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

Updated: 02/11/2026 13:26:00

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.

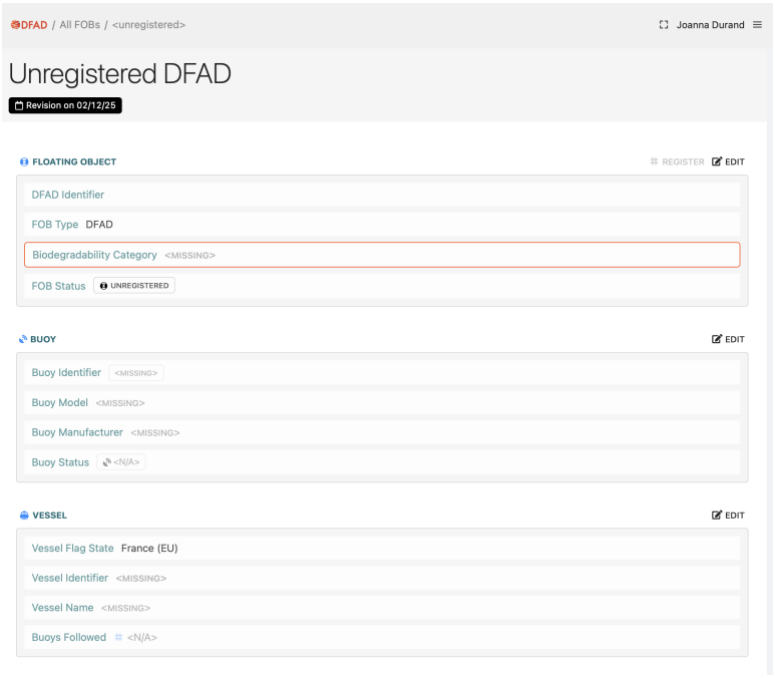
Your BO account is managed by your Flag CPC, so for any changes to associated vessels or permissions, please contact them.

Registering new DFADs

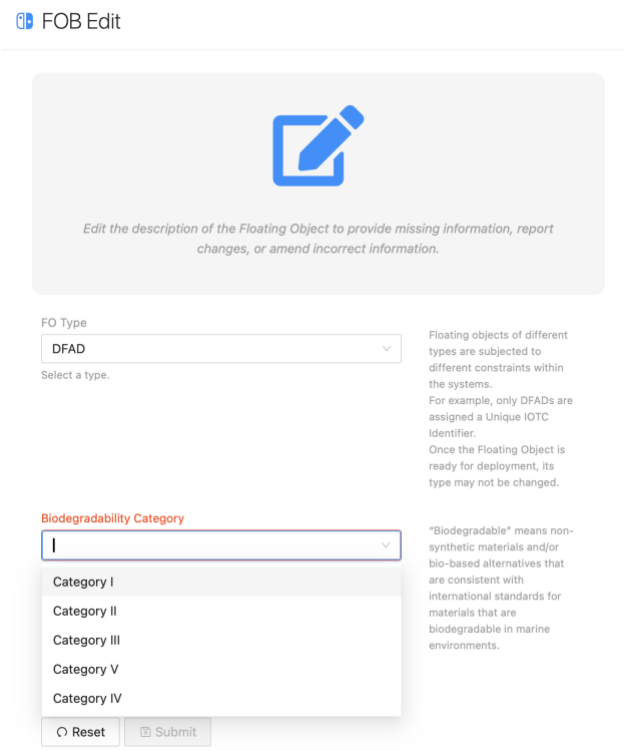
Interactively

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.

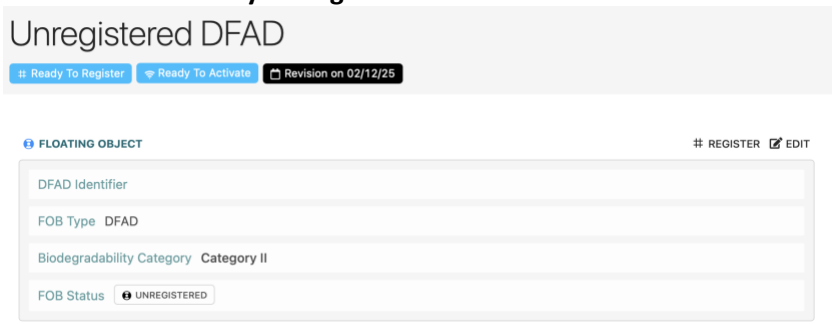
DFAD Biodegradability categories

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.

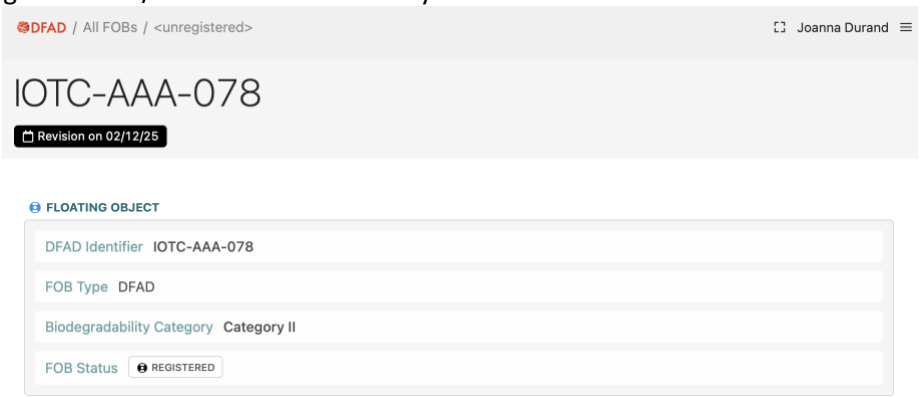
STEP 5: **The DFAD is now ready to Register**:



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

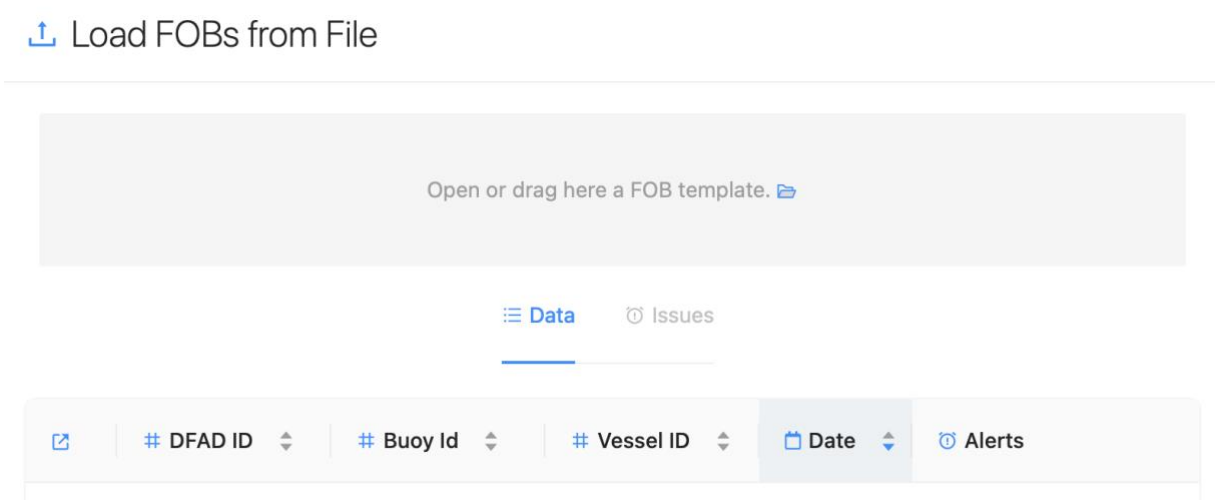
STEP 2: **Fill the template with your information**: please make sure to read the User Guide sheet that gives instructions on how to fill the template. Information about DFADs to register goes in the "DFAD Registrations" sheet, one row per new DFAD to register.

	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				

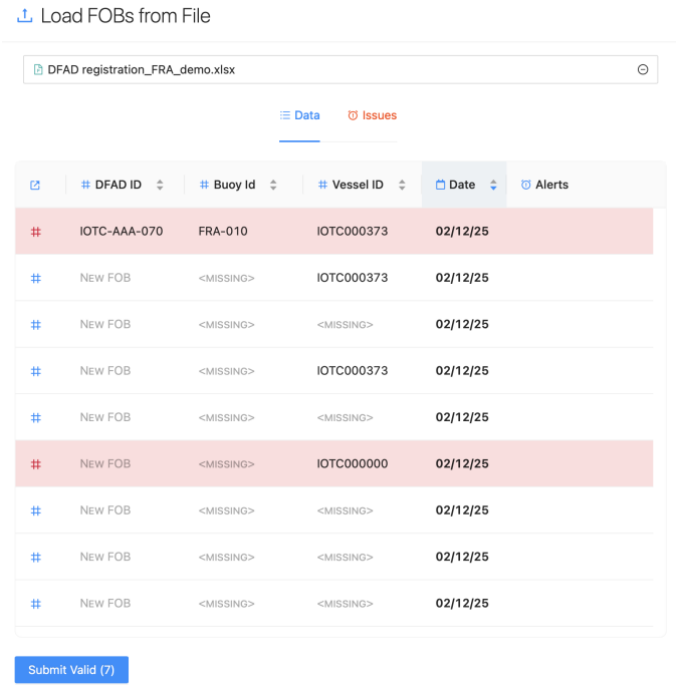
At this stage you can optionally provide additional information about the DFAD, such as details about the buoy that it will be equipped with, or the purse seiner it will be tracked by. If you do not have these details now, you will need to provide them at the time of first deployment/activation.

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.

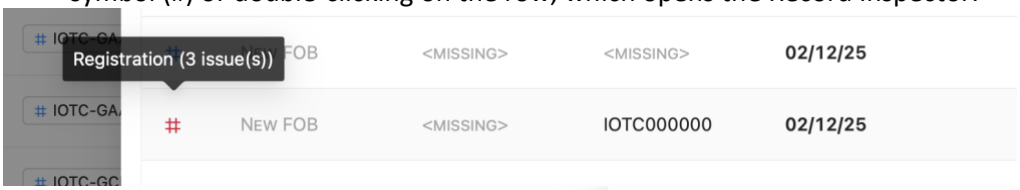
STEP 4: **Upload your template file** (drag and drop or click in the file upload area):

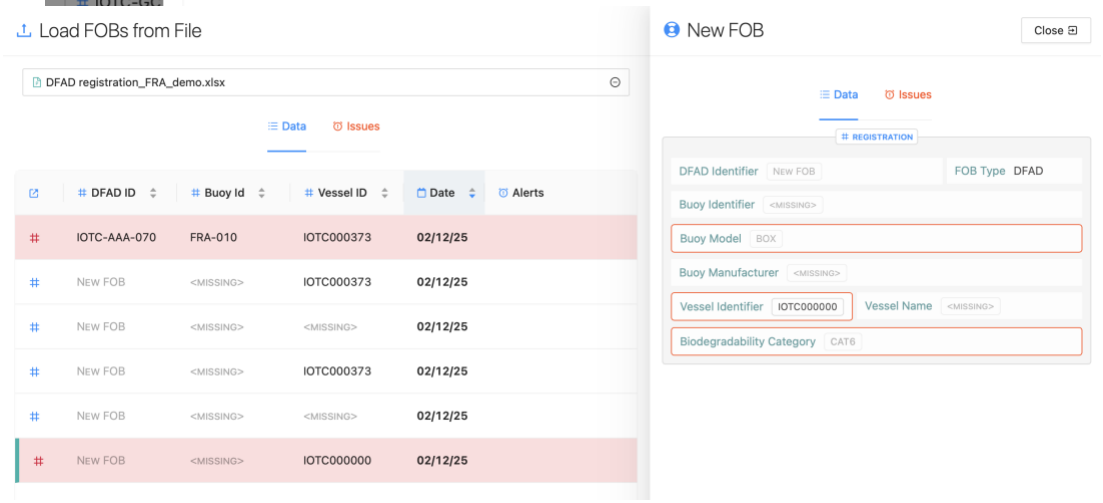


STEP 5: Review the validation results:

