

# e-DFAD Quick Start series: Registering DFADs and reporting Activities on FOBs

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## What is this guide about?

This quick start guide will give Buoy Owners a short overview of the high level process you can use e-DFAD to register new DFADs and report activities on Floating Objects (FOBs: DFADs and Logs) information to the IOTC DFAD Register (e-DFAD).

The main workflows described in this manual are:

- **Registration of new DFADs (interactive or in bulk):** create a new DFAD > fill in required information > Register > Obtain the DFAD's Unique identifier (UDI)
- **Reporting of activities on FOBs (interactive or in bulk):** provide required information > validate > submit > FOB status is updated

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## Main features of e-DFAD

As per IOTC Resolution 24/02, the aim of the e-DFAD Register is to:

- Allow Buoy Owners (BO) to register DFADs and obtain an IOTC Unique DFAD Identifier (UDI)
- Allow Buoy Owners to declare activation and deactivation of their Instrumented Buoys ("operations") on DFADs or Logs.

### Registration of DFADs

- Allows a Buoy Owner to obtain a UDI at any point in time before deployment
- DFAD numbering scheme adopted is IOTC-[3 letters]-[3 digits]. Example: IOTC-ABC-123

Note: Logs are not registered so do not get a UDI.

Registration can be done interactively (one by one, using a form-based interface) or in bulk (using Excel templates.)

Registrations can be done way in advance of deployment, allowing BOs to reserve a range of UDIs for later marking on deployed DFADs.

### Declaration of Operations

The following operations/activities can be reported by Buoy Owners:

- Activation
- Deactivation (retrieval, loss, abandonment)
- Transfer\*
- Replacement\*

Reporting can be done interactively or in bulk.

## Connecting to the e-DFAD

**STEP 1:** Open the e-DFAD URL in your web browser: <https://dfad.iotc.org>

**STEP 2:** Sign-in with your CPC user account

## Registering new DFADs

### Interactively

*If you need to register a small number of DFADs, the easiest way is to use the interactive mode.*

**STEP 1:** Open e-DFAD: <https://dfad.iotc.org> and click the “+Add FOB” button (from the Home page or the Search page).

**STEP 2:** The “Unregistered DFAD” page is displayed where you will fill in the required information to Register a new DFAD:

DFAD / All FOBs / <unregistered> Joanna Durand

## Unregistered DFAD

Revision on 02/12/25

FLOATING OBJECT REGISTER EDIT

DFAD Identifier

FOB Type DFAD

Biodegradability Category <MISSING>

FOB Status UNREGISTERED

BUOY EDIT

Buoy Identifier <MISSING>

Buoy Model <MISSING>

Buoy Manufacturer <MISSING>

Buoy Status <N/A>

VESSEL EDIT

Vessel Flag State France (EU)

Vessel Identifier <MISSING>

Vessel Name <MISSING>

Buoys Followed <N/A>

**STEP 3:** Click the “Edit” button to the right of the “Floating Object” card to open the details for the FOB:

FOB Edit

Edit the description of the Floating Object to provide missing information, report changes, or amend incorrect information.

FO Type

DFAD

Select a type.

Floating objects of different types are subjected to different constraints within the systems.  
For example, only DFADs are assigned a Unique IOTC Identifier.  
Once the Floating Object is ready for deployment, its type may not be changed.

Biodegradability Category

I

Category I  
Category II  
Category III  
Category V  
Category IV

Reset Submit

“Biodegradable” means non-synthetic materials and/or bio-based alternatives that are consistent with international standards for materials that are biodegradable in marine environments.

**STEP 4:** The FOB type “DFAD” is already selected and **the only thing you have to provide is the Biodegradability category of your DFAD**. Please refer to the definitions of the categories provided in Resolution 24/02 and in the bulk templates. Select a category and the Submit button will activate. Press it to return to the main page.

**STEP 5:** The DFAD is now ready to Register:

## Unregistered DFAD

Ready To Register
Ready To Activate
Revision on 02/12/25

FLOATING OBJECT
REGISTER EDIT

DFAD Identifier

FOB Type DFAD

Biodegradability Category Category II

FOB Status UNREGISTERED

At this stage you can optionally provide additional information about the DFAD, such as details about the buoy that it will be equipped with, or the purse seiner it will be tracked by. If you do not have these details now, you will provide them at the time of first deployment/activation.

**STEP 6: Click the Register button:** the Registration dialog explains what will happen and you can now click “Register now”.

**STEP 7: Your DFAD is now registered and has a UDI:** please note this UDI as it should be marked on the DFAD for deployment, and also will be used for identifying the DFAD when reporting activation/deactivation of its buoy.

DFAD / All FOBs / <unregistered>
Joanna Durand

# IOTC-AAA-078

Revision on 02/12/25

FLOATING OBJECT

DFAD Identifier IOTC-AAA-078

FOB Type DFAD

Biodegradability Category Category II

FOB Status REGISTERED

## In bulk

If you need to register multiple DFADs at once, the fastest way is to use the bulk update facility, based on Excel templates.

