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:

- Review, amendment and validation of BO submitted information by CPCs, as part of their Flag State duties.

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.

Contingency procedure if a Buoy Owner is unable to submit operations in due time

If a BO cannot 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), they may submit their data to their flag State using the batch submission template. The flag State will then forward this file to the IOTC Secretariat, specifying the date on which the BO attempted to make the submission. The IOTC Secretariat will submit the activities on the BO's behalf, backdating them to ensure that activations and deactivations are recorded in a timely manner.

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.)

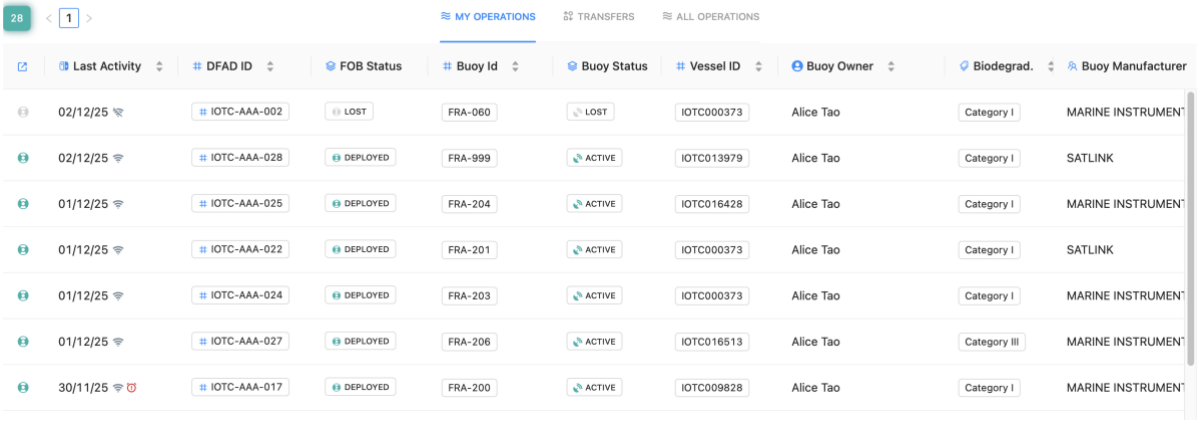
Connecting to the e-DFAD

STEP 1: **Open the e-DFAD URL in your web browser**: https://dfad.iotc.org
STEP 2: **Sign-in with your CPC user account**

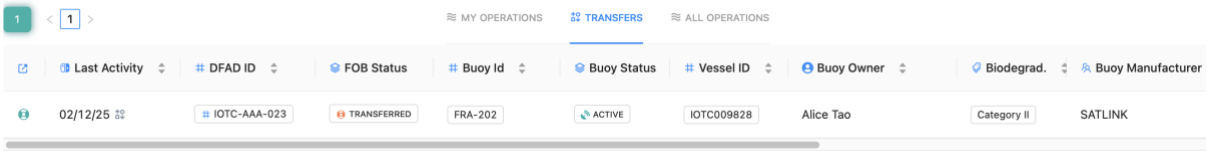
Consulting FOB records

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

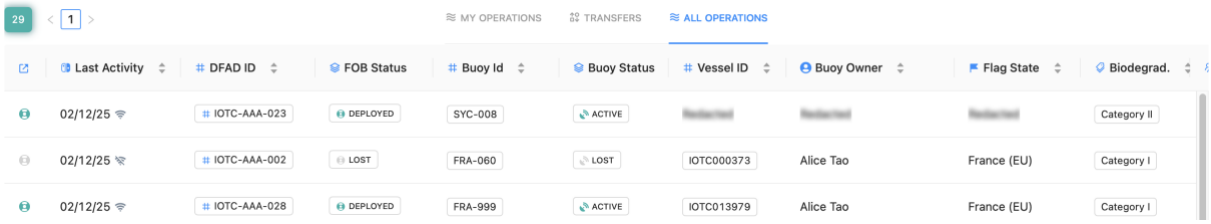
- **My Operations**: this is where Registered DFADs and Logs managed by your Buoy Owners are displayed during the course of their life at sea.



