



MarinTrust Improver Programme: Milestone Report Template

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.

FIP name	Mauritania small pelagics
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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						

Note:

Colour-coding for progress against milestones: **blue = completed**; **green = on track with milestones**; **orange = ongoing but behind milestones**; **red = not started and behind milestones**; grey = no longer relevant

M – Management Framework and Surveillance, Control and Enforcement

MT clause (if relevant)	Action in plan	Action update	Progress against milestones	Outstanding actions and rationale	Evidence	Status of action
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<p>M2.3, M2.4</p>	<p>Action 5: Control and surveillance</p>	<p>As noted last year, the Coastguard is part of our Comité de Pilotage (oversight committee in Mauritania, chaired by the Ministry). Since the last report it has met in December 2022, informally in February 2023 (in the margins of an IMROP scientific meeting) and August 2023.</p> <p>We have had no reports from IMROP this year about problems with access to FIP factories for sampling. Conversely, IMROP still highlight a lack of cooperation (see presentation) but in discussion at the FIP meeting in August 2023, it seems that the key issue is the Chinese-owned factories, not the FIP factories. The Global Round Table has put forward a proposal to engage a Chinese expert to work with the FIP, which is potential very positive for engaging these factories. Several of the FIP factories have not operated in 2023 and others are only operating in a limited way, because of the new / newly enforced regulations aimed at restricting the quantity of fish</p>	<p><i>For explanation of colour-coding, see above</i></p> <p>5.1.1-5.1.3 – Ensure access for samplers at factories 5.2.1 – Invite GCM to FIP meetings 5.2.2 – Work with GCM to ensure that measures in PAP-PP are enforceable</p>	<p><i>Explanation of actions which are behind their milestones (orange), or which have not been started (red) or which are now considered unnecessary (grey).</i></p>	<p>See complete list at the end</p> <p>Presentation to FIP meeting on sampling at factories, 2021 and 2022.</p> <p>Ministry Statement Sept. 2023 (please do not distribute – not the final version)</p> <p>PAP-PP, final version, November 2022</p> <p>Project plan for thesis, Mahfoudh</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
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	<p>entering the fishmeal supply chain and prioritising human consumption.</p> <p>The Ministry continues to emphasise better compliance with regulations and sanitary norms across the fishery – see recent statement from the Ministry (September 2023) in evidence. The focus of enforcement is particularly on the factories, where authorisation are being reviewed, according to operational practice (see statement).</p> <p>The PAP-PP was validated by the Ministry in November 2022 and is thus in its first year of implementation. Details of the measures (such as quotas) foreseen by the plan remain to be worked out, with the GCM part of these discussions. The FIP is supporting a study (MSc student) on vessel and factory capacity in relation to the resource, to support this planning and thus minimise incentives for non-compliance.</p>				<p>Mohamed El Moctar El Bambari</p>	
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A – Category A: Data Collection, Stock Assessment, Harvest Strategy and Stock Status

MT clause (if relevant)	Action in plan	Action update	Progress against milestones	Outstanding actions and rationale	Evidence	Status of action
A3.1, A3.3 (sardine)	Action 1: Improved data collection	<p>Since the last update, the FIP has continued to support sampling on the same basis as previously.</p> <p>The application to MSC for funding for this activity (among others) was successful (funding application provided as evidence in last year's update). The project was due to have started in April 2023, and despite some delays (on MSC's side), some of the budget has been received by IMROP. The sampling programme has continued the same but transitioned over to use this MSC budget as of mid-2023 (when the FIP funds in the relevant IMROP account were used up).</p>	<p>1.1.1 – Paper logbook data entry</p> <p>1.1.2, 1.1.3 – Transition to e-logbooks</p> <p>1.2.1, 1.2.2 – Factory sampling</p> <p>1.2.3 – Factory self-sampling</p> <p>1.2.4 – CECAF sampling rates</p> <p>1.3.1-3 – acoustic surveys</p>	<p>1.1.1: This is complete for the backlog of historic data, but (which I did not previously realise) some vessels are continuing to provide paper logbooks as well / instead of electronic. So this remains ongoing – I guess the milestones should be re-evaluated.</p> <p>1.1.2 and 1.1.3 was previously marked as completed; this clearly is not completely true, but I'm not clear as yet if there is anything further required to support the transition (the issue may be with the vessels). I've re-marked it as ongoing and behind for now.</p>	<p>Presentation to FIP meeting, August 2023, summarising FIP-supported sampling activity for 2022 and the first half of 2023.</p> <p>Presentation to FIP meeting on sampling at factories, 2021 and 2022.</p> <p>https://www.fao.org/in-action/eaf-nansen/meetings/fr/</p> <p>Information about the Nansen programme: (on the calendar, highlight 'surveys' using the arrow top right, select 'month' and click forward in time)</p>	Ongoing