**STEP 1: Download the Registration template** from the IOTC website: <https://iotc.org/dfad-register>

**STEP 2: Fill the template with your information:** please make sure to read the User Guide sheet that gives instructions on how to fill the template. Information about DFADs to register goes in the “DFAD Registrations” sheet, one row per new DFAD to register.


	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Bulk Registration of DFADs</b>				
2	Use this template to request DFAD UDIs in bulk.				
3	Mandatory	Optional			
4					
5	#	Biodegradability category	Buoy Identifier	Buoy Model	Purse seiner's IOTC number
6	1 CAT1				IOTC000373
7	2 CAT1				IOTC000373
8	3 CAT1		FRA-010	M3+	IOTC000373
9	4 CAT2				
10	5 CAT2				
11	6 CAT3				
12	7 CAT1				
13	8 CAT1				
14	9 CAT6			BOX	IOTC000000
15	10				
16	11				
17	12				
18	13				



At this stage you can optionally provide additional information about the DFAD, such as details about the buoy that it will be equipped with, or the purse seiner it will be tracked by. If you do not have these details now, you will provide them at the time of first deployment/activation.

**STEP 3: Open e-DFAD:** <https://dfad.iotc.org> and click the “+Load FOB” button (from the Home page or the Search page). The bulk registration drawer will open.




**STEP 4: Upload your template file (drag and drop or click in the file upload area):**

 Load FOBs from File

Open or drag here a FOB template. 


 Data
 Issues



---


# DFAD ID ▾
# Buoy Id ▾
# Vessel ID ▾
 Date ▾
 Alerts




**STEP 5: Review the validation results:**

 Load FOBs from File

 DFAD registration\_FRA\_demo.xlsx

 Data
 Issues

---

	# DFAD ID ▾	# Buoy Id ▾	# Vessel ID ▾	 Date ▾	 Alerts
#	IOTC-AAA-070	FRA-010	IOTC000373	02/12/25	
#	New FOB	<MISSING>	IOTC000373	02/12/25	
#	New FOB	<MISSING>	<MISSING>	02/12/25	
#	New FOB	<MISSING>	IOTC000373	02/12/25	
#	New FOB	<MISSING>	<MISSING>	02/12/25	
#	New FOB	<MISSING>	IOTC000000	02/12/25	
#	New FOB	<MISSING>	<MISSING>	02/12/25	
#	New FOB	<MISSING>	<MISSING>	02/12/25	
#	New FOB	<MISSING>	<MISSING>	02/12/25	

Submit Valid (7)

- Valid records are displayed in white.
- Invalid records are displayed in red: you can consult the issues affecting a record by simply clicking on the red registration symbol (#) or double-clicking on the row, which opens the Record Inspector:

# IOTC-GA  
# IOTC-GA  
# IOTC-GC

#	IOTC-GA	New FOB	<MISSING>	<MISSING>	02/12/25
#	New FOB	<MISSING>	IOTC000000		02/12/25

Registration (3 issue(s))

Load FOBs from File

DFAD registration\_FRA\_demo.xlsx

Data
Issues

#	DFAD ID	Buoy Id	Vessel ID	Date	Alerts
#	IOTC-AAA-070	FRA-010	IOTC000373	02/12/25	
#	NEW FOB	<MISSING>	IOTC000373	02/12/25	
#	NEW FOB	<MISSING>	<MISSING>	02/12/25	
#	NEW FOB	<MISSING>	IOTC000373	02/12/25	
#	NEW FOB	<MISSING>	<MISSING>	02/12/25	
#	NEW FOB	<MISSING>	IOTC000000	02/12/25	

New FOB

Close

Data
Issues

REGISTRATION

DFAD Identifier

New FOB

FOB Type

DFAD

Buoy Identifier

<MISSING>

Buoy Model

BOX

Buoy Manufacturer

<MISSING>

Vessel Identifier

IOTC000000

Vessel Name

<MISSING>

Biodegradability Category

CAT6

You can consult issues with a given record either by mousing over the fields framed in red or by clicking the “Issues” tab at the top:

Vessel Identifier

IOTC000000

Vessel Name

Biodegradability Category

CAT6

Unknown or invalid vessel id: IOTC000000.

New FOB

Close

Data
Issues

Type

Description

Error

Invalid DFAD biodegradability category: CAT6.

Error

Invalid buoy model: BOX.

Error

Unknown or invalid vessel id: IOTC000000.

**STEP 6: Submit valid record:** Invalid records cannot be submitted for registration: either you fix the errors in the Excel template, or you submit only the valid records and the invalid are ignored. To finalise registration of your DFADs, click the “**Submit Valid**” button.

