

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.

By the end of 2015, 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 ISSF's 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)



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



large scale purse seine vessels only

100% Observer coverage (human or electronic)



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

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)



Must obtain an IMO or other UVI



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



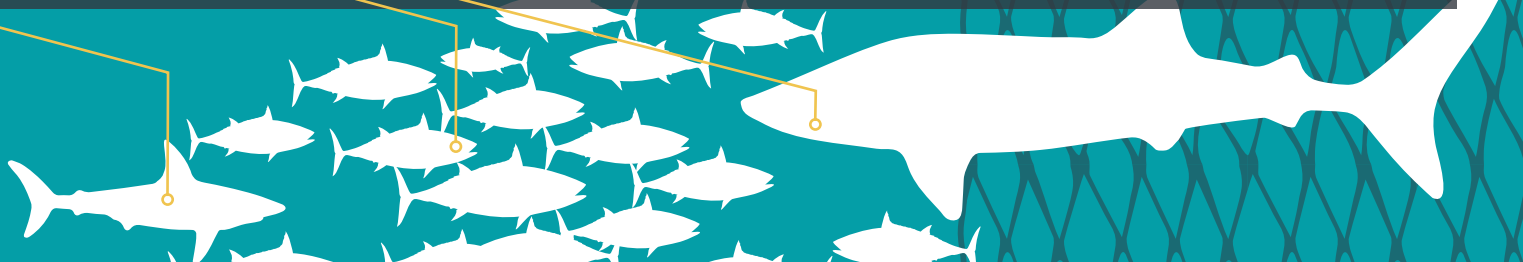
Bycatch handling - sharks and rays



Bycatch handling - whale sharks



Bycatch handling - turtles











A Guide for Tuna Purse Seine Vessel Owners to ISSF Requirements & Demonstrating Best Practices April 2015




PART I. ISSF Participating Company Commitments

Please see below for an ISSF Resolutions summary document that lists the specific ISSF Board resolutions that are designed to progress implementation of tangible global best practices for tuna sustainability. All ISSF Participating Companies have agreed to comply with these ISSF Resolutions and commitments as a condition of their participation in ISSF (Appendix 1).

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.

	Vessel Commitment	Resources	PVR Tracked & Audited?
	No transactions in tuna caught by vessels on RFMO IUU list	http://www.tuna-org.org/vesselneg.htm http://iss-foundation.org/resources/downloads/?did=545	Yes
	No transactions in tuna caught by vessels not on the authorized vessel record of the RFMO	http://iss-foundation.org/2011/11/14/resolution-11-04-rfmo-authorized-vessel-records-and-unique-vessel-identifiers/ http://www.tuna-org.org/vesselpos.htm	Yes

	<p>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</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>http://iss-foundation.org/2011/11/14/resolution-11-04-rfmo-authorized-vessel-records-and-unique-vessel-identifiers/</p> <p>http://iss-foundation.org/2014/06/03/resolution-14-03-to-amend-resolution-14-01-to-establish-multi-annual-commitments-to-strengthen-purse-seine-vessel-conservation-and-management-measures-for-tuna-resources/</p> <p>How to Obtain an IMO Number: http://iss-foundation.org/resources/downloads/?did=34</p>	<p>Yes</p>
	<p>Establish & publish company policy prohibiting shark finning</p>	<p>http://iss-foundation.org/2012/02/01/resolution-by-issf-to-prohibit-shark-finning/</p>	<p>Yes</p>
	<p>No purse seine vessel transshipment at sea, whether high seas, EEZ, territorial waters or archipelagic water</p>	<p>http://iss-foundation.org/2014/06/03/resolution-14-03-to-amend-resolution-14-01-to-establish-multi-annual-commitments-to-strengthen-purse-seine-vessel-conservation-and-management-measures-for-tuna-resources/</p> <p>http://iss-foundation.org/2013/03/06/resolution-12-03-transshipment-exemption/</p>	<p>Not currently</p>
	<p>Must be flagged to a member or cooperating non-member of the relevant RFMO or have applied for such status</p>	<p>http://iss-foundation.org/2014/06/03/resolution-14-03-to-amend-resolution-14-01-to-establish-multi-annual-commitments-to-strengthen-purse-seine-vessel-conservation-and-management-measures-for-tuna-resources/</p>	<p>Yes</p>

