, the Christian dating system. Common era or CE is used as a neutral version.

ad. = abbreviation for adult.

ad hoc = for the specific purpose, case or situation at hand and for no other.

ad int. = ad interim, meaning for the present, provisionally.

ad libitum = to the limit; often meaning fed until satiated.

ad muraenas = ponds for the culture of moray eels were common in Roman times and a punishment for recalcitrant slaves was throwing them in these pools as food for the morays.

ad- (prefix) = to, on the side of, toward.

Adam's special = an artificial dry fly used to imitate an adult mayfly.

adaptation = the process (or its results, e.g. a structure) wherein individuals, populations or species change to cope with their environment or changes in that environment.

adaptive management = a management process involving feedback to test performance and perhaps deliberate intervention to test the fishery system's response.

adaptive radiation = speciation of a taxonomic group to fill numerous previously vacant ecological niches, e.g. Cichlidae in the Great Rift Lakes of Africa, Cottidae in Lake Baikal of Russia.

adaxial = 1) towards the axis; opposite of abaxial.

adaxial = 2) the paraxial mesoderm subregion developing just adjacent to the chorda mesoderm or notochord rudiment.

added-value = processing of fish before export.

addersteean = adderstone.

adderstone = a stone (grey alum shale) with a hole through it, hung on fishing boats as a charm. Old spindle-whorls, reputedly made by adders (an English venomous snake).

adderstyen = adderstone.

additional catch = supplementary catch obtained either on purpose or by accident.

additional material = specimens other than those in the type series; these may be used to describe a new species but have no nomenclatural significance.

additive = any chemical added to fish for stability during storage, prevention of bacterial growth and toxin production, for colour and appearance to consumers, retention of moisture, prevention of off-flavours, etc. Additives include salt and ascorbic acid which are naturally present in foods and also other chemicals whose use is regulated.

adduction = movement towards the medial axis of the body, or of two parts together, cf. abduction.

adductor (plural adductores) = a muscle that brings one body part towards another.

adductor mandibulae = a muscle of the cheek area which acts to close the mouth and compress the lips. It is divided into four parts in the perch (Perca flavescens): part 1 has its origin on the dorsal half of the vertical arm of the preopercle and inserts at the centre of the maxillo-mandibular ligament (q.v.). It is a large muscle below the eye. A third part of the ligament serves as an origin for the fourth part of the muscle. Part 3 originates on the pterygoid bone and inserts with part 2 on the maxillo-mandibular ligament beneath the insertion of part 1. Part 2 is a large muscle below part 1. Part 4 originates on the internal portion of the maxillo-mandibular ligament and inserts on the ventral, internal part of the dentary and so is on the lower jaw.

adductor operculi = a muscle originating from the pterotic bone posterior and medial to the origin of the elevator operculi and inserting on the dorso-medial surface of the operculum ventral to the insertion of the levator operculi.

adductores = plural of adductor.

adelph- (prefix) = brother.

adelfophagy = feeding on retarded siblings within the uterus, e.g. Lamna nasus, Odontaspis taurus, Latimeria chalumnae, a form of uterine cannibalism. Also spelled adelphophagy.

adelfotype = an unofficial term in nomenclature referring to a topotype (q.v.) collected by the original collector of a taxon but one not forming part of the type series.

adelphophagy = adelfophagy.

adelphotaxa = sister taxa.

adeno- (prefix) = gland.

adenohypophysis = part of the pituitary organ of the lower brain involved in hormone control.

adenoid organ = a lymphoid structure in the lining of the oesophagus of Elasmobranchii.

adequate diet = balanced and fully sufficient feed in aquaculture or nature.