**STEP 7:** You will now see the **list of valid DFADs updated with their newly assigned UDIs**. You can also download this list as an Excel file by clicking on the “**Download submitted**” button. This will produce an Excel file containing all the details about the newly registered DFADs and their UDIs.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Last Activity	DFAD ID	FOB Status	Buoy Id	Buoy Status	Vessel ID
2	02/12/2025 08:36	IOTC-AAA-079	Registered		Idle	
3	02/12/2025 08:36	IOTC-AAA-080	Registered		Idle	
4	02/12/2025 08:36	IOTC-AAA-081	Registered		Idle	IOTC000373
5	02/12/2025 08:36	IOTC-AAA-082	Registered		Idle	
6	02/12/2025 08:36	IOTC-AAA-083	Registered		Idle	IOTC000373
7	02/12/2025 08:36	IOTC-AAA-084	Registered		Idle	
8	02/12/2025 08:36	IOTC-AAA-085	Registered		Idle	

## Declaring operations on FOBs

The operations that can be reported on FOBs are:

- Report Deployment (Buoy Activation) of Logs or Registered DFADs.
- Report other Operations:
  - Simple Buoy Deactivation: retrieval, loss...

- Replacement: replacing your buoy on an FOB with a newer buoy
- Transfer: replacing the buoy on an FOB tracked by another vessel with your own buoy

The Register enforces respect of a timeline of operations: if an FOB is a DFAD it first needs to be Registered, then FOB can be deployed (Activation), then the buoy can be Deactivated, Replaced or Transferred.

## Interactively

If you need to declare a small number of activities, the easiest way is to use the interactive mode.

### First deployment/activation

**STEP 1:** If you are **deploying on a DFAD**, it needs to have been registered first. Find it in the list of your FOBs in the Operations tab of the Search page:

DFAD ID	FOB Status	Buoy Id	Buoy Status	Vessel ID	Biodegrad.	Buoy Manufacturer	Buoy Model
IOTC-AAA-028	REGISTERED		<N/A>		Category I		
IOTC-AAA-021	REGISTERED		<N/A>		Category II		
IOTC-AAA-026	REGISTERED	FRA-010	IDLE	IOTC000373	Category I	MARINE INSTRUMENTS	M3i+
IOTC-AAA-010	DEPLOYED	FRA-100	ACTIVE	IOTC013979	Category II	SATLINK	D+ sol
IOTC-AAA-006	DEPLOYED	FRA-099	ACTIVE	IOTC000370	Category I	SATLINK	IDP sol

Registered, non deployed DFADs appear as “FOB status: registered; Buoy Status: (N/A if buoy details not provided yet, Idle if provided).”

You can use the search feature above to filter for only non deployed FOBs by selecting Buoy Status: Idle.

DFAD ID	FOB Status	Buoy Id	Buoy Status	Vessel ID	Biodegrad.	Buoy Manufacturer	Buoy Model
IOTC-AAA-021	REGISTERED		<N/A>		Category II		
IOTC-AAA-028	REGISTERED		<N/A>		Category I		
IOTC-AAA-026	REGISTERED	FRA-010	IDLE	IOTC000373	Category I	MARINE INSTRUMENTS	M3i+

Once you have found the DFAD you want to deploy, simply click on its left-most icon or double click on the row to open the FOB drawer.

If you are **deploying on a Log**, **no registration is needed** and you can simply use “+ Add FOB” button to open the FOB drawer.

**STEP 2:** Fill in the required information:

# IOTC-AAA-028

Revision on 01/12/25

## FLOATING OBJECT

DFAD Identifier	IOTC-AAA-028
FOB Type	DFAD
Biodegradability Category	Category I
FOB Status	REGISTERED

## BUOY

ACTIVATE EDIT

Buoy Identifier	<MISSING>
Buoy Model	<MISSING>
Buoy Manufacturer	<MISSING>
Buoy Status	<N/A>

## VESSEL

EDIT

Vessel Flag State	France (EU)
Vessel Identifier	<MISSING>
Vessel Name	<MISSING>
Buoys Followed	<N/A>


## CHANGES & ACTIVITIES

### REGISTRATION

01/12/25	DFAD Identifier	IOTC-AAA-028
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- Information that needs to be provided is highlighted in red. To provide it, click the relevant Edit button.
  - Buoy: select a Buoy Model from the list; provide a buoy identifier.
  - Vessel: select a vessel from the list of Purse Seiners declared by your Flag State on the e-RAV.
- Once done editing a card, click "Submit".





Edit the description of the buoy to provide missing information, report changes, or amend incorrect information.

All fields are mandatory for deployment, and the buoy identifier is required for registration.

Buoy Identifier

FRA-999

A reference number or code that can be used to track its owner.

The unique reference number of the buoy.

Buoy Model

IDP solar with echosounder

The model of the instrumented buoy.

Buoy Manufacturer

SATLINK

The manufacturer of the instrumented buoy.

Reset

Submit

Once all the required information has been provided, the “**Activate**” button will become available.

Buoy Identifier

FRA-999

Buoy Model

IDP solar with echosounder


Buoy Manufacturer

SATLINK

Buoy Status

IDLE

**STEP 3: Report activation of the buoy:** click the “**Activate**” button to open the Buoy Activation drawer.



Report time and coordinates required to track the activation and deployment of the buoy.

Date & Time of Deployment

Select date

Can't be empty.

