

## MarinTrust Improver Programme: 6-month update template

In this document the applicant should outline progress made towards the actions listed in the Fishery Action Plan (FAP) as part of the Fishery Improvement Project (FIP). This should be aligned with the MarinTrust Assessment criteria where possible. The progress actions should be updated in the following tables, and the relevant evidence linked to. It is important that evidence documents are publicly available. This will be checked by MarinTrust and then verified by the peer reviewers during the annual peer review process based on evidence submitted by the applicant.

**For the 6-month report, it is not required to provide an update on all actions. The FIP is required to provide updates on actions where demonstrable progress has been made since the last reporting (the last 6 months).**

FIP name	Mauritania small pelagics
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### Template guidelines

To help ensure the review process can be carried out effectively and efficiently:

- Include specific citations to the evidence that substantiates it. This should include the exact page numbers and paragraph references where the evidence can be found.
- Where possible, include a hyperlink to any evidence referenced.
- Ensure that the supporting evidence documents are easily accessible and well-organised. They should be available in a format that allows for easy navigation, such as a table of contents, bookmarks, or an index.
- Use clear and concise language when referring to evidence to make it easy for readers to grasp why a particular piece of evidence supports a specific progress claim.

Note: MarinTrust will host all evidence documents on the MarinTrust FIP profiles. If there are any confidential and or draft documents that the applicant does not want made public, this should be made clear in the report.

## IP 6-month update

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.

### M – Management Framework and Surveillance, Control and Enforcement

MT clause	Action in plan	Action update / progress made	Evidence	Status of action	Additional comments
M2.3, M2.4	Action 5	Regarding access to factories for sampling, it seems to be fine for FIP factories but not for non-FIP (particularly Chinese). We are continuing to scratch our heads about how to get more factories engaged with the FIP. The Global RoundTable is proposing a project to help engage the Chinese, but following recent news that consultants in China have been prosecuted for ‘giving Chinese overseas fishing a bad name’, it may be back to the drawing board. Regarding the Coast Guard, they continue to attend our meetings, but it is a military organisation and there is not much more we can do to work with them. Regarding certifications, this went backwards in 2023, because two factories failed to renew MT certifications. We plan a push on this in 2024.		Unclear and requiring a rethink in 2024	

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

MT clause	Action in plan	Action update / progress made	Evidence	Status of action	Files for evidence
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A3.1, A3.3	Action 1	In 2023 there was a total of 550 samples taken from factories, covering 65,000 t of landings. This covers a total small pelagic catch of 492,000 t – i.e. 1.12 samples per 1000 tonnes, compared to the minimum sampling recommendation of FAO of (1 sample per 1000 t). 32,821 individual fish were measured. In 2022 however, we did not quite reach the minimum sampling recommendation, with 540 samples taken from 50,000 t, out of a total catch of 598 000 t (0.9 samples per 1000 t). 31,600 fish were measured. The paper logbook data entry has been completed (finally).	Presentation Wagne and Jeyyid (2023) – NB this only covers Jan-June 2023, the other info is IMROP pers. comm. Logbook data entry report (Braham and Bouzouma, Dec. 2023)	Ongoing – on track	suivi des débarquements pp 2022 2023  fishing logbook entry report MSC_IMROP
	Action 2	First year of implementation of PAP-PP (small pelagic management plan); review of progress planned for 2024, potentially in cooperation with GIZ	ToRs from GIZ, reviewed by FIP ( <b>DRAFT - do not distribute</b> )	Ongoing – on track	Termes des references ...
	Action 4	Region-wide stock assessment for the sardinella species published in January 2024, regional acoustic surveys conducted in Oct/Nov 2022 and 2023, so scientifically we are progressing. In terms of joint or cooperative management, this is part of the PAP-PP but it is unclear what has happened politically in 2023 (above my pay grade). The proposed review of the PAP-PP will hopefully shed some light.	Braham et al. 2024 List of Nansen surveys <a href="#">here</a> (NB: Not yet updated to show 2023 survey)	Ongoing – hard to say if on track or not	Braham et al 2024 Fish Res

### B – Category B Stock Status

MT clause	Action in plan	Action update / progress made	Evidence	Status of action	Additional comments
B	Action 1, Action 2, Action 4	Please see under A above			

### C – Category C Stock Status

MT clause	Action in plan	Action update / progress made	Evidence	Status of action	Additional comments
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<b>C1.1, C1.2</b>	Action 1, Action 2, Action 4	Please see under A above			
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### D – Impacts On Species Categorised as Vulnerable by D1-D3

MT clause	Action in plan	Action update / progress made	Evidence	Status of action	Additional comments

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

MT clause	Action in plan	Action update / progress made	Evidence	Status of action	Files for evidence
<b>F1.1, F1.2</b>	Action 6	Since IMROP obtained funding from MSC, with FIP support, there have been more observer deployments in 2023. The observer trips in spring showed ~10% bycatch (non-small pelagics), and the trips in autumn showed ~2.5% bycatch. In both cases this was made up of common larger fish such as breams, grunts, jacks etc., with no vulnerable or protected species identified, and no one species making up more than 2% of the total catch. Nothing was discarded – the bycatch catch was either frozen for human consumption or incorporated into the fishmeal.	7 observer reports from coastal seiners, and summary report (Suleimane et al., Dec. 2023)	Ongoing – back on track	Impact of Pelagic Fleets MSC_IMROP  folder with observer reports
<b>F3.1</b>	Action 2	Please see under A above			
	Action 3	We haven't made much progress with this action up till now, because needs better data from observers first (see Action 6 above). We have put forward two M.Sc. thesis projects which will use the new observer data, and other available data, to evaluate the small pelagic biomass required to support predator populations (one	Thesis proposals	Ongoing – I guess behind but	TdRs – besoins alimentaires ... (2 files)

	for fish and one for mammals and birds), to be co-supervised by IMROP. Hopefully these will be picked up by students in 2024.		progressing finally	
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### Additional Information

The following section is for any information provided by the fishery in support of this 6-month update which does not relate directly to any of the information above, but which is relevant to the ongoing monitoring of fishery management status.