

e-DFAD guide: Registering DFADs and reporting Activities on FOBs

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What is this guide about?

This guide gives Buoy Owners an 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: create a new DFAD > fill in required information > Register > Obtain the DFAD’s Unique identifier (UDI)**
- **Reporting of activities on FOBs (activation, deactivation, replacement, transfer): provide required information > validate > submit > FOB and buoy status is updated**
- **Consulting FOB information**

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Acronym	Meaning
CPC	Contracting Party or non-contracting cooperating party
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
FAD	Fish aggregating device
DFAD	Drifting fish aggregating device
e-DFAD	IOTC Register of DFADs
ID	Identifier
FOB	Floating object (FAD or debris)
BO	Buoy owner
UDI	Unique DCPD identifier
UTC	Coordinated Universal Time

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

Resolution 24/02 defines the buoy owner as *'the owner/master/operator of a fishing vessel who is in charge of tracking an instrumented buoy and is authorised to request its activation and/or deactivation'*.

The lifecycle of an FOB

The e-DFAD Register follows FOBs throughout their lifecycle:

1. (if a DFAD) **Registration and obtention of a UDI**
2. **Deployment of the FOB/Activation of the buoy** (must be reported in e-DFAD within 24hrs)
3. **Operations on the FOB:**
 - 3.1. **Deactivation of the buoy** (must be reported in e-DFAD within 72hrs); **or**
 - 3.2. **Replacement of the buoy** (must be reported in e-DFAD within 24hrs); **or**
 - 3.3. **Transfer by another Buoy Owner/Vessel** (must be reported in e-DFAD within 24hrs);

Registration of DFADs

- Allows a Buoy Owner to obtain a **UDI for a DFAD** 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 (e.g. at the beginning of a fishing season).

Declaration of Operations

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

- Activation
- Deactivation (retrieval, loss, abandonment)
- Transfer (includes activation of the new buoy)
- Replacement (includes activation of the new buoy and deactivation of the old buoy)

Reporting can be done interactively or in bulk. The following sections give more details about each type of declaration.

Activation and Deactivation

[IOTC Resolution 24/02](#) gives the following definitions of "activation" and "deactivation":

- **Activation:** "Active buoy" means an instrumented buoy from which the satellite communication service has been initiated and switched on, which has been deployed at sea on a DFAD or log and which is transmitting position. Note the fact that a buoy is only

considered by 24/02 as Active when it has been deployed on an FOB at sea: “technical activation” (switched on, transmitting) isn’t enough.

- **Deactivation:** “Deactivation of a buoy” means the act of ending satellite communications service, which is done by the buoy supplier company at the request of the vessel owner or buoy owner. Note that, contrary to Activation, ending the satellite communication service is enough to consider a buoy as Deactivate.

Vessels covered by e-DFAD

Resolution 24/02 is only interested in the **Purse Seine vessel which follows an FOB** equipped with an active buoy.

So when reporting an operation (activation, deactivation, etc.), the vessel that should be reported is the relevant Purse Seiner, even if the operation was conducted by a Supply Vessel supporting the Purse Seiner.

This is why the list of vessels you will be presented with when reporting registrations/operations in e-DFAD only contains Purse Seine vessels.

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 user account

e-DFAD User accounts for Buoy Owners

As a **Buoy Owner user**, your account is associated with:

- **Your Fishing Company**
- **One or more Purse Seine vessels from your Company:** you will only be able to report or consult information about the vessels which are associated with your account.

This allows to define different profiles for BO users:

- **Company user**, who can consult and report on multiple vessels (usually the whole company fleet);
- **Vessel user**, who can consult and report only on the vessel they work on.

Note: at this point in time, e-DFAD doesn’t support the notion of “Producer organization” user accounts, who would require access to all vessels of their member Companies, as Resolution 24/02 only provides for CPC and Buoy Owner access to the Register.

Your BO account is managed by your Flag CPC, so for any changes to associated vessels or permissions, please contact them.

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:

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

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.

