

MarinTrust Improver Programme: Mauritania small pelagics FIP

Milestone Report End Year 2

In this document the applicant should outline the milestones that make up the Fishery Action Plan (FAP) as part of the Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) as aligned to the MarinTrust Assessment criteria. Then during the review, update the relevant information to indicate whether the milestones have been met or not and any progress towards the milestones. This will be verified by the peer reviewers based on evidence submitted by the applicant.

Note: The FIP has revised the FAP based on an updated MarinTrust evaluation as well as a MSC pre-assessment (FAP compatible with both standards). This milestone report is based on the milestones for the revised FAP, but note that the revised FAP starts from April 2021, so we are currently half way through Year 1.

Applicant Overview Page

Fishery under assessment	Mauritania small pelagics FIP
Applicant details	For list of FIP participants, see FIP website: https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/mauritania-small-pelagics-purse-seine MarinTrust IP milestone review prepared by Jo Gascoigne, Olvea, on behalf of FIP participants
Management authority (Country/State)	Mauritania
Species	Mixed small pelagics: Mainly sardine (<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>), with some sardinella (<i>Sardinella maderensis</i>), mackerel (<i>Scomber colias</i>) and horse mackerel (<i>Trachurus</i> spp.)
Fishery location	Mauritania EEZ
Gear type(s)	Purse seine
Date of acceptance into MarinTrust IP	October 2019
Original projected IP completion date	End 2024 (?)

IP Milestone report

Use the below tables to provide an update on actions in the Fishery Action Plan with links to relevant evidence documents. Additional lines may be added where necessary.

Example table

MT clause (if relevant)	Action in plan	Action update	Progress against milestones	Outstanding actions and rationale	Evidence	Status of action
M1.1	Provide the original action as outlined in the action plan.	Provide an update on this action since the last report.	Provide any additional updates or information towards completing this action if there are shorter-term milestones.	Provide any outstanding aspects to this action and explain why they are outstanding.	Provide a link to any evidence and/or summarise relevant points for actions or updates.	What is the current status of this action (i.e. complete, pending, ongoing)
M1.2						
Add rows to each table as necessary						

M – Management Framework and Surveillance, Control and Enforcement

MT clause	Action in plan	Action update	Progress against milestones	Outstanding actions and rationale	Evidence	Status of action
M2.3 M2.4	Action 5.1. Ensure access to vessels and factories for scientific sampling	We have not had any recent reports from IMROP about issues with access to the factories.	In the last quarter of 2020, 120 samples were taken from factories, and in Jan-April 2021, 5400 samples, resulting in 90 samples for every 1000 t of processed product, which exceeds the FAO (COPACE) minimum sampling rate. We have	We will continue to communicate with the factories about the importance of scientific sampling – though the newsletter and in our FIP	Newsletters for January-August 2021. (Note: July-August combined newsletter)	Ongoing

			started to publish a monthly FIP newsletter which keeps the factories informed of IMROP's work.	meetings whenever they are able to resume.		
	Action 5.2. Engage with GCM on issues of enforcement in the small pelagic fishery	The Coast Guard has previously attended our FIP meetings, but we have not been able to hold a meeting since October 2019. We had a meeting tentatively planned for October 2021 but at present it looks in doubt.	No recent progress.	No recent meetings due to covid.	n/a	Pending
	Action 5.3. Support factories with external certifications and audits as a check on compliance	MarinTrust factory audits have still not been conducted and have been postponed again until early 2022.	No recent progress	On-site audits are not currently possible; provisionally scheduled for early 2022.	n/a	Pending

A – Category A: Data Collection, Stock Assessment, Harvest Strategy and Stock Status

B – Category B Stock Status

C – Category C Stock Status

(D – No actions)

Note: The Actions below apply to all the relevant species of small pelagics.