ADF = acid detergent fibre.

adfluvial = 1) living in lakes and migrating into streams to spawn; juveniles feed in streams but migrate to lakes as subadults for feeding.

adfluvial = 2) pertaining to flowing water.

adherent = attached (firmly); sticking; connected with. Strictly, means sticking to another organ, cf. coherent. Said of scales that do not detach easily, for example.

adhesion = connective tissue growth within and around an organ causing it to attach to the peritoneal or pericardial walls. Usually results from inflammation or parasite infestation.

adhesive = 1) sticking, as in eggs to the substrate or to other eggs.

adhesive = 2) sticking, as in structures used in attachment by fishes.

adhesive disc = adhesive disk.

adhesive disk = a sucker-like organ for clinging to various surfaces, e.g. the modified pelvic fins in Gobiesocidae and Liparidae, and the dorsal fin in Echeneidae. Also spelt adhesive disc and used for the adhesive organ.

adhesive egg = a fish egg that is deposited on sand, gravel, plants, etc. to which it sticks by means of the egg's sticky surface. In aquaculture situations this is inconvenient and the adhesiveness can be removed by milk or tannin.

adhesive head gland = adhesive organ.

adhesive organ = transient larval organs near the mouth used to attach the larvae to the substrate, e.g.in Protopterus, Lepidosiren, Acipenser, Esox, Macropodus.

adipocyte = a fat cell.

adipose = fat.

adipose clip = removal of the adipose fin in a hatchery-reared fish, indicating that it contains a coded-wire tag, q.v.

adipose eyelid = transparent membrane(s) over the anterior and posterior regions of the eye, e.g. in Scombridae, Clupeidae, Albulidae, Mugilidae. It serves for streamlining and protection and may cover much of the eye except for a small central opening.

adipose fin = a small fleshy fin lacking rays or spines but reinforced by actinotrichs posterior to the soft dorsal fins (rarely a hard ray or a few soft rays may be developed in the adipose fin of certain catfishes), e.g. in Salmonidae, Osmeridae, Argentinidae, Myctophidae, Ictaluridae, Percopsidae.

adit = a near horizontal shaft as a mine or for removing water from a mine. See also qanat for an adit fish habitat.

adjuvant = material added to a vaccine to enhance the immunological response.

admiral = 1) the master of the first English fishing vessel to reach a cove or harbour in Newfoundland, exercising certain privileges for the season.

admiral = 2) the master of an English fishing vessel, chosen weekly to exercise jurisdiction over European fishermen in a Newfoundland harbour.

admiral = 3) the fisherman who is in charge of the herring fleet (Manx).

Admiralty pattern anchor = the standard pattern of anchor, q.v., comprising two flukes (which dug into the sea bed), a shank and stock. In the eighteenth century a collapsible stock was introduced for easier storage.

admissible = the form of a name which can be validly published and the use of a name or epithet in accordance with the provisions of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature.

adnasal bone = a small dermal bone in front of the nasal bone in some fishes, e.g. the middle bone of three in the nasal region of Lepisosteus. Also called nasal bone.

adnate = closely attached to, joined along whole length without a free tip; conjoined; adhering, e.g. adipose fin in Noturus (Ictaluridae).

adnate eye = an eye joined by a membrane to the orbit.

adnexed = unattached, with a free edge, not united, flag-like e.g. the adipose fin in salmonids. Opposite of adnate.

adopt = to use an unavailable name as the valid name of a taxon in a way which establishes it as a new name with its own authorship and date.

adoral = close to the mouth.

adpressed = pressed flat against the body; appressed.

adrenal gland = absent in fishes but said to be present in sculpins (Cottidae). Interrenal cells associated with major blood vessels in the anterior kidney represent adrenal cortical tissue in fishes. Adrenal medullary cells are associated with sympathetic ganglia in clumps between the anterior kidney and spine or in the interrenal tissues.

adrenalin = a hormone causing the flight or fight behaviour in response to a sudden stress.

adrenaline = adrenalin.

adspersed = widely scattered or distributed.

adtidal = living immediately below the low tide level.

adult = a sexually mature animal; a fish that has reached the length or age of first maturity.