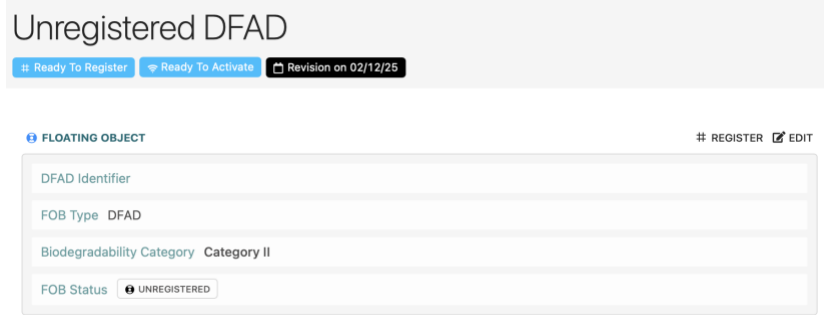
DFAD Biodegradability categories

[IOTC Resolution 24/02](#) mandates that, for any DFAD deployed, its biodegradability category must be provided. It also provides for a progressive phasing out of the less biodegradable designs over a 3 years period, leading to categories below I (fully biodegradable) to be progressively deprecated.

If for some reason the biodegradability of a DFAD isn’t known (e.g. you deploy a buoy on a DFAD found at sea and cannot determine its design), you can use the “unknown” category.

Note that Registrations and Operations declared using a deprecated or unknown category are allowed but will be flagged in the Register.

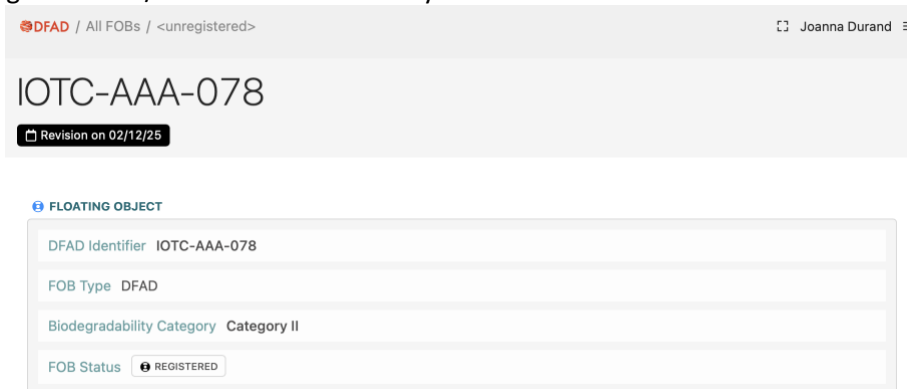
STEP 5: The DFAD is now ready to Register:



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 need to 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 must be used to identify the DFAD when reporting activation/deactivation of its buoy.



In bulk

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

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	Bulk Registration of DFADs				
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 need to 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 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 on a white background.
- Valid records with non-blocking issues are displayed on a white background with an orange # icon.
- Invalid records with blocking issues are displayed on a red background.
- You can consult the issues affecting a record by simply clicking on the registration symbol (#) or double-clicking on the row, which opens the Record Inspector:

Registration (3 issue(s))

#	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

REGISTRATION

DFAD Identifier: NEW FOB | FOB Type: DFAD

Buoy Identifier: <MISSING>

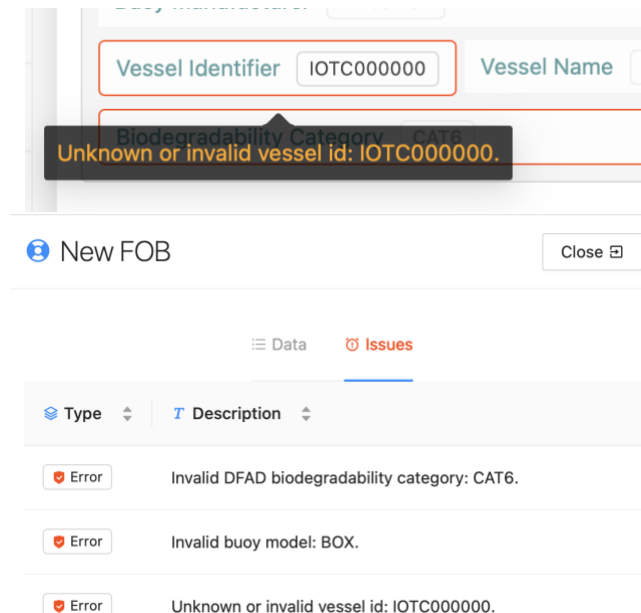
Buoy Model: BOX

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:



STEP 6: Submit valid records: Invalid records cannot be submitted for registration: either you fix the errors in the Excel template and upload it again, 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 including their newly assigned 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 Registered DFADs or Logs.
- Report other Operations:
 - Simple Buoy **Deactivation**: retrieval, loss...
 - **Replacement**: replacing your buoy on an FOB already tracked by your vessel 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 the FOB can be deployed (Activation), then the buoy can be Deactivated, Replaced or Transferred.