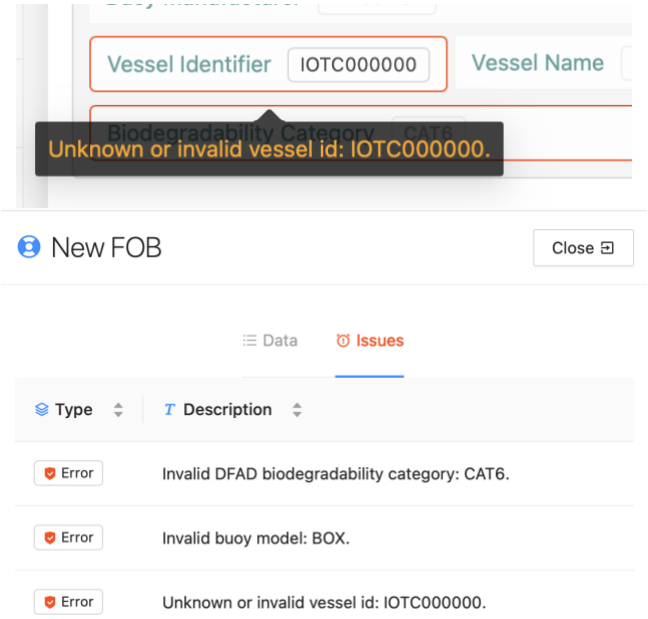


- Valid records are displayed on a white background.
- Valid records with non-blocking issues are displayed on a white background with an orange # icon.
- Invalid records with blocking issues are displayed on a red background.
- You can consult the issues affecting a record by simply clicking on the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





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**.

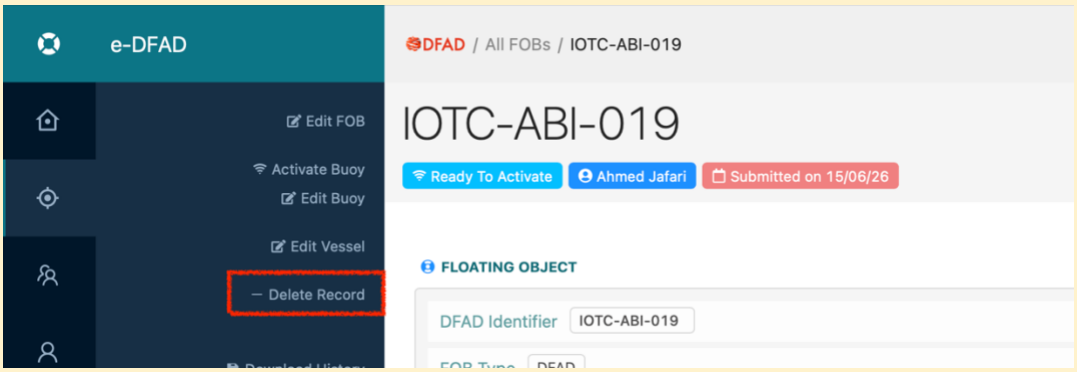
STEP 7: You will now see the **list of valid DFADs updated with their newly assigned UDIs**. You can also download this list as an Excel file by clicking on the "**Download submitted**" button. This will produce an Excel file containing all the details about the newly registered DFADs including their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

Deleting registered but unused DFADs

If you have registered a DFAD at some point in time but actually never built or deployed it, you can delete it from your Operations tab.

To do this, open the relevant DFAD and in the sidebar click "Delete record":



Note that the UDI assigned to this DFAD will now be unusable.

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.*"

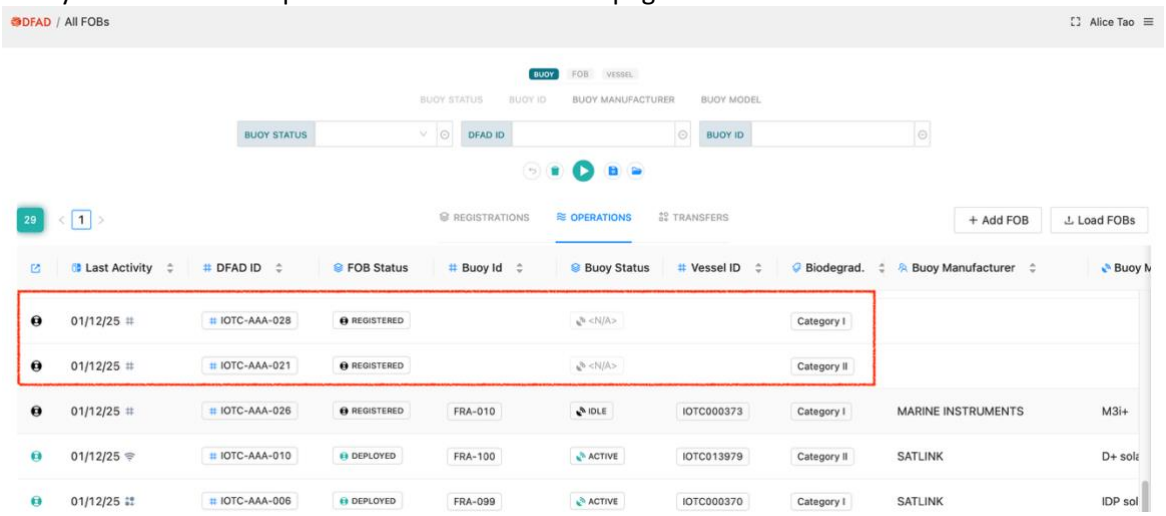
To learn how Buoy Owners can report in the Register their buoys already deployed before the Register launch and still active, consult the dedicated guide on the IOTC website.

Interactively

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

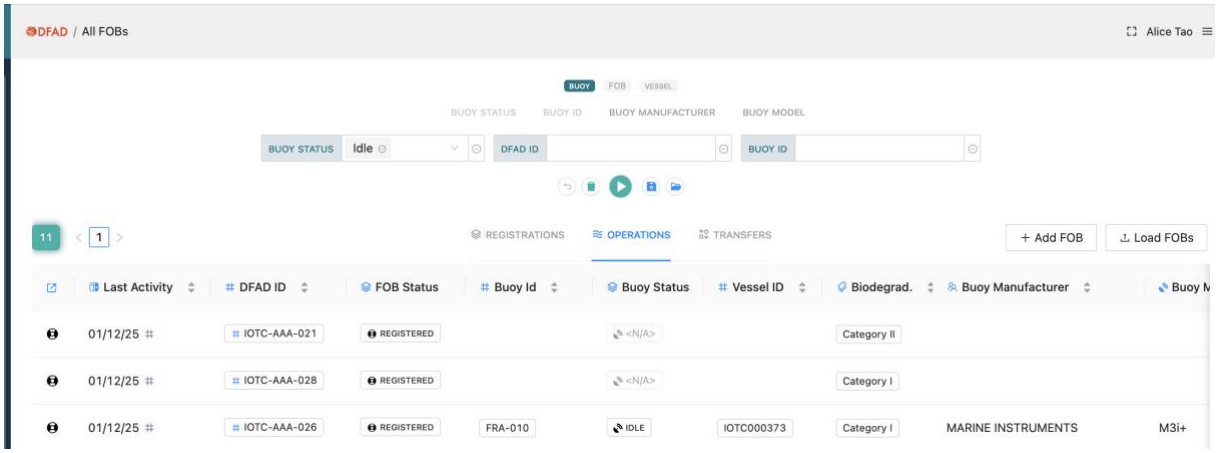
First deployment/activation

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:



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

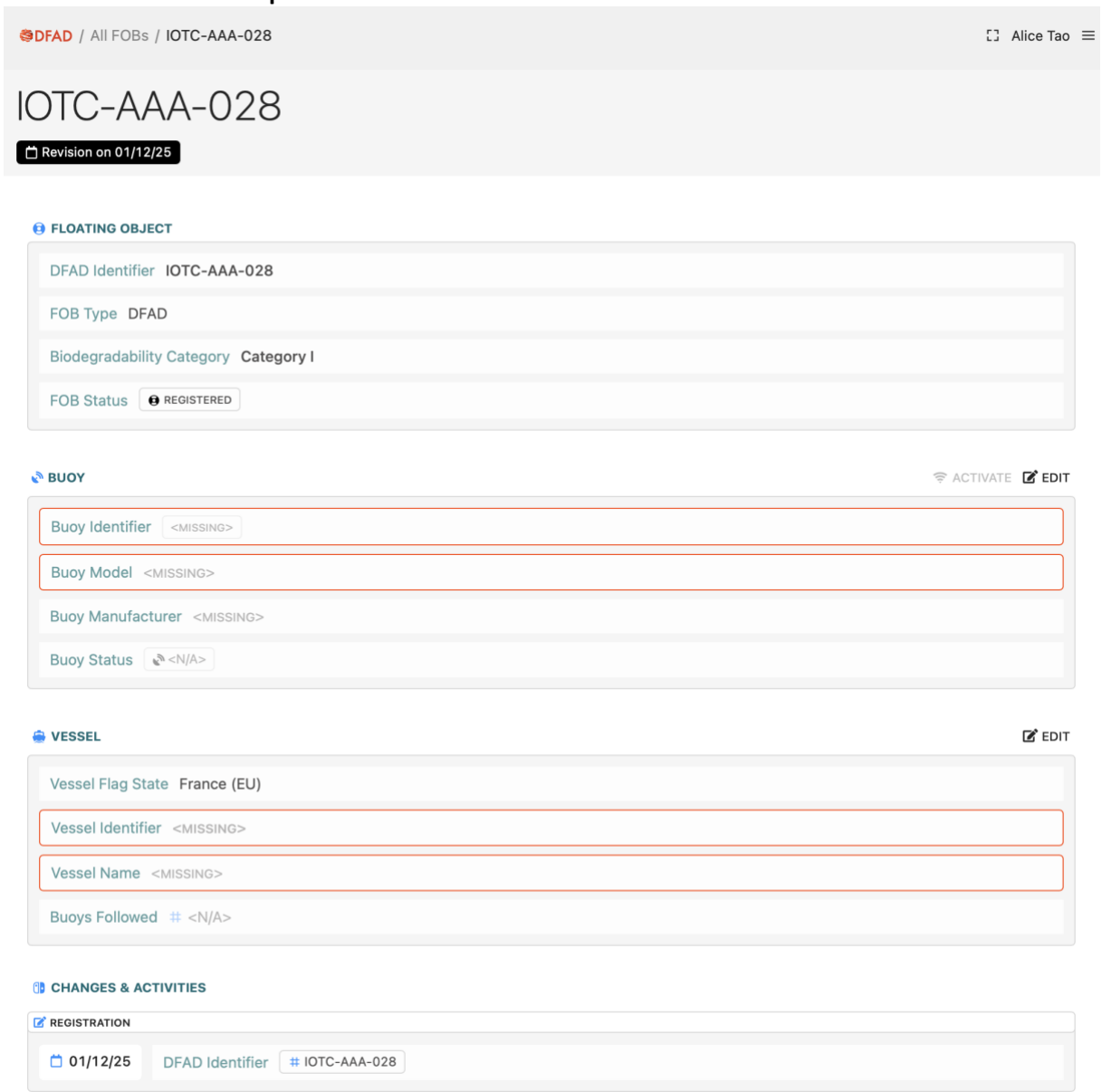
You can use the search feature above to filter for only non deployed FOBs by selecting "Buoy Status: Idle".



