

29 January 2026

IOTC CIRCULAR 2026-07

Dear Madam / Sir

LAUNCH OF THE DFAD REGISTER – TESTING PERIOD

At its 28th Session, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) adopted Resolution 24/02“ *On Management of Drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) in the IOTC Area of Competence*”. The Resolution tasked the IOTC Secretariat with the development and operation of the **DFAD Register**, an online system to serve as a registry of dFADs and a record of their deployment and operational status.

On **Monday 2 February 2026**, the e-DFAD Register will officially launch, for a “**mandatory testing period**” which will last **until 31 May 2026**, as agreed by the Commission.

The e-DFAD Register will be accessible here: <https://iotc.org/dfad-register>

On **01 June 2026**, the DFAD Register will fully enter its production phase.

After launch, Buoy Owners will be able to report the activation of their currently active buoys, as required by Resolution 24/02: any activation done at sea before 15 February will be treated as “backlog” and will not be marked as “reported late” in the system. Any activation done after 15/02 will be subject to the standard validation rules.

During the “mandatory testing period”, CPCs and BOs are encouraged to report feedback to the Secretariat using the following email address: iotc-dfad@fao.org. At the end of the phase, a summary feedback report will be produced, for discussion by CPCs.

Documentation on how to use e-DFAD is available on the IOTC website: <https://iotc.org/dfad-register>

It includes **User guides** and **Reporting templates**.

If you haven't done so yet, please fill in the attached Excel form and return it as soon as possible, so we can create and configure user accounts for you ahead of launch:

- For CPCs with DFAD fishing Purse Seiners: please fill out all the sheets.
- For CPCs with no DFAD fishing purse seiners: please fill out only the “CPC users” sheet.

Yours sincerely



Paul de Bruyn
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

- Form to request CPC and/or buoy owner user accounts

Distribution

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Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties: Liberia. **Intergovernmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations.**
Chairperson IOTC. Copy to: FAO Headquarters, FAO Representatives to CPCs.

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