Buoys already deployed and active at the launch of the Register

[IOTC Resolution 24/02](#) mandates that *“CPCs shall register buoys deployed before the entry into force of the DFAD Register and still active on the 1 January 2026 when the DFAD Register enters into force.”*

To learn how Buoy Owners can report in the Register their buoys already deployed before the Register launch and still active, consult the dedicated guide on the [IOTC website](#).

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 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:

The screenshot shows the 'DFAD / All FOBs' search page. At the top, there are tabs for 'BUOY', 'FOB', and 'VESSEL'. Below these are filters for 'BUOY STATUS', 'BUOY ID', 'BUOY MANUFACTURER', and 'BUOY MODEL'. The 'BUOY STATUS' filter is set to 'Idle'. The 'OPERATIONS' tab is selected. The table below shows a list of FOBs with columns for 'Last Activity', 'DFAD ID', 'FOB Status', 'Buoy Id', 'Buoy Status', 'Vessel ID', 'Biodegrad.', 'Buoy Manufacturer', and 'Buoy Model'. The first two rows are highlighted with a red box:

Last Activity	DFAD ID	FOB Status	Buoy Id	Buoy Status	Vessel ID	Biodegrad.	Buoy Manufacturer	Buoy Model
01/12/25	IOTC-AAA-028	REGISTERED	<N/A>	<N/A>		Category I		
01/12/25	IOTC-AAA-021	REGISTERED	<N/A>	<N/A>		Category II		
01/12/25	IOTC-AAA-026	REGISTERED	FRA-010	IDLE	IOTC000373	Category I	MARINE INSTRUMENTS	M3i+
01/12/25	IOTC-AAA-010	DEPLOYED	FRA-100	ACTIVE	IOTC013979	Category II	SATLINK	D+ sol
01/12/25	IOTC-AAA-006	DEPLOYED	FRA-099	ACTIVE	IOTC000370	Category I	SATLINK	IDP sol

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

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

The screenshot shows the same 'DFAD / All FOBs' search page, but with the 'Buoy Status' filter set to 'Idle'. The table now only shows three rows:

Last Activity	DFAD ID	FOB Status	Buoy Id	Buoy Status	Vessel ID	Biodegrad.	Buoy Manufacturer	Buoy Model
01/12/25	IOTC-AAA-021	REGISTERED	<N/A>	<N/A>		Category II		
01/12/25	IOTC-AAA-028	REGISTERED	<N/A>	<N/A>		Category I		
01/12/25	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:

DFAD / All FOBs / IOTC-AAA-028 Alice Tao

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 for Deployment/Activation 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 assigned to your user account.

- Once done editing a card, click “Submit”.

 Buoy Edit



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

The unique reference number of the buoy.

Buoy Model

The model of the instrumented buoy.

Buoy Manufacturer

The manufacturer of the instrumented buoy.

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

The model of the instrumented buoy.

The manufacturer of the instrumented buoy.

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

 BUOY

 ACTIVATE  EDIT

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.

 Buoy Activation



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

Date & Time of Deployment

Can't be empty.

Deployment Position

Coordinates are required.

Optional Comment

Free-form text.

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

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

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


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.

The application provides real-time validation of the information you provide and will display error messages below the fields with incorrect entries.


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 

Pick a past date and a time in UTC.

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

Provide latitude [-55°, +30°] and longitude [20°, +150°].

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.

STEP 4: The FOB is now **Deployed** and its buoy is marked as **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 & Activities** section of the FOB details page shows the Buoy activation details:

CHANGES & ACTIVITIES

BUOY ACTIVATION

02/12/25 Date & Time of Deployment 02/12/2025 00:00 Timeliness On Time

Note

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

Any Buoy Activation will **increase the count of Active buoys followed** by the relevant vessel. If the Activation results in the number of buoys followed by the vessel to exceed the maximum number allowed by Resolution 24/02, this will be flagged in the application.