		<p>Mauritania continues to comply with CECAF minimum sampling rates (1 sample per 1000 t landings), (CECAF working group report 2023 – unfortunately not yet publically available; FAO is very slow to publish them).</p>		<p>(1.2.1 and 1.2.2: Regarding factory sampling see update to Action 5 above.)</p> <p>1.2.3: This was discussed at the plenary meeting in December. There is no support for it, either from the factories or the scientists, so it has been marked as no longer relevant.</p> <p>1.3.1-3: This issue was raised by the PR for the 2022 review, who disagreed that the activity should be marked as no longer needed. The issue was raised again with the Comité de Pilotage at the August 2023 meeting, and their conclusion remains that the FIP does not need to intervene for</p>		
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				<p>the acoustic surveys. Surveys are planned for 2023, 2025, 2026 and 2027 by the FAO Nansen programme, and all participation costs for IMROP staff are covered by Nansen. After 2027 the new (renovated) research vessel should be completed and available. Therefore we continue to mark this activity as not required.</p>		
	<p>Action 2: Management plan</p>	<p>The management plan (PAP-PP) was finalised, approved and validated by the Ministry in November 2022. There was not a round of consultation on the draft as far as we know, but the final result is an excellent document.</p> <p>We have been supporting implementation since then by supporting a MSc student thesis which aims to evaluate</p>	<p>2.1.1, 2.1.2 – Submission at start of plan process 2.1.3, 2.1.4 – comments on draft 2.2.1 – Support implementation of plan</p>	<p>2.2.1: This is our first project directly supporting the implementation of the PAP-PP. We hope that it will contribute to the discussion around TACs and quotas, fishing and factory capacity and allocation, in line with the recovery and sustainable use of the resource.</p>	<p>PAP-PP final validated version, November 2022</p> <p>Project plan for thesis, Mahfoudh Mohamed El Moctar El Bambari</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

		how vessel and factory capacity should be adjusted to reflect the availability of the resource and the various potential allocations (fishmeal vs other supply chains).				
	Action 4: Regional collaboration	The FIP continues to have the same links with Morocco, i.e. i) via the national coordinator Dr Braham who is also chair of the FAO CECAF regional small pelagic working group (most recent meeting July 2023, in Tenerife); and ii) via the international coordinator Jo Gascoigne who is also consultant to the Moroccan Ministry for MSC certification of the sardine fishery and coordinator of the Morocco anchovy FIP. (The Morocco MSC process has been significantly delayed this year but is proceeding.) The FAO Shared Sardinella project is	<p>4.1.1 – Working with Morocco FIP</p> <p>4.1.2 – Working with INRH to support science in Mauritania</p> <p>4.1.3 – Support Moroccan participation in FIP</p> <p>4.2.1 – Support engagement with Senegal</p> <p>4.2.2 – Support engagement with regional organisations</p>	<p>4.1.2: See last year</p> <p>4.2.1: This has finally started because Senegalese scientists are able to participate in meetings (after budgetary issues). They participate (remotely) in FIP meetings, and attended GT-10 (see programme for public element)</p> <p>4.2.2: The conclusion is that this is not possible for a project such as ours, and needs to be left to national or international bodies (e.g.</p>	<p>Presentation summarising results of CECAF WG 2022 and IMROP national stock assessments for 2023</p> <p>Programme for GT-10 public event</p> <p>Braham et al. in prep. and review supporting acceptance (please do not circulate; published paper can be provided when finalised and definitively accepted)</p> <p>Partner Africa social audit report, and</p>	Ongoing

