



## SUMMARY OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE DRIFTING FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES MANAGEMENT PLANS

Prepared by: IOTC Secretariat, 23 April 2022

### PURPOSE

This document summarises the information received from IOTC CPCs in accordance with IOTC Resolution 19/02<sup>1</sup> *Procedures on a fish aggregating devices (FADs) management plan*, including a limitation on the number of FADs, more detailed specifications of catch reporting from FAD sets, and the development of improved FAD designs to reduce the incidence of entanglement of non-target species.

Paragraph 2. This Resolution shall apply to CPCs having purse seine vessels and fishing on Drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (DFADs), equipped with instrumented buoys for the purpose of aggregating target tuna species, in the IOTC area of competence. Only purse seiners and associated supply or support vessels are allowed to deploy DFADs in the IOTC Area of Competence.

It is to be noted that Resolution 19/02, like its predecessors Resolutions 18/08 and 17/08, had maintained elements pertaining to anchored FADs, while paragraph 2 of these resolutions clearly indicate that this measure is only applicable to CPCs having purse seine vessels and fishing on Drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (DFADs).

### BACKGROUND

The reporting requirement under Resolution 19/02 is provided in paragraph 12 of this Resolution which, conversely to paragraph 2, also includes reporting requirement for Anchored FADs (AFAD). Paragraph 13 of the Resolution tasks the Compliance Committee to analyse the information submitted under the reporting requirement.

Paragraph 12. CPCs having vessels flying their flag and 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) [...]. The Plans shall at a minimum follow the Guidelines for Preparation for FAD Management Plans by each CPC as provided for DFADs in Annex I [...].

Paragraph 13. The Management Plans shall be analysed by the IOTC Compliance Committee.

### DISCUSSION

This document presents an update of the summary of compliance with the DFAD management plans (Table 1), and Annex 1 provide the detailed assessments for the DFAD management plans. It incorporates submissions of DFAD management plans received during the intersessional period 2021/2022 from the European Union (France & Spain; 17/03/2022), Japan (16/03/2022), the Republic of Korea (17/03/2022), Mauritius (17/03/2022) and Seychelles (17/03/2022). Iran has informed the IOTC Secretariat that its plan submitted in 2021, is also valid for the year 2022.

As of 18 March 2022, 303 purse seiners have been registered in the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels (RAV).

<sup>1</sup> Previously Resolution 18/08, Resolution 17/08, Resolution 15/08, Resolution 13/08 and Resolution 12/08.

## IOTC-2022-CoC19-10 [E]

- 12 flag States<sup>2</sup> have registered 302 purse seine vessels of length overall (LOA) 24 meters or over to operate in the IOTC area.
- One flag State has registered one purse seine vessel of LOA less than 24 meters to operate in the IOTC area, including in waters outside of its exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

The number of purse seine vessels for CPCs that currently have purse seiners in the record of authorised vessels and that are fishing on DFADs are presented in Table 1.

At its 12<sup>th</sup> Session, the Compliance Committee recommended that the IOTC Secretariat provide a summary of compliance with the DFAD management plans in a tabular format to the next CoC [*Para 123, [IOTC-2015-CoC12-R](#)*].

Australia, Indonesia and the Philippines, which have between them a total of 217 purse seiners on the record of authorized vessels, have indicated that their vessels are not finishing on DFADs or are not operating in the IOTC Area. The guideline for producing a DFAD management plan consists of 24 sections/elements, and these are assessed by applying the following methodology: Yes (Y) indicates the topic is covered in the DFAD management plan; No (N) indicates the topics is not covered in the DFAD management plan.