The Number of Active buoys currently followed by a vessel is displayed in each FOB Details page's Vessel card.

Deactivation

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

BUOY STATUS	BUOY ID	BUOY MANUFACTURER	BUOY MODEL
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	M3
01/12/25	# IOTC-AAA-002	DEPLOYED	FRA-060	ACTIVE	IOTC000373	Category I	MARINE INSTRUMENTS	M3

BUOY STATUS	BUOY ID	BUOY MANUFACTURER	BUOY MODEL
	IOTC-AAA-002		

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:

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).
Can't be empty.

Buoy Status After Deactivation
 The status of the buoy after it was deactivated.
A status is required.

Buoy Decommissioned On Retrieval
 Indicate whether, after it has been retrieved, the buoy was decommissioned.
Switch to select.

FOB Status After Deactivation
 Deactivating the buoy leaves the Floating Object in one of a few possible statuses.
A status is required.

Last Known Position

Provide latitude [-55°,+30°] and longitude [20°,+150°].

Optional Comment

Report any info that might further clarify or qualify this change.
Free-form text.

- **Date & time of deactivation:** provide in UTC (Deactivations should be reported with 72hrs of them happening).
- **Buoy Status** after deactivation: pick a value

Buoy and DFAD status after deactivation

[IOTC Resolution 24/02](#) provides for the following possible Buoy and FOB statuses (“activities”) following Deactivation of a buoy.

Buoy status:

- **Abandonment:** Voluntary end of use of the buoy (buoy still able to transmit)
- **Loss:** Involuntary end of use of the buoy (lost or involuntary end of transmission of the buoy)
- **Retrieval:** Retrieval of the buoy on a floating object drifting at sea


FOB status:

- **Abandonment:** Deliberate end of use of the floating object due to a case of force majeure or the floating object is unreachable (buoy still present and able to transmit)
- **Loss:** Involuntary end of use of the floating object (end of transmission of the buoy)
- **Retrieval:** Retrieval of the floating object
- **Stranding:** Abandonment is due to the floating object being stranded on shallow marine habitats and not drifting anymore

- If the buoy is reported as **Retrieved**, you must indicate whether it was **Decommissioned** or not.

- **FOB status** after deactivation: pick a value.
- If the Buoy wasn't Retrieved, **the last known Latitude and Longitude of the buoy**. If the deactivation coordinates reported are in the EEZ of an Indian Ocean Coastal State, this will be flagged in the application and both the Coastal State and Flag State authorities will be notified by email (the notification only includes the UDI of the DFAD, and the time and coordinates of deactivation).

 Buoy Deactivation



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

<p>Date & Time of Deactivation</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 2px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> 02/12/2025 10:15 📅 </div> <p><small>Pick a past date and a time in UTC.</small></p> <p>Buoy Status After Deactivation</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 2px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> 📍 Lost ▼ </div> <p><small>Select a status.</small></p> <p>Buoy Decommissioned On Retrieval</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Switch to select. </div> <p>FOB Status After Deactivation</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 2px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> 📍 Lost ▼ </div> <p><small>Select a status.</small></p> <p>Last Known Position</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 2px;"><small>LATITUDE</small></td> <td style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 2px;">-6,8500</td> <td style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 2px;"><small>LONGITUDE</small></td> <td style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 2px;">58,6000</td> </tr> </table> <p><small>The FOB is in the EEZ of Seychelles and its deactivation will be notified.</small></p> <p>Optional Comment</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; min-height: 30px;"> Buoy stopped transmitting! </div> <p><small>Free-form text.</small></p>	<small>LATITUDE</small>	-6,8500	<small>LONGITUDE</small>	58,6000	<p><small>Select the precise date and time when the buoy was deactivated, in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).</small></p> <p><small>The status of the buoy after it was deactivated.</small></p> <p><small>Indicate whether, after it has been retrieved, the buoy was decommissioned.</small></p> <p><small>Deactivating the buoy leaves the Floating Object in one of a few possible statuses.</small></p> <p><small>The most recent known latitude and longitude of the buoy, in decimal degrees.</small></p> <p><small>Report any info that might further clarify or qualify this change.</small></p>
<small>LATITUDE</small>	-6,8500	<small>LONGITUDE</small>	58,6000		