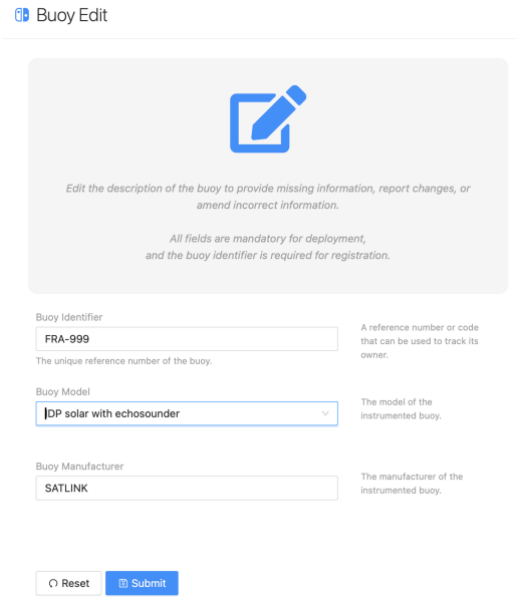
Once you have found the DFAD you want to deploy, simply click on its left-most icon or double click on the row to open the FOB drawer.

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

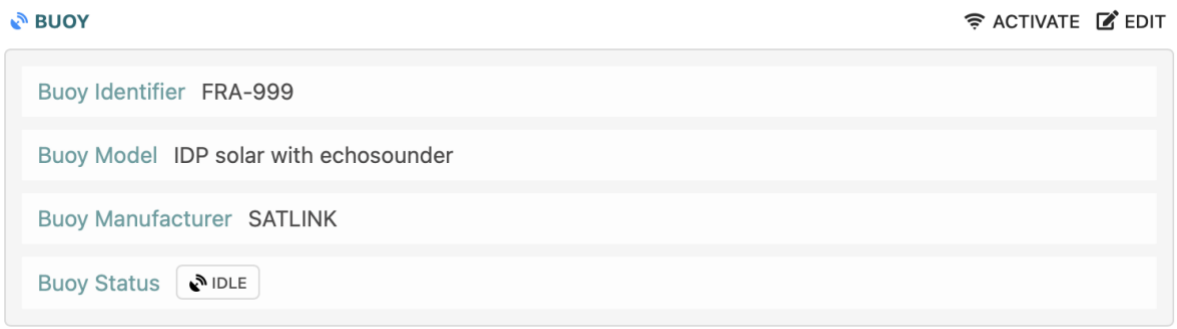
STEP 2: Fill in the required information:



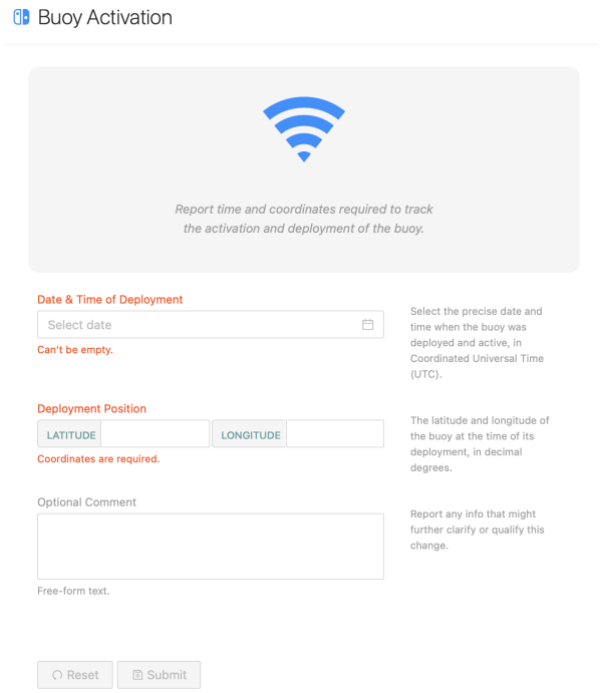
- Information that needs to be provided for Deployment/Activation is highlighted in red. To provide it, click the relevant Edit button.
    - **Buoy**: select a **Buoy Model** from the list; provide a **Buoy identifier**.
    - **Vessel**: select a vessel from the list of Purse Seiners assigned to your user account.
- Once done editing a card, click “Submit”.



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



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

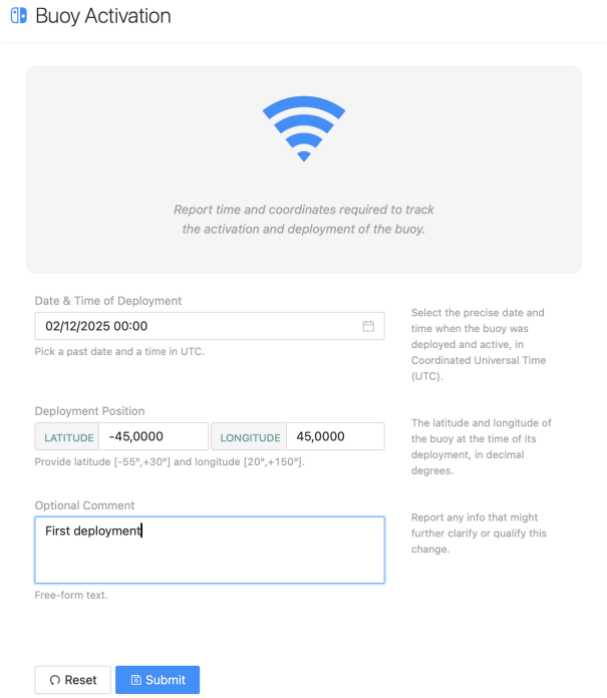


Here you need to provide:

- 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 (any extra decimals will be ignored), or in degrees/minutes/seconds (see below)
- 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.

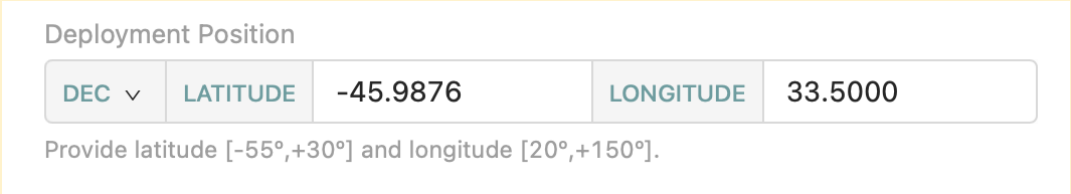
The application provides real-time validation of the information you provide and will display error messages below the fields with incorrect entries.

Once done, click the Submit button to report Activation of the buoy.

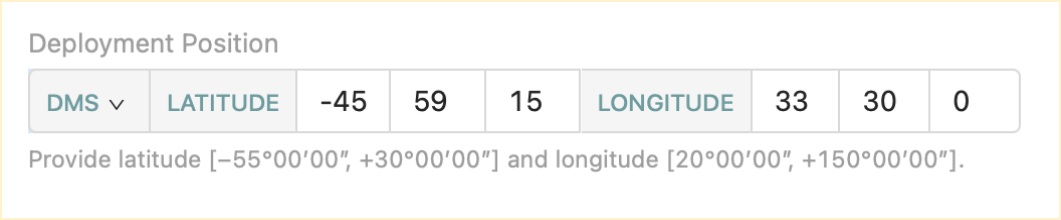


Entering and displaying latitude/longitude in decimal or degree/minutes/seconds

You can choose to report latitude/longitude in decimal degrees (select DEC), up to 4 decimals (any extra decimals will be ignored),

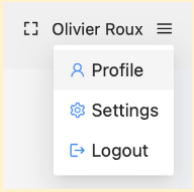


or in degrees/minutes/seconds (select DMS):

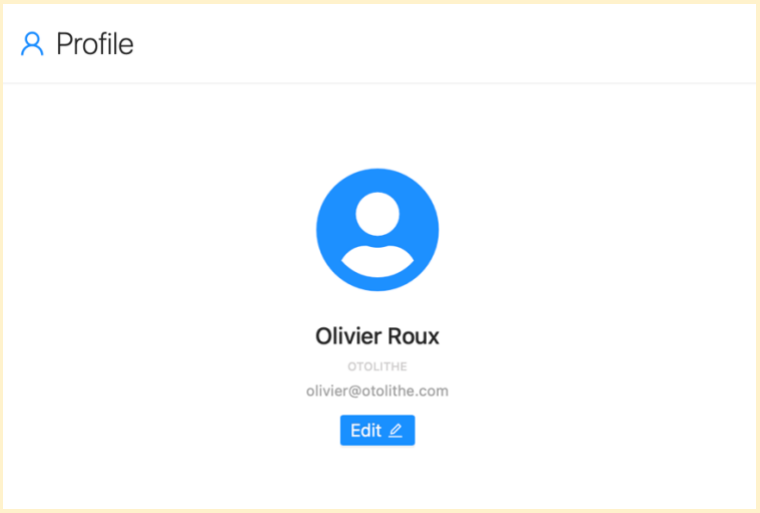


The application will automatically convert them to the IOTC standard (decimal).

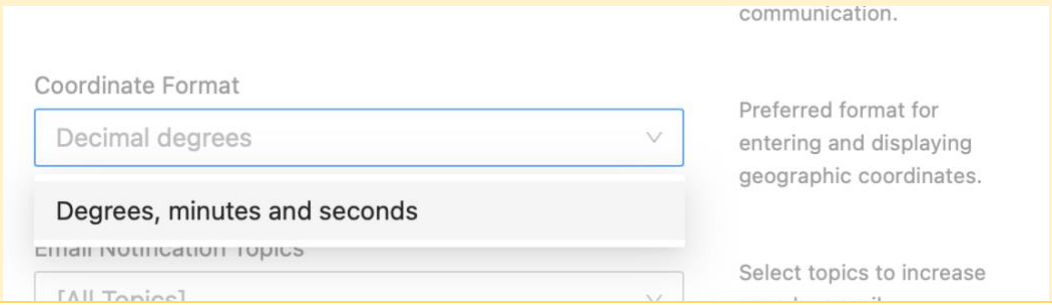
You can define your preference for how the coordinates are entered and displayed in your user profile: open it from the account menu:



then click “Edit”:

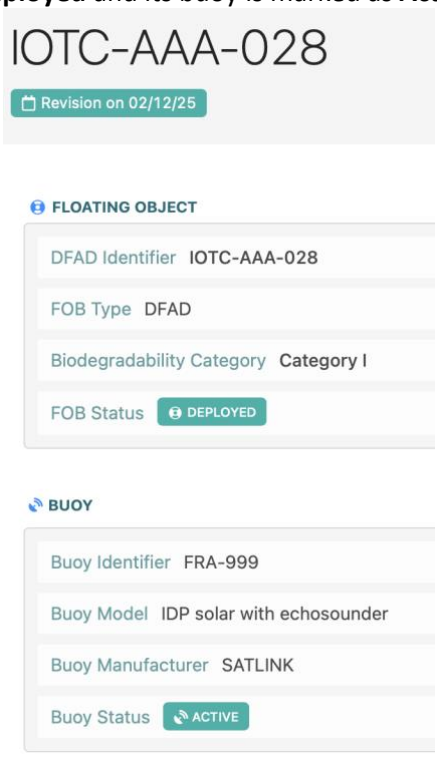


Then scroll down to Coordinates format:

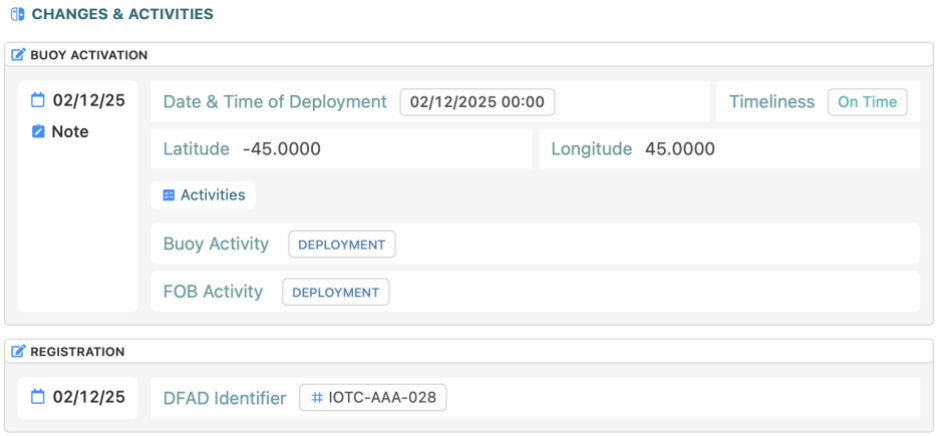


And select your preferred format, then click Save. From then on, all coordinates will be displayed and entered in the selected format, by default.

