

Tri Marine Non-Entangling Fish Aggregation Device (FAD) Policy

PURPOSE

To meet or exceed recommendations of the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) and promote the use of more environmentally friendly designs of fish aggregating devices (FADs) that reduce the chance of entanglement of sensitive species and reduce the proliferation of marine debris.

DEFINITION

A fish aggregation device (FAD) is generally described as any floating object, manmade or otherwise, used to attract and consolidate schools of tuna.

POLICY

Tri Marine is supportive of effective FAD management for tuna conservation and commits to using FADs that mitigate unintentional environmental impacts. To mitigate impacts, the design of all FADs used in controlled fishing operations shall comply with ISSF Conservation Measure 3.5: Transactions with Vessels that Use Only Non-Entangling FADs. A guide for the construction and use of non-entangling FADs is available for download online and can be referenced below as Annex 1. All Tri Marine Vessels and all fishing vessels supplying Tri Marine who deploy FADs shall meet the minimum requirement of using only “Lower Entanglement Risk FADs.”

ANNEX 1

Three Categories of FADs — low to high entanglement risk

Considering the variety of designs and materials used worldwide to construct FADs, the ISSF Bycatch Steering Committee ranks FADs according to the risk of entanglement related to how the nets are used.

From lowest to highest to risk, three categories are described. These designs are examples; the important elements are the net type and its configuration.

NON-Entangling FADs

RAFT

- Do not cover with netting.
- If covered, cover with canvas, tarpaulin, shade cloth, or non-entangling materials.

TAIL

- Subsurface structure is made with ropes, canvas or nylon sheets, or other non-entangling materials.

More detail on the previous page.

No netting is used in any components (raft and tail)

These FADs are expected to have no risk of causing entanglement.

LOWER Entanglement Risk FADs

RAFT

- Use only small mesh netting (< 2.5 inch / 7 cm stretched mesh) if covering with net (both upper and submerged parts).
- If small mesh netting is used as cover, it is tightly wrapped, with no loose netting hanging from the raft.

TAIL

- If net is used as submerged tail, could be of any mesh size if tightly tied into sausage-like bundles.
- If open panel netting is used, only small mesh size (< 2.5 inch [7 cm] stretched mesh) can be used, but weight the panel to keep it taut.

Despite using netting, these design elements reduce the risk of entanglement events.

HIGH Entanglement Risk FADs

RAFT

- Covered with large mesh netting (e.g. > 2.5-inch mesh).*
- If mesh size is larger than 2.5 inches (both in the upper or submerged part), it is high entanglement, whether the net is tightly tied or covered by canvas or tarpaulin.

TAIL

- Submerged part of the FAD constructed with open panels of large mesh netting (> 2.5-inch mesh).

*Accounting for mesh sizes available in the market, 2.5 inch (7 cm) mesh size offers the lowest likelihood of entanglements across species and body parts.

These FADs are known to cause entanglements with turtles and sharks.

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