🔄 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

<small>DFAD Identifier</small> IOTC-AAA-002
<small>FOB Type</small> DFAD
<small>Biodegradability Category</small> Category I
<small>FOB Status</small> LOST

BUOY

<small>Buoy Identifier</small> FRA-060
<small>Buoy Model</small> M3i
<small>Buoy Manufacturer</small> MARINE INSTRUMENTS
<small>Buoy Status</small> LOST

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

CHANGES & ACTIVITIES

BUOY DEACTIVATION

02/12/25 Date & Time of Deactivation 02/12/2025 10:15 Timeliness On Time

Note

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 Biograd. Buoy Manufa

02/12/25 IOTC-AAA-002 LOST FRA-060 LOST IOTC000373 Category I MARINE INSTR

Note that any Buoy Deactivation will **decrease the count of Active buoys followed** by the relevant vessel.

Reactivation of a deactivated buoy

[IOTC Resolution 24/02](#) (para. 46c) mentions that: “[CPCs shall] ensure that their vessels reactivate instrumented buoys only after they have been brought back to port and have been authorised by the CPC;”

The e-DFAD Register currently doesn’t enforce this rule and doesn’t offer a specific process for reactivation: it simply allows BO to declare Activation of a previously deactivated buoy, as long as it wasn’t declared as Decommissioned.

Replacement

If you need to replace the buoy currently active on an FOB *your vessel is 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 a Replacement of the buoy, using the Search page. You can use the filters to select only Active buoys, or find a specific record by its 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 activation** 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**.

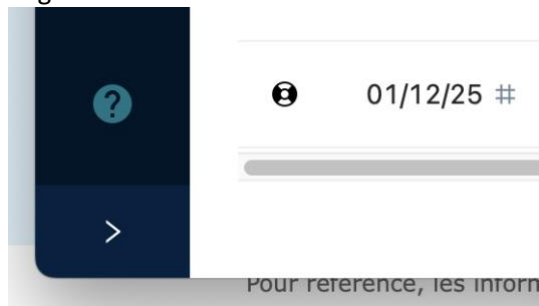
Note: A replacement does not change the number of active buoys followed by a vessel.

Transfer

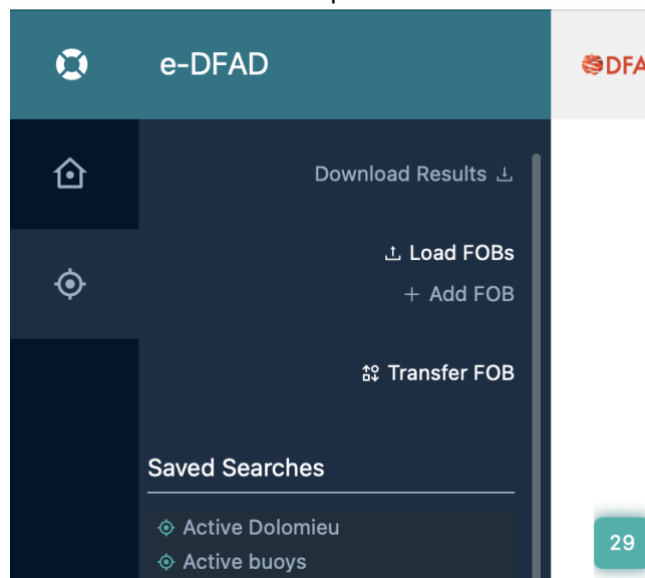
If you want to replace the buoy currently active on an FOB *that is tracked by another vessel*, with a new buoy, and to start tracking the FOB yourself, you use the **Transfer** action. It is available only for buoys that are currently active.

Because you are transferring an FOB that “doesn’t belong” to you, you cannot see it in the Search page, which only shows FOBs tracked by your vessel(s). So the process is slightly different from Activations, Replacements etc.

STEP 1: From the Search page, if it is not already displayed, **open the sidebar** by clicking on the arrow to the bottom right:



STEP 2: Click the “Transfer FOB” button to open the FOB transfer drawer:



STEP 3: 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 (UDI, biodegradability category and Buoy ID.)

