



26 November 2024

IOTC CIRCULAR 2024-60

Dear Madam / Sir

A FURTHER COMMUNICATION FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION REGARDING A FAD RETRIEVAL PROJECT

Please find attached a further communication from the European Union to the project communicated in [Circular 2024-55](#).

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,
MARE.B.2/MV/Ares(2024)

IOTC Secretariat
IOTC-Secretariat@fao.org

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

Following my communication of last 18 October 2024 (ref ARES(2024) 7461874) I wish to inform you about the continuation of the pilot project, 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 20 November 2024 to 20 December 2024 and the FAD collection operation area will be from 65° to the border of the EEZs of Maldives, Chagos Islands and India.

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

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 the renovation to carry out a FAD recovery campaign in the Indian Ocean using the vessel Archanda, and once analysed the results of the current campaign, we confirm that the pilot campaign to help to evaluate the opportunity to launch FAD collection campaigns can continue to be carried out, 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 renovation of the pilot campaign is communicated under the following conditions:

1. This pilot plan will last from 20 November 2024 to 20 December 2024.
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