



MarinTrust Improver Programme

FIP 6-month report template

Document TEM-039 - Version 1.0

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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	Indian Oil Sardine
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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.

Example table

MT clause	Action ref.	Action in plan	Action update / progress made	Evidence	Status of action	Additional comments
M1.1	Provide the original action reference and details as outlined in the action plan (FAP).		Provide an update on this action since the last report.	Provide a link to any evidence and/or summarise relevant points for actions or updates.	What is the current status of this action, select from drop down (i.e. complete, ongoing, not started or delayed)	Provide any additional information here.
M1.2						
Add rows to each table as 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
M1.5.3	1. Seek an update from the national fisheries agency on the status of and plans for the revised national fisheries policy and		Further correspondence sent. In November 2025 the national government adopted the Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone Rules, 2025 under the Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive	Email sent to Fisheries Ministry, New Delhi. Copy of Email dt.23/3/2026 is attached as Annex 6. For the regulation – Annex 14	Complete	The regulation is a major step forward and its full implications need to be further studied. The fact that it asks for fishery management plans is a major step. We will be seeking advice on its scope and will continue to seek information about the government's intent on an

	revised national fisheries legislation now that the election has been decided		Economic Zone and other Maritime Zones Act of 1976.			updated national fishery law.
M1.5.3	2. Seek a discussion with the state fisheries management agencies about how they make decisions on changes in management			Copy of Email Annex 1 as attached	Ongoing	See also A2.2. to A4.1 below We will follow up with a request for a direct meeting to discuss the plan advice when it is made available to the departments by CMFRI
M2.1.3	1. Seek updated letters from the departments on enforcement actions but also need			Copies of email dated 23/3/2026 sent to marine enforcement agencies of Maharashtra and Goa are attached as Annex 7 and Annex 8	Ongoing	This is an ongoing commitment to request this information.

	more detail on fishery specific actions. Are they now checking fish sizes, for example?					
M2.1.3	2. Prepare a report on the fishery - number of vessels, number of days at sea, where they fish (where is it open for fishing), this report can assist with other activities such as E2.1.2		We have prepared a report that covers some aspects of this for the habitat reporting (E2.1)(Annex 15) but there is still some more information to be collected for this action for it to be completed.		Ongoing	If we do not receive information via correspondence we will move to requesting face to face meetings
M2.3.1	1. Seek updated letters from the departments on		Awaiting replies	Copies of email dated. 23/3/2026 sent to marine enforcement agencies of Maharashtra and Goa are attached as Annex 7 and Annex 8	Ongoing	This is a regular request to get updates on enforcement performance.

	enforcement actions but also need more detail on fishery specific actions. Do they do any analyses of the data to see if the number of offences is declining, static or increasing?					
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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
A2.2 – A4.1	1. Seek 3 monthly meetings with Goa and Maharashtra fisheries agencies to ascertain progress on	Communication with relevant authorities to follow up their commitment on management plan preparation	We have been in regular contact to get feedback on plan process. Much of the activity has been focused on the CMFRI as it is preparing the management advice documents for the States	Copies of email dated 23/3/2026 addressed to the Commissioner of Fisheries, Mumbai and the Director of Fisheries Goa are attached as Annex 1 and Annex 2	Ongoing	We are in regular contact with CMFRI Kochi -the agency responsible for the preparation of Fisheries Management Plan advice for all maritime States in India for ascertaining the progress.

	plan development;					<p>According to recent advice from CMFRI, the plans will be ready shortly and will be submitted to the Government of India for onward transmission to the governments of Maharashtra and Goa.</p> <p>Once the Plans are received by these States, we will visit them and do the follow up for plan development.</p>
A2.2 – A4.1	2. Find out what their plans are for engaging stakeholders and receiving input	Communication with relevant authorities to follow up their plans for consulting with stakeholders on fishery plan preparation	Direct meetings were held in 2025 and have been followed up by call and email subsequently. The most recent email communication is attached	Copies of email dated 23/3/2026 addressed to the Commissioner of Fisheries, Mumbai and the Director of Fisheries Goa are attached as Annex 1 and Annex 2	Ongoing	Once the draft planning advice is available from CMFRI we will discuss with both stakeholders and government. The aim is to seek inclusion of MT requirements such as harvest Control Rules
A2.2 - A4.1	3. Find out what may be the path taken for ensuring that	Communication with relevant authorities to ascertain how they will put their	Direct meetings were held in MONTH 2025 and have been followed up by call and email subsequently.. The most	Copies of Email dated 23/3/2026 addressed to the Commissioner of Fisheries, Mumbai and the Director of Fisheries	Ongoing	Once the draft planning advice is available from CMFRI we will discuss with government. The aim is

	the management plan has a legal basis.	final plan into force and implement it	recent email communication is attached	Goa are attached as Annex 1 and Annex 2		to ensure that the plan has an effective legal basis.
A2.2 – A4.1	4. Discuss with fishery agencies the incorporation of reference points and commitments to regular (3 yearly) stock assessments	Discuss with agencies some key requirements of the MT Standard that need to be incorporated into the management plan	Awaiting supply of draft management advice from the CMFRI		Ongoing	<p>This action will start once there is a draft plan to review and discuss with them.</p> <p>Note that the new national fisheries law (see above) provides clear guidance on what should be in fishery management plans and also commits the national government to consulting with the states on these matters.</p>