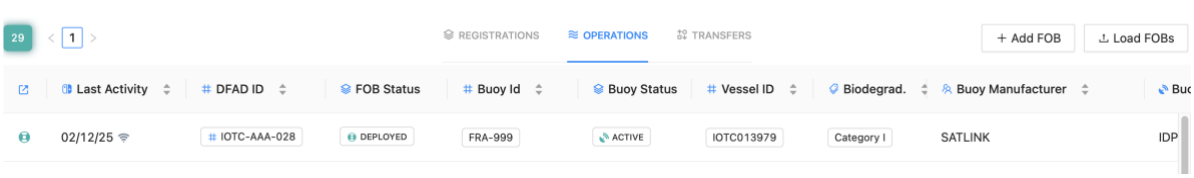
STEP 4: The FOB is now **Deployed** and its buoy is marked as **Active**:



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



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

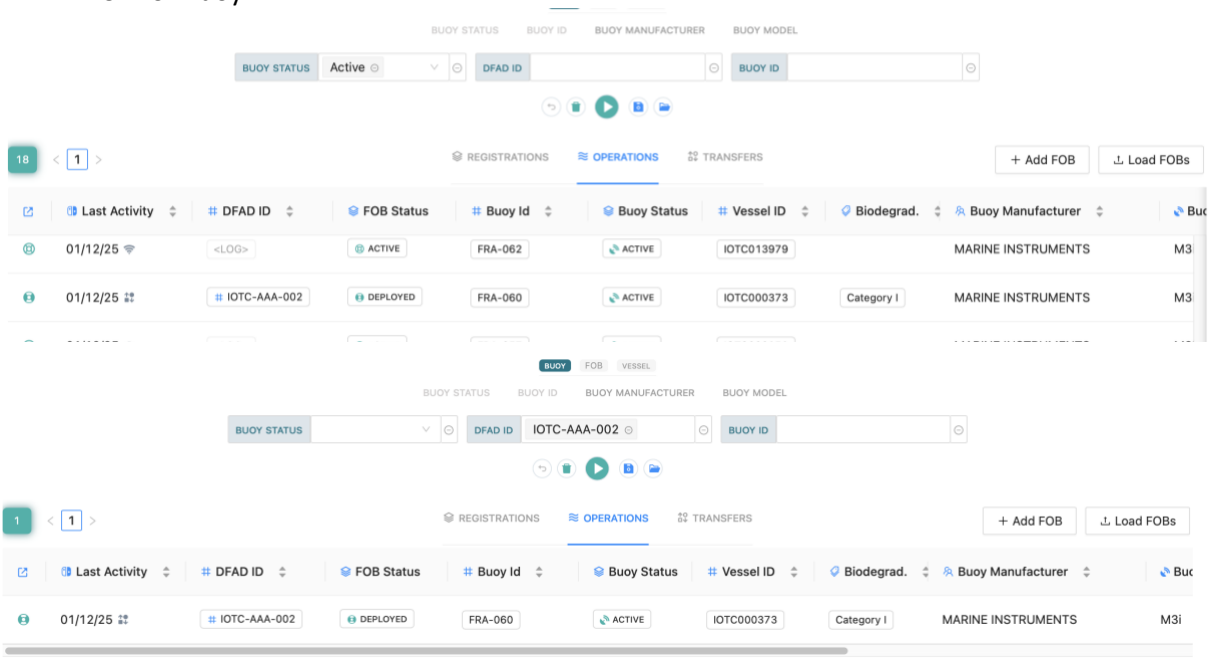


Any Buoy Activation will **increase the count of Active buoys followed** by the relevant vessel. If the Activation results in the number of buoys followed by the vessel to exceed the maximum number allowed by Resolution 24/02, this will be flagged in the application.

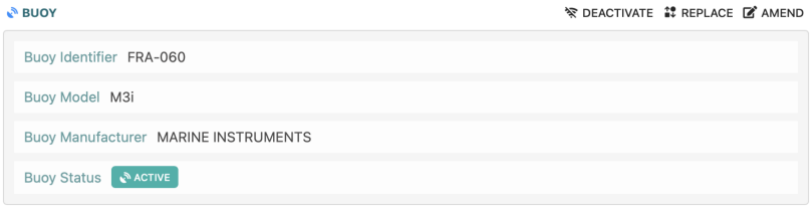
The Number of Active buoys currently followed by a vessel is displayed in each FOB Details page's Vessel card.

Deactivation

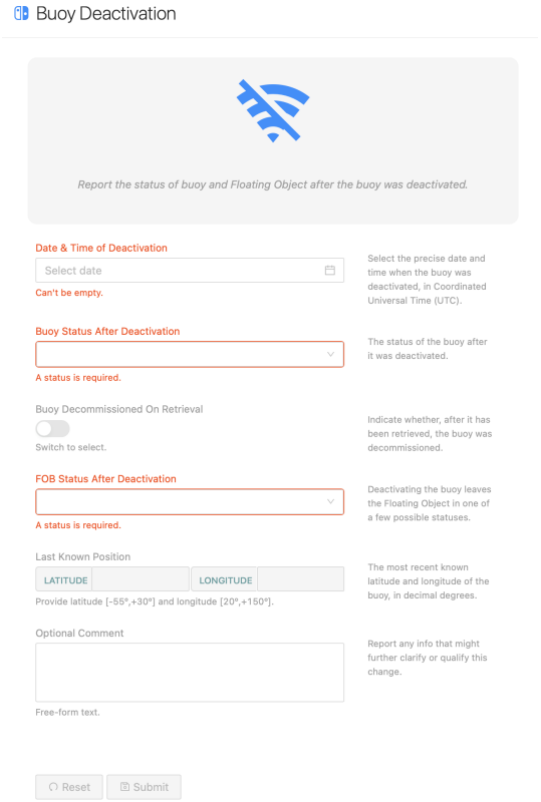
STEP 1: **Find the FOB for which you want to report the deactivation** of the buoy, using the Search page. You can use the filters to select only Active buoys, or find a specific record by its DFAD UDI or Buoy ID:



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



STEP 3: Fill in the required information:



- **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:

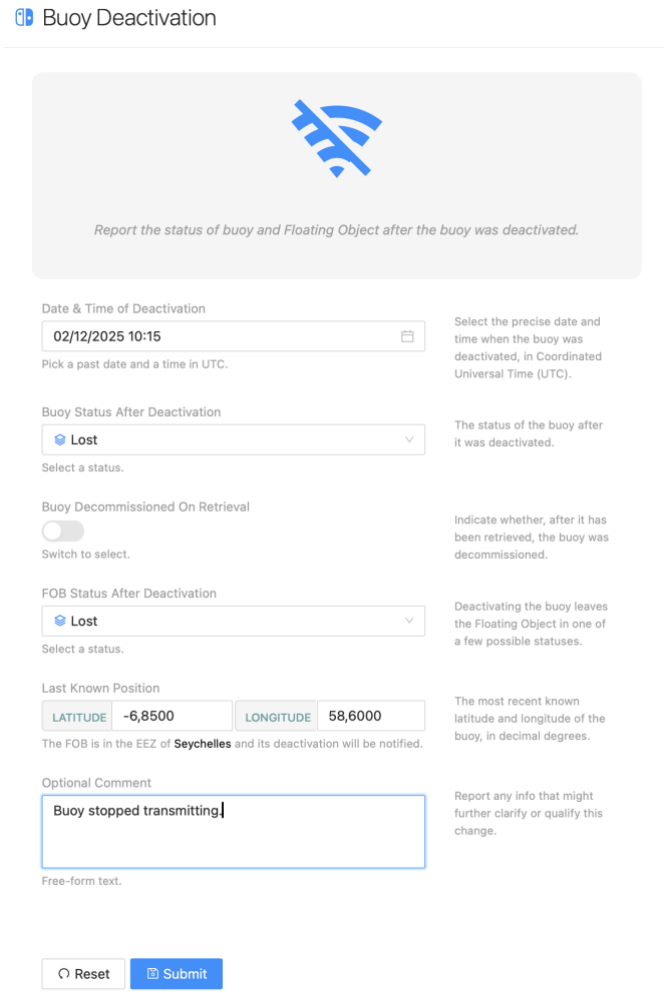
- **Abandonment:** Voluntary end of use of the buoy (buoy still able to transmit)
- **Loss:** Involuntary end of use of the buoy (lost or involuntary end of transmission of the buoy)
- **Retrieval:** Retrieval of the buoy on a floating object drifting at sea

FOB status:

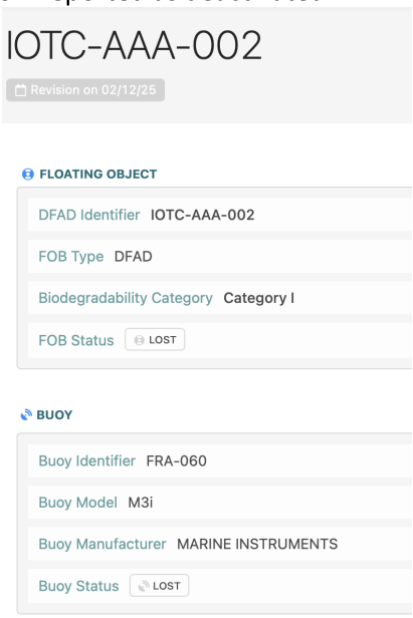
- **Abandonment**: Deliberate end of use of the floating object due to a case of force majeure or the floating object is unreachable (buoy still present and able to transmit)
- **Loss**: Involuntary end of use of the floating object (end of transmission of the buoy)
- **Retrieval**: Retrieval of the 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. *"Decommissioned" means the buoy is in a state that prevents it from ever being reused/reactivated.*
- **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 Costal State, this will be flagged in the application and both the Costal State and Flag State authorities will be

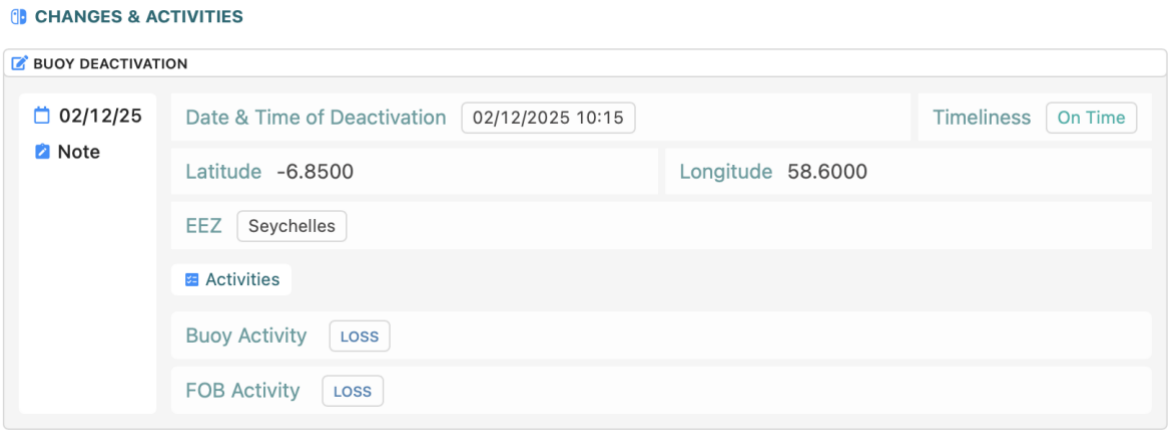
notified by email (the notification only includes the UDI of the DFAD, and the time and coordinates of deactivation).



