

Mauritania FIP – MarinTrust IP annual report

September 2025

Overview

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	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.
- If evidence documents have been submitted during previous reports, this should be clearly identified.
- Each activity being reported on should be clearly linked to the relevant MarinTrust clause and FAP.

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

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. An index table for you to list all evidence documents is provided at the end of this template.

Note: This progress report is based on the third iteration of the v3 whole fish assessment for the fishery, with mullet added to the scope of the fishery. This was submitted to MT in August 2025. The pirogue fleet was previously added to the scope in the second version, submitted to MT in March 2025. The addition of mullet is a function of increased use by the FIP factories of byproducts from their freezer plants, but we continue to follow the requirements for whole fish rather than byproducts for all species.

M – Management framework and surveillance, control and enforcement

MT clause	Action ref.	Action in plan	Delivery time	Action update	Progress against action	Out-standing actions and rationale	Evidence	Status of action	Additional comments
M1.5.2	Action 2	Support for management plan (PAP-PP) implementation	Dec. 2028	There has been a mid-term evaluation of the PAP-PP. An interim report was presented to the Ministry in December 2024 (Diop 2024). Reportedly the Ministry were not very happy with it, and it has not yet been finalised as far as we know. I agree with the Ministry that it is not very specific about actions to be taken or adjusted, but it does highlight (Section 8.1 – lessons learned) that IMROP needs to focus on the research needed to recommend precautionary TACs as well as how to maximise economic return on these TACs; clearly already a focus of the work of the FIP, including the new social workplan.		No specific sub-actions outstanding from the FIP workplan but still lots to do to implement the PAP-PP in full	Evidence 1 – Diop 2024	Ongoing	Evidence 1 also submitted in March 2025 as evidence 1 Social workplan provided in March 2025

M2.1.2 M2.1.3 M2.2.2 M2.3.1	Action 5	Support for MCS on vessels and in factories)	Dec. 2027	The focus of this action has been working with ONISPA to ensure that the requirements for the factories are enforced: i.e. around species not permitted for fishmeal (except as déchets), proportion of catch entering human consumption supply chains, quality and handling on board and during transport etc. A workshop was held in March 2025 in Nouadhibou, hosted by ONISPA and supported by Olvea, at which most of the FIP factories were present, as well as other stakeholders.	Working with ONISPA is going well, but with the GCM remains difficult. Not clear how to access data to assess control and compliance rates.	Evidence 2 – ONISPA workshop info	Ongoing	Evidence 2 also submitted in March 2025 as evidence 4
M2.3.2 M2.3.3	Action 1	Data collection	Dec. 2026 In the work-plan, but in reality will continue	<p>In 2024, IMROP collected 877 samples from 87 pirogues and 41 seiners, covering 103,310 t landings for FMFO and human consumption, and measuring 69,533 fish of 13 species, for a sample rate of 8.5 samples per 1000 t (FAO minimum one / 1000t). A big improvement on previous years. Compared to previous years there seems to be more round sardinella (potentially a good sign for that stock) but less flat sardinella. Sardine was present for a shorter time period, which might be a consequence of warming waters. (2023 recorded the warmest sea temperatures on record by a large margin, but 2024 was closer to normal.)</p> <p>In terms of factory sampling, IMROP covered 12 factories (39,241 t). With increased FIP participants in 2025 (18 factories), we hope to improve this further.</p>	The pirogue fleet was added to the scope of the FIP in March, so data collection improvements are required for this fleet also. We have prepared a joint workplan for the pirogues with the octopus FIP (also fished by pirogues)	<p>Evidence 3 – FIP donor report for 2024</p> <p>Evidence 4 – Jeyid presentation July 2025</p> <p>Evidence 5 – Sadegh presentation Oct. 2024</p> <p>Evidence 6 – pirogue workplan</p>	Ongoing	The data on sampling provided in Evidence 3 came from an IMROP presentation which was evidence 2 of the March update

