

e-DFAD Quick Start series: Consulting the Register for CPCs

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What is this guide about?
This quick start guide will give you a short overview of how to consult information submitted to e-DFAD by your own Buoy Owners and by Buoy Owners of other CPCs.

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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 DFADs and obtain an IOTC Unique DFAD Identifier (UDI)
- Allow Buoy Owners to declare activation and deactivation of their Instrumented Buoys ("operations") on DFADs or Logs.
- Allow CPCs to consult, review and validate information submitted by their Buoy Owners.
- Allow CPCs to consult information submitted by Buoy Owners of other CPCs, subject to specific confidentiality requirements.

Features to be added later

The development of the e-DFAD focussed first on features allowing Buoy Owners to register their DFADs and report operations on FOBs, as well as consultation of FOB information by CPCs.

The following features will be added progressively after launch, depending on priorities to be agreed by the Commission:

- Correction by Buoy Owners of FOB data they submitted, with validation by the Flag CPC.
- Review, amendment and validation of BO submitted information by CPCs, as part of their Flag State duties.
- Handling of vessel and buoys ownership changes.

Registration of DFADs

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

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

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

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

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);

Declaration of Operations

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

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

Reporting can be done interactively or in bulk.

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 Deactivated.

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](#).

Consultation of information

- Flag State CPCs can consult the entirety of the activities reported by their Buoy Owners/vessels.
- Heads of delegations of CPCs and their alternates can consult redacted information about the activities of other CPCs’ vessels (cf para 5 of 24/02).
- Coastal State CPCs are notified by email of buoy deactivation in their EEZ (as the Flag State of the vessel which reported the deactivation, you will also be notified.)

User management

For simplicity reasons, during the launch phase of e-DFAD, CPCs will not be asked to manage their own user accounts (e.g. create new CPC users, new Buoy Owners etc). This will be handled by the Secretariat’s e-DFAD Team.

Connecting to the e-DFAD

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

STEP 2: Sign-in with your CPC user account

Consulting FOB records

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

- **My Operations:** this is where Registered DFADs and Logs managed by your Buoy Owners are displayed during the course of their life at sea.

Last Activity	DFAD ID	FOB Status	Buoy Id	Buoy Status	Vessel ID	Buoy Owner	Biodegrad.	Buoy Manufacturer
02/12/25	IOTC-AAA-002	LOST	FRA-060	LOST	IOTC000373	Alice Tao	Category I	MARINE INSTRUMENT
02/12/25	IOTC-AAA-028	DEPLOYED	FRA-999	ACTIVE	IOTC013979	Alice Tao	Category I	SATLINK
01/12/25	IOTC-AAA-025	DEPLOYED	FRA-204	ACTIVE	IOTC016428	Alice Tao	Category I	MARINE INSTRUMENT
01/12/25	IOTC-AAA-022	DEPLOYED	FRA-201	ACTIVE	IOTC000373	Alice Tao	Category I	SATLINK
01/12/25	IOTC-AAA-024	DEPLOYED	FRA-203	ACTIVE	IOTC000373	Alice Tao	Category I	MARINE INSTRUMENT
01/12/25	IOTC-AAA-027	DEPLOYED	FRA-206	ACTIVE	IOTC016513	Alice Tao	Category III	MARINE INSTRUMENT
30/11/25	IOTC-AAA-017	DEPLOYED	FRA-200	ACTIVE	IOTC009828	Alice Tao	Category I	MARINE INSTRUMENT

- **Transfers:** this is where FOBs that were transferred from my BOs by other BOs will appear:

- **All Operations (only for Heads of Delegation and their alternates):** this is where all operations from all CPCs appear in a single list. Note that some information for FOBs from other CPCs is redacted as per Resolution 24/02 (see [below](#)).

Searching for records

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.