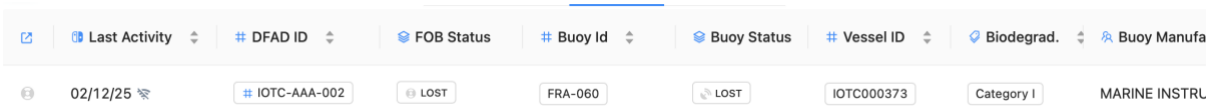
STEP 4: **Submit the Deactivation**: once all required information has been provided, click the Submit button. The Buoy is now reported as deactivated.



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



The updated status of the FOB and buoy is now visible in the Search page.



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;"*

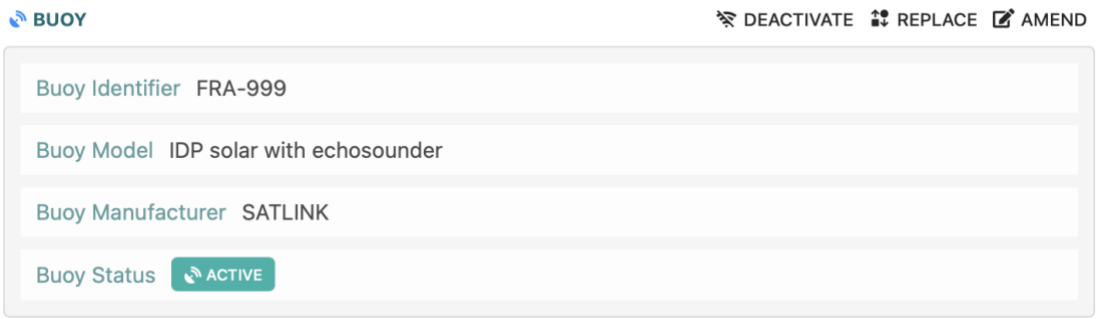
The e-DFAD Register currently doesn't enforce this rule and doesn't offer a specific process for reactivation: it simply allows BO to declare Activation of a previously deactivated buoy, as long as it wasn't declared as Decommissioned.

Replacement

If you need to replace the buoy currently active on an FOB *your vessel is (or was) tracking*, with a new buoy, you use the **Replacement** action.

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 find a specific record by its DFAD UDI or Buoy ID.

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



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, or in degrees/minutes/seconds.

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**.

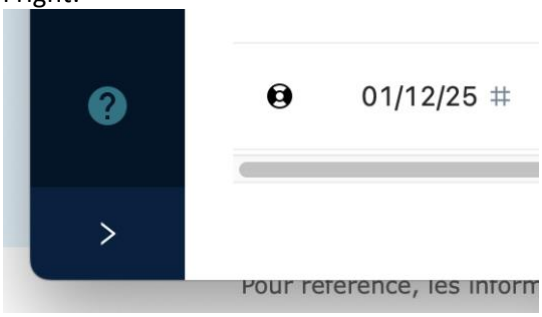
Note: A replacement does not change the number of active buoys followed by a vessel.

Transfer

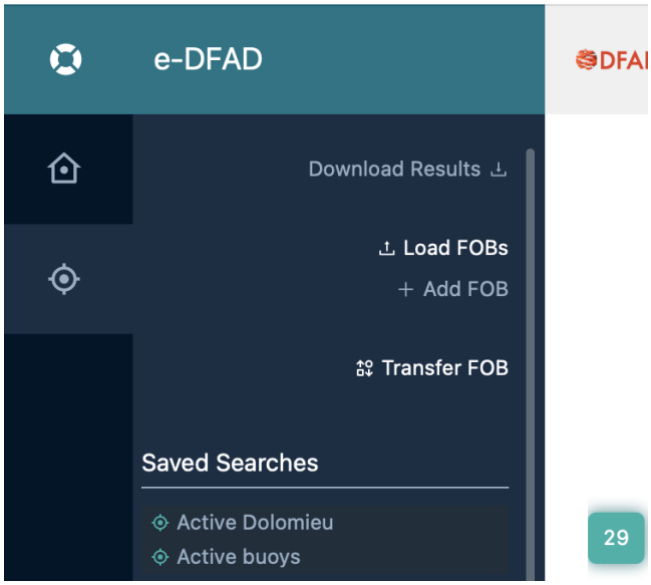
If you want to replace the buoy currently active on an FOB *that is tracked by another vessel*, with a new buoy, and to start tracking the FOB yourself, you use the **Transfer** action. It is available only for buoys that are currently active.

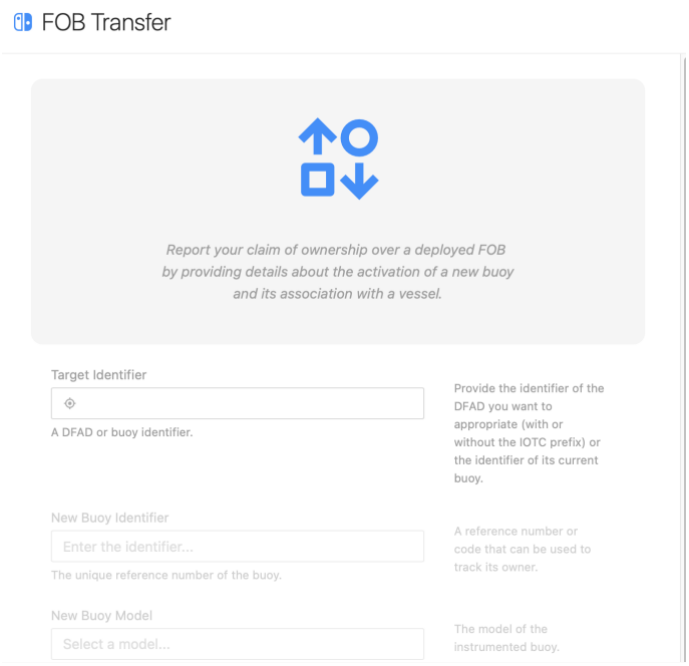
Because you are transferring an FOB that "doesn't belong" to you, you cannot see it in the Search page, which only shows FOBs tracked by your vessel(s). So the process is slightly different from Activations, Replacements etc.

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

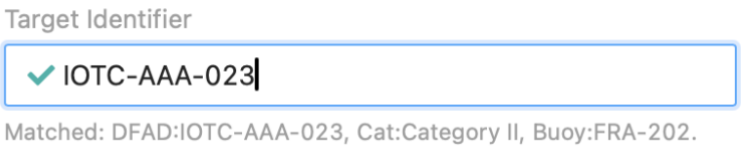


STEP 2: **Click the "Transfer FOB" button** to open the FOB transfer drawer:





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.)



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**:

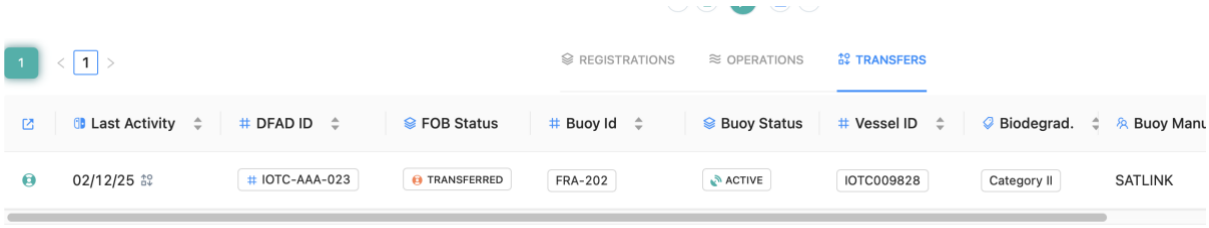
- **New buoy identifier**
- **New buoy model**
- **Date & time of deployment/activation** of the new buoy, in UTC (Activation should be reported within 24hrs of it happening)
- **Latitude and longitude of activation of the new buoy**, in decimal degrees up to 4 decimals, or in degrees/minutes/seconds.
- **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.

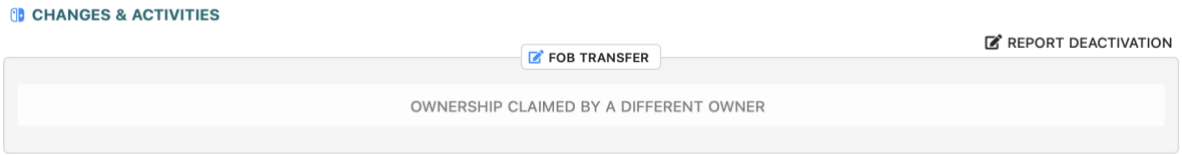
Notes about transfers:

- *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 "Report deactivation" 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"

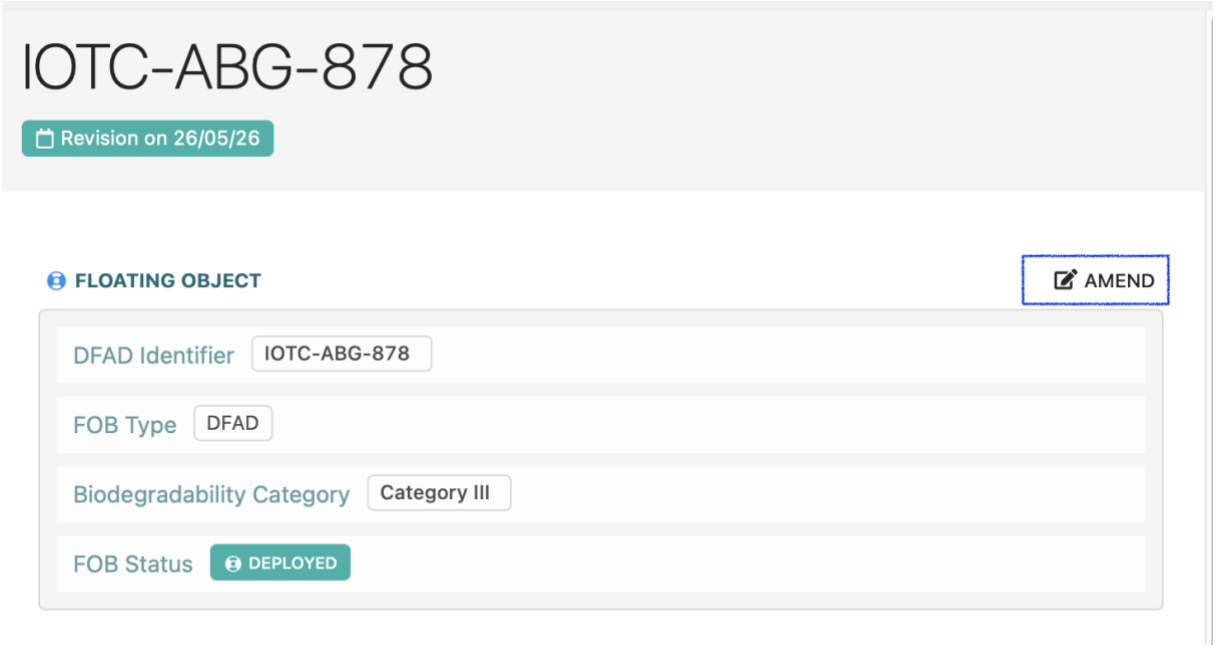
If one of your FOBs is **Transferred by another BO, but isn't reported as such** in e-DFAD, if you later recover the buoy after it has been brought back to port, **the application will not let you declare a new Activation of this buoy** on a new FOB, since it is still Active in e-DFAD.