As a reminder, the species in each category are as below – for full details see MarinTrust update assessment from April 2021:

- Category A species: sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*)
- Category B species: flat sardinella, mackerel (*Scomber colias*)*, horse mackerel (*Trachurus spp.*)*
- Category C species: round sardinella, mullet (*Mugil sp.*)

- Category D species: anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*), obo (*Ethmalosa fimbriata*)

* In June 2021 the ban on targeting round sardinella and mullet for fishmeal was extended to mackerel and horse mackerel, which would move these two species from Category B to Category C. However, since all the FAP actions apply to all small pelagic species regardless of MT category, it makes no difference to FIP activities or this evaluation.

MT clause	Action in plan	Action update	Progress against milestones	Outstanding actions and rationale	Evidence	Status of action
A3.1 A3.3 B C1.1 C1.2	Action 1.1. Ensure that logbook data are available to scientists	FIP participants have financed a project which aims to fill the most critical gaps in IMROP's sampling for the coastal fishery (started in 2020; funding €65,000 so far from the FIP). We have financed the purchase of computers for the input of information from the vessels' logbooks. Software and a database were set up and a workshop organised, so the operators are initiated to its use (see FIP newsletter for May).	A system now exists for input of the paper logbooks, although the process of data entry is not yet underway in full force, as far as we know.	The data entry still needs to be completed; hopefully this will be done by the time of the next update.	FIP newsletter for May provides a brief report of the workshop and a description of the database	Ongoing
	Action 1.2. Support scientific sampling at landing sites and fishmeal factories	The results of sampling at the factories up to April 2021 are described above. The project also includes establishing some facilities in the new port of Tanit to facilitate sampling during landing, and the purchase of a vehicle for enumerators as well as tablets for collecting data. There has also been significant support from projects Promopêche-GIZ and AGD-CSRP to strengthen scientific observation and monitoring of the landings (launched	More than 70,000 individuals were measured in 2020, according to IMROP.	This work is ongoing since the good level of sampling needs to be maintained.	FIP newsletter for June	Ongoing

		in January 2020). This support combined with the FIP made it possible to strengthen the intensity of sampling at sea and on land.				
	Action 1.3 Support acoustic surveys	Unfortunately, due to covid the EAF Nansen programme has been interrupted, as has work on the Al-Awam. The Al-Awam broke down a few months prior to covid and is not yet fixed for acoustic surveys to be possible. We do not yet know when work will be able to resume	No progress	No recent surveys due to covid and problems with the vessel	n/a	Pending
	2.1 Participate in PAPP preparation	The Ministry has put forward a plan and terms of reference for a small pelagic management plan (PAPP). The consultants are due to provide a final report (policy) after consultation by 31/3/22. The FIP is discussing internally how to provide input to this process in the most useful way.		It appears that there was no suitable bid by the deadline in the TORs and they have been relaunched. Currently due to the holiday period we have no information on the bidding and selection process.	TORs for preparation of PAPP (from the Ministry)	Ongoing
	2.2 Support PAPP implementation	Not yet started; PAPP not complete – n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Pending
	4.1 Create links with participants of sardine FIP in Morocco	The Mauritania FIP continues to liaise closely with the Moroccan sardine FIP and Senegal P&L tuna FIP (which includes small pelagics in the context of bait). We also continue to work closely with SFP and are key participants in their joint SFP-IFFO Global Reduction Fisheries Supply Chain	CECAF was able to resume its work during 2021 with a preparation meeting in February 2021, a campaign planning meeting in June and the assessment meeting in July.	Moroccan and Senegalese scientists, and a representative of the DPM (Ministry) of both countries had planned to attend the FIP-organised small pelagic workshop that	Morocco sardine FIP: completion and move to MSC full assessment: https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/morocco-sardine-pelagic-	Ongoing
	4.2 Facilitate engagement with Senegal					

