

MarinTrust Improver Programme: Annual milestone report 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 then be verified by the peer reviewers based on evidence submitted by the applicant.

This report should include an update on all actions outlined in the Fishery Action Plan, even if no demonstrable progress has been made since the last report.

FIP name	Small Pelagic Purse Seine Fishery, Karnataka State FIP
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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 Milestone report

M – Management Framework and Surveillance, Control and Enforcement

MT clause (if relevant)	Action in plan	Action update / progress made	Outstanding actions and rationale	Evidence	Status of action	Additional comments
M2.1 M2.2 M2.4	3.1 Clarify Monitoring, Controls, and Surveillance (MCS) arrangement both at the National level and State Level	<p>FIP industry partner requested information on MCS arrangement to fisheries agency (Karnataka DoF) in July 2024. Issues covered enforcement of fishing regulation and reporting at State and national level, fishery monitoring activities, and surveillance techniques.</p> <p>A series of in-person both formal and informal meetings started in August 2024 and followed by December 2024 and March 2025. These discussions contribute to obtaining the data required in the action for a short report and evidence that covers arrangement for the control of IUU fishing.</p>	<p>Numbers, types, and details of offences.</p> <p>Some of the actions have been delayed due to the complexity and bureaucracy to obtain the information from government authorities both state and national levels.</p>	Annex 1: Report on the control of IUU fishing and monitoring compliance with fishery laws and regulations	On-going	

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

MT clause (if relevant)	Action in plan	Action update / progress made	Outstanding actions and rationale	Evidence	Status of action	Additional comments
A 1.2 A 2.1	1.1 Support scientific sampling of catches to determine catch composition and types/configurations of nets used	<p>The research agency (CMFRI) conducted data collection of small pelagic fisheries operating by 3 types of seines: purse seines, ring seines, and shore seines. Outcomes of the sampling clarify the roles and the contribution of key targeted species in the catch and provide updated and accurate data for version 3 assessment of purse seine fishery.</p> <p>The major species was Indian Oil sardines (35.8%) and Indian mackerel (34.0%), together contributed 69.8% of purse seine landings of the state. Scads (10.2%) and tunas (8.2) contributed moderate landings, accounting for 18.4% of the total purse seine landings.</p> <p>The results also cover ring seine catch composition to facilitate version 3 assessment of small pelagic</p>	While sampling with the objective to understand catch composition was completed, the sampling for stock assessment continues for another 2 years because the method requires 3 years of data collection. The research agency has been conducted for 1 years.	Annex 2: 2024 Project Annual Report on Fishery and Stock Assessment of Small Pelagic along the Karnataka Coast	<p>Completed for catch composition.</p> <p>On-going for stock assessment</p>	The time of this action is depending on the fishing season.

		ring seine fishery (under development).				
A 3.2	2.1 Evaluate options for establishment of Small Pelagics Purse Seine Fisheries Management Plan including reference points and harvest control rules	<p>FIP industry partner initiated the discussion on the direction for Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) development with College of Fisheries, Mangalore. Then participated a workshop to collaborate with BYGFISH initiative that has common interest in developing FMP covering Karnataka State.</p> <p>Harvest control rules were discussed and planned for implementation including fishing ban extension, trawling restriction, light fishing and bull trawling, and ban period for traditional boats.</p> <p>The process for the development of Small Pelagic Purse Seine Fisheries Management Plan was established.</p>	-	Annex3: Workshop report on Development of a Management Plan for Small Pelagic Purse Seine Fisheries "BYGFISH:2.0"	Completed	
	2.2 Establish a regular series of meetings with Karnataka DoF and relevant research providers to update them	Since the launch of the Fishery Action Plan (FAP) in March 2024, the FIP Implementor and Consultant Team have actively engaged with the Director of the Department of	-	Annex4: the 4 th Stakeholder Meeting Report	On-going	The action was planned to implement from January