Select the precise date and time when the buoy was deployed and active, in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).

Deployment Position

LATITUDE

LONGITUDE

Coordinates are required.

The latitude and longitude of the buoy at the time of its deployment, in decimal degrees.

Optional Comment

Free-form text.

Report any info that might further clarify or qualify this change.


Reset

Submit

Here you need to provide:

- the **Date & time of activation**, in UTC (Activation should be reported within 24hrs of it happening)
  - The **latitude and longitude of activation**, in decimal degrees up to 4 decimals
  - You can provide an additional comment that will be visible only to you and other users of your company, your Flag State CPC and IOTC Secretariat users.
- Once done, click the Submit button to report Activation of the buoy.

 Buoy Activation



*Report time and coordinates required to track the activation and deployment of the buoy.*

Date & Time of Deployment

02/12/2025 00:00

Select the precise date and time when the buoy was deployed and active, in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).

Deployment Position

LATITUDE -45,0000

LONGITUDE 45,0000

The latitude and longitude of the buoy at the time of its deployment, in decimal degrees.

Optional Comment

First deployment

Report any info that might further clarify or qualify this change.


Free-form text.

Reset

Submit

**STEP 4:** The FOB is now deployed and its buoy active:

## IOTC-AAA-028

 Revision on 02/12/25

**FLOATING OBJECT**

DFAD Identifier

IOTC-AAA-028


FOB Type

DFAD

Biodegradability Category

Category I

FOB Status

 DEPLOYED

**BUOY**

Buoy Identifier

FRA-999

Buoy Model

IDP solar with echosounder

Buoy Manufacturer

SATLINK

Buoy Status

 ACTIVE

The Changes and Activities section of the FOB details page shows the Buoy activation details:

## CHANGES & ACTIVITIES

02/12/25

Note

Date & Time of Deployment

02/12/2025 00:00

Timeliness

On Time

Latitude

-45.0000

Longitude

45.0000

Activities

Buoy Activity

DEPLOYMENT

FOB Activity

DEPLOYMENT

REGISTRATION

02/12/25

DFAD Identifier

IOTC-AAA-028

And if you go back to the Search page, you will see that the FOB status has been updated with the activation details:

29

< 1 >

REGISTRATIONS

OPERATIONS

TRANSFERS

+ Add FOB

Load FOBs

Last Activity

DFAD ID

FOB Status

Buoy Id

Buoy Status

Vessel ID

Biodegrad.

Buoy Manufacturer

Buc

02/12/25

IOTC-AAA-028

DEPLOYED

FRA-999

ACTIVE

IOTC013979

Category I

SATLINK

IDP

## Deactivation

**STEP 1:** Find the FOB for which you want to report deactivation of the buoy, using the Search page. You can use the filters to select only Active buoys, or find a specific record by it's DFAD UDI or Buoy ID:

DFAD / All FOBs

Alice Tao

BUOY

FOB

VESSEL

BUOY STATUS

BUOY ID

BUOY MANUFACTURER

BUOY MODEL

BUOY STATUS

Active

DFAD ID

BUOY ID

18

< 1 >

REGISTRATIONS

OPERATIONS

TRANSFERS

+ Add FOB

↓ Load FOBs

Last Activity	DFAD ID	FOB Status	Buoy Id	Buoy Status	Vessel ID	Biodegrad.	Buoy Manufacturer	Buc
01/12/25	<LOG>	ACTIVE	FRA-062	ACTIVE	IOTC013979		MARINE INSTRUMENTS	M3i
01/12/25	IOTC-AAA-002	DEPLOYED	FRA-060	ACTIVE	IOTC000373	Category I	MARINE INSTRUMENTS	M3i

BUOY

FOB

VESSEL

BUOY STATUS

BUOY ID

BUOY MANUFACTURER

BUOY MODEL

BUOY STATUS

DFAD ID

BUOY ID

1

< 1 >

REGISTRATIONS

OPERATIONS

TRANSFERS

+ Add FOB

↓ Load FOBs

Last Activity	DFAD ID	FOB Status	Buoy Id	Buoy Status	Vessel ID	Biodegrad.	Buoy Manufacturer	Buc
01/12/25	IOTC-AAA-002	DEPLOYED	FRA-060	ACTIVE	IOTC000373	Category I	MARINE INSTRUMENTS	M3i