**Table 1:** Summary of the assessments for each DFAD management plan submitted.

DFAD MANAGEMENT PLANS	EU FRA	EU ITA <sup>x</sup>	EU ESP	IRN	JPN	KOR	MUS	SYC	TZA <sup>x</sup>
Year of submission	2022		2022	2021 <sup>3</sup>	2022	2022	2022	2022	
PS vessels > 24 m <sup>xx</sup>	<b>27</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>
PS vessels < 24 m <sup>xx</sup>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Topics covered (Y)	24	0	23	24	24	24	24	24	0
Topics not covered (N)	0	24	1	0	0	0	0	0	24
% of topics covered	100%	0	96%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0%

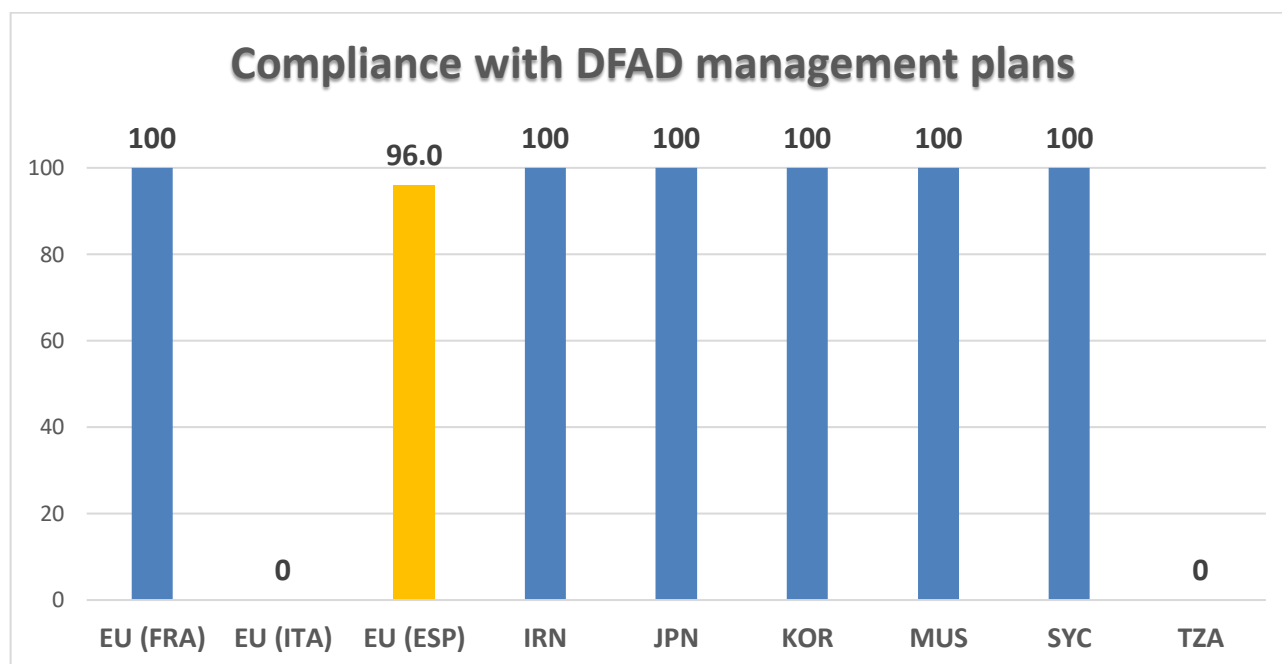
<sup>x</sup>: 2022 DFAD plan not submitted for EU ITA and TZA.

<sup>xx</sup>: Number of PS vessels subject to DFAD Management Plans (as of 29 March 2022). Australia, Indonesia and Philippines are not included in the table, for reasons provided earlier.

<sup>2</sup> Corresponding to 10 CPCs, European Union PS fleet flagged to France, Italy and Spain.

<sup>3</sup> FADs management plan is valid for 2022

**Figure 1:** Levels of compliance of DFAD management plans with the guideline, expressed in percentage of topics covered (Annex I – Resolution 19/02).



## CONCLUSION

Of the seven DFAD management plans submitted, one of the DFAD management plan that has been received is still missing one of the element specified in the guideline of the Resolution 19/02. The available DFAD management plans fall into the following two distinct categories:

1. DFADs management plans with less than 100% topics covered (European Union (ESP))
2. DFADs management plans with 100 % topics covered (European Union (FRA), Japan, Republic of Korea, Mauritius and Seychelles).

At the time of preparing this document, no DFAD managements plan has been received for EU-ITA and Tanzania.