				<p>The FIP provided lab equipment (otolith saw and related consumables) to obtain more data from these samples, and the enumerators are now able to collect otoliths as needed. Further training from Bangor University is planned.</p> <p>The data from factory sampling for 2023 and 2024 highlighted an increasing proportion of ‘déchets’ (waste, byproducts) being used for fishmeal production. This is overall positive, since a key objective of the PAP-PP is the transfer of fishmeal production from whole fish to byproducts. These déchets come largely from the freezer plants associated with each factory (a legal requirement), and therefore can be a mix of species, including those not permitted to be used directly for fishmeal production. This increasing %age of déchets (>50% in 2024) has, however, made sampling from the factories more complicated. A key objective of the factory sampling in 2025 is to get a better handle on the species composition of the déchets. So far, it appears that aside from the FIP species, the déchets include mainly mullet, mackerel and horse mackerel.</p> <p>In 2024, more systematic sampling started at landing sites outside Nouadhibou, which are growing in importance – centre, Nouakchott and south-Nouakchott zones (Sadegh 2024).</p>				
	Action 5	Factory compliance	Dec. 2027	See above	See above	Evidence 2	Ongoing	

	Action 8	Traceability	Dec. 2026	As for Action 5	See above	Evidence 2	Ongoing	
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A – Category A: Data collection, stock assessment, harvest strategy and stock status

MT clause	Action ref.	Action in plan	Delivery time	Action update	Progress against action	Outstanding actions and rationale	Evidence	Status of action	Additional comments
A3.1	Action 1	Data collection	See above	See above		See above	See above	Ongoing	
	Action 2	PAP-PP						Ongoing	
	Action 7	Stock assessments		SAM has been identified as a stock assessment model which might be more useful in the short-term than SS3.		Work on suitable limit reference points for CECAF stocks – hope to complete draft paper by the end of the year	Evidence 7 – CECAF small pelagic WG north summary report July 2025	Ongoing	
A3.2 A3.3	Action 7	Stock assessments	Dec. 2027	<p>We have initial agreement from Dr Jim Ianelli (NOAA / University of Washington) to host a workshop on small pelagic stock assessment with a focus on horse (jack) mackerel (<i>Trachurus</i> spp.) for joint participation of IMROP, NatMIRC from Namibia (counterpart of IMROP) and Dr Ianelli who is consultant to the Chile jack mackerel fishery for stock assessment. A budget has been agreed and the search for funding is ongoing (in its early stages).</p> <p>The most recent stock assessments by CECAF (2025) are available in summary form (results summarised below).</p>			<p>Evidence 8 – horse mackerel proposal</p> <p>Evidence 9 – LRP review</p>	Ongoing	Evidence 9 provided as evidence 5 in March 2025

				For the work on defining suitable limit reference points, we have completed a review of the approach used in other MT certified fisheries and started some consideration of alternative approaches to put to CECAF, but this is still in the discussion / drafting phase.				
A4.1	Basically all of the actions	Dec. 2028	Results of CECAF stock assessments 2025 as follows: Sardine (stock C): $B/B_{0.1} = 0.66$ (Biodyn), $F/F_{0.1} = 1.09$ (Biodyn) Round sardinella: $B/B_{0.1} = 0.27$ (JABBA), 0.17 (SPiCT), 0.40 (SS3); $F/F_{0.1} = 2.00$ (LCA), 1.03 (JABBA), 1.35 (SPiCT), 2.19 (SS3) Flat sardinella: $B/B_{0.1} = 0.45$ (JABBA), 0.54 (SPiCT); $F/F_{0.1} = 3.23$ (LCA), 2.60 (JABBA), 1.77 (SPiCT) Horse mackerel <i>T. trachurus</i> : $B/B_{0.1} = 1.24$ (Biodyn), $F/F_{0.1} = 0.71$ (Biodyn) Horse mackerel <i>T. trecae</i> : $B/B_{0.1} = 1.27$ (Biodyn), $F/F_{0.1} = 1.13$ (Biodyn) Mackerel: $B/B_{0.1} = 1.16$ (Biodyn), 1.00 (XSA); $F/F_{0.1} = 0.94$ (Biodyn), 1.26 (XSA), 1.01 (LCA) Bonga: $F/F_{0.1} = 3.45$ (LCA) In other words, while the stock assessment data and methodology has improved, the stock status continues to deteriorate. Sardine was badly impacted by the very high SST in 2023, although there is evidence of recruitment in 2024 and 2025. Sardinella and bonga stocks remain in poor	Very difficult. Continue to chip away at fisheries management basics. Engage with Senegal for the sardinellas. Pray that climate change goes away (ha).	Evidence 7	Ongoing		