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

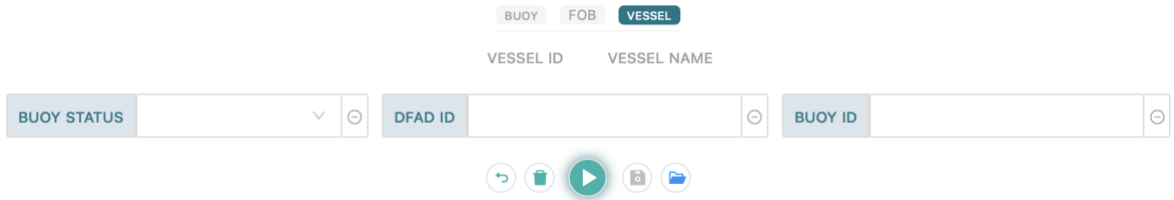


- **All Operations (only for Heads of Delegation and their alternates)**: this is where all operations from all CPCs appear in a single list. Note that some information for FOBs from other CPCs is redacted as per Resolution 24/02 (see below).

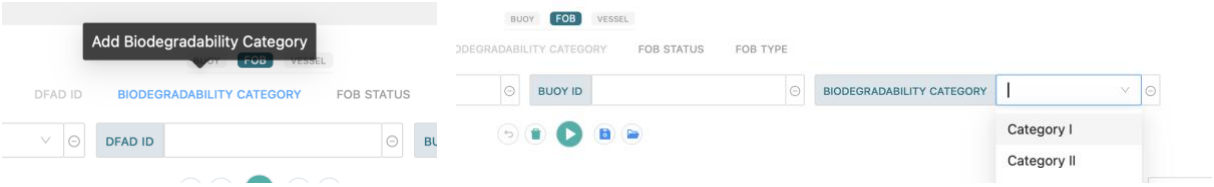


Searching for records

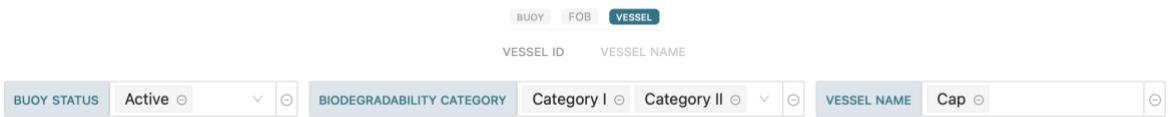
You can use the filter panel above the search results to filter records:



- 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…)

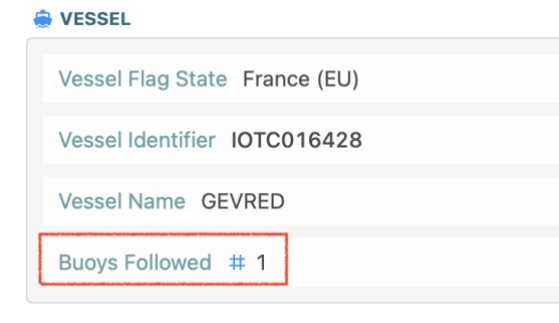


- Once you are done with your query, click the ▶ button to run it. If you want to reset the query panel to default, click the trashcan icon.

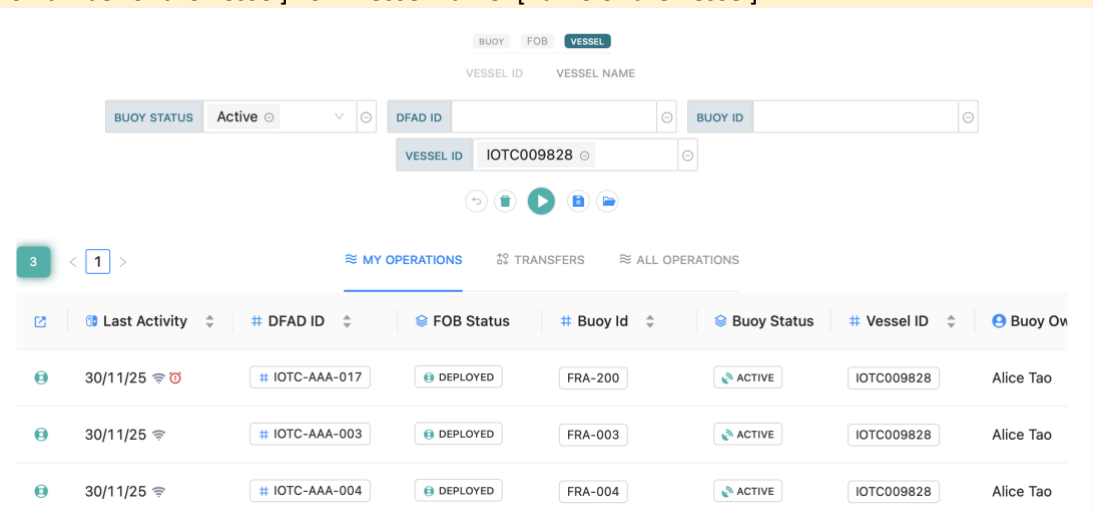
Finding how many active buoys are currently tracked by a vessel