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.

Change to the biodegradability category of a DFAD

If, during an activity involving a DFAD, its biodegradability category changes as a result of alterations to its structure, it is possible to update this in e-DFAD to reflect the changes.

To do this, simply submit the activity (activation, replacement, transfer) interactively, which will enable the 'Edit' button on the Floating object card:



You can then select the new biodegradability category and submit the change.

Note: you can also report a change in Biodegradability category in bulk, by filling the relevant column in the bulk template, following the instructions in the section below.

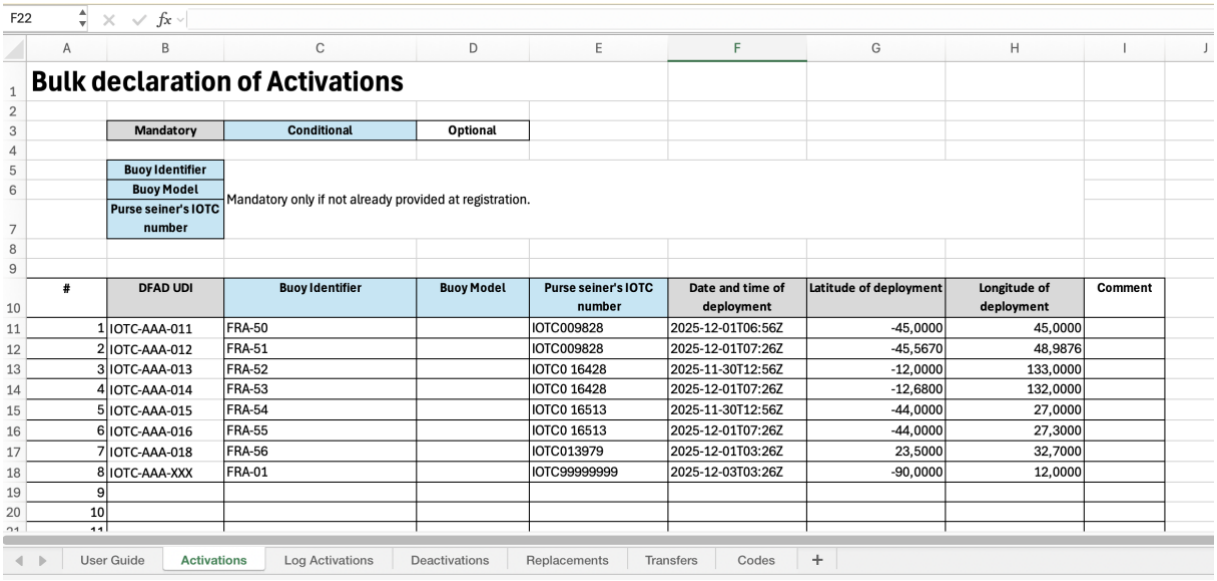
In bulk

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:

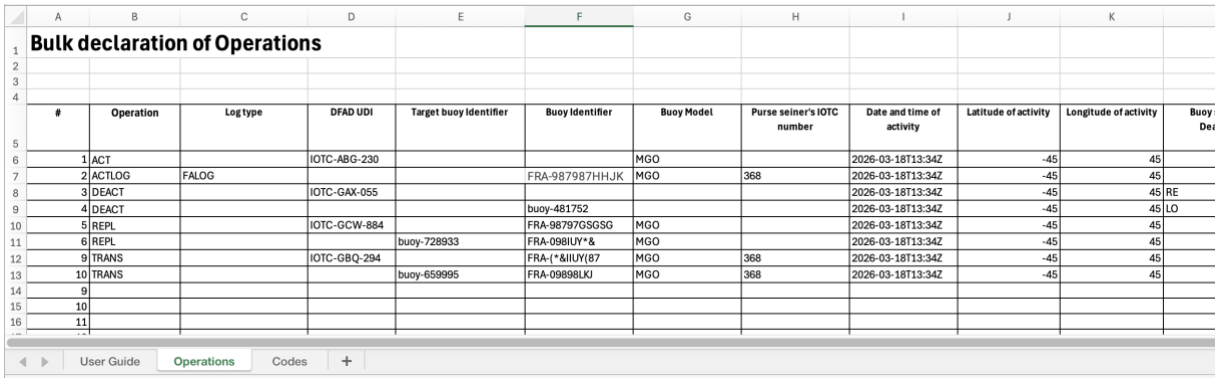


Bulk declaration of Activations

Mandatory	Conditional	Optional
Buoy Identifier Buoy Model Purse seiner's IOTC number	Mandatory only if not already provided at registration.	

#	DFAD UDI	Buoy Identifier	Buoy Model	Purse seiner's IOTC number	Date and time of deployment	Latitude of deployment	Longitude of deployment	Comment
1	IOTC-AAA-011	FRA-50		IOTC009828	2025-12-01T06:56Z	-45,0000	45,0000	
2	IOTC-AAA-012	FRA-51		IOTC009828	2025-12-01T07:26Z	-45,5670	48,9876	
3	IOTC-AAA-013	FRA-52		IOTC0 16428	2025-11-30T12:56Z	-12,0000	133,0000	
4	IOTC-AAA-014	FRA-53		IOTC0 16428	2025-12-01T07:26Z	-12,6800	132,0000	
5	IOTC-AAA-015	FRA-54		IOTC0 16513	2025-11-30T12:56Z	-44,0000	27,0000	
6	IOTC-AAA-016	FRA-55		IOTC0 16513	2025-12-01T07:26Z	-44,0000	27,3000	
7	IOTC-AAA-018	FRA-56		IOTC013979	2025-12-01T03:26Z	23,5000	32,7000	
8	IOTC-AAA-XXX	FRA-01		IOTC99999999	2025-12-03T03:26Z	-90,0000	12,0000	
9								
10								

Example of template with one sheet for all operation types:



Bulk declaration of Operations

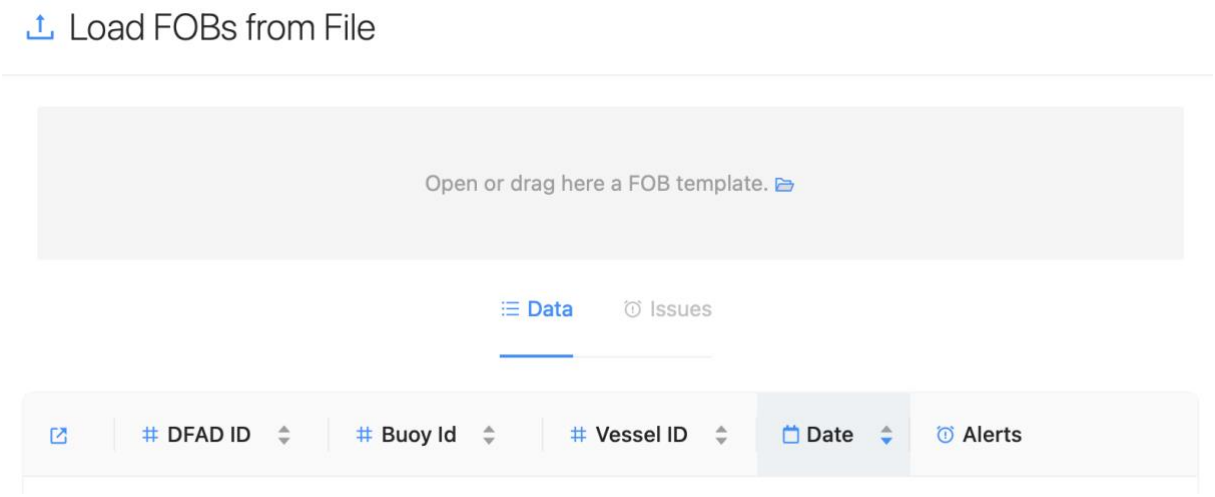
#	Operation	Log type	DFAD UDI	Target buoy Identifier	Buoy Identifier	Buoy Model	Purse seiner's IOTC number	Date and time of activity	Latitude of activity	Longitude of activity	Buoy Dea
1	ACT		IOTC-ABG-230			MGO		2026-03-18T13:34Z	-45	45	
2	ACTLOG	FALOG			FRA-987987HHJK	MGO	368	2026-03-18T13:34Z	-45	45	
3	DEACT		IOTC-GAX-055					2026-03-18T13:34Z	-45	45	RE
4	DEACT				buoy-481752			2026-03-18T13:34Z	-45	45	LO
5	REPL		IOTC-GCW-884		FRA-98797GSGSG	MGO		2026-03-18T13:34Z	-45	45	
6	REPL			buoy-728933	FRA-098IUY*&	MGO		2026-03-18T13:34Z	-45	45	
9	TRANS		IOTC-GBQ-294		FRA-(*&IIUY(87	MGO	368	2026-03-18T13:34Z	-45	45	
10	TRANS			buoy-659995	FRA-09898LKJ	MGO	368	2026-03-18T13:34Z	-45	45	
9											
10											
11											

User Guide | Operations | Codes | +

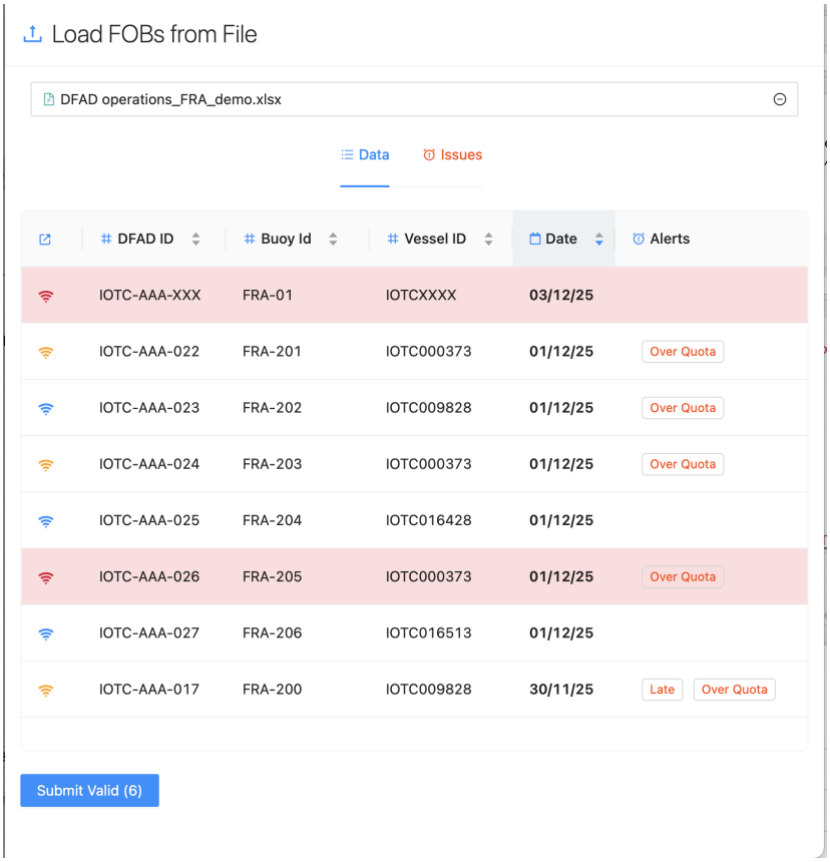
At this stage you will have to provide additional information about Registered DFADs that you hadn't provided at registration time, such as details about the buoy that it will be equipped with, or the purse seiner it will be tracked by.