Target Identifier

✓ IOTC-AAA-023|

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

What to do if you cannot identify the FOB to be transferred

If you cannot find a Transfer target match in the e-DFAD Register (maybe the UDI and the Buoy ID aren't visible, or they are, but the FOB isn't registered in e-DFAD), then the application will not let you proceed with the Transfer action, as it doesn't know what FOB to apply it to.

In this case, you should consider this as a **new FOB Deployment**: if it is a DFAD, Register it to obtain a UDI (if you cannot determine the biodegradability category, use "unknown"), then **Activate** the buoy on it.

STEP 4: Fill in the required information:

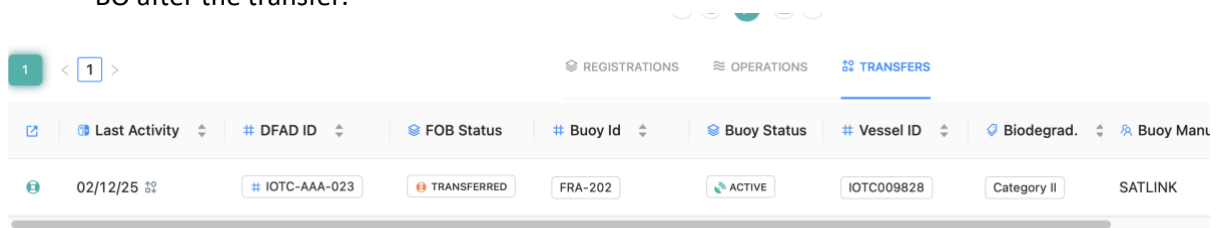
- **New buoy identifier**
- **New buoy model**
- **Date & time of deployment/activation** of the new buoy, in UTC (Activation should be reported within 24hrs of it happening)
- **Latitude and longitude of activation of the new buoy**, in decimal degrees up to 4 decimals
- **IOTC number of your vessel**: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

STEP 5: 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 user who did the transfer, you cannot see the history of the FOB before you transferred it (when it "belonged" to another BO/vessel).*

- As the BO user from whom the FOB was transferred, you cannot see this FOB in your “Operations” tab anymore and you will find 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.



- As the BO user from whom the FOB was transferred, the buoy on the transferred FOB remains Active until you manually report it as deactivated using the Deactivate button in the record details.

What to do when the Transfer of one of your FOBs isn’t declared in e-DFAD by the “new BO”

If one of your FOBs is **Transferred by another BO, but isn’t reported as such** in e-DFAD, if you later recover the buoy after it has been brought back to port, **the application will not let you declare a new Activation of this buoy** on a new FOB, since it is still Active in e-DFAD.

The solution in this situation is to **declare the Deactivation of the buoy**, with **Buoy State: Lost and FOB state: Lost** (as this reflects reality until you got the buoy back) and the last known date/time and coordinates of transmission, then to **declare the new Activation**, which will be allowed by the application since the buoy is now deactivated.

In bulk

If you need to report operations on multiple FOBs at once, the fastest way is to use the bulk update facility, based on an Excel template.

STEP 1: Download the Operations template from the IOTC website: <https://iotc.org/dfad-register>. You can choose between two templates: one with a separate sheet for each type of transaction (‘DFAD operations.xlsx’) and one with a single sheet for all types of transactions (‘DFAD operations-single sheet.xlsx’). You can choose the one that best suits your needs.

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 already registered), Activation on Logs, Deactivations, Replacements and Transfers. *You can report different types of operations at the same time by filling information in the relevant sheets of the same template file.*

Example of template with one operation type per sheet:

F22

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	Bulk declaration of Activations									
2										
3		Mandatory	Conditional	Optional						
4										
5		Buoy Identifier								
6		Buoy Model								
7		Purse seiner's IOTC number	Mandatory only if not already provided at registration.							
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									

User Guide | **Activations** | Log Activations | Deactivations | Replacements | Transfers | Codes | +