	<p>on new information from the FIP and seek updates from them on plan development, including creation of mechanisms for formally adopting the plan</p>	<p>Fisheries (DoF) of Karnataka State and Joint Directors overseeing coastal cities. Recognizing the importance of scientific data—such as catch composition and stock assessments—for effective fishery management, the team commissioned CMFRI (Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute), India’s leading government research agency, to conduct these critical studies.</p> <p>Beyond commissioned tasks, regular communication with DoF and CMFRI has ensured alignment in the development and implementation of the FAP. The FIP Implementor has also supported various projects and events organized by DoF and CMFRI, reinforcing collaboration and continuous dialogue. Both institutions have been actively participating in stakeholder meetings, providing valuable insights and support for sustainable fisheries development in Karnataka.</p> <p>At the 4th Stakeholders’ Meeting on March 8, 2025, DoF and CMFRI</p>				<p>2025 to December 2027. The first few months of this year was focused on transition to version 3, both action plan development and stakeholder agreement.</p>
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		received FIP updates and a milestone report. The latest catch composition and stock assessment findings were presented and discussed. Importantly, all stakeholders, including DoF and CMFRI representatives, collectively agreed on transitioning the FAP from MarinTrust Version 2 to Version 3, reflecting the commitment to continuous improvement and sustainability.				
	2.3 Establish the small pelagics purse seine management plan	The re-assessment of the fishery was done by fishery assessor (MRAG), and the result showed more species should be added in the FIP, therefore, the action plan is being developed to support the establishment of the FMP.	-	Annex5: Report on MarinTrust Whole Fish Fishery Assessment version 3.0: Karnataka Small Pelagic Fishery	On-going	The action was planned to implement from January 2025 to December 2028. The first few months of this year was focused on transition to version 3, both action plan development and

						stakeholder agreement.
	2.4 Securing stakeholder support for the proposed management plan	This need to wait for the finalized assessment which should be done by mid-April, subsequently the Fishery Action Plan will develop including the involvement and support plan for stakeholders.			On-going	The action was planned to implement from January 2025 to December 2028. The first few months of this year was focused on transition to version 3, both action plan development and stakeholder agreement.

B – Category B Stock Status

MT clause (if relevant)	Action in plan	Action update / progress made	Outstanding actions and rationale	Evidence	Status of action	Additional comments
	Same as A					

C – Category C Stock Status

MT clause (if relevant)	Action in plan	Action update / progress made	Outstanding actions and rationale	Evidence	Status of action	Additional comments
	N/A					

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

MT clause (if relevant)	Action in plan	Action update / progress made	Outstanding actions and rationale	Evidence	Status of action	Additional comments
D4.1 D4.2	1.2 Collection of sufficient information on <i>S. jussieui</i> to enable risk assessment to be undertaken	The species was initially misidentified and included in our FIP assessment and action plan. After further review, we have corrected the identification (<i>S. Dayi</i>) and excluded it from our new fishery assessment.	-	Annex6: Biological Information of <i>S.jussieui</i>	Completed	The species was excluded from re-assessment with standard version 3 and updated species composition.
D4.1 D4.2	1.3 Draft preliminary stock assessment of small pelagics to contain estimate of sustainable yield and assessment of current state versus draft reference points.	<p>Indian Mackerel stock assessment completed with data collected from 2021-2023. The result showed that the biomass at MSY at that optimum has a broader range, yet still focussed around 0.8, which means that the stock hovers within the overfishing and optimally exploited zone when the growth and feeding habits of this carnivorous resource is factored in.</p> <p>In terms of size, the ideal value that produces a consistent estimate of health metrics is 17.5 cm. However, it can be eased till the limiting lower point of 17 cm, while the upper limit must be less than 18 cm. (Page 2-4 of Annex2).</p>	<p>No outstanding action per version 2 as D group. This action was planned to start in August 2025, the research agency (CMFRI) completed the task earlier than the plan to support version 3 assessment.</p> <p>In version 3, this action will be under B group.</p>	Annex 2: 2024 Project Annual Report on Fishery and Stock Assessment of Small Pelagic along the Karnataka Coast	<p>Completed for Indian Mackerel</p> <p>On-going for other pelagic species (will continue in version 3 action plan)</p>	Indian Mackerel was classified as D group in the version 2 assessment due to lack of accurate catch composition at the time; however, Indian Mackerel will be one of target or main species in version 3 assessment and action plan.