	<p>Skippers have participated in best practices workshop (or reviewed the online Guidebook or video)</p>	<p>http://iss-foundation.org/2014/06/03/resolution-14-03-to-amend-resolution-14-01-to-establish-multi-annual-commitments-to-strengthen-purse-seine-vessel-conservation-and-management-measures-for-tuna-resources/</p> <p>ISSF Skippers Guidebooks: http://www.issfguidebooks.org/purseseine-cover/</p>	<p>Yes</p>
	<p>100% Observer coverage (human or electronic)</p>	<p>http://iss-foundation.org/2014/06/03/resolution-14-03-to-amend-resolution-14-01-to-establish-multi-annual-commitments-to-strengthen-purse-seine-vessel-conservation-and-management-measures-for-tuna-resources/</p> <p>Electronic Monitoring System Guidance: http://iss-foundation.org/resources/downloads/?did=533</p>	<p>Yes</p>
	<p>Full tuna (skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye) retention</p>	<p>http://iss-foundation.org/2014/06/03/resolution-14-03-to-amend-resolution-14-01-to-establish-multi-annual-commitments-to-strengthen-purse-seine-vessel-conservation-and-management-measures-for-tuna-resources/</p>	<p>Yes</p>



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

<http://iss-foundation.org/2014/10/27/resolution-14-06-to-amend-resolution-12-02-capacity-reduction/>

The ISSF Record of Large Scale Purse Seine Vessels (per Resolution 14-06):

<http://iss-foundation.org/purse-seine-vessel-database/>

ISSF Resolution 14-06 (paragraph 6) states:

“A large-scale purse seine vessel not in demonstrated compliance with this Resolution, and therefore not on the Record, will not be eligible for listing 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.

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 Resolution 14-05](#) (see above for details). 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.

The PVR currently tracks the following attributes and best practices with regard to purse seine vessels (other attributes apply for other gear types):

- Vessel name;
- Flag;
- IMO number and/or UVI;
- Being on the authorized vessel record of the RFMO in which it is operating;
- Being flagged to a nation that is a member of the RFMO in which it is operating;
- Having an anti-shark finning policy in place;
- Full retention of all tuna catches;
- Observer coverage (100% human or electronic for purse seine vessels); and
- Not listed on an RFMO IUU Vessel List.

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

In October 2014, the ISSF Board adopted **Resolution 14-05: Regarding PVR Purchases** (<http://iss-foundation.org/2014/10/27/resolution-14-05-regarding-pvr-purchases/>) that commits processors, traders, importers, transporters and others involved in the seafood industry, for skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna caught by large-scale purse seine vessels,¹ to:

1. Source 100% of skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna caught by large-scale purse seine vessels from vessels that are registered in the ISSF Proactive Vessel Register by 31 December 2015;
2. During 2015, progressively increase sourcing of skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna caught by large-scale purse seine vessels that are registered in the ISSF Proactive Vessel Register above what each Participating Company published in 2014 in accordance with Resolution

¹ For the purpose of this resolution, large scale purse seine vessels are those at least 335 m³ fish hold volume.

13-03.

For more information on the ISSF PVR Audit Protocol: <http://iss-foundation.org/resources/downloads/?did=535>

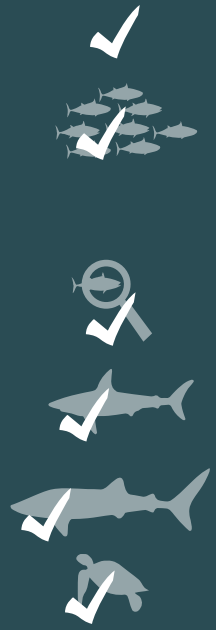
For more information about the PVR and the specific conservation measures tracked:

<http://iss-foundation.org/pvr-faq/>

<http://iss-foundation.org/resources/downloads/?did=387>

To register a vessel on the PVR: <http://iss-foundation.org/pvr-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).

Members of the ISSF Vessel Community can be found at: <http://iss-foundation.org/about-us/vessel-committee/>

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](#).

Appendix 1. Summary of ISSF Resolutions

Introduction

To support tuna stock and tuna ecosystem sustainability, [ISSF participating companies](#) agree to meet a number conservation measures and commitments designed to improve the long-term health of tuna fisheries.

The below chart describes those conservation measures and commitments in effect for 2014 and briefly covers the protocol for the auditing of participating company compliance with each measure. Participating Companies are obliged to respond fully, accurately and in a timely manner to all reasonable requests made in the course of the reviews and to provide appropriate supporting documents, data or other support.

The full audit protocol with details on the audit process and procedures can be found here: <http://iss-foundation.org/resources/downloads/?did=534>.

ISSF Conservation Measures, Commitments and Guidance

Resolution	Category	Gear Type	Guidance - What is Required by Auditors
09-03.2	RFMO Data Support	All	Send information to RFMO scientific bodies in accordance with "Best Practices for RFMO Data Submission". http://iss-foundation.org/resources/downloads/?did=492
09-04.1	Traceability	All	Demonstrate ability to trace products from can code or sales invoice to vessel and trip.
09-04.2	Withdrawal if IUU Found	All	No IUU purchases. If IUU found, company must withdraw these products from the marketplace.
10-01.1	Authorized RFMO List	All	All purchases must be from vessels listed on an RFMO vessel record, unless ineligible due to size. For any purchases from non-PVR vessels, maintain a system to check and approve vessel listing.
10-01.2	IMO UVI	All	All purchases from large scale purse seine vessels must be from vessels with an IMO number. If the vessel is ineligible for an IMO number due to size, Resolution 14-03.C applies (vessel must obtain UVI from ISSF.)