adult equivalent population = the number of fish that would have returned to an area, such as an estuary, in the absence of any prior harvest.

adult fish count = a count of adult fishes passing by a fish-viewing window. Such windows can be placed at the upstream end of fish ladders on dams. Observers count the number of fish according to pre-set criteria, e.g. by species and size, for 50 minutes of every hour for 16 hours per day. Extrapolations can then be made for times when fish are not observed. Separate counts can be made for adults and jacks (precocious male salmonids that can be identified by their smaller size).

adult habitat = an area that provides the necessities of life for an adult fish (angling).

adult period = this period begins with the first maturation of gametes and is characterised by spawning, either annually or only once, and by a slowed or arrested growth rate.

adult stage = attainment of full growth or sexual maturity.

adult stock = spawning stock (the mature part of the stock that is able to spawn; the number or biomass of all fish beyond the age or size class in which 50% of the individuals are mature).

adv. = advena, alien, introduced.

advanced = derived (a character or character state not present in the ancestral stock; apomorphic. The term should not be applied to organisms or taxa since they are a mix of plesiomorphic and derived character states).

advanced fry = a larval fish that has absorbed the yolk, correctly postlarva.

advena = alien, introduced. Abbreviated as adv.

adventitious = 1) accidental, occurring at an unusual locality, as in an adventitious visitor.

adventitious = 2) of or pertaining to a small stream entering directly into the main stem of a river.

adventive = an introduced species not yet established in the wild.

adventure = a commercial fishing enterprise. Also called venture.

adventurer = 1) a migratory English fisherman operating seasonally in Newfoundland (archaic).

adventurer = 2) a resident fisherman who fishes seasonally in coastal waters distant from his home port in Newfoundland.

advertisement = bright colours and conspicuous patterns shown by fishes. Used to indicate unpleasant taste, venom, sex and mood (paling when frightened, darkening when sexually excited).

advisory = a note addressed to the public when high concentrations of chemical contaminants have been found in local fish.

aeration = introduction of air into water.

aerator = 1) an air pump used to oxygenate aquaria.

aerator = 2) a battery-operated pump used to oxygenate water in a bait bucket by anglers.

aerator = 3) a device to oxygenate water in an aquaculture facility.

aerial fishing = the use of aerial traps (q.v.) to catch fish.

aerial redd survey = a method used to estimate numbers of spawners in a river by counting the number of redds visible from an airplane.

aerial stocking = releasing fish into a water body from a plane or helicopter. Usually fry are stocked in this way.

aerial survey = a method of gathering information on fish shoal movement and density by visual observation and photography from low-flying aircraft.

aerial trap = a trap used to take jumping fish, e.g. mullets and flyingfish. Fish are caught on the surface in boxes, rafts, boats and in such nets as veranda nets. The fish may be frightened into jumping out of the water.

aero- (prefix) = air.

aerobi- (prefix) = living in air.

aerobic pond = a shallow pond, 0.3 m deep, in which photosynthesis is at a maximum, aerobic conditions are maintained and wastes are processed by microorganisms.

aerofoil = modified pectoral and pelvic fins used for gliding.

aerophil = 1) a reproductive guild (q.v.) of a terrestrial spawner characterised by small adhesive eggs scattered over damp sod, by not being photophobic and having moderately developed respiratory networks, e.g. Brycon petrosus.

aerophil = 2) a reproductive guild (q.v.) of a terrestrial spawner where adhesive eggs are tended after deposition on the underside of structures above the water surface by the male splashing them. The embryos have cement glands, e.g. Copeina arnoldi.

aeropsammophil = a reproductive guild (q.v.) where eggs are hidden on a beach. Spawning occurs above the high tide mark and eggs and embryos hatch at the next high tide when surf action gives the cue, e.g. Leuresthes tenuis.