**STEP 2:** Open it and click the “Deactivate” button:

BUOY

DEACTIVATE

REPLACE

AMEND

Buoy Identifier

FRA-060

Buoy Model

M3i


Buoy Manufacturer

MARINE INSTRUMENTS


Buoy Status

ACTIVE

**STEP 3:** Fill in the required information:



*Report the status of buoy and Floating Object after the buoy was deactivated.*


<p><b>Date &amp; Time of Deactivation</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Select date </div> <p style="color: red; font-size: 0.8em;">Can't be empty.</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Select the precise date and time when the buoy was deactivated, in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).</p>
<p><b>Buoy Status After Deactivation</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">▼</div> <p style="color: red; font-size: 0.8em;">A status is required.</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">The status of the buoy after it was deactivated.</p>
<p><b>Buoy Decommissioned On Retrieval</b></p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> <div style="margin-left: 5px;">Switch to select.</div> </div>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Indicate whether, after it has been retrieved, the buoy was decommissioned.</p>
<p><b>FOB Status After Deactivation</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">▼</div> <p style="color: red; font-size: 0.8em;">A status is required.</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Deactivating the buoy leaves the Floating Object in one of a few possible statuses.</p>
<p><b>Last Known Position</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 2px 5px; font-size: 0.8em;">LATITUDE</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 2px 5px; font-size: 0.8em;">LONGITUDE</div> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Provide latitude [-55°, +30°] and longitude [20°, +150°].</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">The most recent known latitude and longitude of the buoy, in decimal degrees.</p>
<p><b>Optional Comment</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; height: 40px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Free-form text.</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Report any info that might further clarify or qualify this change.</p>

Reset

Submit

- **Date & time of deactivation:** provide in UTC (Activations should be reported with 24hrs of them happening).
- **Buoy Status** after deactivation: pick a value
- If the buoy is reported as Retrieved, indicate whether it was **Decommissioned**
- **FOB status** after deactivation: pick a value.
- **If the Buoy wasn't Retrieved, the most recent known Latitude and Longitude of the buoy.** (If the coordinates reported are in the EEZ of an Indian Ocean Coastal State, both the Coastal State and Flag State authorities will be notified by email.)

## Buoy Deactivation



Report the status of buoy and Floating Object after the buoy was deactivated.

Date & Time of Deactivation

Select the precise date and time when the buoy was deactivated, in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).

Buoy Status After Deactivation

Lost

Select a status.

Buoy Decommissioned On Retrieval

☐

Indicate whether, after it has been retrieved, the buoy was decommissioned.

FOB Status After Deactivation

Lost

Select a status.

Last Known Position

LATITUDE

LONGITUDE

The most recent known latitude and longitude of the buoy, in decimal degrees.

Optional Comment

Report any info that might further clarify or qualify this change.


Reset

Submit

**STEP 4: Submit the Deactivation:** once all required information has been provided, click the Submit button. The Buoy is now reported as deactivated.

IOTC-AAA-002

Revision on 02/12/25

 FLOATING OBJECT

DFAD Identifier

IOTC-AAA-002


FOB Type


DFAD

Biodegradability Category

Category I

FOB Status

 LOST

 BUOY

Buoy Identifier

FRA-060


Buoy Model

M3i

Buoy Manufacturer

MARINE INSTRUMENTS

Buoy Status

 LOST

And the Changes & Activities section shows the details about the Deactivation:

## CHANGES & ACTIVITIES

02/12/25

Note

Date & Time of Deactivation

02/12/2025 10:15

Timeliness

On Time

Latitude

-6.8500

Longitude

58.6000

EEZ

Seychelles

Activities

Buoy Activity

LOSS

FOB Activity

LOSS

The updated status of the FOB and buoy is now [visible](#) in the Search page.

Last Activity

DFAD ID

FOB Status

Buoy Id

Buoy Status

Vessel ID

Biodegrad.

Buoy Manufa

02/12/25

IOTC-AAA-002

LOST

FRA-060

LOST

IOTC000373

Category I

MARINE INSTR

## Replacement

If you need to replace the buoy currently active on an FOB you are tracking, with a new buoy, you use the Replacement action. It is available only for buoys that are currently active.

**STEP 1: Find the FOB for which you want to report Replacement** of the buoy, using the Search page. You can use the filters to select only Active buoys, or find a specific record by it's DFAD UDI or Buoy ID.

**STEP 2: Open it and click the "Replace" button:**

BUOY

DEACTIVATE REPLACE AMEND

Buoy Identifier

FRA-999

Buoy Model

IDP solar with echosounder

Buoy Manufacturer

SATLINK

Buoy Status

ACTIVE

**STEP 3: Fill in the required information:**

- **New buoy identifier**
- **New buoy model**
- **Date & time of deployment** of the new buoy, in UTC (Activation should be reported within 24hrs of it happening)
- Whether the old buoy was **Decommissioned** after retrieval/replacement
- **Latitude and longitude of activation of the new buoy**, in decimal degrees up to 4 decimals

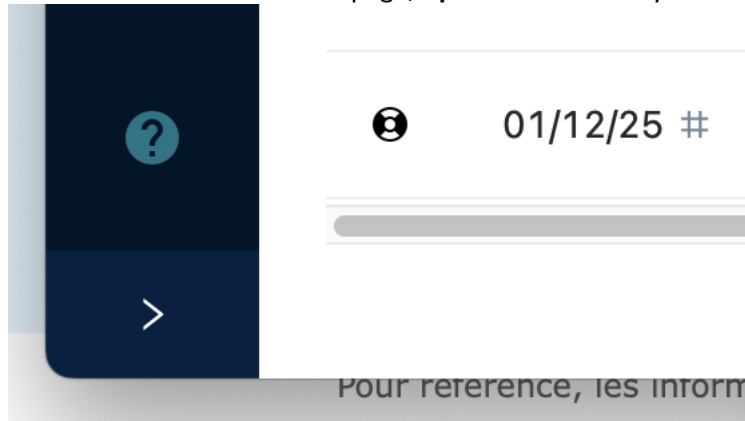
**STEP 4: Submit the Replacement:** once all required information has been provided, click the Submit button. The Buoy is now reported as replaced: the new buoy is Active and the old buoy is Deactivated.