Example of template with one sheet for all operation types:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	
1	Bulk declaration of Operations											
2												
3												
4												
5	#	Operation	Log type	DFAD UDI	Target buoy identifier	Buoy Identifier	Buoy Model	Purse seiner's IOTC number	Date and time of activity	Latitude of activity	Longitude of activity	Buoy De:
6	1	ACT		IOTC-ABG-230					2026-03-18T13:34Z	-45	45	
7	2	ACTLOG	FALOG			FRA-987987HHJK	MGO	368	2026-03-18T13:34Z	-45	45	
8	3	DEACT		IOTC-GAX-055					2026-03-18T13:34Z	-45	45	RE
9	4	DEACT				buoy-481752			2026-03-18T13:34Z	-45	45	LO
10	5	REPL		IOTC-GCW-884		FRA-98797GSGSG	MGO		2026-03-18T13:34Z	-45	45	
11	6	REPL			buoy-728933	FRA-098IUY*&	MGO		2026-03-18T13:34Z	-45	45	
12	9	TRANS		IOTC-GBQ-294		FRA-*&IUY(87	MGO	368	2026-03-18T13:34Z	-45	45	
13	10	TRANS			buoy-659995	FRA-09898LKI	MGO	368	2026-03-18T13:34Z	-45	45	
14	9											
15	10											
16	11											

User Guide | **Operations** | Codes | +

At this stage you will have to provide additional information about Registered DFADs that you hadn't provided at registration time, 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 FOBs" button (from the Home page or the Search page). The bulk operations 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:

# 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 with a white background.
- Valid records with non blocking issues are displayed with a white background and an orange action icon.
- Invalid records are displayed with a red background.
- You can consult details on any record (including issues affecting it) by simply clicking on the action symbol to the left or double-clicking on the row, which opens the Record Inspector:

IOTC-AAA-026 [Close]

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: 01/12/2025 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:

The screenshot shows the 'BUOY ACTIVATION' interface. At the top, there is a status indicator 'Over Followed Quota YES'. Below it, a message states 'The vessel is over quota for followed buoys (max 2)'. To the right, the 'DFAD Identifier' is set to 'IOTC-AAA-XXX' and the 'FOB Type' is 'DFAD'. A message below the identifier says 'Identifier is invalid: IOTC-AAA-XXX'. Below the main interface, there is a list of issues:

- Error** (red icon): Invalid buoy: FRA-205, expected FRA-010.
- Warning** (orange icon): 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 orange.

STEP 6: Submit valid records: Invalid records cannot be submitted: either you fix the errors in the Excel template and upload it again, or you submit only the valid records and the invalid ones are ignored. To finalise submission of your FOB operations, **click the “Submit [n] 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

As mentioned at the beginning of this guide, you will only be able to consult records pertaining to FOBs that are (or were) tracked by the vessels associated with your user account.

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).

The screenshot shows the search interface for 'REGISTRATIONS'. It features a navigation bar with 'REGISTRATIONS', 'OPERATIONS', and 'TRANSFERS'. Below the navigation bar, there are search filters for 'Buoy Id', 'Vessel ID', 'Biodegrad.', 'Buoy Manufacturer', and 'Buoy Model'. The search results show 'FRA-076' and 'Category II'.

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

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

Last Activity	DFAD ID	FOB Status	Buoy Id	Buoy Status	Vessel ID	Biodegrad.	Buoy Manufacturer
02/12/25	IOTC-AAA-023	TRANSFERRED	FRA-202	ACTIVE	IOTC009828	Category II	SATLINK

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

BUOY FOB **VESSEL**

VESSEL ID VESSEL NAME

BUOY STATUS DFAD ID BUOY ID

- 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.

