

FAD Free Policy



Pelco NZ Ltd is committed to and is a strong advocate for sustainable fisheries and believes there is a need for global improvement.

FADs (Fish Aggregating Devices) are man-made objects designed to attract fish. They usually consist of buoys or floats tethered to the ocean floor with concrete blocks, which fish gather around. They place stress on tuna stocks and can attract non-targeted species, therefore raising the amount of bycatch.

Pelco does not use FADs, has no intention of using FADs, and does not support the practice. However, as members of ISSF we are committed to conservation measure 3.7 *Transactions with Vessels or Companies with Vessel-based FAD Management* and the following best practices for FAD management identified in the ISSF Technical Report 2019-11. We therefore **must** include the following wording in our FAD Free policy:

a) Comply with flag state and RFMO reporting requirements for fisheries statistics by set type

We support:

- ☐ *Collecting data on the number of active FADs and FAD activity (deployments, visits, sets and loss) as required and submitting them to the required authority and tRFMO.*

b) Voluntarily report additional FAD buoy data for use by RFMO science bodies

We commit to:

- ☐ *Participate in a scientific program by tRFMO by providing daily positions and echo-sounder data for every company-owned FAD, with a time-lag as needed to ensure confidentiality*

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

We commit to:

- ☐ *Abiding by the limit of active number of FADs adopted by tRFMO*

We also support and commit to:

- ☐ *Supporting a Total FAD closure of all tropical tuna fisheries in tRFMO that is long enough to reduce fishing pressure on target stocks*

d) Use only non-entangling FADs to reduce ghost fishing

We support and commit to:

- ☐ *Not deploying any "high entanglement risk" FAD 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)*

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e) Mitigate other environmental impacts due to FAD loss including through the use of biodegradable FADs and FAD recovery policies

We support and commit to:

- ☐ *Deploying any FAD made of biodegradable materials except for floatation components of the raft, for which the use of non-biodegradable material should be reduced as much as possible.*

We commit to:

- ☐ *Studying the feasibility of deploying simpler and smaller FADs.*

We commit to:

- ☐ *Participating in research to determine FAD deployment areas that have high risk of stranding, by providing historical track data*

We also commit to:

- ☐ *Removing from the water and bringing back to port all active FADs used by the vessels in each trip*

f) 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*

For Pelco, sustainable harvesting of all fish means ensuring that we limit our impact on the environment to ensure the continued availability of fish stocks for generations to come.

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