## Transfer

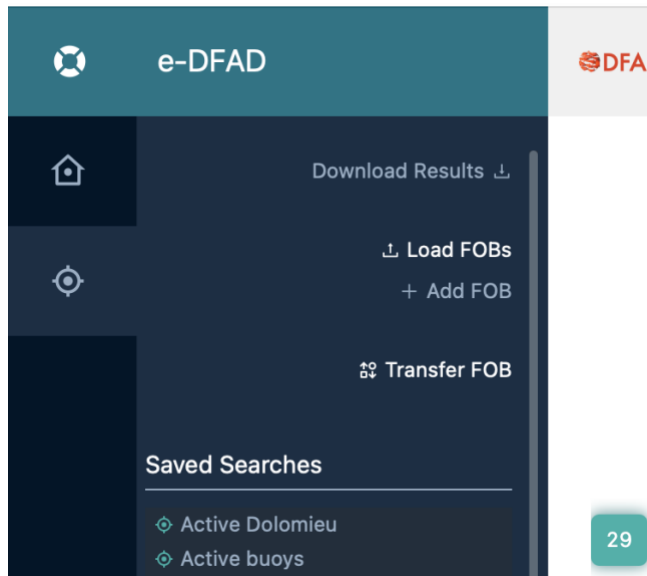
If you need to replace the buoy currently active on an FOB *that is tracked by another vessel/Buoy Owner*, with a new buoy and to start tracking the FOB yourself, you use the Transfer action. It is available only for buoys that are currently active.

Because you are transferring an FOB that "doesn't belong" to you, you cannot see it in the Search page, which only shows your FOBs. So the process is slightly different from Activations, Replacements etc.

**STEP 1:** From the Search page, **open the sidebar** by clicking on the arrow to the bottom right:




**STEP 2:** Click the Transfer FOB button:



**STEP 3:** Open it and click the “Replace” button to open the FOB transfer drawer:

FOB Transfer



*Report your claim of ownership over a deployed FOB by providing details about the activation of a new buoy and its association with a vessel.*

Target Identifier <input type="text"/>	Provide the identifier of the DFAD you want to appropriate (with or without the IOTC prefix) or the identifier of its current buoy.
New Buoy Identifier <input type="text"/>	A reference number or code that can be used to track its owner.
New Buoy Model <input type="text"/>	The model of the instrumented buoy.

**STEP 4:** Find the target FOB by entering its DFAD UDI or Buoy ID: the system will check that it finds a matching record and will give you some indications about it (biodegradability category and Buoy ID.)

Target Identifier

✓ IOTC-AAA-023

Matched: DFAD:IOTC-AAA-023, Cat:Category II, Buoy:FRA-202.

**STEP 5: Fill in the required information:**

- **New buoy identifier**
- **New buoy model**
- **Date & time of deployment** of the new buoy, in UTC (Activation should be reported within 24hrs of it happening)
- **Latitude and longitude of activation of the new buoy**, in decimal degrees up to 4 decimals
- **IOTC number of your vessel**: pick a vessel from the list.

**STEP 6: Submit the Transfer:** once all required information has been provided, click the Submit button. The FOB is now reported as transferred and it now “belongs” to you.

Notes about transfers:

- As the BO who did the transfer, you cannot see the history of the FOB before you transferred it (when it “belonged” to another BO).
- As the BO from whom the FOB was transferred, you cannot see this FOB in your “Operations” tab and will see it in the Transfers tab. Since the FOB “doesn’t belong” to you anymore, you will not see any operations reported by the new BO after the transfer.

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REGISTRATIONS

OPERATIONS

TRANSFERS

Last Activity

DFAD ID

FOB Status

Buoy Id

Buoy Status

Vessel ID

Biodegrad.

Buoy Mant

02/12/25

IOTC-AAA-023

TRANSFERRED

FRA-202

ACTIVE

IOTC009828

Category II

SATLINK

## In bulk

*If you need to register multiple DFADs at once, the fastest way is to use the bulk update facility, based on Excel templates.*

**STEP 1: Download the Operations template** from the IOTC website: <https://iotc.org/dfad-register>

**STEP 2: Fill the template with your information:** please make sure to read the User Guide sheet that gives instructions on how to fill the template. Information about the various types of operations go in a dedicated sheet, one row per operation to report: Activations (on DFADs, require them to be registered), Activation on Logs, Deactivations, Replacements and Transfers.