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



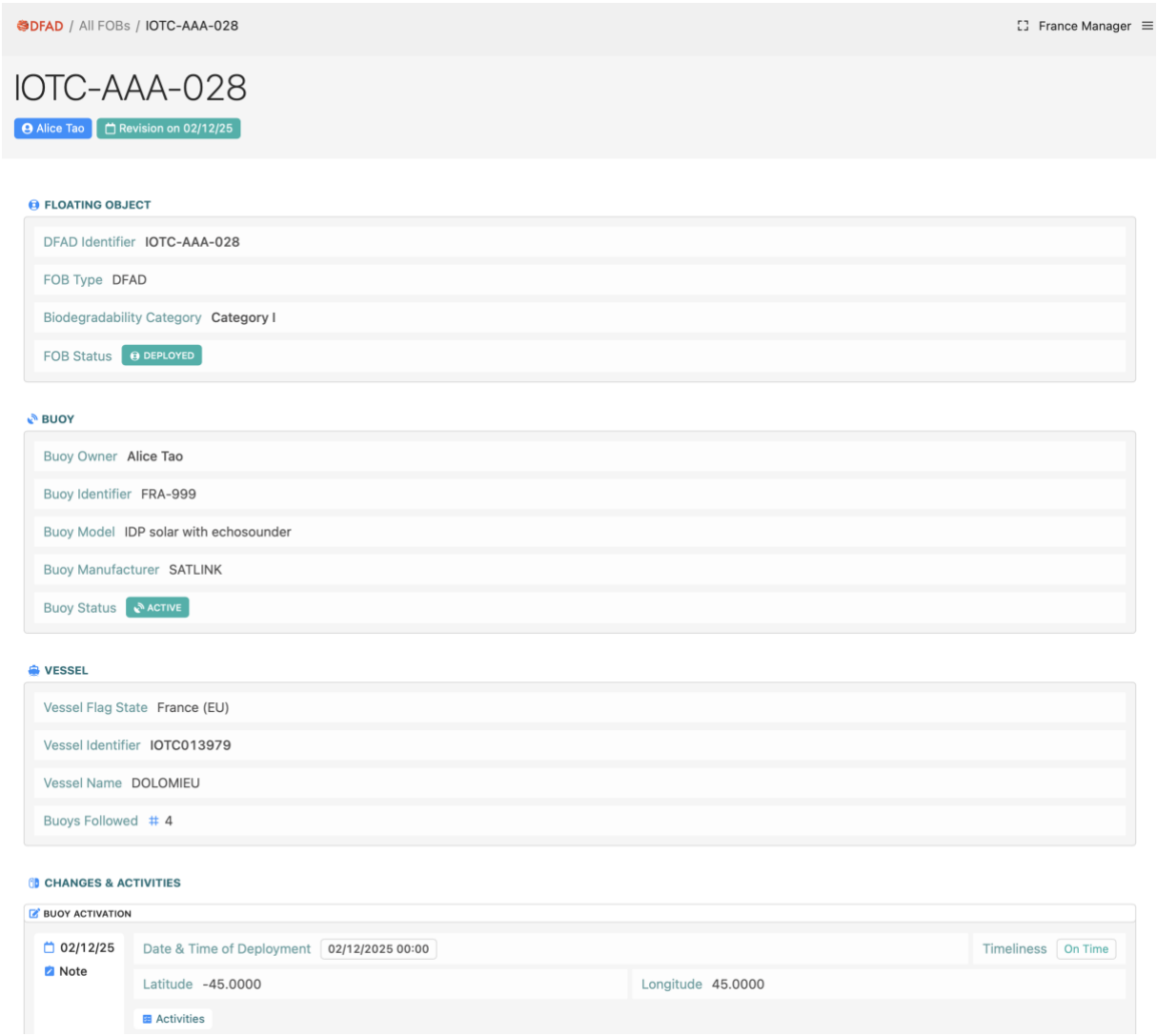
But you can also use the Search feature: build a query for “Buoy Status: Active” and “Vessel ID: [IOTC number of the vessel]” or “Vessel name: [name of the vessel]”:



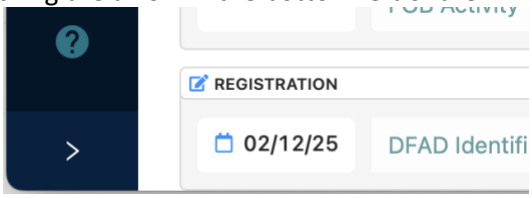
The count of results (3 in this example) shows you how many active buoys the vessel IOTC009828 is currently tracking.

