

## **FAD Management Policy**

### **GRUPO DEGFER CIA. LTDA.**

Recognizing the need to better understand and mitigate any potential negative impacts on sensitive marine ecosystems and species related to the use of Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) in tuna purse seine fishing operations, Grupo Degfer Cia. Ltda. has adopted this FAD Management Policy for all of the tuna purse seine vessels under its management including the following: F/V Don Mario.

Starting on March 1, 2020 Grupo Degfer Cia. Ltda. requires onboard its vessels the use of the following best practices for FAD management as described in ISSF Technical Report 2019-11 "Recommended Best Practices for FAD Management in Tropical Tuna Purse Seine Fisheries":

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

We commit to:

- Filling out completely and accurately the logbooks, including FAD logbook information, by set type as required by the flag state authorities and the IATTC, and submitting them to the required authority and/or IATTC.
- Achieving 100% observer coverage, even if not required by the IATTC, on all fishing trips through the use of human observers and/or electronic monitoring.
- Collect data on the number of FADs and FAD activity (deployments, visits, sets and loss) as required by the IATTC, and submitting them to the required authority or IATTC.

**2. Voluntarily report additional FAD buoy data as requested by RFMO science bodies to support approved and budgeted research activities**

We commit to:

- Participate in scientific programs by RFMOs or other scientific institutions by providing daily positions and echo-sounder data for up to 100% of company owned FADs, depending on the requirements of the scientific program, with a time lag as needed to ensure confidentiality.

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

We commit to:

- Abide by the limit of active number of FADs adopted by the IATTC
- Voluntarily limit the number of active FADs per vessel to no more than 3.05 FADs every 10 Tons of Vessel's capacity, even though the IATTC allows for a higher number. Based on a capacity on 590 Tons, we voluntarily limit the number of active FADs to 180.
- Deploying only FADs with satellite tracking buoys
- Allowing buoys to transmit/report at least once per day while they are in the water
- Abide by the FAD time area closure established by the IATTC

**4. A transition to the use of only non-entangling FADs to reduce ghost fishing**

We commit to:

- Not deploying any "high entanglement risk" FADs according to the ISSF guide for Non-Entangling FADs (i.e., those using large open netting either in the raft or in the underneath part of the FADs (>2.5 inches or 7 cm mesh)
- Removing from the water all encountered "high entanglement risk" FADs for either conversion to less entangling or non-entangling FADs, or disposal at port.
- A timely transition to the deployment of only FADs that are completely non-entangling (i.e., without any netting), even if it is not a requirement of the RFMO.

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

We commit to:

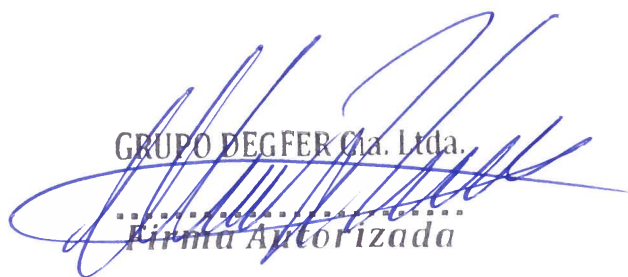
- Studying the feasibility of using FADs with only biodegradable materials in their construction except for the flotation structure of the raft and the satellite buoy
- Participate in tests of locally sourced biodegradable materials
- Studying the feasibility of deploying simpler and smaller FADs

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

We commit to:

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

This policy was adopted on February 27th 2020.

GRUPO DEGFER Cia. Ltda.  
  
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Firma Autorizada

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