

22 October 2024

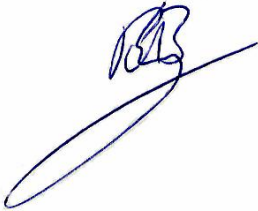
**IOTC CIRCULAR
2024-55**

Dear Madam / Sir

A COMMUNICATION FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION REGARDING A FAD RETRIEVAL PROJECT

Please find attached a communication from the European Union.

Yours sincerely



Paul de Bruyn
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

- letter from the EU

Distribution

IOTC Contracting Parties: Australia, Bangladesh, China, Comoros, European Union, France (Territories), India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep of), Japan, Kenya, Rep. of Korea, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, United Rep. of Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom, Yemen. **Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties:** Liberia. **Intergovernmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations. Chairperson IOTC. Copy to:** FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs.

This message has been transmitted by email only



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

International Ocean Governance and Sustainable Fisheries
Regional Fisheries Management Organisations

Brussels, 18 October 2024
MARE.B.2/MV

IOTC Secretariat
IOTC-Secretariat@fao.org

Dear Ms Jung-re Riley Kim, Dear Mr. De Bruyn,

I am writing to inform you about a recent pilot project which has been launched by a European company in agreement with the Spanish administration and aimed at retrieving drifting FADs in the area of competence of the IOTC.

This pilot plan will have a duration period from Friday 18 October, 2024 to Tuesday 19 November, 2024 and the FAD collection operation area will be from 65° to the border of the EEZs of Maldives, Chagos Archipelago and India.

This Delegation remains committed to communicate any further evolution of the pilot project and to share with interested parties possible valuable outcomes of the activities.

I would appreciate if you could share this letter with the Members of the IOTC.

Yours faithfully,

Marco VALLETTA
Head of the EU delegation to the
IOTC

COURTESY TRANSLATION

Managing Director of Atunsa, Jon Zulueta

In response to your letter regarding the possibility of carrying out a FAD recovery campaign in the Indian Ocean using the vessel Archanda, we confirm that it can be carried out as a pilot campaign to help to evaluate the opportunity to launch FAD collection campaigns, taking into account the need to address, as of 1.1.2025, the provisions of point 29 (collection of FADs) of *Resolution 24/02 on the management of PIDs in the area of competence of the IOTC*.

The authorisation of the pilot campaign is communicated under the following conditions:

1. This pilot plan will last from 18 October 2024 to 19 November 2024, extendable, where appropriate, depending on the preliminary results of the pilot project.
2. The FAD collection operation area will be from 65° to the border of the EEZs of Maldives, Chagos and India.
3. The activity will be tracked by VMS.
4. Monthly buoy coordinate reports and observer video should be provided immediately after the end of the project. The company will facilitate the corresponding evaluation report from the company carrying out the observation.

The European Commission shall notify the IOTC of the implementation of this pilot plan.

Director General of Sustainable Fisheries

RAMÓN DE LA FIGUERA MORALES