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).



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,



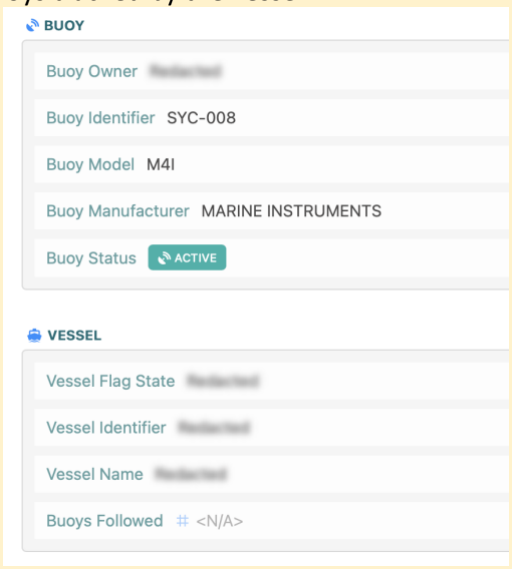
you can see the full history of the record:

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:

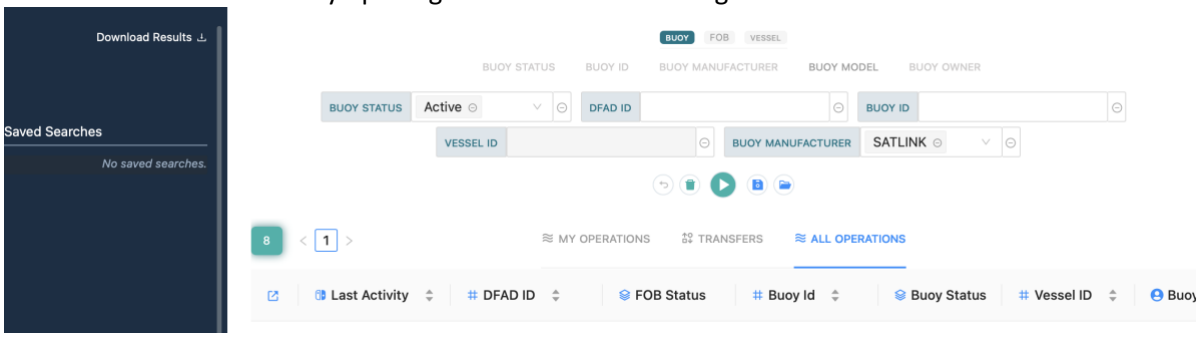
- Buoy Owner
- Vessel Flag State
- Vessel IOTC number
- Vessel Name
- Latitude & longitude of activities
- Number of active buoys tracked by the vessel



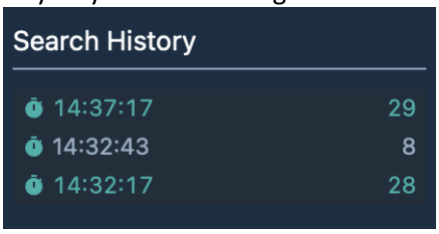
Additional features

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.

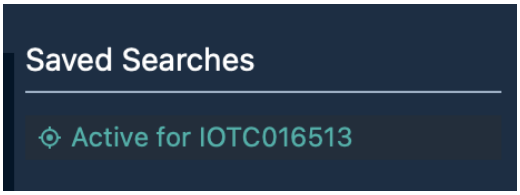


Recent searches: the sidebar shows you a history of your recent searches (with the number of results) in the current work session (they are cleared if you log out or reload the page). Click on any previous search to restore the query so you can run it again.



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:



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.

Correcting information submitted for a floating object

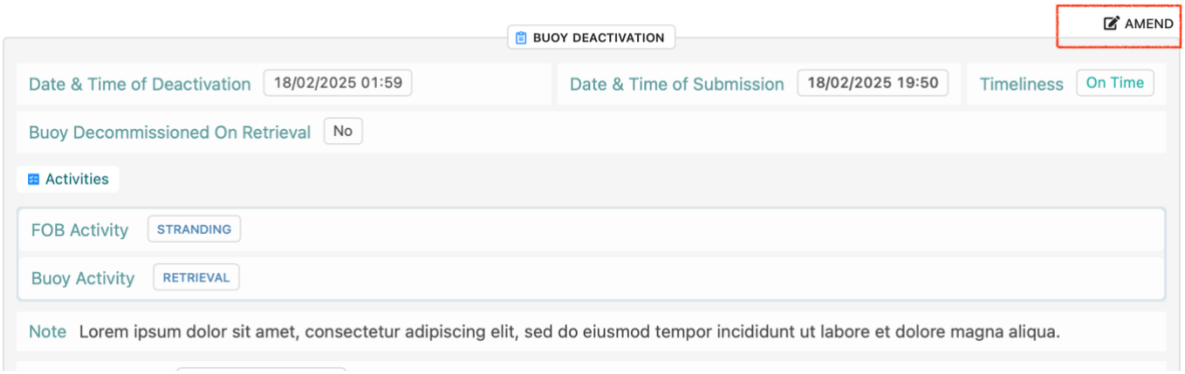
Once information has been submitted for a floating object by the Buoy Owner, whether interactively or in batch mode, if they spot any errors in the information provided, they can correct them themselves **within a 48-hour correction window** following submission.

