

The Ideal Purse Seine Vessel

A Guide to Demonstrating Best Practices & Meeting ISSF Conservation Measures



ISSF INTERNATIONAL SEAFOOD SUSTAINABILITY FOUNDATION



The PVR tracks this specific list of verifiable best practices and is a transparent source regarding a vessel's adherence to those practices available to all stakeholders.

Any large-scale purse seine vessels that ISSF participating companies source from must be on the PVR.

ISSF Participating Company Commitments Regarding Purchases From Purse Seine Vessels

Required by an ISSF Conservation Measure. Compliance is audited.

These commitments are also tracked by the PVR



Must not appear on any tuna RFMO IUU list



Skippers have participated in best practices workshop (or reviewed the online Guidebook or video)



No shark finning



Establish & publish company policy prohibiting shark finning



Must be flagged to a member or cooperating non-member of the relevant RFMO or have applied for such status



large scale purse seine vessels only

Large scale purse seiners catching skipjack, bigeye & yellowfin tuna must have been actively fishing for tuna as of 31 Dec 2012, or under contract for construction on or before 31 December 2012 with construction completed by 30 June 2015



Must appear on the authorized vessel record of the RFMO



Full tuna (skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye) retention



100% Observer coverage (human or electronic)

large scale purse seine vessels only



large scale purse seine vessels only

Must be listed on ISSF's Record of Large Scale Purse Seine Vessels

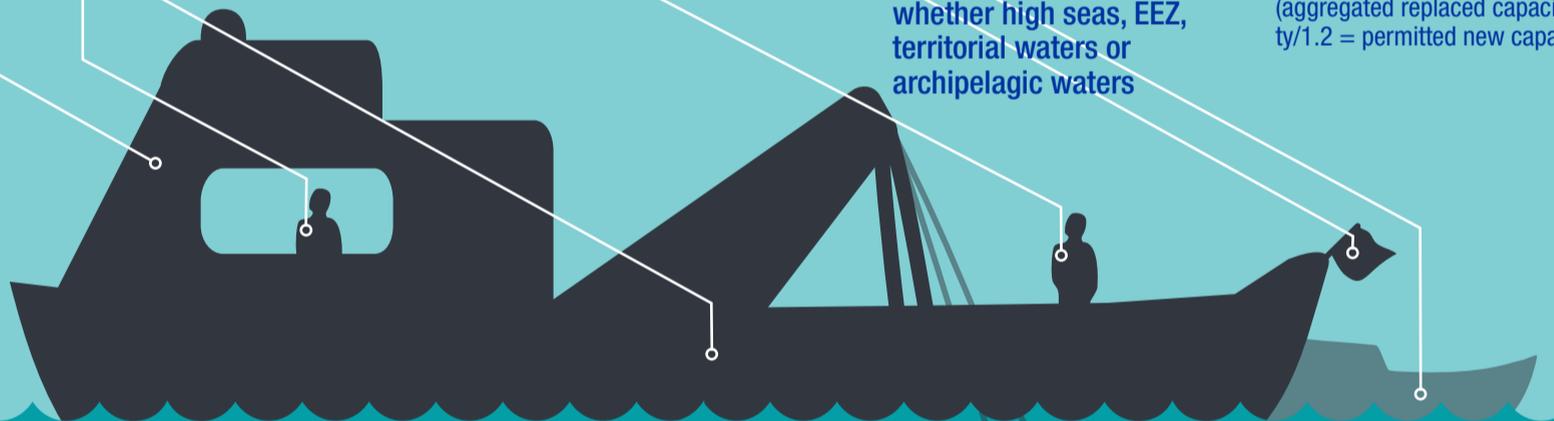


No purse seine vessel transshipment at sea, whether high seas, EEZ, territorial waters or archipelagic waters



Must obtain an IMO or other UVI

If a new vessel is intended to replace multiple vessels, the fish hold volume of the new vessel must be less than or equal to that of the older vessel; or the aggregated replaced capacity of more than one vessel already on the ISSF Record must be at least 1.2 times the new capacity (aggregated replaced capacity/1.2 = permitted new capacity)



Other Best Practices Encouraged by ISSF and Recommended by Several Tuna RFMOs



Use of non-entangling FADs



Targeting large schools to reduce bycatch



Small yellowfin and bigeye identification



Submission of skipper's logbook data, including species composition, bycatch and FAD usage