Add Biodegradability Category

DFAD ID BIODEGRADABILITY CATEGORY FOB STATUS

BIODEGRADABILITY CATEGORY FOB STATUS FOB TYPE

BUOY ID BIODEGRADABILITY CATEGORY

Category I
Category II

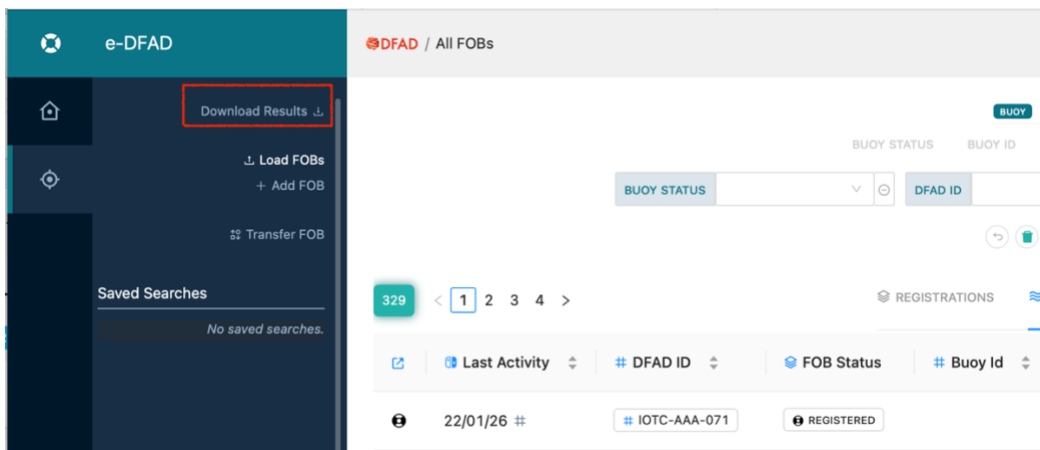
- You can build complex queries by selecting multiple values in drop-downs, or entering several values in text fields (type a value, press enter, type another value, press enter...)

BUOY FOB **VESSEL**

VESSEL ID VESSEL NAME

BUOY STATUS Active BIODEGRADABILITY CATEGORY Category I Category II VESSEL NAME Cap

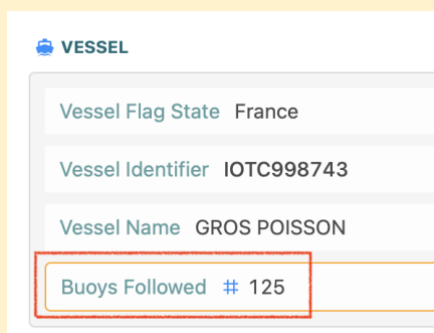
- Once you are done with your query, click the ▶️ button to run it. If you want to reset the query panel to default, click the trashcan icon.
- The queries apply to each of the Registrations, Operations, and Transfers tabs: you can view the results in each tab without running the search again.
- You can download the list of search results as an Excel file by opening the Sidebar and clicking on the “Download Results” button:



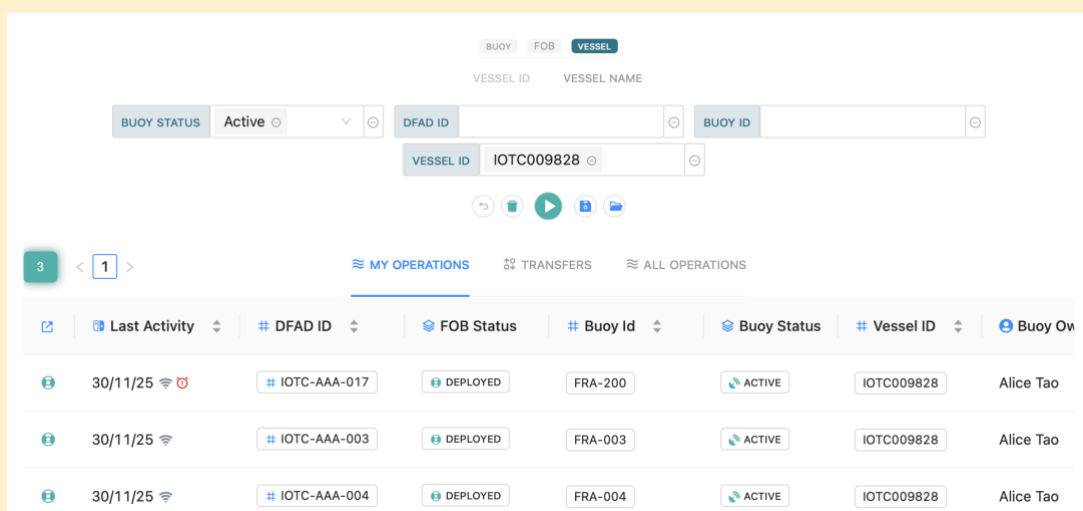
Finding how many active buoys are currently followed by a vessel

[Resolution 24/02](#) implements a limit on the number of active buoys that can be tracked by a given Purse Seiner at any time (which varies according to the status of the Flag CPC).

The Register tracks the number of active buoys followed 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. If the field is framed in orange, it means the vessel is above the allowed maximum number of followed buoys:



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]”:



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