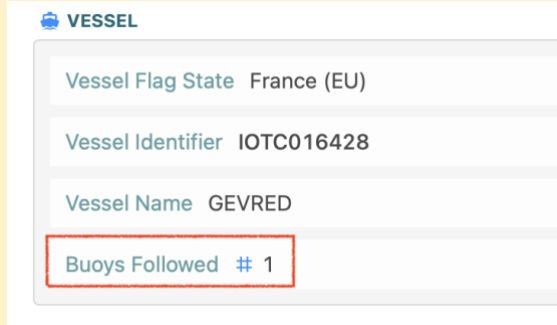
- You can build complex queries by selecting multiple values in drop-downs, or entering several values in text fields (type a value, press enter, type another value, press enter...)

- 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.

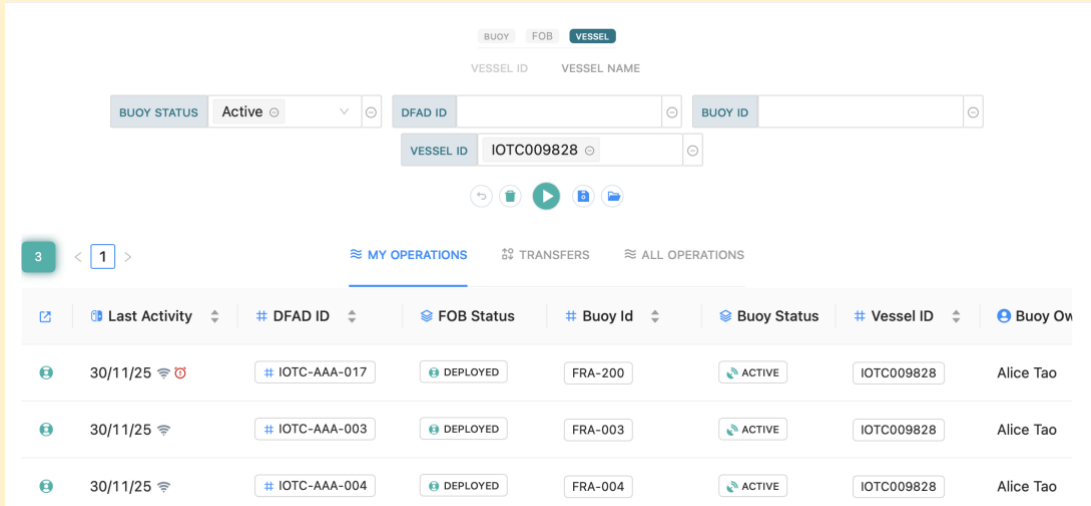
Finding how many active buoys are currently tracked by a vessel

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

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



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



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

Consulting details on a record

To view the details of a Record, click on the icon in the left most column (full view) or double-click anywhere on the row (quick view).

IOTC-AAA-028

Alice Tao Revision on 02/12/25

FLOATING OBJECT

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

BUOY

Buoy Owner	Alice Tao
Buoy Identifier	FRA-999
Buoy Model	IDP solar with echosounder
Buoy Manufacturer	SATLINK
Buoy Status	ACTIVE

VESSEL

Vessel Flag State	France (EU)
Vessel Identifier	IOTC013979
Vessel Name	DOLOMIEU
Buoys Followed	4

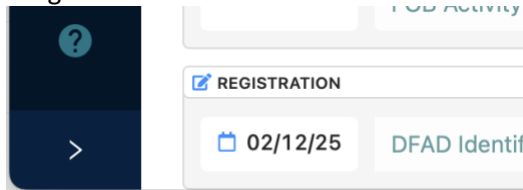
CHANGES & ACTIVITIES

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			

The upper section of the record shows you details about the current situation of the FOB, its buoy and the associated vessel.

Below is a section showing you the Changes & Activities that were reported for the vessel.