## Annexe 1: Details of compliance assessments of the 2022 DFAD management plans.

**Note:** Yes (Y): Indicates the topic is covered in the DFAD management plan; No (N): Indicates the topic is not covered in the DFAD management plan.

\*: Vessels registered on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels.

2022 DFAD plan not submitted for EU ITA and TZA

DRIFTING FISH AGGREGATING DEVICE (DFAD) MANAGEMENT PLANS	EU (FRA)	EU (ITA)	EU (ESP)	IRN	JPN	KOR	MUS	SYC	TZA
Date of submission	17.03.22		17.03.22	13.04.21	16.03.22	17.03.22	17.03.22	17.03.22	
Purse seine vessels above 24 m*	<b>27</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1. An objective</b>	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
<b>2. Scope</b>									
– 2.1. Vessel-types and support and tender vessels	Y	N	Y	Y	Y (No support / tender vessel)	Y	Y	Y	N
– 2.2. DFAD numbers and/or DFADs beacon numbers to be deployed	Y (300/vessel)	N	Y (300/vessel)	Y	Y (150 /vessel)	Y (Approximately 1,000 DFADs for the entire PS fleet will be deployed and 500 DFADs will be retrieved from the ocean and then deployed again.)	Y (No more than 300 active buoys & 700 acquired/year/PS)	Y (300/vessel)	N
– 2.3 reporting procedures for DFAD deployment	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
– 2.4 incidental bycatch reduction and utilization policy	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N

- 2.5 consideration of interaction with other gear types	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
- 2.6 plans for monitoring and retrieval of lost DFADs	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
- 2.7 statement or policy on "DFAD ownership"	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
<b>3. Institutional arrangements</b>									
- 3.1 Institutional responsibilities	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
- 3.2 application processes for DFAD and /or DFAD beacons deployment approval	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
- 3.3 Obligations of vessel owners and masters in respect of DFAD and /or DFAD beacons deployment and use	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
- 3.4 DFAD and/or DFADs beacons replacement policy	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
- 3.5 reporting obligations	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
<b>4. DFAD Construction specifications and requirements</b>									
- 4.1 DFAD design characteristics (a description)	Y	N	Y (No technical specification cited)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N

- 4.2 DFAD markings and identifiers, including DFADs beacons	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
- 4.3 Lighting requirements	Y	N	Y (no lighting)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
- 4.4 radar reflectors	Y (No radar)	N	Y (no radar)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
- 4.5 visible distance	Y (No rules)	N	Y (2 Miles)	Y (4 Miles)	Y	Y	Y (1 NM)	Y	N
- 4.6 radio buoys (requirement for serial numbers)	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
- 4.7 satellite transceivers (requirement for serial numbers)	Y	N	N (assigned number, no requirement specified)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
<b>5. Applicable areas</b>									
- 5.1 Details of any closed areas or periods e.g. territorial waters, shipping lanes, proximity to artisanal fisheries, etc	Y (No closed area)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
<b>6. Applicable period for the DFAD–MP</b>									
	Y (2021)	N	Y (In force until further modifications are adopted or new international provisions are set.)	Y (Aug to March)	Y (for the entire period while Japanese purse seiners operate in the IOTC)	Y (the time when Korean-flagged purse seiners are in operation in the IOTC area of	Y (One year)	Y (Valid 2022/2023)	N

						Competence)			
<b>7. Means for monitoring and reviewing implementation of the DFAD–MP</b>	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
<b>8. DFAD logbook template</b>	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y (SP & PS logbook)	N
Number of topics covered vs not covered	24 Y	24 N	23 Y 1 N	24 Y	24 Y	24 Y	24 Y	24 Y	24 N
<b>General comments by Secretariat</b>	All elements exist in the FADs management plan	No 2022 DFAD plan provided	Most elements exist in the FADs management plan but one not covered.	2021 FADs management plan is valid for 2022	All elements exist in the FADs management plan	All elements exist in the FADs management plan	All elements exist in the FADs management plan	All elements exist in the FADs management plan	No 2022 DFAD plan provided