If they need to amend a submission outside this timeframe, they will need to ask the Flag CPC, who will be able to do it for them, if deemed legitimate.

CPCs can also amend (correct) information of their own initiative, for example as part of their BO data review and validation process.

Correction of activities

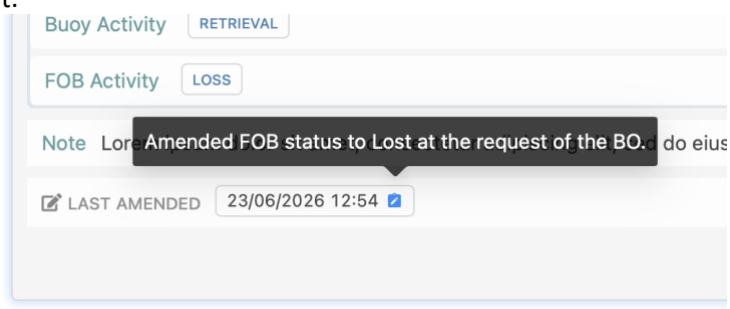
To amend an activity or information about the FOB, vessel or buoy, simply click the "**Amend**" button on the relevant card.



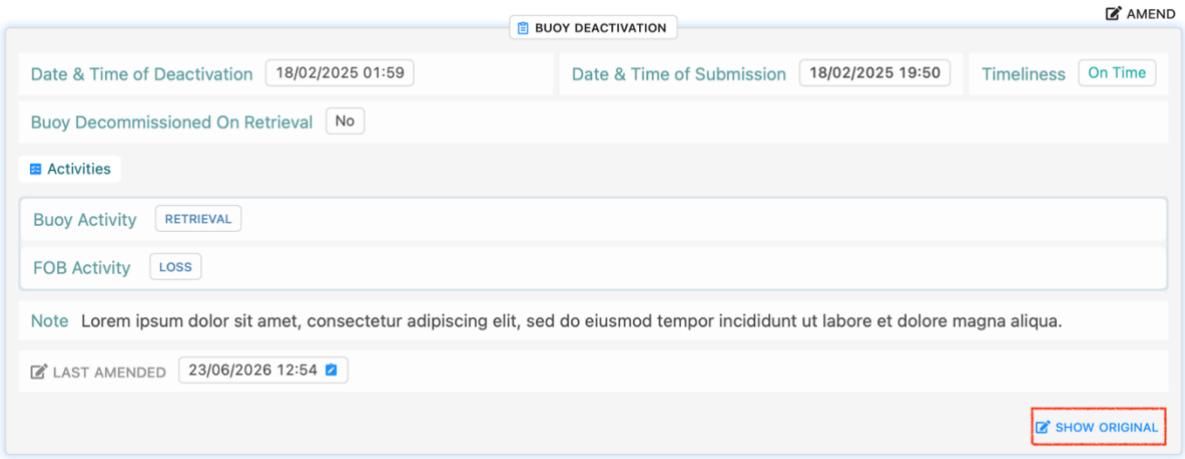
(Note: you can also use the "Amend" buttons in the sidebar.)

This will open the Amend drawer for the relevant information, in which you can correct any information as required. You are encouraged to also provide an Optional Amend Comment, to document the correction.
Corrections made by the Flag CPCs are tracked, which means that amended cards show:

- The timestamp when the card was "Last amended".
- An icon indicating that an amend comment was provided: mousing over this icon will display the comment.