In the sidebar, opened by clicking the arrow in the bottom left of the window,



you can see the full history of the record:

Revision History			
📶	02/12/25	ACTIVE	🔄 📶
📶	02/12/25	TRANSFERRED	🔄 📶
📶	01/12/25	ACTIVE	🔄 📶
📶	01/12/25	REGISTERED	🔄 📶

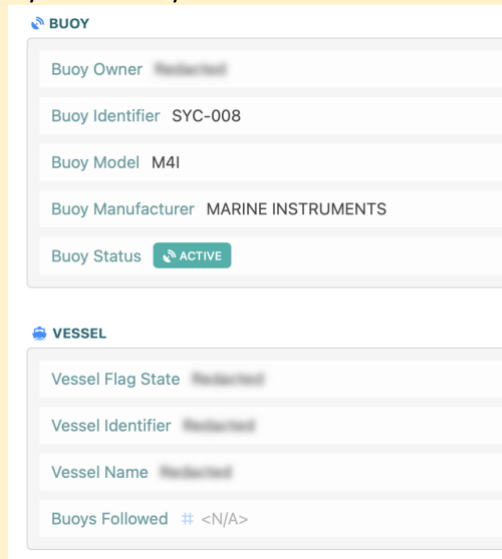
Clicking on any of the revisions will show you the details of the record at this point in time.

Redacted details

As per the confidentiality clauses in Resolution 24/02, if you consult a record from another CPC, the following fields will be redacted:

- Buoy Owner

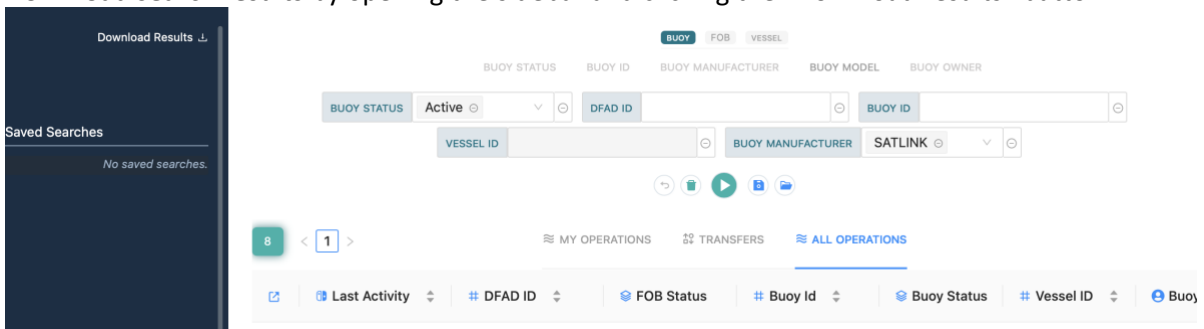
- Vessel Flag State
- Vessel IOTC number
- Vessel Name
- Latitude & longitude of activities
- Number of active buoys tracked by the vessel



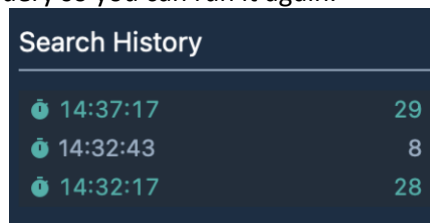
Additional features

Here are some of the additional features offered by e-DFAD at this point in time.

Download search results by opening the sidebar and clicking the “Download results” button.



Recent searches: the sidebar shows you a history of your recent searches (with the number of results) in the current work session (they are cleared if you log out or reload the page). Click on any previous search to restore the query so you can run it again.



Saved searches: if you use the same search on a regular basis (e.g. all active buoys tracked by a particular vessel) you can run the query and then click the Save button to the right of the ► button:



You will then be asked to enter a name for the query. Once submitted, the query will appear in the sidebar under Saved Searches:

Saved Searches

📌 Active for IOTC016513

The Saved Searches are stored with your user profile and are retained across work sessions. Click on any Saved search to restore the query so you can run it again.