F22										
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	<b>Bulk declaration of Activations</b>									
2										
3		Mandatory	Conditional	Optional						
4										
5		Buoy Identifier	Mandatory only if not already provided at registration.							
6		Buoy Model								
7		Purse seiner's IOTC number								
8										
9										
10	#	DFAD UDI	Buoy Identifier	Buoy Model	Purse seiner's IOTC number	Date and time of deployment	Latitude of deployment	Longitude of deployment	Comment	
11	1	IOTC-AAA-011	FRA-50		IOTC009828	2025-12-01T06:56Z	-45,0000	45,0000		
12	2	IOTC-AAA-012	FRA-51		IOTC009828	2025-12-01T07:26Z	-45,5670	48,9876		
13	3	IOTC-AAA-013	FRA-52		IOTC0 16428	2025-11-30T12:56Z	-12,0000	133,0000		
14	4	IOTC-AAA-014	FRA-53		IOTC0 16428	2025-12-01T07:26Z	-12,6800	132,0000		
15	5	IOTC-AAA-015	FRA-54		IOTC0 16513	2025-11-30T12:56Z	-44,0000	27,0000		
16	6	IOTC-AAA-016	FRA-55		IOTC0 16513	2025-12-01T07:26Z	-44,0000	27,3000		
17	7	IOTC-AAA-018	FRA-56		IOTC013979	2025-12-01T03:26Z	23,5000	32,7000		
18	8	IOTC-AAA-XXX	FRA-01		IOTC99999999	2025-12-03T03:26Z	-90,0000	12,0000		
19	9									
20	10									
21	11									

At this stage you can will have to provide additional information about Registered DFAD that you hadn't provided at registration, such as details about the buoy that it will be equipped with, or the purse seiner it will be tracked by.


**STEP 3:** Open e-DFAD: <https://dfad.iotc.org> and click the “+Load FOB” button (from the Home page or the Search page). The bulk registration drawer will open.

**STEP 4:** Upload your template file (drag and drop or click in the file upload area):

 Load FOBs from File

Open or drag here a FOB template. 

Data
Issues


# DFAD ID
# Buoy Id
# Vessel ID
Date
Alerts

**STEP 5:** Review the validation results:

Load FOBs from File

DFAD operations\_FRA\_demo.xlsx

Data Issues

	# DFAD ID	# Buoy Id	# Vessel ID	Date	Alerts
📶	IOTC-AAA-XXX	FRA-01	IOTCXXX	03/12/25	
📶	IOTC-AAA-022	FRA-201	IOTC000373	01/12/25	Over Quota
📶	IOTC-AAA-023	FRA-202	IOTC009828	01/12/25	Over Quota
📶	IOTC-AAA-024	FRA-203	IOTC000373	01/12/25	Over Quota
📶	IOTC-AAA-025	FRA-204	IOTC016428	01/12/25	
📶	IOTC-AAA-026	FRA-205	IOTC000373	01/12/25	Over Quota
📶	IOTC-AAA-027	FRA-206	IOTC016513	01/12/25	
📶	IOTC-AAA-017	FRA-200	IOTC009828	30/11/25	Late Over Quota

Submit Valid (6)

- Valid records are displayed in white.
- Invalid records are displayed in red: you can consult the issues affecting a record by simply clicking on the red registration symbol (#) or double-clicking on the row, which opens the Record Inspector:

Load FOBs from File

DFAD operations\_FRA\_demo.xlsx

Data Issues

	# DFAD ID	# Buoy Id	# Vessel ID	Date	Alerts
📶	IOTC-AAA-XXX	FRA-01	IOTCXXX	03/12/25	
📶	IOTC-AAA-022	FRA-201	IOTC000373	01/12/25	Over Quota
📶	IOTC-AAA-023	FRA-202	IOTC009828	01/12/25	Over Quota
📶	IOTC-AAA-024	FRA-203	IOTC000373	01/12/25	Over Quota
📶	IOTC-AAA-025	FRA-204	IOTC016428	01/12/25	
📶	IOTC-AAA-026	FRA-205	IOTC000373	01/12/25	Over Quota

IOTC-AAA-026

Close

Data Issues

BUOY ACTIVATION

DFAD Identifier IOTC-AAA-026 FOB Type DFAD

Buoy Identifier FRA-205

Buoy Model M4I

Buoy Manufacturer MARINE INSTRUMENTS

Vessel Identifier IOTC000373 Vessel Name AVEL VAD

Date & Time of Deployment 01/12/25 14:26 Timeliness On Time

Latitude -44.0000 Longitude 27.3000

Over Followed Quota YES

Activities

Buoy Activity Deployment

FOB Activity Deployment

You can consult issues with a given record either by mousing over the fields framed in red or by clicking the “Issues” tab at the top:

Over Followed Quota

YES

Activities

The vessel is over quota for followed buoys (max 2).

Buoy Activity

Deployment

DFAD Identifier

IOTC-AAA-XXX

FOB Type

DFAD

Buoy

Identifier is invalid: IOTC-AAA-XXX.

Data

Issues

Type

Description

Error

Invalid buoy: FRA-205, expected FRA-010.