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.

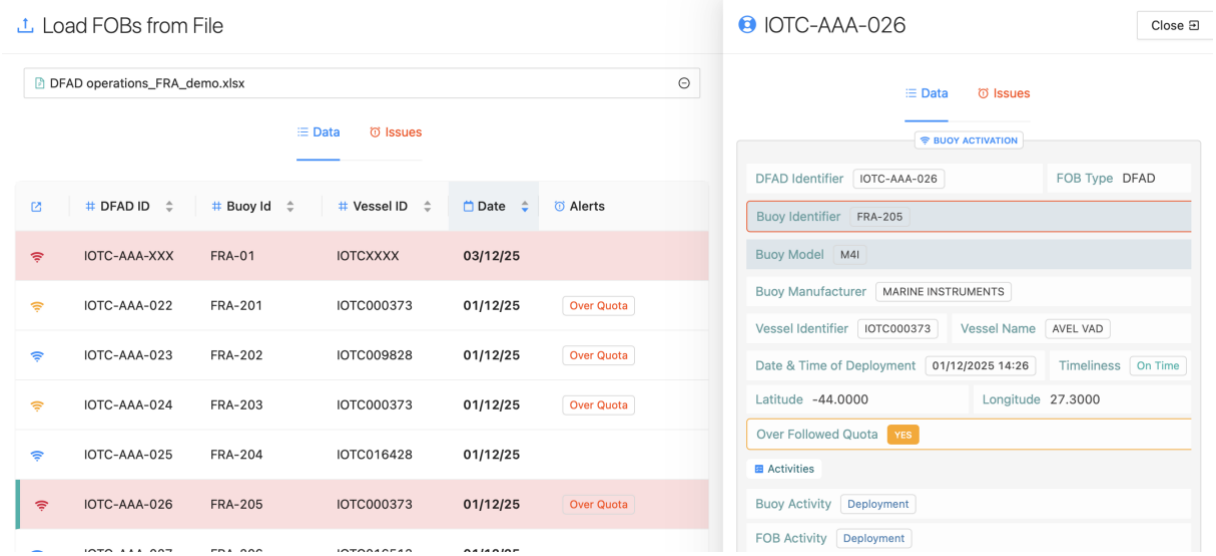
STEP 4: **Upload your template file (drag and drop or click in the file upload area)**:



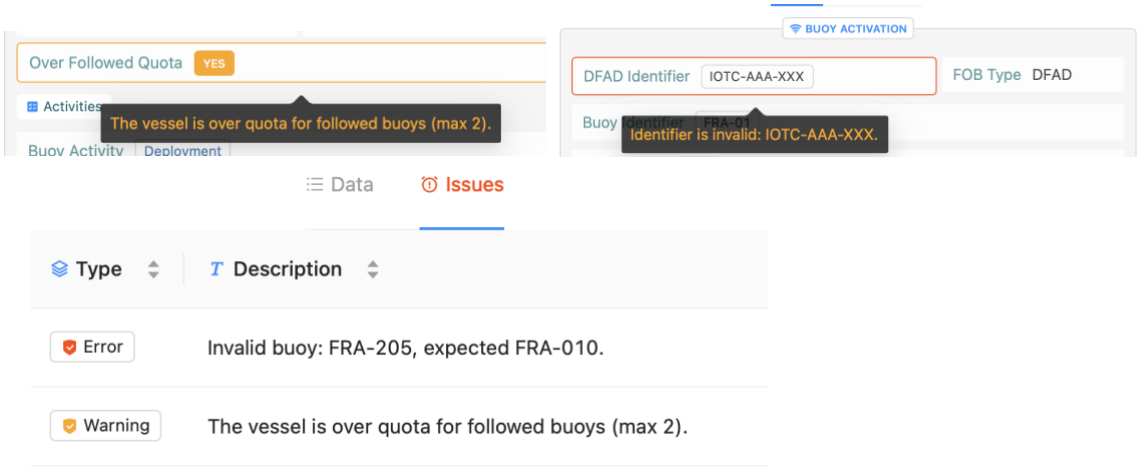
STEP 5: **Review the validation results**:



- 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:



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:



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								

Contingency procedure if you are unable to submit operations in due time

If it is not possible to report activities on OBFs in a timely manner (for example, due to an internet connection problem on board the vessel or the temporary unavailability of the e-DFAD application), you may submit their data to you flag State using the batch submission template. The flag State will then forward this file to the IOTC Secretariat, specifying the date on which you attempted to make the submission. The IOTC Secretariat will submit the activities on your behalf, backdating them to ensure that activations and deactivations are recorded in a timely manner.

Correcting information submitted for a floating object

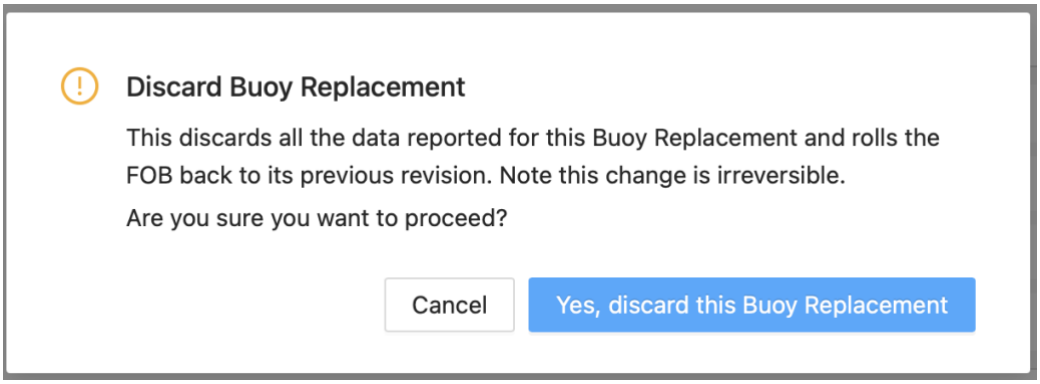
Once information has been submitted for a floating object, whether interactively or in batch mode, if you spot any errors in the information provided, you can correct them yourself **within a 48-hour correction window** following submission.

If you need to amend a submission outside this timeframe, you will need to ask your Flag CPC, who will be able to do it for you.

You can either **Discard** an activity or **Amend** an activity.

Discarding an activity

You can discard (cancel) the last activity reported for a floating object. To do this, simply click the **"Discard**" button on the relevant card, confirm that you wish to cancel this report, and it will then be immediately removed from the OBF history.



Notes:

- If you discard a deactivation that took place in the EEZ of a coastal state, an email will be sent to the coastal state and the flag state informing them of the cancellation.
- If you undo a Transfer (e.g. you incorrectly reported the wrong DFAD UDI as the target of the Transfer), the application will warn you that the relevant FOB will no longer appear in your list of operations and will revert to its previous owner.
- Since Replacements generate two revisions (the Activation of the new buoy and the deactivation of the old one), if you want to undo a Replacement, you will have to Discard both revisions one after the other.

Amending an activity

To do this, simply click the "**Amend**" button on the relevant card, make the necessary corrections in the form, then submit again. The corrections will then be applied immediately.

Note: in the case of a deactivation within a coastal state's EEZ, if you correct the coordinates so that the new coordinates are no longer within the coastal state's EEZ, an email will be sent to the coastal state and the flag state informing them of the change.

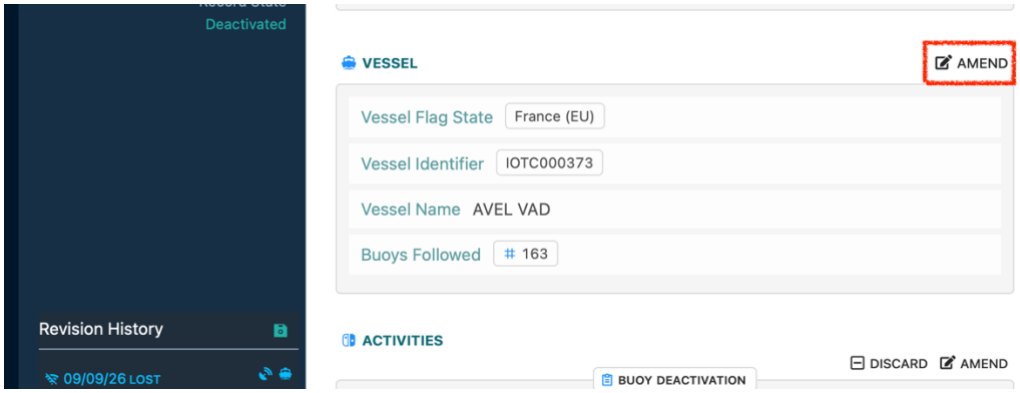
Amending historical metadata (FOB, Buoy and Vessel details)

If you notice an error in the FOB, buoy or vessel details ("metadata") reported for a FOB record, you (or your Flag State, if beyond the 48hrs correction window) can correct it, including for historical records.

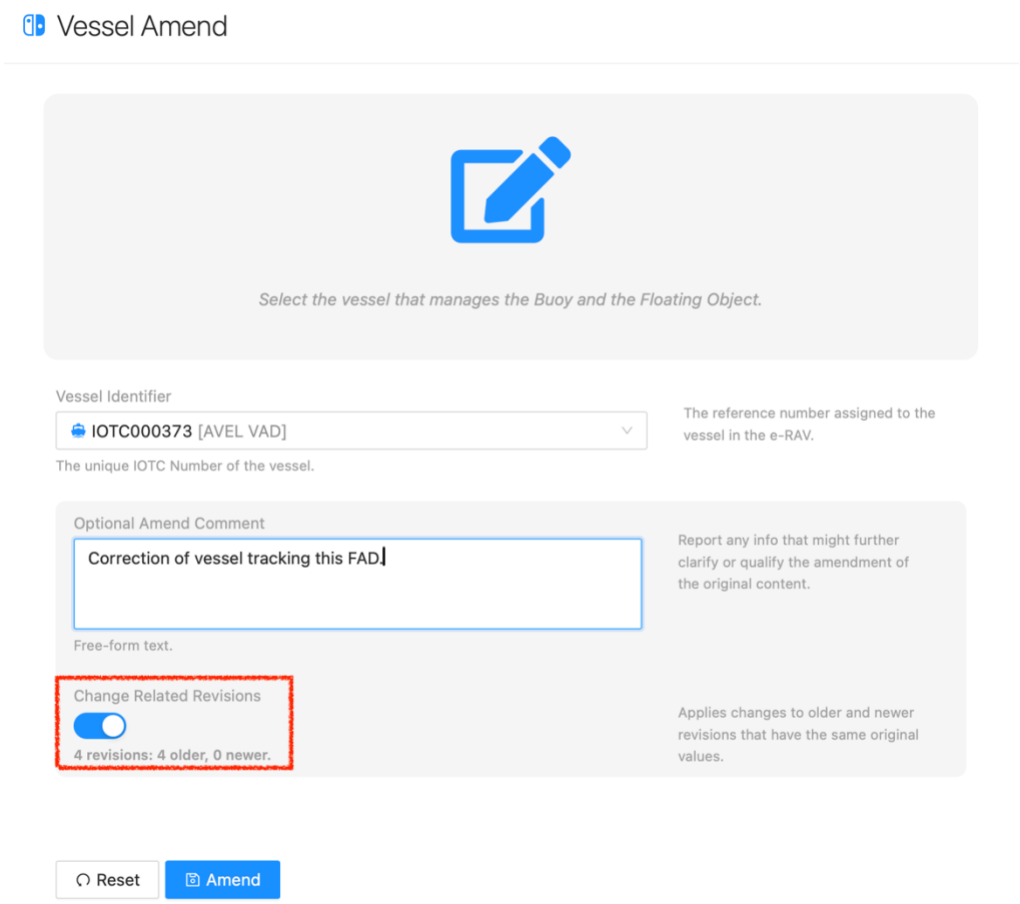
For example, if the vessel that was declared as tracking a DFAD (that has been deployed, then retrieved) was incorrectly identified, you can Amend the vessel "card" to change it.

