



ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS  
OF FISHING ENTERPRISES IN THE EU

**EU Tropical Tuna Purse Seine Fleet Collaborates in Seychelles to Advance Marine Habitat Conservation with FAD Watch Project**

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On Monday, July 31st, 2023, the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA), Sustainable Indian Ocean Tuna Initiative (SIOTI), and the Spanish Association of Tuna Freezers (AGAC) have united to launch the innovative FAD Watch Project. This collaborative effort aims to prevent and minimize the impact of drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (dFADs) on coral reefs, shallow water habitats, and coastal zones.

All European tropical tuna purse seiners are part of this initiative: ANABAC and ORTHONGEL are members of the SIOTI alongside the Indian Ocean canning industry, and OPAGAC participates through AGAC.

The fleet's vessels will provide the SFA with their dFAD satellite tracking data and online software. This critical information will pinpoint the locations of dFADs entering the perimeters of eighteen islands, ensuring timely recovery before they affect marine ecosystems and allowing risk assessment of potential drifting zones. The memorandum also includes deploying the coastguard vessel Saya de Malha to recover drifting FADs and returning them to Mahé for disposal, reuse or recycling by agents of the SIOTI and AGAC fleets.

Anne-France Mattlet, director of Europepeche Tuna Group, declares: "This initiative, together with biodegradable FADs research and MSC progressive certification, is an integral part of the European ship-owners commitment to ensure sustainable fishing in the Indian Ocean region".

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