				shape (perhaps some improvement for round sardinella?). Atlantic horse mackerel is fine, but Cunene horse mackerel (the sub-tropical species) is showing signs of overexploitation. Mackerel is OK but the fishery is at a maximum.				
	Action 4	Engage-ment for shared stocks	Dec. 2028	<p>The key issue of concern here is Senegal, since collaboration with Morocco is already good, and they have a robust management framework in place for the shared stocks already.</p> <p>The Global Roundtable organised a workshop in July 2025, to which stakeholders from Senegal and Gambia were invited (see agenda and list of participants). As a result of this meeting, it is hoped that a pilot FIP will start with one fishmeal factory in Senegal in the next few months. An initial visit by Jo is planned for October or November to start this up if possible.</p>	As above	Evidence 10 – info on July workshop	Ongoing	

Note: In relation to these shared stocks, we have posed a question to MarinTrust several times but never received any response. Here it is again, and we would be grateful if reviewers of this report could engage with it:

In MSC, some shared stocks have been certified in a single jurisdiction, on the basis that the management measures in this jurisdiction are able to limit fishing mortality over enough of the stock to influence the dynamics of the entire stock (e.g. see Australian swordfish and PNA skipjack). MSC does not set any explicit limit for how much of the stock a fishery should cover for this to be permitted, but the fisheries cited above take ~50-65% of the total landings. (This information may now be out of date, but it applied at the time the fisheries were certified.) Our question to MarinTrust is: What is the extent to which the regulations across other jurisdictions (not part of the FIP) need to be integrated with the regulations in Mauritania, in order for each stock to meet clause A3.1 in the standard, given the relative level of catch of each species in Mauritania vs other jurisdictions?

B – Category B Species

MT clause	Action ref.	Action in plan	Delivery time	Action update	Progress against action	Outstanding actions and rationale	Evidence	Status of action	Additional comments
B	Action 6	Bycatch / non-target species	Dec. 2026	Mullet have only just been added to the scope of the FIP (August 2025) due to information about the source of déchets presented to the FIP meeting in July. The source of mullet is byproducts from the factory freezer plants, not direct landings from the vessels to the factories, so the activities conducted so far under Action 6 (observers etc.) do not really help.		Collect information to inform a risk analysis for the stock status of mullet (<i>Mugil cephalus</i>). We do not have a plan for this yet.	None as yet	Not started	

C – Category C Species

None

D – Category D Species

None

E – Ecosystem requirements

MT clause	Action ref.	Action in plan	Delivery time	Action update	Progress against action	Outstanding actions and rationale	Evidence	Status of action	Additional comments
E1.1.2 E1.1.3	Action 1	Data collection	See above	See above		See above		Ongoing	
	Action 3 Action 6	Ecosystem, bycatch and discards	Dec. 2026	<p>Observers: The MSC project (which runs to end 2025) has continued to fund observer deployments on board the coastal seiners (6 trips in 2024). The FIP has been supporting IMROP to produce ‘observer kits’ with which each observer can be equipped; so far we have purchased fish measuring boards (in use), and IMROP are providing safety equipment and tablets.</p> <p>In April 2025 (under the extra funding from Cargill) IMROP held a 3 day training workshop for all their observers. This covered the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives of the observer programme, what their data are used for Detailed presentation and discussion of the observer manual, including sampling strategies for all relevant types of vessels and gear, the various datasheets and how to complete them, how to estimate catch size and how to sub-sample, the importance of following correct procedures to ensure comparable data 		<p>Observers: IMROP are still having some difficulty with the system for recruiting new observers. The revised observer manual is in prep.</p> <p>Ecosystem / food requirements: Not much progress since last year</p> <p>ETP species: We probably have sufficient information to</p>	<p>Evidence 11 – summary of observer data 2024</p> <p>Evidence 12 – summary report on observer workshop</p> <p>Evidence 13 – dolphin poster</p> <p>Evidence 14 – dolphin</p>	Ongoing	Evidence 11 provided in March 2025 as evidence 7