	4.3 Facilitate engagement with regional organisations	<p>Roundtable – which has identified NW Africa as a key area requiring support.</p> <p>Members of the FIP management team were also closely involved in the MAVA project “Leading the West African Fisheries toward sustainable fishing practices”, LEAD Project https://www.rampao.org/IMG/pdf/ppam_p_lead_pas_call_for_tenders_pdf_version.pdf. The results of this project have been used to transition the FIP from the Marin Trust IP standard to the MSC standard.</p> <p>The FIP is also actively participating in FAO’s Shared Sardinella project through its national coordinator Dr Cheikh Braham from IMROP. The project supports the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries for the management of shared sardinella stocks in northwest Africa. Dr Braham is also currently the chair of CECAF Working Group for the stock assessment of northwest African pelagic species.</p>	<p>The Moroccan Ministry is currently engaged in evaluating bids from CABs for the MSC assessment of the fishery. It is hoped that this process will also kick-start more management collaboration, since the shared stock of sardines is included in the assessment.</p>	<p>was planned in the 3rd week of October after being postponed from March 2021. However, the workshop sadly had to be postponed again due to covid, and we hope to be able to hold it in March 2022.</p>	<p>trawl-and-seine-maroc-sardine-chalut-pelagique-et-senne</p> <p>IFFO/SFP GSCRT: minutes of most recent meeting</p> <p>The results of the 2021 COPACE assessment are summarised in the July/August FIP newsletter.</p> <p>MSC pre-assessment of fishery New FIP workplan</p>	
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F – Impacts on ETP Species, Impacts on Habitats and Ecosystem Impacts

MT clause	Action in plan	Action update	Progress against milestones	Outstanding actions and rationale	Evidence	Status of action
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F3.1	3.1 Develop and improve ecosystem model	The preliminary model is available (Ahmede Vall 2019) and has been previously provided as evidence. This also includes a preliminary evaluation of MSCs key LTL indices.	Nothing has changed since previous update.	Moroccan scientists have made several attempts to develop an ecosystem model for the Morocco 'zone sud' (adjacent to Mauritania), including under the FIP with an international consultant (Sylvie Guénette) but the conclusion of this work is that the ecosystem is too complex and variable on different time scales for an ecosystem model to be useful for fisheries management.	Morocco FIP report on ecosystem modelling in the Morocco zone sud	Pending; may not be useful to continue
	3.2 Ensure management objectives are consistent with predator food requirements	As mentioned in the previous review in April 2021, the key source of ecosystem impacts identified is over-exploitation and reduction in biomass of target species, which are the main source of prey for a wide variety of predators (demersal and pelagic fish, seabirds and mammals in particular). Total removals by this fishery accounted for 15% of total removals of small pelagics from the wider ecosystem in 2017. This alone is not likely to result in serious or irreversible damage to the ecosystem. The highest biomass in the zone (and therefore the key prey) is either sardinellas or sardines, depending on the state of the ecosystem (position of the Cap Blanc front) at the time. The sardine stock is healthy, but the sardinella stocks are not and the government has introduced a number of arretes and legislations with sardinella in mind:	See also above – actions around small pelagics management plan (PAPP)	Some additional work on quantifying predator numbers is needed before an assessment of their food requirements is possible, and this would also provide data to improve the ecosystem model, if this seems appropriate. The potential methodology is under discussion within the FIP.	MSC pre-assessment (for calculations on removals in relation to ecosystem) Arrete n°643_Petits Pelagiques 26/05/2021 Arrête N322 fermeture de la peche 25/03/2021 New regulations – Fisheries ministry Mauritania 2021 (Arabic). New regulations – Fisheries ministry Mauritania 2021 (translation in English) FIP newsletter, May 2021, has a summary	Ongoing

