



Fish Aggregation Device (FAD) Management Policy

Effective 1 January 2023, National Fisheries Development Ltd. commits to requiring its vessels to apply the following best practices for FAD management identified in ISSF Technical Report 2019-11, *'Recommended Best Practices for FAD management in Tropical Tuna Purse Seine Fisheries'*, noting that NFD exclusively deploys anchored FADs within Solomon Islands waters:

1. Comply with flag state and RFMO reporting requirements for fisheries statistics by set type

- Filling out completely and accurately the logbooks, including FAD logbook information, by set type required by the WCPFC and submitting them by electronic reporting to the required authority.
- 100% observer coverage on all fishing trips through the national observer program operated by the Solomon Islands Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR).
- Collecting data on the number of active FADs and FAD activity if/as required by WCPFC and/or MFMR and submitting them to the required authority/ies.

2. Voluntarily report additional FAD buoy data for use by RFMO science bodies

In the event NFD deploys drifting FADs:

- Provide historical daily position and echo-sounder data if/when required by WCPFC and/or MFMR.
- Report FAD position data to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and/or MFMR, with a maximum time lag of 90 days.

3. Support science-based limits on the overall number of FADs used per vessel and/or FAD sets made

In the event NFD deploys drifting FADs:

- Abiding by the limit of active number of drifting FADs adopted by the WCPFC.
- Deploying only drifting FADs with satellite tracking buoys.
- Abiding by the drifting FAD time area closure established by the WCPFC.

4. Use only non-entangling FADs to reduce ghost fishing

- Deploying only FADs that are completely non-entangling (i.e. without any netting), in accordance with WCPFC requirements and the *ISSF Guide for Non-Entangling FADs*.
- Not deploying any 'high entanglement risk' FADs according to the *ISSF Guide for Non-Entangling FADs* (i.e. those using large open netting greater than 2.5 inches or 7cm mesh, either in or underneath the raft).

5. Mitigate other environmental impacts due to FAD loss including through the use of biodegradable drifting FADs and FAD recovery policies

- Studying the feasibility of using drifting FADs with only biodegradable material in their construction except the flotation structure of the raft.
- Studying the feasibility of deploying simpler and smaller FADs.
- Participating in research to determine FAD deployment areas that have a high risk of stranding, by providing historical track data to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.
- Participating in trials of biodegradable drifting FAD designs and/or FAD recovery programs that include the participation of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and/or coastal states, national scientists and/or ISSF scientists to monitor experimental design.


For silky sharks (the main bycatch issue in FAD sets) implement further mitigation efforts

- Applying Best Practices for safe handling and release of sharks and rays brought onboard.

This policy applies to the following vessels which are owned/controlled by National Fisheries Development Ltd.:

Solomon Pearl
Solomon Opal
Solomon Ruby
Solomon Emerald
Solomon Jade

1 January 2023



Russell Dunham
General Manager