



Fish Aggregation Device – Public Statement of Intent

Atlantic Ocean tuna – purse seine (Capsen & Grand Bleu S.A) - July 2020

<https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/atlantic-ocean-tuna-purse-seine-capsen-sa>

This Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) is the CAPSEN S.A. and Grand Bleu S.A. Atlantic Ocean purse seine tuna fishery. The fishery targets Atlantic bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*), eastern Atlantic skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) and Atlantic yellowfin (*T. albacares*) tunas through free-school and Floating Objects (FOB)-associated purse seine sets. The six fishing vessels are flagged to Senegal and operate on the high seas of the eastern Atlantic Ocean and the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of the following coastal states: Senegal, Mauritania, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. The fishery is managed regionally by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

The fishery aims to improve its sustainability and reduce its impact by working towards the objectives below:

- Sustainable fish stocks – Formal commitment to working towards the sustainable exploitation of target and bycatch species in the Atlantic Ocean, to as far as is practicable for this FIP.
- Minimising environmental impacts – To promote the ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management and promote best practices with FAD fishing.
- Effective management – To strengthen governance systems in flag and coastal states, RFMO and the fishery itself.
- Overall, we aim to meet an unconditional pass of the MSC Fisheries Standard by April 2025.

This public Statement of Intent is to guide the overarching objectives of the FIP during the next 5 years to meet the respective workplan actions, specifically regarding Fish Aggregation Device (FADs) usage in the fishery.

To meet the objectives of the Statement of Intent set out here, the FIP will implement a FAD Development Pathway Plan in the first year of the FIP, which will lead to a FAD Policy that demonstrates and provides evidence that it is *highly likely* that the UoA does not create unacceptable impacts on ETP species (entanglement of fauna, primarily sharks and turtles), and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems. Furthermore, this FAD Development Pathway Plan and subsequent FAD Policy will include provisions and guidance on the work towards Biodegradable FAD configurations.

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