



MarinTrust Improver Programme

FIP 6-month report

Mauritania small pelagics

Document TEM-039 - Version 1.0

Issued August 2025 - Effective August 2025

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Reviewed by: Impacts Manager

Approved by: Assurance and Risk Manager



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 be checked by MarinTrust and then verified by the peer reviewer 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.
- 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 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 ref.	Action details	Action update / progress made	Evidence	Status of action	Additional comments
M2.3.2 M2.3.3	Action 1	Data collection	During 2025, samples were taken from 11 factories, covering 15% of fishmeal production, and 5.5 samples per 1000 t of landings. 56,374 fish were measured. In 2025 for the first time we managed to get a clear understanding of the species composition of the byproducts from the freezer plants associated with each factory (40% of raw material in 2025): flat sardinella (41%), sardine (26%), round sardinella (16%), with the remaining 17% made up of mullet byproducts, small horse mackerel and obo.	Evidence 1 – presentation by Mohamed Ahmed Jeyid (IMROP)	Ongoing	Fishery assessment updated in Sept. 2025 to make sure that mullet are included in the FIP scope; additional actions in the workplan were not required

A – Category A: Data collection, stock assessment, harvest strategy and stock status

MT clause	Action ref.	Action details	Action update / progress made	Evidence	Status of action	Additional comments
A3.1	Action 1	Data collection	See above	See above	Ongoing	See above
A3.2 A3.3	Action 7	Stock assessments	There has been progress on discussions around more suitable reference points (particularly limit reference points, in relation to these clauses). After two days of informal discussion around stock assessments,	No evidence as yet – still half-written draft	Ongoing	

			methodologies, drivers of stock status and reference points between Cheikh-Baye, Jilali Bensbai (chief stock assessment scientist, INRH) and Jo Gascoigne (the weekend between the otolith training and the FIP meeting, in Nouakchott), we have agreed to prepare a joint paper setting out options. The paper is currently being drafted.			
A3.1 A3.2 A3.3	Action 1 and Action 7	Data collection, stock assessments	Dr Phil Hollyman from Bangor University held a 4 day training workshop at IMROP (Nouakchott) on otolith preparation and reading (using the otolith saw that the FIP previously bought), and also provided R-scripts to help process data. Sardinella were considered un-ageable, but in the course of this, he discovered that the sardinella otoliths have daily bands, so they can be aged, albeit with a lot more work than usual. This is important because it can potentially be used to improve the stock assessments, and also to better understand stock structure (particularly for madarensis – is this a shared stock or not?)	Evidence 2 – otolith workshop presentation Evidence 3 – workshop participation list	Ongoing	
A4.1	Action 7	Stock assessment	At the FIP meeting, Jilali Bensbai presented the stock situation for sardine, and specifically how the climate situation has impacted on upwelling processes, which in turn has impacted the stock very seriously. Climate pressures also generate ecosystem change (influx of tropical predators) and interact with fishing pressure.	Evidence 4 – presentation by Dr Jilali Bensbai, FIP meeting, Feb. 2026	Ongoing	Climate-driven change in this ecosystem is very serious at this point; I’m not sure how the FIP is going to deal with it. We’d welcome a conversation with MT on that.
A3.1 A3.2 A3.3	Action 4	Engagement with Senegal	At the previous annual FIP meeting (Jan. 2025) it was agreed that the FIP should try outreach on the FIP model in Senegal. In July 2025, at the workshop organised by the IFFO/SFP Marine Ingredients Round Table, we made contact with a factory in Senegal, Afric Azote, interested in	Evidence 5 – Proposed Senegal FIP workplan	Ongoing	

			<p>starting a FIP. In December, Jo visited Senegal to collect information and initiate the project. We have now applied to the MarinTrust IP for a Senegal FIP (application in progress).</p> <p>During the visit in December, we understood that the pirogues based in Saint Louis (Senegal) are catching a lot of sardinella and mullet in Mauritanian waters, and it is not clear that these catches are entering the catch statistics, either in Mauritania or in Senegal. In 2026 we hope to initiate collaboration on data collection in Saint Louis, under the Mauritania FIP and as the first main activity of the Senegal FIP.</p>	Evidence 6 – Senegal trip report (Jo Gascoigne)		
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B – Category B Species

MT clause	Action ref.	Action details	Action update / progress made	Evidence	Status of action	Additional comments
B	Action 1	Data collection	See information on analysis of 'dechets' from the factories, above	See above	Ongoing	
B	Action 4	Engagement with Senegal	See above	See above	Ongoing	

C – Category C Species

None

D – Category D Species

None

E – Ecosystem requirements

MT clause	Action ref.	Action details	Action update / progress made	Evidence	Status of action	Additional comments
E1.1.3	Action 6	Bycatch	There were some observer trips on the coastal vessels in 2025, although not many because the MSC funding (which was covering this) has run out. (We have a small amount of funding for next year, but the main focus of the FIP is moving to the pirogues, since it seems to be fairly clear that the seiners are not interacting with ETP species.) No ETP interactions were noted; some data on catch at size for small pelagics was collected.	Evidence 7 – Djimera and Jeyid (IMROP), presentation to FIP meeting, Feb. 2026	Ongoing	

Additional information

The following section is for any information provided by the FIP 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 management status.

We have made some progress in the first full year of implementing the social workplan; mainly in relation to understanding of the role of middlemen (consignateurs) in relation to the crew on the coastal vessels, as well as the employment status of pirogue crew, their understanding of their rights, and their membership of fisher federations and unions. See Evidence 8 – summary presentation by Moustapha Taleb (FIP social coordinator) to FIP meeting, Feb. 2026.

Index for evidence documents

MT clause	Action in plan	Evidence document		Link
M2.3.1, M2.3.2, A3.1, A3.2, A3.3, B	Action 1	Evidence 1	Presentation by Mohamed Ahmed Jeyid (IMROP) to FIP meeting, Feb. 2026	
A3.1, A3.2, A3.3	Action 1, Action 7	Evidence 2	Presentation by Dr Phil Hollyman, Bangor University, summing up results of otolith workshop, Nouakchott, Jan. 2026	
		Evidence 3	Otolith workshop participation list	
A4.1	Action 7	Evidence 4	Presentation by Dr Jilali Bensbai, INRH (Morocco) to FIP meeting, Feb. 2026	
A3.1, A3.2, A3.3, B	Action 4	Evidence 5	Senegal FIP – proposed workplan (March 2026)	
		Evidence 6	Jo Gascoigne, Senegal trip report, Dec. 2025	
E1.1.3	Action 6	Evidence 7	Presentation by Lassana Djimera and Mohamed Ahmed Jeyid (IMROP) to FIP meeting, Feb. 2026	
n/a	Social workplan	Evidence 8	Presentation by Moustapha Taleb (FIP social coordinator) to FIP meeting, Feb. 2026	

