

Starting on, TXOPITUNA, S.L 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 to:

- Filling out completely and accurately the logbooks, including FAD logbook information, by set type required by PANAMA FLAG-ARAP/CIAT-APICD and submitting them by electronic reporting to the required authority and/or CIAT-APICD.

We commit to:

- Achieving 100% observer coverage on all fishing trips through the regional observer program operated by CIAT/ARAP/PRONAOB PANAMA
- Achieving the observer coverage required by PANAMA FLAG-/CIAT-APICD and studying the feasibility of increasing observer coverage through Electronic Monitoring (EM)].

We also commit to:

- Collecting data on the number of active FADs and FAD activity (deployments, visits, sets and loss) as required by CIAT/APICD and submitting them to the required authority and CIAT/APICD, or
- Authorizing satellite data buoy provider to provide to PANAMA FLAG/ARAP buoy daily position data to estimate the number of active FADs and voluntarily submitting them to the CIAT.

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

We commit to:

- Report FAD buoy daily position data to the scientific institution AZTI with a maximum time lag of 90 days, and request that these data be made available to the relevant RFMO for scientific purposes.
- Provide FAD buoy echo-sounder acoustic biomass data to the scientific institution AZTI with a maximum time lag of 90 days, and 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:

- Not having more than 90% active FADs per vessel at any time, even though CIAT/ARAP PANAMA allows for a higher number; or
- Abiding by the limit of active number of FADs adopted CIAT/ARAP PANAMA

We commit to:

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

We also commit to:

- Abiding by the FAD time area closure established by CIAT/ARAP PANAMA.

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

We commit to:

- Deploying only FADs that are completely non-entangling (i.e., without any netting), even when is not a requirement of the CIAT, according to the [ISSF Guide](#)

for Non-Entangling FADs

- Deploying only FADs that are completely less-entangling and starting January 1, 2024 deploying only non-entangling FADs (i.e., without any netting), even when is not 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)
- 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)
- Removing from the water and bringing back to port 100% of 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:

- [Deploying 100% of our FADs with only biodegradable materials except for floatation components of the raft, for which the use of non-biodegradable material should be reduced as much as possible, with an aim to increase this to 100% by 2022.
- Participating in tests of locally-sourced biodegradable materials in collaboration with CIAT/AZTI
- Participating in trials of biodegradable FAD designs and tests with the participation of RFMO science bodies and/or CPCs or ISSF scientists.

- Participating in cooperative efforts, such as the FAD-Watch in the Seychelles, to remove stranded FADs, in the case the fleet operates in the determined area(s).

We commit to:

- Not deploying FADs more than 30 m deep and testing simpler structure and smaller FADs to reduce their impact.
- 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, by providing historical track data to AZTI.

We also commit to:

- Removing from the water and bringing back to port all encountered FADs with non-biodegradable elements (e.g., plastic containers).
- Removing from the water and bringing back to port 100% of 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.

This policy was adopted on May 6th2021.