



FAD MANAGEMENT POLICY

South Pacific Tuna Corporation requires its vessel operators to read (and sign to that effect), and more importantly employ these standards to the greatest degree practicable when operating in the western Pacific (WCPO). 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:

- Complete and accurate logbook reporting, including FAD logbook information, by set type required by the US Government, WCPFC regional fisheries management organization (RFMO) and any bilateral access agreements and submitting them in a timely manner by electronic reporting to the appropriate authority.
- 100% observer coverage on all fishing trips through the WCPFC regional observer program operated by WCPFC, or as implemented by the Forum Fisheries Agency under an MOU on US purse seine vessels.
- Collecting data on the number of active FADs and FAD activity (deployments, visits, sets and loss) as required by WCPFC/ US Government and submitting them to the required authority when required.

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

We have committed to:

- Providing daily positions and echo-sounder data for a significant portion of SPTC-owned FAD to the Secretariat of the Pacific Oceanic Fisheries Program, with an appropriate time-to ensure confidentiality. This is an on-going commitment the preliminary results of which can be found at <https://www.wcpfc.int/node/43251>

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 100 active FADs per vessel at any time, even though WCPFC allows for a significantly higher number;

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

We also commit to:

- Not deploying any "high entanglement risk" FAD according to the [ISSF Guide for Non-Entangling FADs](#).

e) Mitigate other environmental impacts due to FAD loss including through the use of biodegradable FADs and FAD recovery policies

We commit to:

- Participating if requested, in tests of locally-sourced biodegradable materials in collaboration with relevant scientific organizations in the WCPO.
- Participating in research to determine FAD deployment areas that have high risk of stranding, by providing historical track data to SPC OFP.

f) For silky sharks (the main bycatch issue in FAD sets) implement further mitigation efforts

We commit to:

- The crew and operator of SPTC vessels cannot retain on board, transship, store, or land any part or whole carcass of a silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) that is caught in the WCPFC Convention Area.

Must release any silky shark caught in the WCPFC Area as soon as possible after the shark is caught and brought alongside the vessel, and take reasonable steps for its safe release, without compromising the safety of any persons.

The crew and operator must allow and assist a WCPFC observer to collect samples of silky shark in the WCPFC Area if requested to do so by the WCPFC observer.

This policy was adopted in June, 2020

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