

# e-DFAD

## State of play



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# **e-DFAD: state of play**

## **Timeline of the e-DFAD register**

- Resolution 24/02 adopted in May 2024
- Work on e-DFAD started in early 2025
- Specifications validated by CPCs at S29 in April 2025
- Pilot phase in December 2025 and January 2026
- Mandatory testing phase started in February 2026
- Official launch on 1 July 2026

# **e-DFAD: state of play**

## **Pilot phase**

- 6 Buoy Owners/Companies participated
- Feedback was received and incorporated as needed

# e-DFAD: state of play

## Mandatory testing phase

- User manuals for Buoy Owners and CPCs were provided in EN and FR
- Development continued on planned features, including:
  - Deletion and Correction of submitted information by Buoy Owners
  - Numerous improvement and fixes
- Continuous feedback from CPCs/BOs received and incorporated as needed, including:
  - Buoy Owner Companies accounts and associated PS vessels
  - Alternative single-sheet bulk upload template
- An online training session was organised at the request of some Buoy Owners

# e-DFAD: state of play

## Mandatory testing phase

- State as of 13/05/2026

<b>Active Flag States</b>	6
<b>Active Buoy Owner Companies</b>	14
<b>Registered DFADs</b>	9858
<b>Active buoys on DFADs and logs</b>	3959
<b>Deactivated buoys</b>	1097
<b>Transfers</b>	52

# **e-DFAD: state of play**

## **Improvements until official launch**

- Submission correction/deletion by Buoy Owners
- Data export
- Other improvements as required

# **e-DFAD: state of play**

## **Improvements planned beyond official launch**

- The CPC review and correction process
- A vessel-centric view
- Implementation of new activities to better reflect what happens at sea
- Other improvements as requested and prioritized

# e-DFAD: Open questions following S30

## Question 1: Deactivation of retrieved buoys and coordinates

- *Guidance is asked from the Commission on whether the application should always ask for Deactivation coordinates, whether the buoy is retrieved or not, so it can notify of an EEZ deactivation even when the buoy is Retrieved?*
- Some CPCs were of the opinion that since this is not requested in 24/02, it shouldn't be added to e-DFAD.
- Other CPCs mentioned that the wording of 24/02 is not clear and that any deactivation happening in the EEZ of Coastal States should be notified.
- No consensus was reached on this topic, and the question will be referred to the next WPICMM.

# e-DFAD: Open questions following S30

## Question 2: Deactivation of buoys on logs and coordinates

- *Guidance is asked from the Commission on whether last known coordinates should also be required when reporting deactivation of a buoy on a Log.*
- Some CPCs were of the opinion that 24/02 clearly separates logs from DFADs and doesn't require coordinates for deactivations on logs (the spirit of 24/02 being to ensure accountability by vessels for FOBs they put out at sea, not for logs they find at sea and decide to track), so it shouldn't be added to e-DFAD.
- Other CPCs mentioned that the wording of 24/02 does include logs in the definition of FADs and so they should be treated like "regular" FADs.
- No consensus was reached on this topic, and the question will be referred to the next WPICMM.

# **e-DFAD: Open questions following S30**

## **Question 4: Buoy identifier format standardization**

- CPCs agreed that a standardized format for buoy identifiers would improve data quality and that it should be implemented.
- No details given on what format to implement, which remains to be agreed.

# **e-DFAD: Open questions following S30**

## **Question 5: Exchange of FOBs & Buoys between vessels**

- Some CPCs indicated this is a practice that happens at sea and is not in contravention of 24/02, so should be allowed in e-DFAD.
- Other CPCs noted that caution should be exercised to avoid creating loopholes and this should be allowed through an amendment of 24/02.
- No consensus was reached and the question will be referred to the next WPICMM meeting.

**thank you**