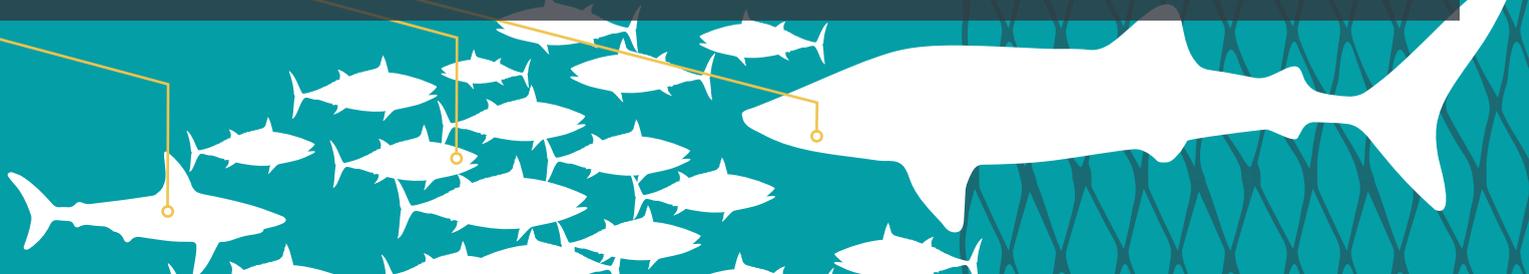
Bycatch handling - sharks and rays



Bycatch handling - whale sharks



Bycatch handling - turtles



A Guide for Tuna Purse Seine Vessel Owners to ISSF Requirements & Demonstrating Best Practices

April 2016



PART I. ISSF Participating Company Commitments

ISSF conservation measures are designed to progress implementation of tangible global best practices for tuna sustainability. All ISSF Participating Companies have agreed to comply with these measures as a condition of their participation in ISSF. A complete table of these measures, including definition of terms and explanation of exemptions where necessary is available here:

<http://iss-foundation.org/knowledge-tools/publications-presentations/conservation-measures-commitments/>

The following table outlines the existing and in-force ISSF commitments that are specific to purse seine vessels (and in some cases all gears), their linkage to the [ISSF ProActive Vessel Register \(PVR\)](#), and additional information and resources available for each commitment.

	Measure	Vessel Commitment	Resources	PVR Tracked & Audited?
	1.1	No transactions in tuna caught by vessels not on the authorized vessel record of the RFMO	http://www.tuna-org.org/vesselpos.htm	Yes
	1.2	Must be flagged to a member or cooperating non-member of the relevant RFMO or have applied for such status		Yes
	3.1a	Establish & publish company policy prohibiting shark finning		Yes

	3.1b No transactions with vessels that carry out shark finning		Yes
	3.3 Full tuna (skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye) retention		Yes
	3.4 Skippers have participated in best practices workshop (or reviewed the online Guidebook or video)	ISSF Skippers Guidebooks: http://www.issfguidebooks.org/purse seine-cover/	Yes
	4.1 No transactions in tuna caught by vessels subject to RFMO listing & capable of being registered by IMO that have not registered with IMO and received an IMO UVI If a vessel is not eligible for IMO number, such as in the case of small purse seine vessels, another UVI must be secured. For example, an ISSF-generated UVI or a TUVI	How to Obtain an IMO Number: http://iss-foundation.org/downloads/12563/	Yes

	<p>4.3 100% Observer coverage (human or electronic)</p>	<p>Electronic Monitoring System Guidance: http://iss-foundation.org/downloads/11297/</p>	<p>Yes</p>
	<p>4.4a No purse seine vessel transshipment at sea, whether high seas, EEZ, territorial waters or archipelagic water</p>		<p>Not currently</p>
	<p>5.1 No transactions in tuna caught by vessels on RFMO IUU list</p>	<p>http://www.tuna-org.org/vesselneg.htm</p>	<p>Yes</p>



6.1 No transactions in skipjack, bigeye & yellowfin tuna caught by large scale purse seiners that are not actively fishing for tuna as of 31-Dec-12 (except for those vessels under contract for construction on or before 31-Dec-12 with construction completed by 30-Jun-15)

The ISSF Record of Large Scale Purse Seine Vessels: <http://iss-foundation.org/knowledge-tools/databases/record-of-large-scale-purse-seine-vessels/>

ISSF Conservation Measure 7.2 states: "A large-scale purse seine vessel shall be in demonstrated compliance with, or otherwise exempted from, Section 6 - Capacity, and listed on the ISSF Record of Large Scale Purse Seine Vessels in order to be listed on the ISSF PVR."

While not specifically tracked as a column on the PVR, meeting this commitment is now required for a large-scale purse seine vessel to be registered on the ISSF PVR.



6.2 No transactions in skipjack, bigeye or yellowfin tuna caught by large scale purse seiners that are not listed on ISSF's Record of Large Scale Purse Seine Vessels

The ISSF Record of Large Scale Purse Seine Vessels: <http://iss-foundation.org/knowledge-tools/databases/record-of-large-scale-purse-seine-vessels/>

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PART II: The ISSF ProActive Vessel Register

Registering vessels on the ISSF ProActive Vessel Register (PVR) is voluntary, and currently free for vessels, although ISSF Participating Companies are required to purchase from PVR-listed vessels per [ISSF Conservation Measure 7](#). When a vessel chooses to list on the PVR, they are not seeking or securing endorsement by ISSF, rather they are committing to being transparent in their practices. The PVR focuses on vessel compliance and was not designed as an ISSF-approved or -endorsed vessel list.