	<p>also continuing as described previously.</p> <p>IMROP GT-10 (10th Groupe de Travail) was held in February 2023. This is an event held every 4 years which includes a public conference as well as an invited scientific meeting. The aim is to provide IMROP with clear priorities and guidance for the next four years. There was extensive participation from regional and international partners in both the public and scientific meetings.</p> <p>A paper has been accepted by Fisheries Research which presents a collaborative stock assessment for the two sardinella stocks, using data from Morocco, Mauritania and Senegal. It is currently in the final phase of review</p>		<p>FAO). In any case, these bodies have no decision-making or implementing powers.</p>	<p>response of the FIP Comité de Pilotage (please do not circulate until these documents are made public by the Global Round Table, which should be in the next few weeks)</p>	
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	<p>(accepted after final revisions).</p> <p>The IFFO/SFP Marine Ingredients Global Roundtable continues to focus on West Africa, and supported the FIP to conduct a social audit for Mauritania and Senegal. We have applied to the Sustainable Fisheries Fund for funding to cover the social audit report (by Partner Africa) into a social workplan.</p> <p>Moroccan colleagues continue to attend FIP meetings (most recently in August 2023 – Dr Jilali Bensbai, INRH).</p>				
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B – Category B Stock Status

MT clause (if relevant)	Action in plan	Action update	Progress against milestones	Outstanding actions and rationale	Evidence	Status of action
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B (flat sardinella, horse mackerel)	Action 1	Please see updates above for these Actions.
	Action 2	
	Action 4	

C – Category C Stock Status

MT clause (if relevant)	Action in plan	Action update	Progress against milestones	Outstanding actions and rationale	Evidence	Status of action
C1.1, C1.2 (mullet, round sardinella)	Action 1	Please see updates above for these Actions. Note: These species are not permitted to be landed to fishmeal.				
	Action 2					
C1.2 (round sardinella)	Action 4					

D – Impacts On Species Categorised as Vulnerable by D1-D3

No Actions related to this component of the MarinTrust standard – see updated assessment of the fishery from April 2021, updated again informally in May 2023.

F – Impacts on ETP Species, Impacts on Habitats and Ecosystem Impacts

MT clause (if relevant)	Action in plan	Action update	Progress against milestones	Outstanding actions and rationale	Evidence	Status of actions
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F3.1	Action 2	Please see update above for Action 2				
	Action 3: Ecosystem-based management	<p>In 2023 so far, 2 observer trips have been conducted on board coastal small pelagic vessels, after a difficult 2022 when various practical difficulties meant that there were none for this fleet (as pointed out by the reviewer last year). We have tried to prioritise this activity and it is encouraging that it has restarted.</p> <p>The combined results (across the two trips) show a catch of 62% flat sardinella (<i>Sardinella maderensis</i>) and 18% sardine (<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>) with small amounts of other small pelagic species. The total (observed) species list is provided and does not include any ETP species or anything otherwise unusual. There were no discards observed; 100% of the catch was retained, unlike in the case of the Russian pelagic trawler (non-FIP) which showed significant discards, including a large haul of anchovy, about which FIP participants (including Ministry officials) were not happy.</p>	<p>3.1.1-3.1.4 – Ecosystem modelling</p> <p>3.2.1-4 – ETP species</p>	<p>3.1: There has been no progress on the EcoPath ecosystem modelling since the last report. Dr Souad Kifani from INRH, who was the co-lead, tragically died suddenly in August, which is a big blow to this workstream. Some of her collaborative research on climate impacts on the ecosystem is shown in the presentation on the stock status.</p> <p>3.2: The observer information we have does not suggest any interactions of the fishery with ETP species. The deadline for this in the plan is 2024 so I've marked this as back on track; I</p>	<p>Presentation to FIP meeting on observer deployments and results for 2023 to date</p> <p>Presentation on stock status with information on climate / ecosystem effects</p> <p>Final application to MSC (accepted for full funding in early 2023, started in ~April)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

		<p>So far, none of the observer trips for 2020-2023 (15 in total) have indicated any interactions with ETP species.</p>		<p>hope not too optimistically.</p>	<p>Monk seal presentation to FIP meeting,</p>	
<p>F1.1, F1.2</p>	<p>Action 6: Bycatch</p>	<p>Note that the MSC project, approved and started in April 2023, supports these actions (i.e. observers, ecosystem modelling, ETP species analysis).</p> <p>At the GT-10 in February 2023, the FIP was approached by the NGO responsible for management of the monk seal population and protected area at Cap Blanc (called Najaf in Mauritania): https://www.mediterraneanmonkseal.org/</p> <p>They expressed concern about potential interactions with the coastal fleet in or near the protected zone. They were invited to present at the FIP meeting, although in subsequent discussion it appears that their monitoring is out-of-date, and with the changed zoning and better enforcement this should no longer be an issue. Nevertheless, we have reached out to them offering support for restarting their monitoring, as well as a joint awareness-raising campaign for the (mainly Turkish) crew and officers. We</p>	<p>6.1.1 – Observer awareness raising 6.1.2, 6.1.3 – Observer training 6.1.4 – Observer deployments</p>	<p>6.1.1: We have not had any indication from IMROP of problems with convincing vessels to take observers but it is mentioned at every FIP meeting</p> <p>6.1.2-3: It is not clear if observer training is required at present; but it is covered under the MSC project if necessary.</p>	<p>August 2023</p> <p>Presentation by IMROP providing analysis of VMS data and overlap with protected monk seal zone</p>	

