



## **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 and FAD echosounder biomass data to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and/or MFMR, with a maximum time lag of 90 days.
- Data submissions will include vessel names and IMO numbers, with a request to SPC/MFMR to make these data available to WCPFC for scientific purposes.
- Deployments should be identified in the data submissions, when possible.

### **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**

- 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).
- Effective 1 April 2025, 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*.

#### **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 Developments Ltd.:

Solomon Pearl  
Solomon Opal  
Solomon Ruby  
Solomon Emerald  
Solomon Jade

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