

CM 3.7 Transactions with Vessels or Companies with Vessel-based FAD Management

FOR ISSF CONSERVATION MEASURE 3.7

Transactions with Vessels or Companies with Vessel-based FAD Management

EXAMPLE POLICY LANGUAGE

VESSEL NAME	IMO/UVI/NATIONAL REGISTRATION NUMBER
TXOPITUNA	8719310
TXOPITUNA DOS	7805966
ESTHERCHO	7207499
CONTADORA I	7385409
ALMIRANTE 1	7409164

TXOPITUNA SL requires onboard its vessel(s) 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:

- [Filling out completely and accurately the logbooks, including FAD logbook information, by set type required by PANAMA – IATTC/CIAT and submitting them by electronic reporting to the required authority and/or RFMO; or]
- [Filling out completely and accurately the logbooks, including FAD logbook information, by set type required by PANAMA – IATTC/CIAT and submitting them to the required authority and/or RFMO]
- [No action.]

We commit to:

- [Achieving 100% observer coverage on all fishing trips through the regional observer program operated by **IATTC/CIAT**, or]
- [Achieving 100% observer coverage, even if not required by the tRFMO, on all fishing trips through the use of human observers or a combination of human observers and voluntary Electronic Monitoring (EM). For EM, best-practice minimum standards developed by ISSF, or those developed by the tRFMO, will be followed; or]
- [Achieving the observer coverage required by **PANAMA – IATTC/CIAT** and studying the feasibility of increasing observer coverage through Electronic Monitoring (EM)].
- [No action.]

We also commit to:

- [Collecting data on the number of active FADs and FAD activity (deployments, visits, sets and loss) as required by **IATTC/CIAT** and submitting them to the required authority and tRFMO], or]
- [Authorizing satellite data buoy provider to provide to **PANAMA** buoy daily position data to estimate the number of active FADs and voluntarily submitting them to the tRFMO.]
- [No action.]

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

We commit to:

- [participate in a scientific program by **AZTI – IATTC/CIAT** by providing daily positions and echo-sounder data for every company-owned FAD, with a time-lag as needed to ensure confidentiality, or]
- [participate in a scientific program by **AZTI – IATTC/CIAT** by providing daily positions and echo-sounder data for **100%** of company-owned FAD, with a time-lag as needed to ensure confidentiality, or]
- [report FAD buoy daily position data to the relevant [RFMO science bodies and/or national scientific institutions and/or flag State], with a maximum time lag of 90 days. Data submissions must include the vessel name and IMO number (if available). Deployments should be identified in the data submissions when possible. [And, if reporting to national scientific institution or flag state, we shall request that these data be made available to the relevant RFMO for scientific purposes.]
- [provide FAD buoy echo-sounder acoustic biomass data to the relevant [RFMO science bodies and/or national scientific institutions and/or flag State], with a maximum time lag of 90 days. Data submissions must include the vessel name and IMO number (if available). [And, if reporting to national scientific institution or flag state, we shall 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 IATTC/CIAT allows for a higher number; or]
- [Abiding by the limit of active number of FADs adopted by IATTC/CIAT].
- [No action.]

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.]
- [No action.]

We also commit to:

- Abiding by the **FADs** time area closure established by IATTC/CIAT.
- [No action.]

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

We commit to:

- [Only deploying or redeploying (i.e. placing in the water) FADs that are completely non-entangling (i.e., without any netting) according to the [ISSF Guide for Non-Entangling FADs](#)¹, or]
- [Deploying at least **100%** of our FADs that are completely non-entangling (i.e., without any netting), according to the [ISSF Guide for Non-Entangling FADs](#)].
- [No action.]

We also commit to:

- Retrieving, where practicable,² any encountered pre-existing non-fully NEFAD (whether a set is done or not) which is not in compliance with this measure.¹
- [No action.]

¹ Text in gray became a requirement on April 1, 2025.

² The language “where practicable” means “when possible” as ISSF recognizes that it may not always be possible for a vessel to remove encountered pre-existing non-fully NEFAD.

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 **2024**; or]
- [Studying the feasibility of using FADs with only biodegradable material in their construction except the floatation structure of the raft; and/or]
- [Participating in trials of biodegradable FAD designs and tests with the participation of [RFMO science bodies and/or CPCs or ISSF scientist]
- [Participating in tests of locally sourced biodegradable materials in collaboration with [scientific institution].]
- [No action.]

We commit to:

- [Not deploying FADs more than **30 mts** deep and testing simpler structure and smaller FADs to reduce their impact; or]
- [Studying the feasibility of deploying simpler and smaller FADs.]
- [No action.]

We commit to:

- [Participating in research to determine FAD deployment areas that have high risk of stranding, by providing historical track data to **AZTI – IATTC/CIAT**; and/or]
- [Participate in a project with **AZTI – OPAGAC/AGAC** to alert them of FADs that are drifting in the direction of **PALMIRA** to remove stranded FADs].
- [Participate in trials of FAD recovery programs with the participation of [RFMO science bodies and/or CPCs or ISSF scientist]
- [No action.]

We also commit to, where practicable:

- [Removing from the water and bringing back to port **100%** of active FADs used by the vessels in each trip; and/or]
- [Removing from the water and bringing back to port all encountered FADs with non-biodegradable elements (e.g., plastic containers); or]
- [Removing from the water and bringing back to port **100%** of encountered FADs with non-biodegradable elements (e.g., plastic containers);]
- [No action.]

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]; or
- [Practicing best safe handling and release of sharks and rays brought onboard; and/or]
- [Reducing the annual number of sets made on small tuna aggregations (< 5 tons)].

This policy was adopted on 01/01/2025