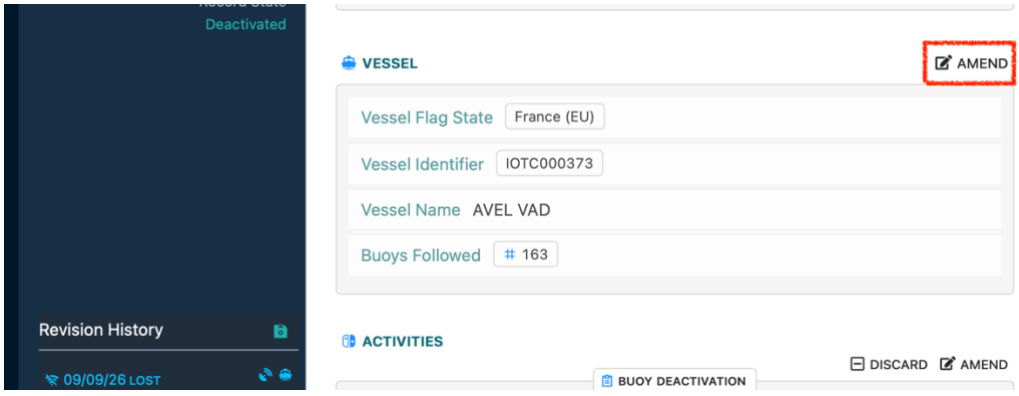
- A "Show original/Show amended" button at the bottom of an amended card, allowing to switch between amended and original values.



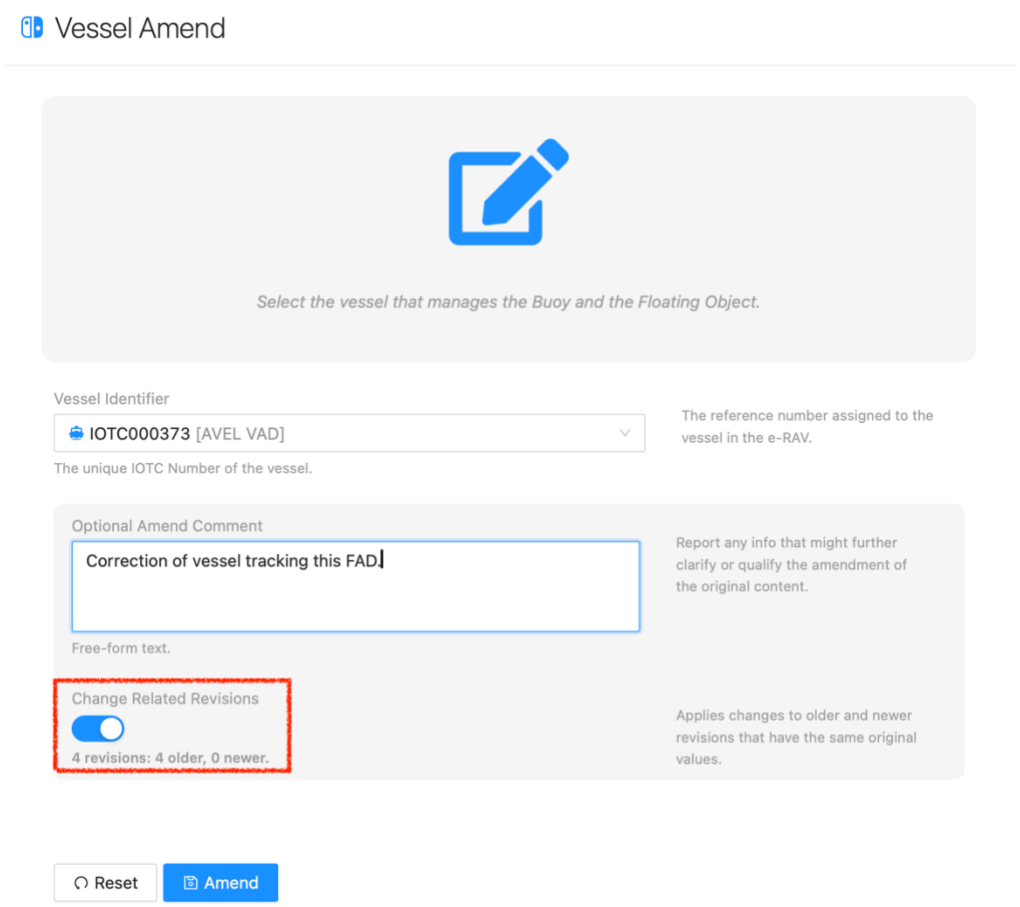
Note: in the case of a deactivation within a coastal state's EEZ, if you correct the coordinates so that the new coordinates are no longer within the coastal state's EEZ, an email will be sent to the coastal state and the flag state informing them of the change.

