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# **CFC VESSEL-BASED FISH AGGREGATION DEVICE (FAD) MANAGEMENT POLICY**

## **FOR ISSF CONSERVATION MEASURE 3.7**



Starting on 30th June 2021, Caroline Fisheries Corporation requires onboard its vessels the use of the following best practices for FAD management, identified in 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:

- Filling out completely and accurately the logbooks, including FAD logbook information, by set type required by the flag state and submitting them to the required authority and/or RFMO.

We commit to:

- Achieving 100% observer coverage on all fishing trips through the regional observer program operated by the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA)

We also commit to:

- Collecting data on the number of active FADs and FAD activity (deployments, visits, sets and loss) as required by WCPFC and submitting them to the required authority

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

We commit to:

- provide daily position and echo-sounder data when required by WCPFC

**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 WCPFC.

We commit to:

- Deploying only FADs with satellite tracking buoys; and
- Not reactivating remotely buoys that were previously deactivated. They will only be reactivated when the buoys are re-deployed; and
- Providing information on the buoy position at least once per day while they are in the water with the proper lag-time.

We also commit to:

- Abiding by the FAD time area closure established by WCPFC

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



We commit to:

- Deploying only FADs that will reduce the risk of entanglement (i.e., netting tied in sausages), even when it is not a requirement of the RFMO, according to the ISSF Guide for Non-Entangling FADs

We also commit to:

- Not deploying any "high entanglement risk" FAD 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); and
- 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)

**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; and
- Participating in tests of locally-sourced biodegradable materials in collaboration with ISSF.

We commit to:

- Not deploying FADs more than 80m deep and testing simpler structure and smaller FADs to reduce their impact; and
- Studying the feasibility of deploying simpler and smaller FADs.

We commit to:

- Participating in research to determine FAD deployment areas that have high risk of stranding, and
- Participate in a project to alert when FADs are drifting in the direction of sensitive areas to remove stranded FADs.

**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

This policy was adopted on \_\_\_\_\_