



FOR ISSF CONSERVATION MEASURE 3.7
Transactions with Vessels or Companies with Vessel-based FAD Management

HARTSWATER LIMITED requires onboard its vessel, namely:

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the use of the following best practices for FAD management, identified in ISSF Technical Report 2023-10, which updates ISSF Technical Report 2019-11, "Recommended Best Practices for FAD management in Tropical Tuna Purse Seine Fisheries":

a) Comply with flag state and RFMO reporting requirements for fisheries statistics by set type

We commit to:

- Filling out completely and accurately the logbooks, including FAD logbook information, by set type required by flag state and IOTC and submitting them by electronic reporting to the required authority.
- Achieving 100% observer coverage, even if not required by the IOTC, on all fishing trips through the use of human observers or a combination of human observers and voluntary Electronic Monitoring (EM). For EM, best-practice minimum standards developed by ISSF, or those developed by the IOTC, will be followed.

We also commit to:

- Collecting data on the number of active FADs and FAD activity (deployments, visits, sets and loss) as required by IOTC and submitting them to the required authority and RFMO or
- Authorizing satellite data buoy provider to provide to flag state buoy daily position data to estimate the number of active FADs and voluntarily submitting them to the IOTC.

b) Voluntarily report additional FAD buoy data for use by RFMO science bodies

We commit to:

- participate in a scientific program by AZTI/ IOTC by providing daily positions and echosounder data for every company-owned FAD, with a time-lag as needed to ensure confidentiality.
- report FAD buoy daily position data to the relevant RFMO science bodies and/or national scientific institutions and/or flag State, with a maximum time lag of 90 days. Data submissions must include the vessel name and IMO number (if available). Deployments should be identified in the data submissions when possible. And, if reporting to national scientific institution or flag state, we shall request that these data be made available to the relevant RFMO for scientific purposes.

- provide FAD buoy echo-sounder acoustic biomass data to the relevant RFMO science bodies and/or national scientific institutions and/or flag State, with a maximum time lag of 90 days. Data submissions must include the vessel name and IMO number (if available). And, if reporting to national scientific institution or flag state, we shall request that these data be made available to the relevant RFMO for scientific purposes.

c) Support science-based limits on the overall number of FADs used per vessel and/or FAD sets made

We commit to:

- Abiding by the limit of active number of FADs adopted by IOTC.
- Deploying only FADs with satellite tracking buoys.
- Not reactivating remotely buoys that were previously deactivated. They will only be reactivated when the buoys are back in port.
- Providing information on the buoy position at least once per day while they are in the water.

d) Use only non-entangling FADs to reduce ghost fishing

We commit to:

- Only deploying or redeploying (i.e. placing in the water) FADs that are completely non-entangling (i.e., without any netting) according to the [ISSF Guide for Non-Entangling FADs¹](#).
- Removing from the water and bringing back to port all encountered “high entanglement risk” FADs according to the [ISSF Guide for Non-Entangling FADs](#) (i.e., those using large open netting either in the raft or in the underneath part of the FADs. (> 2.5 inches or 7 cm mesh).
- Retrieving, where practicable, any encountered pre-existing non-fully NEFAD (whether a set is done or not) which is not in compliance with this measure.¹

e) Mitigate other environmental impacts due to FAD loss including through the use of biodegradable FADs and FAD recovery policies

We commit to:

- Studying the feasibility of using FADs with only biodegradable material in their construction except the floatation structure of the raft.
- Participating in trials of biodegradable FAD designs and tests with the participation of [RFMO science bodies and/or CPCs or ISSF scientist.
- Participating in tests of locally sourced biodegradable materials in collaboration with AZTI.
- Studying the feasibility of deploying simpler and smaller FADs.
- Participating in research to determine FAD deployment areas that have high risk of stranding, by providing historical track data to AZTI; and
- Participate in a project with Seychelles Government, through SIOTIs FADWATCH to alert them of FADs that are drifting in the direction of their sensitive areas to remove stranded FADs.
- Participate in trials of FAD recovery programs with the participation of IOTC science bodies and/or CPCs or ISSF scientist.

We also commit to, where practicable:

- Removing from the water and bringing back to port active FADs used by the vessels in each

¹ This policy will enter into force 1 April 2025.

- trip; and
- Removing from the water and bringing back to port all encountered FADs with non-biodegradable elements (e.g., plastic containers).

f) For silky sharks (the main bycatch issue in FAD sets) implement further mitigation efforts

We commit to:

- Applying Best Practices for safe handling and release of sharks and rays brought onboard.
- Practicing best safe handling and release of sharks and rays brought onboard; and
- Reducing the annual number of sets made on small tuna aggregations (< 5 tons).

This policy was adopted in January 2022.

Updated 1st April 2024.