Correction of historical metadata (FOB, Buoy and Vessel details)

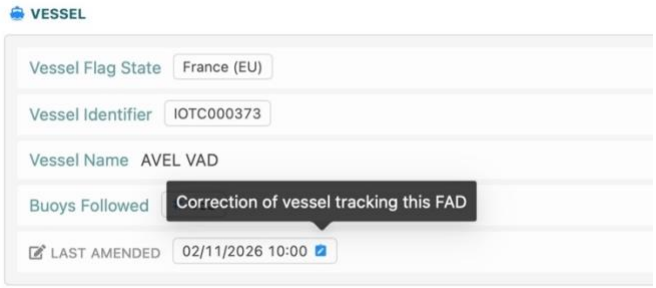
If you notice an error in the FOB, buoy or vessel details ("metadata") reported for a FOB record, you can correct it, including for historical records.
For example, if the vessel that was declared as tracking a DFAD (that has been deployed, then retrieved) was incorrectly identified, you can Amend the 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:

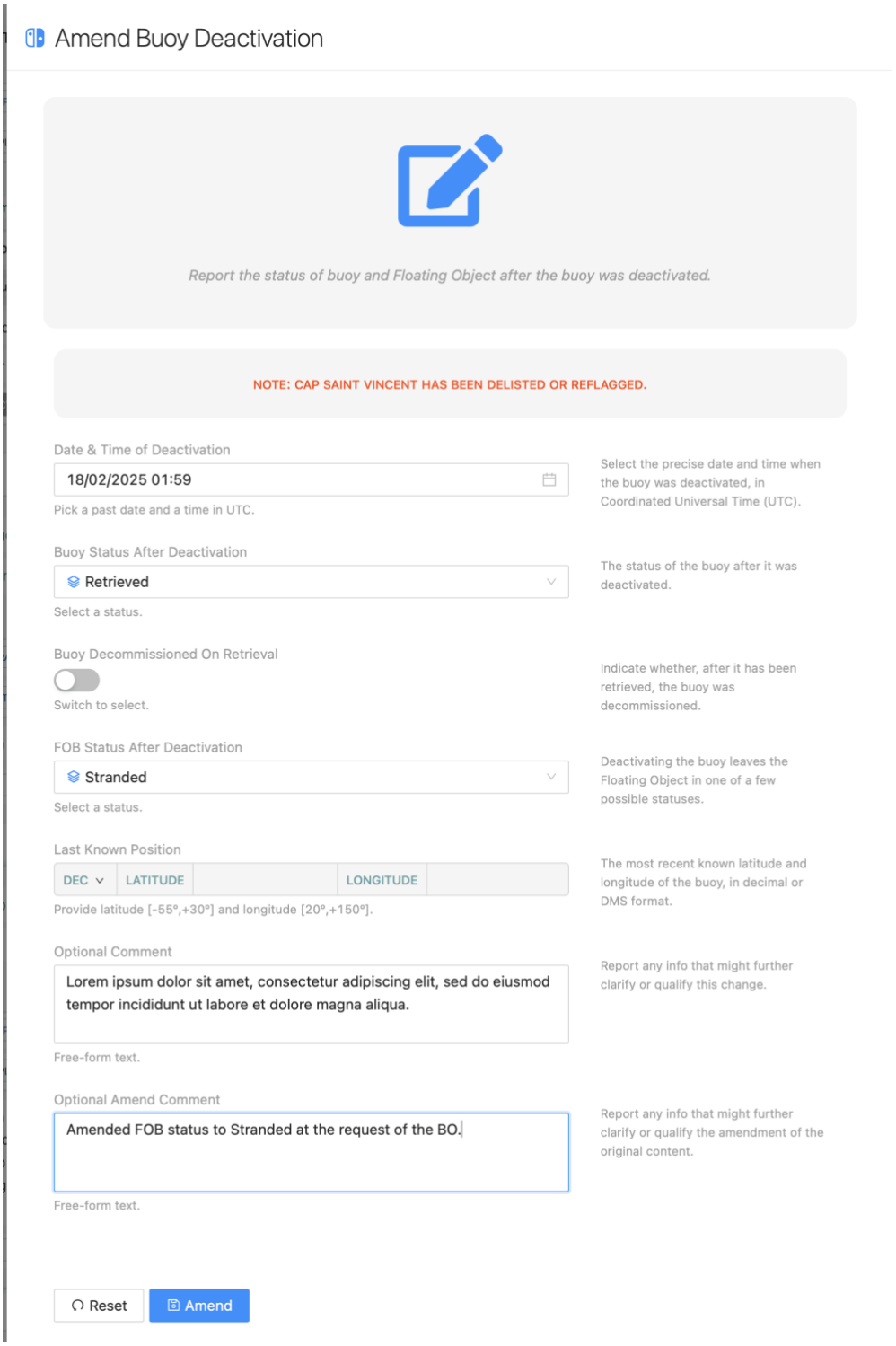


The Amend dialog will be displayed and, as soon as you change something, the "Change related revisions" button will light up, showing you to how many older and newer revisions the change will be applied if you keep it toggled ON.