B – Category B Species

MT clause	Action ref.	Action details	Action update / progress made	Evidence	Status of action	Additional comments
B1	1. Discuss with CMFRI their proposed timetable for Indian	Having a stock assessment cycle that fits the Standard is important. Indian	Reply received from CMFRI	Copy of the email dated 28/01/2026 received from Dr.Shoba J K , Head, Fish Fisheries Division CMFRI is attached as Annex 3	Ongoing	This will link with A2.2-A4.1 as the aim would be to get a commitment to a 3 year cycle in the Fishery Management Plan

	mackerel stock assessments and seek a commitment to a minimum 3 year cycle	mackerel has not been assessed in the NW of India.				
B1	2. Seek discussions with CMFRI about their level of knowledge (volumes, species, areas) about the lesser sardines	This is part of our wider investigation into updating knowledge of catch composition	Catch composition data request sent to CMFRI	Email dated 18/3/2026 is attached as Annex 4	Ongoing	Catch composition data are collected by CMFRI but not made public at the level of disaggregation we need and therefore the data have to be bought.
B1	3. Have a discussion with CMFRI about the possibility of doing stock assessments of groups of species together. This may	The aim is to treat lesser sardines as one group in the management system	CMFRI has conveyed willingness to associate with the proposed workshop.	Copy of Email dated 28/01/26 is attached as Annex 3	Ongoing	We will work on a date for the workshop and fit this in with other meetings to be scheduled for this and other FIPs

	require a workshop					
B1	4. If CMFRI agrees then seek their commitment to aggregate yield assessments (NOTE - this will also require some agreement from Marin Trust).	The aim is to have an aggregate group in the management plan.	An email and phone discussion was held with MT. Similar approaches are approved in other countries	Copy of email discussion with Marin Trust as A 12	Complete	Discussions with CMFRI will continue such that this approach to managing groups of species will be incorporated into the management plans.
B1	5. Incorporate both an agreed stock assessment cycle and appropriate reference points into the management plans.	Links to A2.2-A4.1. The aim is to have an aggregate yield based approach in the Fishery Management Plan	Awaiting draft fisheries management plans to be made available by CMFRI		Ongoing	

C – Category C Species

MT clause	Action ref.	Action details	Action update / progress made	Evidence	Status of action	Additional comments
					Choose an item.	
					Choose an item.	
					Choose an item.	

D – Category D Species

MT clause	Action ref.	Action details	Action update / progress made	Evidence	Status of action	Additional comments
Da	1. Seek written clarification from Dr Pawar on the fisheries assessed and the actual percentages of species provided in in his presentation dated 2019	Dr Pawar gave a presentation from some unpublished research which we sought access to	We have made contact with Dr Pawar with no success. Either the research was not completed or for some other reason is not available. It is now quite old and we have found an alternative way to seek catch composition information	We had an in-person meeting at the College of Fisheries By Mr. Duncan was on 25/6/2025	Complete	This action now replaced by the request to CMFRI for catch composition information. See action 2 below
Da	2. Seek data from CMFRI/state governments of the landings (species/volumes) of the industrial purse seine	We need a reliable and ongoing source of information	Data request submitted	Copy of email received from Dr. Jaysankar, Head FREE Division CMFRI dt.24/02/2026 agreeing to share the catch composition data is attached as Annex 5	Ongoing	This is likely a better solution than a on-off study

	sector as monitored by the enumerators at landing sites	on catch composition				
Da	3. For those >0.1% the missing biological information needs to be found via literature searches and/or discussions with relevant biologists. Note some species may occur in several countries and there may be researchers outside of India that could be contacted.		Awaiting information sought in Action 2 above		Ongoing	Next step will be to evaluate the catch composition data

E – Ecosystem requirements

MT clause	Action ref.	Action details	Action update / progress made	Evidence	Status of action	Additional comments
E1.1.2	1. Discuss with the college of fisheries (can	Whilst there has been a study done in	Discussion have resulted in a project agreement which will	Copy of project proposal received from the College of	Complete	