aesthetic fishing = capturing fish for display or other appreciation, not for food, sport or industrial reasons, cf. anaesthetic fishing.

aestival = of or pertaining to the early summer.

aestival pond = 1) a pond containing some water throughout the year but freezing to the bottom in winter, thus supporting only a temporary fish fauna.

aestival pond = 2) a pond existing only in summer.

aestivation = dormancy during the dry season or summer, e.g. in Dipnoi. Also when fish eggs survive outside water on leaves or branches, e.g. in oviparous Cyprinodontiformes such as Kryptolebias and Rivulus. Also spelled estivation.

af = acre-foot.

aff. = abbreviation for affinis (related to but not identical with, affinity, relationship, sometimes misleadingly employed as a synonym for phenetic similarity (or akin to)).

afferent = leading towards.

afferent branchial arteries = those arteries that receive blood from the ventral aorta, extending along the gill arches and sending capillaries into the gill filaments where they join branches which become the efferent branchial arches and so are involved in gaseous exchange.

affinis = related to but not identical with, affinity, relationship, sometimes misleadingly employed as a synonym for phenetic similarity (or akin to).

affluent = a stream or river that flows into a larger one or to a standing water body; a tributary; influent, although this may be restricted to a lake having a single inflowing stream (or influent).

afin = affinis.

aflaj = plural of falaj, a term for a qanat in the Arabian Peninsula (an underground water channel constructed in alluvial fan material to tap the water table and provide a constant flow of water. Mostly found in the Middle East and a habitat there for fishes. Called karez in central Asia and Afghanistan and foggara in North Africa).

aflatoxin poisoning = a mould-based poison or mycotoxin found in some dried aquaria foods kept under warm and damp conditions. Fish exhibit poor growth and anaemia and may die. The mould species involved are Aspergillus spp.

affluvial = adfluvial.

AFO = number of vertebrae anterior to the anal fin origin, e.g. in larval fishes.

after gibb = to gibb (q.v.) herring after they have been salted in the round.

afterbay = the tail race or reservoir of a hydroelectric power plant at the turbine outlets.

agamy = the condition where no lasting bond is formed between a spawning pair, the male and female separating after spawning, e.g. in some Cichlidae.

agape = with jaws open; gaping.

agastric = lacking a stomach. Some fishes, such as herbivorous Cyprinidae, lack a true stomach.

age = the number of years of life completed. In fisheries indicated by a numeral, e.g. age 5 or age V. Since any fish is only age 5 for a moment, the numeral is often followed by a plus sign to indicate the year of life, e.g. 5+ is a fish in its sixth year of life. Freshwater and saltwater age can be indicated by a period, e.g. 2.3 represents 2 winters in fresh water (not counting the incubation period for fish eggs that overwinter) and 3 years in salt water.

age at first capture = the age at which fish are first caught commercially.

age at first maturity = mean or median age at first maturity when 50% of a cohort spawn for the first time.

age at recruitment = the age at which fish are recruited to a fishable stock.

age class = individuals of a given (same) age within a population, e.g. all four-year-olds. Usually given in years but may be shorter periods, particularly in the tropics. The age class changes every year in contrast to year class which is always the same, e.g. a fish born in 1995 will always be in the 1995 year class but in 1998 will be in age class three. Also called cohort.

age composition = the proportion of different age groups of fish in a population or in a catch. A healthy population has a wide range of age groups.

age determination = the age of fish may be determined by counting the annual rings on a scale (by microscopic examination, projection of the scale or its celluloid imprint with a scale projector, or projecting a photographic negative of the scale), or in bony parts such as vertebrae, otoliths, opercular series of bones, pectoral spines; by the known age method (growing fish in ponds or tagging fish in the wild and recapturing them at intervals); by the length frequency method (the different age groups tend to be different lengths apparent when the sizes are grouped in a length frequency graph, from which age may be deduced). Age estimation is often a preferred term because of uncertainties in ageing methods.