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

MT clause (if relevant)	Action in plan	Action update / progress made	Outstanding actions and rationale	Evidence	Status of action	Additional comments
F1.1	4.1 Review of local projects and published information that addresses ETP and potential habitat interactions	<p>During stakeholder meetings and other FIP activities, issue on local projects related to interactions of purse seine fisheries and ETP species / habitat was discussed. It was confirmed that no local projects on this issue. CMFRI confirmed that no information on interaction with ETP species during their survey. The published information is also limited; however, we found two cases documented.</p> <p>No documented case on potential interaction on habitat due to the operation of purse seine is surface to mid-water.</p> <p>The action is completed, and the next step is collaboration with fishers to provide information on interaction with ETP species when they operate their fishing.</p>	-	Annex7: A Review of Published Information on Interaction of Purse Seine Fishery and ETP Species	Completed	

F1.1	4.2 Evaluate options for managing any significant fishery impacts on ETP species identified in 4.1	<p>DoF reported on ETP Species Restriction that Karnataka has issued notifications restricting the fishing of nine species of sharks and rays.</p> <p>An event on the International Whale Shark Day was organized in August to raise awareness on whale shark conservation. Discussion in the event included awareness campaign and training fishers on how to rescue them.</p> <p>In October, an event was organized to recognize the captain and crews who safely release whale shark that accidentally caught during purse seine operation. It was followed by a meeting with CMFRI, DoF and Fisheries College to discuss on the conservation of Endangered, Threatened, and Protected (ETP) species and reporting of their accidental catch.</p>	-	Annex8: Report on ETP species Awareness Campaign, Materials, and Reporting	On-going	<p>CMFRI will prepare a calendar for conducting awareness programs on ETP species in all fishing harbours by the end of April 2025</p> <p>DoF will install posters and banners in each fishing harbour to create awareness about ETP species by end of 2025</p> <p>The posters will also include contact details for reporting the catch of ETP species</p>
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SOCIAL CRITERION

MT clause (if relevant)	Action in plan	Action update / progress made	Outstanding actions and rationale	Evidence	Status of action	Additional comments
	5.1 Ensuring that vessels operating in the fishery, fish meal factory members, feed mills and seafood factory members are adhering to guidance on human rights and commit to ensuring there is no use of child, enforced or unpaid labour	A written commitment on adhering guidance on human rights and no use of child, enforced or unpaid labours, is available both from vessels and factories.	-	Annex 9: Supplier Agreement and Self-Declaration of IP and Certified Plants.	Completed	

Additional Information

- Meso-pelagic Fish Survey (Annex10):** Yashaswi Fish Meal and Oil Company has taken a significant step in sustainable fisheries by partnering with the CMFRI for exploring meso-pelagic fish along Karnataka Coast. The primary goal of this initiative is to explore mesopelagic fish species as an alternative resource for fish meal and oil production
- Social program (Annex11):** As part of its social awareness initiatives, the FIP has actively engaged in community-driven activities to promote marine conservation and responsible waste management. This report highlights two key initiatives undertaken in Udupi and Mangalore in collaboration with local organizations.
 - Cleanup Drive at Malpe Port:** The cleanup drive was led by volunteers from the Small Pelagic Purse Seine Fisheries Improvement Program, who employed nets to extract substantial amounts of debris from the water. This effort aimed to restore cleanliness to the port area and safeguard marine life from hazardous waste. The initiative reinforced the importance of community participation in marine conservation and emphasized the role of sustainable waste disposal practices in reducing environmental impact.

- ***Participation in Walkathon for Cleaner and Greener India:*** To further promote environmental awareness, the Small Pelagic Purse Seine Fisheries Improvement Program joined the Walkathon for Cleaner and Greener India, an initiative organized by CMFRI in collaboration with the College of Fisheries, Mangalore. The event aimed to encourage sustainable practices among the local community and fisheries stakeholders, fostering a sense of shared responsibility for environmental conservation.

Amended timeline

All activities, except the completed ones, will be transferred to version 3 Fishery Action Plan by the end of April 2025