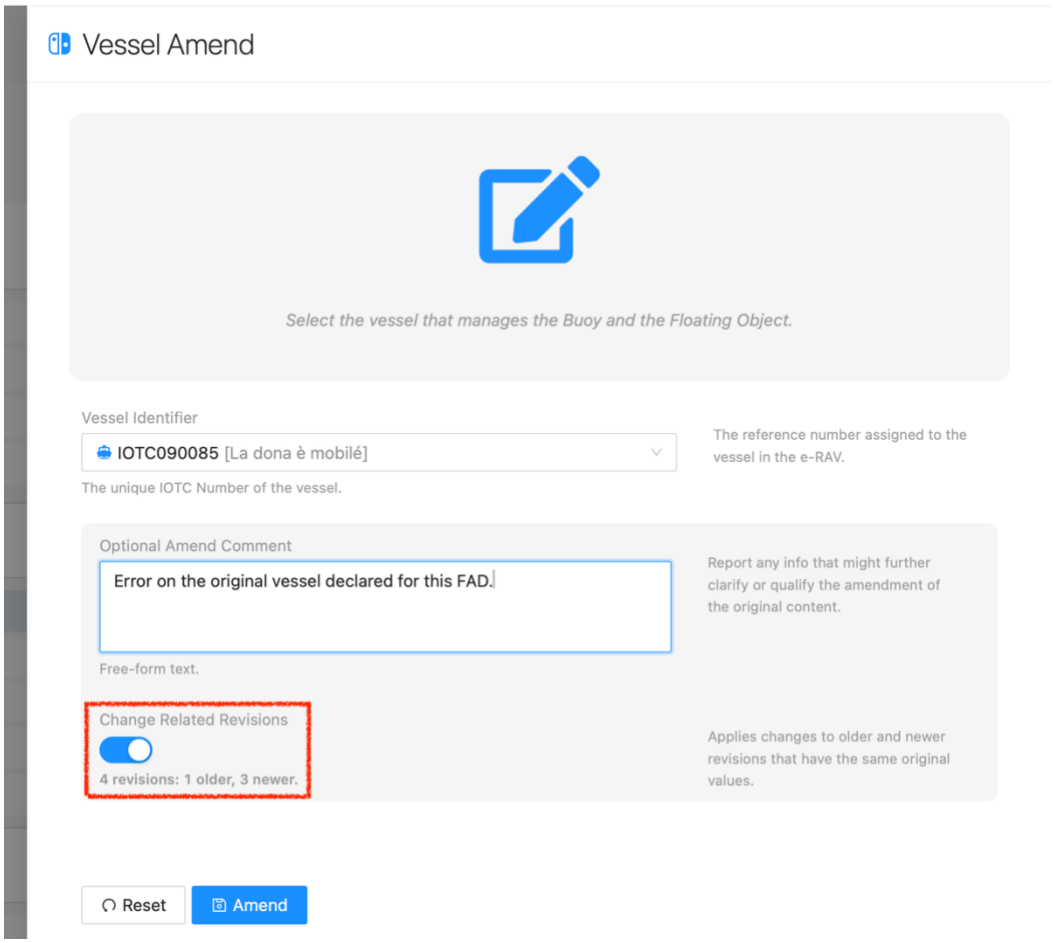
You are encouraged to provide a short explanation of the reason behind the correction, then you can click the “Amend” button to apply it.
The correction will now be in place and reflected in the relevant card:





Once done, Click the Amend button and the corrections will then be applied immediately.

Note: you can correct historical revisions, for example for an FOB that was transferred away from one of your BO, if you need to correct metadata before the transfer happened. For this, open the record, click one of the historical revisions in the sidebar, and then click Amend for the relevant card. The changes will be propagated to older and newer revisions, until they “hit” the transfer.


Vessel Amend
Select the vessel that manages the Buoy and the Floating Object.
Vessel Identifier
IOTC090085 [La dona è mobilé]
The unique IOTC Number of the vessel.
The reference number assigned to the vessel in the e-RAV.
Optional Amend Comment
Error on the original vessel declared for this FAD.
Free-form text.
Report any info that might further clarify or qualify the amendment of the original content.
Change Related Revisions
4 revisions: 1 older, 3 newer.
Applies changes to older and newer revisions that have the same original values.
Reset
Amend