		<p>Arrete n°643_Petits Pelagiques 26/05/2021: Defines the conditions for vessels targeting small pelagic species. The objective is to increase human consumption. Vessels must now be equipped with equipment to conserve the catches at an adequate temperature (RSW type equipment or trays with ice). For RSW type vessels the catch must match the capacity for freezing and transformation in land and should never exceed 60% of their hold. The number of landings per week is also capped at 2, due to the limited capacity for freezing on land. Fishmeal and fish oil factories are particularly prohibited from using the species groups of horse mackerel, mackerel, yellow mullet and round sardinella in their production. Fish not suitable for human consumption can be used for fish meal and fish oil but only an authorisation from the relevant authorities.</p> <p>Arrête N322 fermeture de la peche 25/03/2021: A three month fishing ban was decreed by the Mauritanian Government, from April 15 until July 15 2021 for all types of trawl fishing. In this context and given the strong pressure on the coastal zone during the last five years, it was also decided to postpone coastal fishing for pelagic fish operating with</p>			of most recent workshop of the FarFish project	
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		<p>active gear (trawl or seine) during the period of closure in the west of the 80-meter isobath (Message 1959 Zone de pêche navires côtiers 13/04/2021)</p> <p>The Ministry have already identified a set of new legislation as part of the implementation of the new Fisheries Policy (2020-24) and will be looking to implement them into law in the next few years.</p> <p>On 29 June, IMROP and the FIP coordinator participated in a Far Fish workshop to evaluate the role of climate change in small pelagic stock dynamics in the CECAF area.</p>				
<p>F1.1 F1.2</p>	<p>6.1 Deploy observers</p>	<p>IMROP has held a workshop to train observers: observer protocol, species identification, rights and responsibilities, safety etc.</p> <p>During 2020, four observer deployments were possible on coastal (FIP) vessels, despite covid. The data collected by these observers suggests that bycatch rates are low (<1%) and no interactions with rare or protected species were noted. Note, however, that this was prior to the ban on landing several species for fishmeal, so presumably the fishing strategy and catch composition has changed in 2021.</p>	<p>The issue of observers will be on the agenda for our next FIP meeting, but as noted above, it is still unclear whether this can be held in October as planned.</p>	<p>We had also planned to use existing observer data from offshore EU and Russian trawlers, but it does not seem that this can provide useful information about the vessels in the FIP since they are operating in a different zone with a different gear.</p>	<p>Rapport atelier formation observateur juillet 2020</p> <p>Synthèse Observation Scientifique 2020</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

	6.2 Evaluate interactions with non-target and protected species and habitats	Not yet started – awaiting further observer data	n/a	n/a	n/a	Pending
	6.3 Adjust management to mitigate negative interactions	Not yet started – awaiting further observer data	n/a	n/a	n/a	Pending

SOCIAL CRITERION

We are starting to address the social requirements of FisheryProgress (a condition of remaining on the site) but these are not yet integrated into our workplan. To this end, we are currently working on obtaining a FIP vessel list and translating FisheryProgress’ social Code of Conduct into French.

MT clause (if relevant)	Action in plan	Action update	Progress against milestones	Outstanding actions and rationale	Evidence	Status of action

Additional Information

The following section highlights any information provided by the fishery in support of this Milestone Report which does not relate directly to any of the Milestones above, but which is relevant to the ongoing monitoring of fishery management status.

We have been working to address the FIP structure and organisation. We discussed this issue quite extensively with the Ministry earlier in 2021, and they appointed an advisor as FIP liaison and proposed a formal Comité de Pilotage. However, since then the Minister has been replaced and the status of the advisor and FIP proposal is currently a bit unclear. It is hoped that after the summer break we will have the opportunity to re-engage with the Ministry and make further progress with putting the FIP on a more formal footing.

Amended timeline

The following section allows the applicant to explain if there are any amendments to the improvement timelines and provide the reasons and evidence for this.

The timelines for all activities have been reviewed and revised as part of the process of developing the new workplan.

The new workplan was developed because MSC supported the development of a MSC pre-assessment, so in order to take advantage of this, we wanted to create a workplan that was compatible with this MSC pre-assessment. However, MarinTrust remains more relevant to our fishery and participants, so the MarinTrust evaluation was also updated and the workplan is intended to address the requirements of both standards. This allows us to have a 'comprehensive FIP' on FisheryProgress.org and in general puts it on a firmer footing for international stakeholders and observers.

All these documents are available on the FIP's page on FisheryProgress (although they were posted recently and the site takes time to update – sometimes several weeks). In any case, they can all be provided on request.