By default, this change will be retroactively applied to all compatible activities (“revisions”) of this DFAD (i.e. all the revisions which were declared with this vessel), but you can toggle that off to only apply it to the selected revision, if needed.

To correct FOB metadata, open the relevant record, then click “Amend” for the card you want to correct:

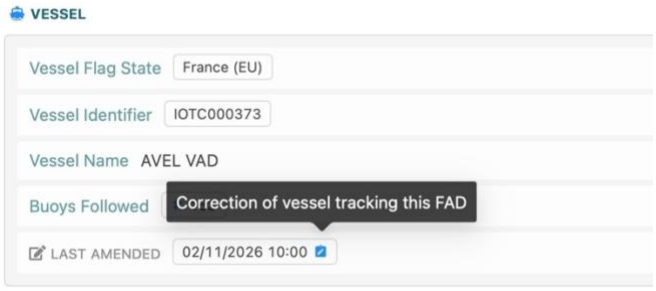


The Amend dialog will be displayed and, as soon as you change something, the “Change related revisions” button will light up, showing you to how many older and newer revisions the change will be applied if you keep it toggled ON.



You are encouraged to provide a short explanation of the reason behind the correction, then you can click the “Amend” button to apply it.

The correction will now be in place and reflected in the relevant card:

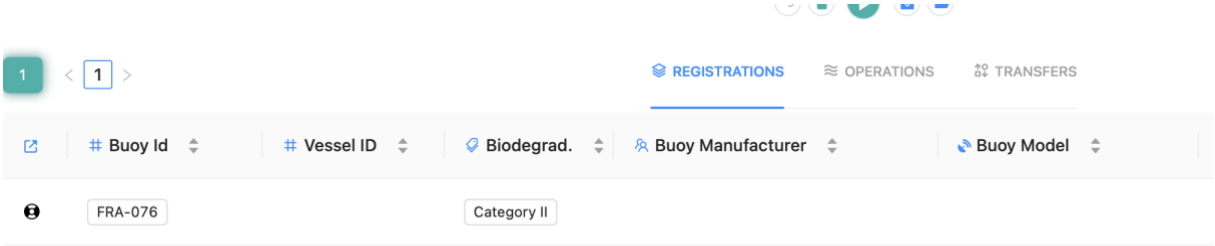


Consulting FOB records

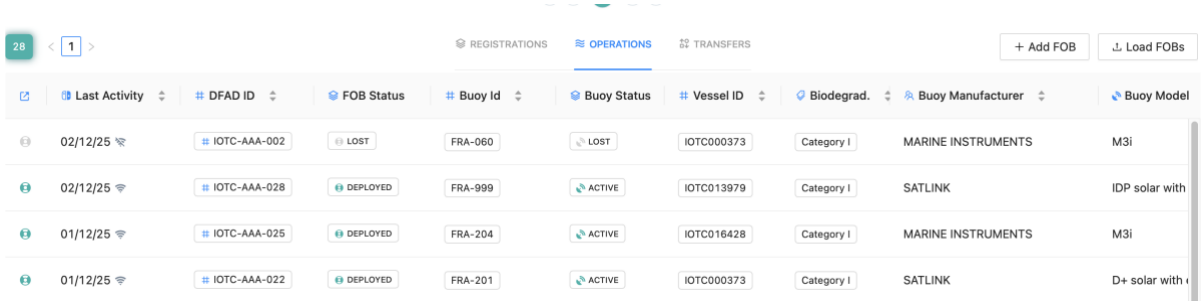
As mentioned at the beginning of this guide, you will only be able to consult records pertaining to FOBs that are (or were) tracked by the vessels associated with your user account.

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

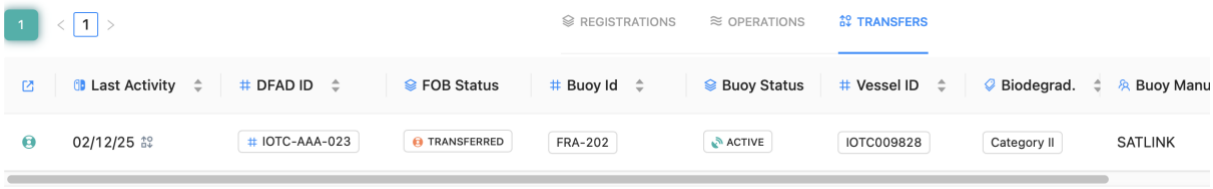
- **Registrations**: this is where "draft" DFAD records live until you have registered them (e.g. in Interactive mode you can start filling information about a DFAD, leave to do something else and come back later to complete it).



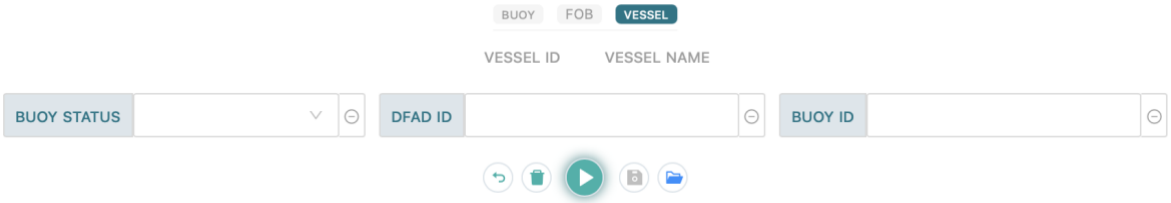
- **Operations**: this is where Registered DFADs and Logs are displayed during the course of their life at sea.



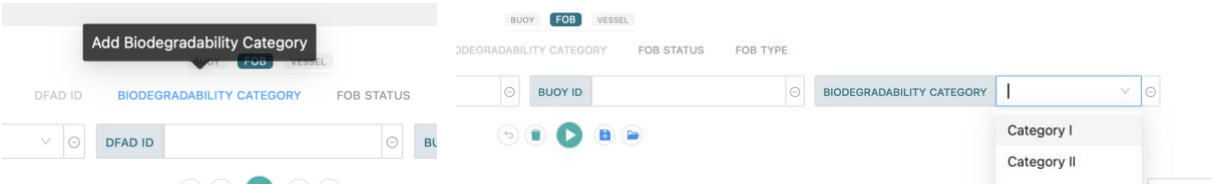
- **Transfers**: this is where FOBs that were transferred from you by another BO will appear:



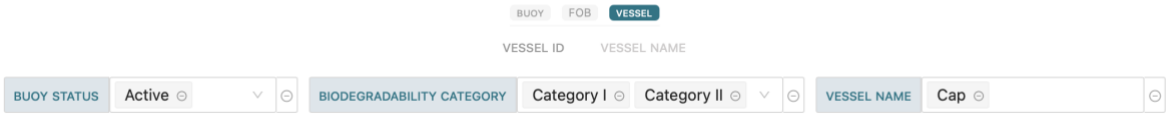
You can use the filter panel above the search results to filter records:



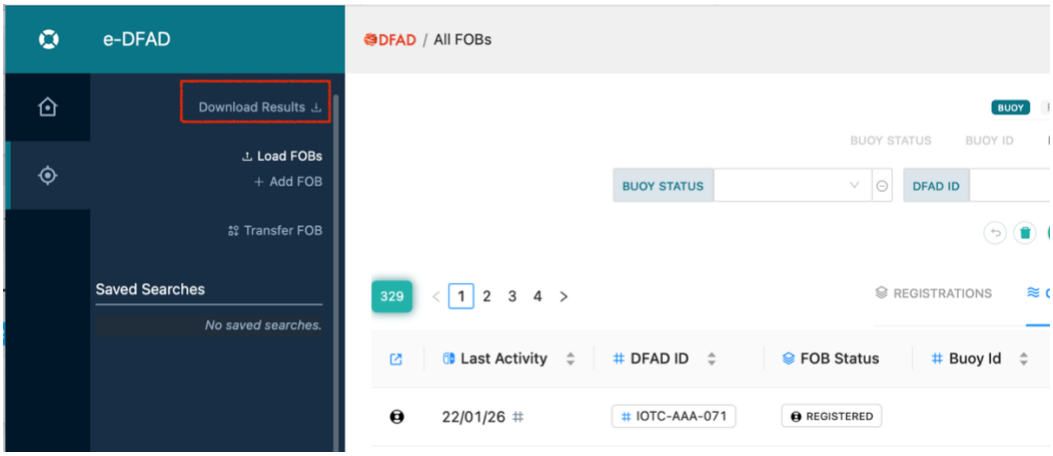
- By default it shows fields for Buoy status, DFAD ID and Buoy ID.
- You can add other fields by clicking on one of the query tabs above related to Buoy, FOB or Vessel, then clicking on one of the available fields.



- 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…)



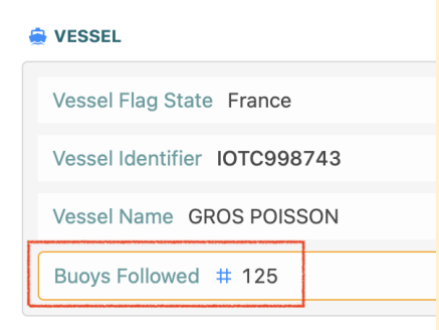
- Once you are done with your query, click the ▶ button to run it. If you want to reset the query panel to default, click the trashcan icon.
- The queries apply to each of the Registrations, Operations, and Transfers tabs: you can view the results in each tab without running the search again.
- You can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



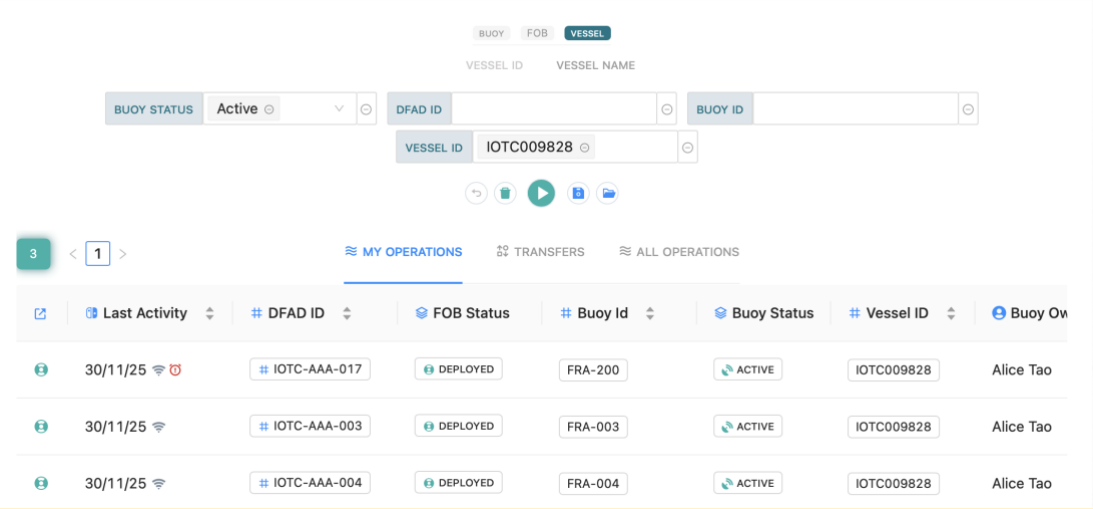
Finding how many active buoys are currently followed by a vessel

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.