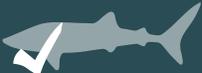


The PVR measures individual vessel performance against a defined set of conservation measures in a transparent manner for the benefit of all stakeholders. All owners of vessels of any gear that fish for tuna can list their vessels on the PVR as a means of being transparent in their fishing practices.

All vessels registered on the ISSF PVR have the information they submit audited by a third party to determine adherence to these best practices.

Visit the ISSF website for a current list of attributes and best practices with regard to purse seine vessels that the PVR tracks (other attributes apply for other gear types), as well as for the PVR application and FAQ. The PVR audit process and protocol is also available: <http://iss-foundation.org/knowledge-tools/databases/proactive-vessel-register/>

PART III. Other Best Practices that are Encouraged by ISSF and Recommended by Several Tuna RFMOs

	Practice	Resource	Link
	Use of non-entangling FADs	ISSF Guide For Non-Entangling FADs	http://iss-foundation.org/resources/downloads/?did=386
	Targeting large schools to reduce bycatch	Targeting large schools	http://www.issfguidebooks.org/purseseine-3-06
	Species identification	Species Identification guides and other resources	http://www.issfguidebooks.org/additional-resources
	Small yellowfin and bigeye tuna identification	YFT and BET identification galleries	http://www.issfguidebooks.org/purseseine-3-18/
	Bycatch handling - sharks and rays	Safe handling techniques for sharks and rays	http://www.issfguidebooks.org/purseseine-3-07
	Bycatch handling - whale sharks	Safe handling techniques for whale sharks	http://www.issfguidebooks.org/purseseine-3-12
	Bycatch handling - turtles	Safe handling techniques for turtles	http://www.issfguidebooks.org/purseseine-3-16/
	Submission of skipper's logbook data, including species composition, bycatch and FAD usage	ISSF Purse Seine Skipper Guidebook	http://www.issfguidebooks.org/purseseine-cover/

PART IV. ISSF Advocacy and Outreach and Further Research Work

Vessel Community

The ISSF Vessel Community acts as an advisory group on matters of fishing operations and vessel monitoring, control and surveillance practices, methods and technology.

In 2014 ISSF launched an enhanced Outreach and Engagement Plan to the Vessel Owner Community to give effect to the ISSF Strategic Plan:

“... Build greater commitment and participation from vessel owners and the organizations that represent them to advance sustainability efforts from water to ship in ways that vessels can effectively and practically implement.”

Per the Strategic Plan, ISSF’s focus will be to gain insights and recommendations for consideration by the ISSA and ISSF Boards regarding implementation strategies for ISSF commitments & practical suggestions for implementing and improving the PVR.

ISSF engages the Vessel Community through regular in-person meetings, including around each of the annual tuna RFMO meetings, and regular electronic outreach through e-mails to the Vessel Committee (approximately 1 per quarter).

All vessel owners are encouraged to be in touch with the Vessel Committee member in their region and to engage actively in the feedback emails and meetings offered by ISSF.

RFMO Advocacy

ISSF engages in strategic outreach and advocacy to tuna RFMOs and governments using a variety of tools. ISSF urges the adoption of measures for biological reference points and harvest control rules, closed vessel registries and the management of fishing capacity, strengthened compliance and transparency, bycatch mitigation and shark conservation and management, electronic skippers logbooks and observer reporting and the improvement of data reporting in poorly monitored fisheries. Specifically for purse seine vessels, ISSF advocates for requiring FAD data collection and management and the use of non-entangling FAD designs, 100% observer coverage (either human or electronic), and full retention of tunas. Regarding longline vessels, ISSF urges tuna RFMOs to increase the level of observer coverage (or the use of electronic monitoring technology when human observers are not feasible) and strengthened transshipment regulation. ISSF also hosts side events during tuna RFMO annual commission meetings to provide the current science on issues like mitigating

ecosystem impacts of FADs and the movement and behavior of bigeye, and provides support for RFMO workshops, such as on capacity, rights based management and management strategy evaluation.

ISSF Participating Companies also actively participate in outreach and advocacy to RFMOs and RFMO member governments through sending letters supporting the ISSF Position Statement and direct engagement, including through participating on national delegations to RFMO meetings.

Bycatch Research

Since its inception in 2009, ISSF has dedicated considerable effort to better understand what the main issues of concern are in purse seine fisheries, by using scientific information (primarily from scientific observer programs) to quantify relative impacts. At the same time, ISSF has (a) conducted at-sea research to investigate potential mitigation measures, (b) conducted workshops with purse seine skippers to share with them mitigation techniques and to seek their input about other potential mitigation measures, and (c) advocated for RFMOs to adopt mandatory data-collection and mitigation measures. A summary of these activities can be found in [ISSF Technical Report 2014-11](#).