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed sampling strategies for each fishery What to do in circumstances such as rough seas, linguistic and communication difficulties with the captain and crew, breakdown of equipment or the vessel, transshipment, lack of working space A day of practical training in the IMROP labs, on fish identification, measuring, biological sampling and sex determination, use of equipment, writing up data etc. <p>Ecosystem: Some preliminary work has been carried out evaluating the role of small pelagics in the ecosystem as prey for fish predators (stomach content analysis) – report sent last year. No further updates since then.</p> <p>ETP species: (See previous work on monk seals – update from last year)</p> <p>In 2025, we started work on a new project related to the Atlantic humpback dolphin <i>Souza teuszii</i>, because this was the species identified as ‘high risk’ from the fishery by the FIP external review (under FisheryProgress; report provided last year).</p> <p>IMROP is already part of the Consortium for the Conservation of the Atlantic Humpback dolphin</p>	<p>inform a risk assessment for the seals and dolphins for the fishery, and tick them off. For the dolphin, however, there is an exciting opportunity to leverage the FIP work for further important research, and we will pursue this as far as is consistent with appropriate spending of participant funds.</p>	<p>baseline report</p> <p>Evidence 15 - dolphin survey report</p> <p>Evidence 16 – interim report to Cargill for grant</p>		
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				<p>(https://www.sousateuszii.org/dolphins/). Under a grant from Cargill they have been working on evaluating the population and fishing mortality of this species, which is vulnerable to fisheries because it lives in shallow water, although gillnet fisheries are thought to be the main issue. We also have a poster in French and Arabic which will be posted at landing sites, asking fishers to report interactions with the humpback dolphin and showing them how to identify it. A team has systematically covered the coast asking fishers for information about the dolphin, and background information on the species in Mauritanian waters has been reviewed and compiled. This research suggests that the species is more abundance in the PNBA (MPA) than previously thought (it was considered potentially to be locally extinct). It remains at risk from gillnet fishing, but there is no evidence of interactions with the FIP fishery (not permitted in the PNBA, different gear).</p>				
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Additional information

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

The FIP now has a social workplan (provided at the March 2025 update). The FIP Social Coordinator is Moustapha Taleb.

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. This should reference the specific actions as outlined in the progress report.

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Index for evidence documents

MT clause	Action in plan	Evidence document	Link
M1.5.2	Action 2	Evidence 1 – Diop 2024. Mid-term evaluation of PAP-PP	1 file provided
M2.1.2 M2.1.3 M2.2.2 M2.3.1	Action 5 and Action 8	Evidence 2 - ONISPA/Olvea workshop participation sheet and workshop banner	2 files provided
M2.3.2 M2.3.3	Action 1	Evidence 3: FIP donor report for 2024, January 2025 Evidence 4: Presentation Jeyid to Global Roundtable workshop, July 2025 Evidence 5: Report on sampling of landings in centre, Nouakchott and south-Nouakchott zones, Ahmed Sidi Sadegh, IMROP, October 2024 Evidence 6: Costed workplan for pirogues, prepared jointly with octopus FIP (Coordinator Inejih Cheikh Abdellahi)	4 files provided
A3.1 A3.2 A3.3	Action 7	Evidence 7: CECAF WG small pelagic north, summary report, 2025 Evidence 8: Costed proposal for horse mackerel workshop Evidence 9: LRP approach review	3 files provided
A4.1	Action 4 and others	Evidence 10: Agenda and participant list for GRT workshop, July 2025	2 files provided
E1.1.2 E1.1.3	Action 3 and Action 6	Evidence 11: Summary report on observer results for 2024 Evidence 12: Observer workshop summary report	5 files provided, plus different

	<p>Evidence 13: Dolphin poster</p> <p>Evidence 14: Dolphin baseline report</p> <p>Evidence 15: Dolphin survey report</p> <p>Evidence 16: Interim report to Cargill on their grant spending</p>	<p>versions of dolphin poster in a separate sub-folder</p>
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