Warning

The vessel is over quota for followed buoys (max 2).

Blocking errors making a record invalid are displayed in red, while non-blocking warnings are displayed in yellow.

**STEP 6: Submit valid record:** Invalid records cannot be submitted: either you fix the errors in the Excel template, or you submit only the valid records and the invalid are ignored. To finalise submission of your FOB operations, **click the “Submit Valid” button.**

**STEP 7:** You will now see the **list of valid FOBs operations updated.** You can also download this list as an Excel file by clicking on the **“Download submitted”** button. This will produce an Excel file containing all the details about the newly updated FOBs.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Last Activity	DFAD ID	FOB Status	Buoy Id	Buoy Status	Vessel ID	Vessel Name	Biodegrad.
2	01/12/2025 14:26	IOTC-AAA-022	Deployed	FRA-201	Active	IOTC000373	AVEL VAD	Category I
3	01/12/2025 14:26	IOTC-AAA-023	Deployed	FRA-202	Active	IOTC009828	BERNICA	Category II
4	01/12/2025 14:26	IOTC-AAA-024	Deployed	FRA-203	Active	IOTC000373	AVEL VAD	Category I
5	01/12/2025 14:26	IOTC-AAA-025	Deployed	FRA-204	Active	IOTC016428	GEVRED	Category I
6	01/12/2025 14:26	IOTC-AAA-027	Deployed	FRA-206	Active	IOTC016513	PENDRUC	Category III
7	30/11/2025 06:56	IOTC-AAA-017	Deployed	FRA-200	Active	IOTC009828	BERNICA	Category I
8								

## Consulting FOB records

The Search page of e-DFAD is composed of three tabs:

- **Registrations:** this is where “draft” DFAD records live until you have registered them (e.g. in Interactive mode you can start filling information about a DFAD, leave to do something else and come back later to complete it).

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REGISTRATIONS

OPERATIONS

TRANSFERS

# Buoy Id

# Vessel ID

Biodegrad.

Buoy Manufacturer

Buoy Model

FRA-076

Category II

- **Operations:** this is where Registered DFADs and Logs are displayed during the course of their life at sea.

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REGISTRATIONS

OPERATIONS

TRANSFERS

+ Add FOB

↓ Load FOBs

	Last Activity	DFAD ID	FOB Status	Buoy Id	Buoy Status	Vessel ID	Biodegrad.	Buoy Manufacturer	Buoy Model
1	02/12/25	IOTC-AAA-002	LOST	FRA-060	LOST	IOTC000373	Category I	MARINE INSTRUMENTS	M3i
2	02/12/25	IOTC-AAA-028	DEPLOYED	FRA-999	ACTIVE	IOTC013979	Category I	SATLINK	IDP solar with
3	01/12/25	IOTC-AAA-025	DEPLOYED	FRA-204	ACTIVE	IOTC016428	Category I	MARINE INSTRUMENTS	M3i
4	01/12/25	IOTC-AAA-022	DEPLOYED	FRA-201	ACTIVE	IOTC000373	Category I	SATLINK	D+ solar with

- **Transfers:** this is where FOBs that were transferred from you by another BO will appear:

You can use the filter panel above the search results to filter records:

- By default it shows fields for Buoy status, DFAD ID and Buoy ID.
- You can add other fields by clicking on one of the query tabs above related to Buoy, FOB or Vessel, then clicking on one of the available fields.

- You can build complex queries by selecting multiple values in drop-downs, or entering several values in text fields (type a value, press enter, type another value, press enter...)

- Once you are done with your query, click the Play button to run it. If you want to reset the query panel to default, click the trashcan icon.

### Finding how many active buoys are currently tracked by a vessel

Resolution 24/02 implements a limit on the number of active buoys that can be tracked by a given Purse Seiner at any time.

The Register tracks the number of active buoys tracked by each vessel and you can see this by opening an FOB record for that vessel and looking for the “Buoys Followed” field in the Vessel Card

But you can also use the Search feature: build a query for “Buoy Status: Active” and “Vessel ID: [IOTC number of the vessel]” or “Vessel name: [name of the vessel]”:

BUOY

FOB

VESSEL

VESSEL ID

VESSEL NAME

BUOY STATUS

Active

DFAD ID

BUOY ID

VESSEL ID

IOTC009828

3

<

1

>

MY OPERATIONS

TRANSFERS

ALL OPERATIONS

Last Activity	DFAD ID	FOB Status	Buoy Id	Buoy Status	Vessel ID	Buoy On
30/11/25	IOTC-AAA-017	DEPLOYED	FRA-200	ACTIVE	IOTC009828	Alice Tao
30/11/25	IOTC-AAA-003	DEPLOYED	FRA-003	ACTIVE	IOTC009828	Alice Tao
30/11/25	IOTC-AAA-004	DEPLOYED	FRA-004	ACTIVE	IOTC009828	Alice Tao

The count of results (3 in this example) shows you how many active buoys the vessel IOTC009828 is currently tracking.