		have not yet had a response (potentially they are on holiday).				
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SOCIAL CRITERION

The social audit, conducted by Partner Africa and funded by the IFFO/SFP Global Round Table for Marine Ingredients, is now complete, although the report has not yet been made public (this should happen soon). The report was presented by Partner Africa to the FIP meeting in August 2023 and will be published with a response by the FIP Comité de Pilotage. We are submitting an application to the Sustainable Fisheries Fund for funding to cover this report into a FIP social workplan – see attached application.

Additional Information

SFF application, draft 12 September 2023.

Amended timeline

Actions 1.1.1-1.1.3 (transition from paper logbooks to electronic): The end dates and milestones need re-evaluating but this has not yet been discussed with the Comité de Pilotage, and the actual current situation and requirements for further support (if any) are not yet clear.

List of evidence documents

(name of document in brackets)

- Statement of Ministry of Fisheries and the Maritime Economy on the fishmeal industry, September 2023 (Note Farine de Poisson 2023_confidentielle) **DO NOT DISTRIBUTE**
- Small Pelagic Fisheries Management Plan (PAP-PP), final version, December 2022 (PAP-PP_VF_08112022)
- Presentation to FIP meeting, 2 August 2023, summarising FIP-supported sampling activity for 2022 and the first half of 2023 (COM_Suivi des débarquements des petits pélagiques en 2022 et le 1er semestre 2023_ Présentation Wagne et Mohamed Atelier FIP__vf provisoire)
- Presentation to FIP meeting, 2 August 2023, on sampling at factories, 2021 and 2022 (MAJ_FIP_2023_NDB)
- Project plan for MSc thesis research for Mahfoudh Mohamed El Moctar El Bambari, 2023 (CANEVAS-Proposujet_Mahfoudh Mohamed El Moctar El Bambari)
- Presentation to FIP meeting, 2 August 2023, summarising results of CECAF small pelagic north working group for 2022 and IMROP national stock assessments for 2023, and including some information on climate / ecosystem trends and interactions (Etat_ressources_pelagiques)
- Programme for IMROP GT-10 public event, 20-24 February 2023 (sessions_gt.doc)
- Cheikh-Baye Braham, Mohamed Ahmed-Jeyid, Jilali Bensbai, Fambye Ngoum, Ad Corten and Jo Gascoigne in prep. Overexploitation of round sardinella may lead to the collapse of flat sardinella: what lessons can be drawn for shared stocks.

Accepted to Fisheries Research following final revision (Paper_Sardinella_North west Africa_31 08 23)

- Partner Africa social audit report, final version (FINAL HRIA of the small pelagic fish value chain in Senegal and Mauritania) **DO NOT DISTRIBUTE**
- Response by FIP Comité de Pilotage to Partner Africa report (September 2023) (avis Comité Pilotage EN) **DO NOT DISTRIBUTE**
- Presentation to FIP meeting, August 2023, on observer deployments and results for 2023 to date (Résultat OBS 2023 F)
- Final (accepted) application by IMROP to MSC (with support of FIP) (OSF MAVA Grant - Application IMROP_English_Version_Amélioré)
- Presentation to FIP meeting, August 2023, on small pelagic VMS data and overlap with protected monk seal zone at Cap Blanc (Presentation IMROP FIP_Dia)
- Presentation by monk seal NGO Najaf to FIP meeting, August 2023 (Distribution Spatiale des efforts de pêche senneurs et chalutiers Yeslem)

FIP newsletters:

- Bulletin_FIP_Octobre_Décembre 2022
- Bulletin_FIP_Janvier_Février 2023
- Bulletin_FIP_Avril_Mai 2023