	they do Goa as well as Maharashtra) or CIFT a study of ETP interactions with our fisheries of interest.	Goa this has not occurred in Maharashtra. The gear type and fishery is the same but the fishery assessor requires another study	be implemented in the upcoming fishing season	Fisheries, Ratnagiri is attached as Annex 9 Copy of email accepting project proposal Annex 13		
E1.1.2	2. Discuss the proposed project with fishermen as they will have to collaborate (which will help with M2.3.2).	Ensure that fishers are comfortable with the study and participate	Yes, discussed with Mr. Imran Mukadam, Chairman, Mirkarwada Aadarsh Machimar Co-operative fishermen Society Ratnagiri	Phone call	Complete	
E1.1.2	3. Develop a project proposal for implementation in the 2025/26 fishing season	Collect vessel based data	Project has been negotiated	Copy of project proposal received from the College of Fisheries, Ratnagiri is attached as Annex 9	Complete	Project will be implemented over the 26/27 fishing season
E1.3.2	Seek information from the fisheries agencies on the reward scheme they run for	Document program used in India to enhance survival of ETP species	Request for information sent	Copy of email dated 23/3/2026 sent to Fisheries Department, Maharashtra is attached as Annex 7 and Annex 8	Complete	Will be followed up if no reply

	<p>getting fishermen to release ETP species. Need to get numbers per year, by fishery (especially purse seining) and by species (turtles, dolphins)</p>					
<p>E2.1.2</p>	<p>1. Seek information from researchers who have mapped seagrasses and corals to see if they have any new information and whether we can have access to base maps (the maps in published papers are very small and large scale and</p>		<p>We have previously met in person with researchers in the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) and have researched sources of habitat maps, including discussions with Global Fish Watch.</p>	<p>Copy of email dated 23/3/2026 sent to Dr. Kalyan De, NIO Goa is attached as Annex 10</p> <p>Copy of email exchange with Global Fish Watch. Attachment Annex 11</p> <p>We have prepared report that utilizes available information sourced from Global Fish Watch (Annex 15)</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>As a general observation we receive comments from scientists that purse seines do not have benthic impacts and doing studies is not warranted.</p> <p>Although Annex 15 concludes that there is no issue to address we will continue to seek information.</p>

	difficult to read).					
E2.1.2	2. Talk to the hydrographic office to obtain a bathymetric chart of the waters of Goa and Maharashtra	Need to find a simple solution to demonstrate that the areas open to purse seining do not overlap with critical habitats	We have explored a number of options for obtaining a bathymetric map of the coast.	We have explored this site as a basemap - https://maps.garmin.com/en-AU/marine?maps=another-brand&overlay=false&key=9z1fmr1ux877	Complete	This area will be the focus of the next month or so. We have sufficient information for our habitat report (Annex 15) but more detail is being sought
E2.1.2	3. Talk to the researchers who use GIS as a tool to seek if they can overlay seagrass/coral distribution maps on the bathymetry and add the fishery zoning boundaries	Need to find a simple solution to demonstrate that the areas open to purse seining do not overlap with critical habitats	We have sourced seagrass and coral distribution maps via Global Fish Watch and have prepared a submission that demonstrates that fishing and the distribution of vulnerable habitats do not overlap.	Copy of email dated 23/3/2026 sent to Dr. Kalyan De, NIO Goa is attached as Annex 10 Annex 15.	Complete	This area will be the focus of the next month or so
E2.2.1	1. Talk with fishermen and gear experts about the depth of the gear (from float		Fishermen were consulted and provided information on how far off the seabed they kept their nets	Annex 15	Complete	

	line to purse rings) and the depth of water they operate in.					
E2.2.2	2. Use information from 2.1.2 (bathymetry) to evaluate risk of seabed interaction.		We have prepared a report that reviews existing information coupled with information from fishermen on where they fish.	Annex 15	Complete	Based on the information about habitat distribution and fishing locations we believe that interactions between purse seine fishing and vulnerable habitats are not an issue
E2.2.2	3. Information from onboard research program to be fed into risk assessment.		The onboard study – in E1.1.2 is close to a signed agreement	See Annex 9	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.

Index for evidence documents

MT clause	Action in plan	Evidence document	Link
M1.5.3	1	Annex 6, Annex 14	
M1.5.3	2	Annex 1	
M2.1.3	1	Annex 7 and Annex 8	
M2.1.3	2	Annex 15 (part)	
M2.3.1	1	Annex 7 and Annex 8	
A2.2 – A4.1	1	Annex 1 and Annex 2	
A2.2 – A4.1	2	Annex 1 and Annex 2	
A2.2 – A4.1	3	Annex 1 and Annex 2	
A2.2 – A4.1	4	Awaiting supply of draft management advice from the CMFRI	
B1	1	Annex 3	
B1	2	Annex 4	
Da	1	Replaced by Action 2, see below	
Da	2	Annex 5	
Da	3	Awaiting information from Action 2	
E1.1.2	1	Annex 9 and Annex 13	
E1.1.2	2	Phone call	
E1.1.2	3	Annex 9	
E2.1.2	1	Annex 10, Annex 11 and Annex 15	
E2.1.2	2	Annex 15 (part)	
E2.1.2	3	Annex 15	
E2.2.1	1	Annex 15	
E2.2.2	3	Annex 15	



E2.2.2	3	Annex 9	

