



ISSF CONSERVATION MEASURE 3.7

Transactions with Vessels or Companies with Vessel-based FAD Management

SAPMER SA requires onboard its vessels 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:

- ④ 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 means to the required authorities.
- ④ Achieving 100% human observer coverage, even if not required by the IOTC, on all fishing trips through the regional observer program OCUP operated by Bureau Veritas.
- ④ Collecting data on the Objects Activity (FAD deployment, visit, etc..) and Buoys Activity (deployment, transfer, etc..) required by IOTC resolutions in force and submitting them to the required authorities and scientific partners.
- ④ Authorizing satellite data buoy provider(s) -through our producers' association - to provide 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:

- ④ Participate in IRD (Institut de Recherche et de Développement) scientific programs by providing daily positions and echo-sounder acoustic biomass data for every company owned FADs, with a maximum delay of 90 days to ensure confidentiality.
- ④ Data submissions include the vessel name and IMO number. As we commit to report to a national scientific institution, these data can be made available to the relevant RFMO – IOTC - 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:

- ④ Not having more than 280 active FADs per vessel at any time, even though IOTC allows for a higher number. Therefore, abiding by the limit of active number of FADs adopted by IOTC.
- ④ Deploying only FADs with satellite tracking buoys.
- ④ Not reactivating remotely buoys that were previously deactivated. They will only be reactivated when the buoys are back in port.
- ④ 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

Since January first, 2012, SAPMER SA does not permit its vessels to deploy or redeploy Fishing Aggregation Device (FAD) presenting entanglement risks.

This non-entangling FAD Policy is based on our Producer Organization ORTHONGEL Decision n°11 dated November 23rd, 2011, which is available at the following link: <http://orthongel.fr/docs/reglt/orthongel/Dec11-DCPeco.pdf>

We commit to:

- ④ **Deploying only FADs that are completely non-entangling (i.e., without any netting), in compliance with IOTC.**
- ④ **The characteristics and engineering of non-entangling FAD were determined during the “tuna for tomorrow program ECO FAD” and are consistent with the [ISSF Guide for Non-Entangling FADs](#) . This policy and the associated technical means have been developed since then in a process of continuous improvement.**

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

We commit to:

- ④ Studying the feasibility of using FADs with only biodegradable materials in their construction.
- ④ Participating in trials of biodegradable FADs designs and in tests of locally sourced materials in collaboration with ORTHONGEL, KAIROS and other entities (non-exhaustive list).
- ④ Studying the feasibility of deploying simpler and smaller FADs.
- ④ Participating in research to determine FADs deployment areas that have high risk of stranding, by providing historical track data to IRD (Institut de Recherche pour le Développement).
- ④ Participating in the SIOTI FIP FAD WATCH interception and recovery project with SFA (Seychelles Fishing Authority).

We also commit to, where practicable operationally:

- ④ Removing from the water and bringing back to port active FADs used by the vessels in each trip; and
- ④ Removing from the water and bringing back to port any encountered pre-existing / abandoned fishing gear presenting an entanglement risk - including those lost by other operators.

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

We commit to:

- ④ Applying Best Practices for safe handling and release of sharks and rays brought onboard.
- ④ Practicing best safe handling and release of sharks and rays brought onboard; and
- ④ Participating in projects and trials for procedures and best practices to reduce sharks and rays accidental capture and mortality.

Update n°4

This policy was updated in March 2025