

Non-Entangling and Biodegradable Fish Aggregating Devices – Public Policy

Dongwon Indian Ocean Purse Seine Tuna FIP – January 2022

<https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/indian-ocean-tuna-purse-seine-dongwon-industries>

The fishery is the Dongwon Industries Indian Ocean purse seine tuna fishery targeting skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*), and yellowfin (*T. albacares*) tunas. The fishing vessels are flagged to the Republic of Korea and operate in the Indian Ocean (IO) high seas and the following Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs): Mauritius, Seychelles, and Madagascar. The fishery is managed regionally by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).

The FIP encompasses two fishing vessels.

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

- Achieve sustainable stock status for all target tunas that is consistent with the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and management systems strengthened to achieve this.
- Strengthen ETP and FAD management and information in the fishery.
- Achieve MSC certification and the objectives above by 2026
- To ensure the participating vessels meet the above objectives the fishery has made this commitment to achieve using only non-entangling Fish Aggregating Devices (NEFADs).

Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs), as defined by IOTC Resolution 19/02, are a “permanent, semi-permanent or temporary object, structure, or device of any material, man-made or natural, which is deployed and/or tracked, for the purpose of aggregating target tuna species for consequent capture”.

By not using netting in FADs, tuna-vessel owners and fishers can prevent the entanglement and "bycatch" of sharks, sea turtles, and other non-target marine species. In addition, by choosing vegetal-based instead of plastic-derived materials for FADs, fishers can avoid contributing to the ocean pollution caused by abandoned, lost, and discarded fishing gear.

The fishery recognises this and adopts the following practices and commitments:

- To reduce the entanglement of sharks, marine turtles or any other species, vessels are required to use non-entangling designs and materials in the construction of FADs as outlined below.
- To reduce the amount of synthetic marine debris, the use of natural or biodegradable materials in FAD construction should be promoted. Vessels are encouraged to use biodegradable FADs in accordance with the guidelines below with a view to transitioning to the use of biodegradable FADs, except for materials used for the instrumented buoys, from 1 January 2022.
- All vessels will comply with the IOTC maximum number of 300 operational buoys followed by any purse seine vessel at any one time. The number of instrumented buoys that may be acquired annually for each purse seine vessel is set at no more than 500. No purse seine

vessel shall have more than 500 instrumented buoys (buoy in stock and operational buoy) at any time.

- To use instrumented buoy, defined by IOTC as a buoy clearly marked with a unique reference number allowing identification of its owner and equipped with a satellite tracking system to monitor its position, on all DFAD's and prohibits the use of any other buoys, such as radio buoys, not meeting this definition.
- All purse seine vessel, supply or support vessel shall declare to its respective CPC, the number of instrumented buoys onboard, including each unique identifier of the instrumented buoy before and after each fishing trip.
- Vessels shall record fishing activities in association with FADs in the section of the "FAD-logbook".
- Encourage the- live release of live sharks and use of handling practices in Res.17/05.
- Adopt safe handling and release practices for sharks, rays, and sea turtles
- Prohibit intentional setting on whale sharks and cetaceans
- Vessels fishing on FADs shall submit, to the Commission, on an annual basis, Management Plans for the use of FADs. Due to their specificity in terms of users, type of boat/vessel involved, fishing method and gear used, and materials used in their construction, the Management Plans and Reporting Requirements for Drifting FADs (DFAD) and Anchored FADs (AFAD) shall be addressed separately.
- Management Plans shall include initiatives or surveys to investigate, and to the extent possible minimise the capture of small bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna and non-target species associated with fishing on FADs. Management Plans shall also include guidelines to prevent, to the extent possible, the loss or abandonment of FADs.
- Data of tracks of all buoys be provided to the IOTC Secretariat including date, instrumented buoy ID, assigned vessel and daily position, for compliance purposes. Data complied at monthly intervals with a time delay of at least 60 days but not longer than 90 days.
- All vessels shall comply with IOTC Conservation Management Measures regarding FADs, Resolution 19/02 [IOTC FAD Management](#).

Principles for design and deployment of non-entangling FADs:

- The surface structure of the FAD shall not be covered, or only covered with non-meshed material such as nylon or canvas. The structure shall be made from bamboo.
- If a sub-surface component is used, it shall not be made from netting but from non-meshed materials such as ropes or canvas sheets with attractors made from cloth.

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