10-02.1	Large-Scale Pelagic Driftnets	All	No transactions in vessels using large-scale pelagic driftnets.
11-04	RFMO Participation	All	All purchases must be from vessels flagged to a member or cooperating non-member of RFMO relevant to fishing area.
12-01.1	Policy for Prohibition of Shark Finning	All	Company establishes and publishes policy prohibiting shark finning.
12-01.4	No Transactions with Vessels that Carry Out Shark Finning	All	Refrain from transactions with vessels that have shark finned within two years of the product purchase date (as found by RFMO or competent national authority).
12-01.4	No Transactions with Companies that Do Not Have a Public Policy Against Shark Finning	All	No transactions with companies that do not have a public policy prohibiting shark finning. If transactions involve flag states that absolutely prohibit shark finning no policy is required. If flag state allows 5% shark fin retention, the company must have a public policy.
14-02.1	Register All Controlled Purse Seine Vessels on PVR	All Purse Seine	Register all controlled purse seine vessels on the PVR.
14-02.2	PVR Statement of Support	All Purse Seine	Company provides URL for PVR statement of support.
14-02.3	Reporting % of PVR Purchases	All	Company provides URL for statement regarding % of purchases from PVR vessels.
14-03.C.3.1	Observers	Large Purse Seine	Evidence of 100% observer coverage (human or electronic per ISSF guidance) through trip reports, RFMO data, agreement or contract with observer provider, etc.

14-03.B.2	Skipper Training	All Purse Seine	All skippers must undergo ISSF training for best practices. The online guidebook is located at http://issfguidebooks.org
14-03.C.1	Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI)	All Purse Seine	All purse seine vessels with which the company transacts in tuna must have an ISSF issued UVI if ineligible for an IMO number due to size or fishing area.
14-03.C.4, 12-03	No Transshipment	All Purse Seine	No transactions in tuna where transportation included transshipment, except when exempt per Resolution 12-03 (fishing only in the archipelagic waters of PNG; and that are based in PNG and are associated with processing facilities in PNG).
14-03.D	Full Retention of Tunas	All Purse Seine	Purse seine vessels must retain all skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna. Full retention will pertain to every fishing trip, in the presence of an observer.
14-04	No IUU	All	No transactions in tuna caught by harvesting vessel(s) or transported by transshipment vessel(s) on the IUU Vessel List of any tuna RFMO.
14-06.1	Capacity	Large Purse Seine	Demonstrate that all purchases from large-scale purse seine vessels are from vessels on the ISSF Record of Large-Scale Purse Seine Vessels. If a vessel is not present on the Record, the company shall provide evidence that the vessel meets the provisions of 14-06.4 so that it may be added.
14-06.4	Capacity - Fishing Before December 31, 2012	Large Purse Seine	Provide certification from government body that vessel was licensed to fish for tuna before December 31, 2012, or provide proof from ISSF participating company that tuna was purchased from the vessel before December 31, 2012.

14-06.5	Capacity - Under Contract Before December 31, 2012 with Construction Completed by June 30, 2015	Large Purse Seine	To demonstrate that the vessel was contracted for construction before 12/31/12, the vessel representative may provide such evidence as a signed contract, supporting correspondence, deposit paid, plans, photos, etc., certificate from IACS member, IMO number or RFMO record. To demonstrate that construction was completed before 6/30/15, the vessel may provide such evidence as completion of sea trial, certificate from shipyard, sale of fish, skippers log, observer report, etc., certificate from government agency.
	Capacity - Change in Name, Flag or Registration Number		Vessel provides update regarding name, flag or registration number.
	Capacity - Vessel Replacement		If vessel replacement is one to one, the well volume of the new vessel must be less than or equal to the well volume of the vessel being removed. If a new vessel is intended to replace multiple vessels listed in the ISSF Record, the fish hold volume of the new vessel must be less than or equal to that of the older vessel that was on the ISSF Record; 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).
14-06.5	Capacity - Vessel Refurbishment		If a vessel on the ISSF Record is to be refurbished, the aggregated replaced capacity must be at least 1.2 times the capacity of the vessel before refurbishment ((original vessel capacity + replaced capacity)/1.2 = refurbished capacity).
ISSA Compliance Policy	CEO Certificate of Compliance	N/A	Company submits CEO Certificate of Compliance to ISSF.