age distribution = the number or percentage of individuals in each age class of a population; age structure.

age estimation = age determination.

age frequency = a breakdown of the different age groups of a kind of fish in a population or sample. Also called age structure.

age group = a group of fishes of a given age, e.g. a fish born on 1 May is in age group 0 until the same date in the subsequent year when it enters age group 1 (or I), a year later age 2 (or II), etc.

age of fishes = the period of time in the earth's history dominated by fishes - the Silurian and Devonian periods.

age of maturity = the age when 50% of the fish of a given sex are considered to be reproductively mature.

age of phase inequality = age of tide.

age of recruitment = the age when fish are considered to be recruited to the fishery, i.e. become vulnerable to the fishing gear. In stock assessments, this is usually the youngest age group considered in the analyses, typically age 0 or 1.

age of tide = the time interval between new or full Moon and the maximum effect of these phases upon range of tide or speed of the tidal current.

age specific = the dependence of a factor, such as fishing mortality, on the age of fish.

age specific fecundity = fecundity or egg potential related to age.

age specific mortality = mortality expressed as a function of age.

age specific survival rate = the average proportion of individuals in a particular age group that survive for a given period.

age structure = the number or percentage of individuals in each age class of a population.

age validation = confirming that annual growth rings on bony parts do conform to a year's growth.

age-cohort analysis = the proportion of each age-group participating in an activity currently used to predict the future sizes of each age-group.

age-group = a term denoting the age in years of a fish, or the number of calendar years in which it has existed, as O, I, II, III, etc; the cohort of fish of a given age, e.g. the five-year-old age-group. Unfortunately a standard definition has not been established.

age-length composition = age-length key.

age-length curve = a curve showing the relationship of age and length, a simplified form of an age-length key.

age-length key = a method of assigning ages to fish, given length measurements. Used to convert catch-at-size data into catch-at-age data. The keys specify the probability that fish of a given size belong to one of several age groups.

age-slicing = cohort slicing (a method used to assign ages to fish, given length measurements, e.g. used to convert catch-at-size data into catch-at-age data before the application of age-structured assessment models. Cohort slicing assumes that there is a one-to-one correspondence between length and age, i.e. the approach ignores individual variability in growth).

age-structured assessment = an assessment of the status of a fish stock, based on the relative abundances of fish of different ages in the stock.

age-structured production model = a stock assessment programme based on a deterministic form of a stock-recruitment relationship, with non-equilibrium tuning of abundance indices. Abbreviated as ASPM.

ageing = the process of determining the age of a fish or population of fishes. A fish that is less than 1 year old (counted from time of spawning by its parents) is a subyearling, or zero-age. A yearling fish is more than 1 year and less than 2 years old. Ages may be expressed as years or as year with a + sign, e.g. 3+ is a fish in its fourth year of life. Strictly, this term should be used only for the process of becoming older and the associated changes in an individual.

ageing technique = a method of determining the ages of fish, most often done by counting rings in hard parts of the fish body, such as otoliths, scales, opercula or vertebrae.

agent = the representative in a fishing settlement of a St. John's fish merchant.

agger = double tide (a high water consisting of two maxima of nearly the same height separated by a relatively small depression, or a low water consisting of two minima separated by a relatively small elevation).

aggregate = a group of species, other than a subgenus, within a genus, or a group of species within a subgenus, or a group of subspecies within a species. The aggregate can be indicated by a species-group name interpolated in parentheses.

aggregated fishery data = pooled data. Such data is compiled so that confidential or proprietary data, e.g. on detailed fishing activities of individual fishers or vessels, cannot be determined either from the present release of the data or in combination with other releases.

aggregating device = artificial or natural floating objects placed on the ocean surface, often anchored to the bottom, to attract several schooling fish species underneath, thus increasing their catchability. Used with tuna, for example. Also called fish attracting device. Abbreviated as FAD for fish aggregating device.