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## A Seafood Buyer's Guide to FisheryProgress

**Updated October 2018**

# How to Source From FIPs and Meet Your Sustainability Objectives

There are different factors to consider when determining when to source from a fishery improvement project (FIP), and whether or not it meets a company's procurement policy. Here are some key questions for buyers to consider when making sourcing decisions related to FIPs.

# 1. What is the status of the FIP?

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## Active

**Active FIPs** are currently working to achieve their objectives.



## Inactive

**Inactive FIPs** ended before achieving their goals or failed to meet FisheryProgress requirements for progress reporting.



## Prospective

**Prospective FIPs** are new FIPs that do not yet have a workplan.

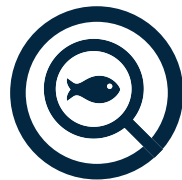


## Completed

**Completed FIPs** have achieved all of their objectives.



For inactive FIPs, buyers can contact the FIP lead or their suppliers who were engaged in the FIP to understand why the FIP is inactive

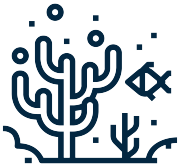


For prospective FIPs, buyers can contact the FIP lead or their suppliers who are engaged in the FIP and encourage them to become an active FIP.

## 2. What is the difference between a basic and comprehensive FIP?

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### Basic FIPs



Good entry point for fisheries to begin addressing **specific environmental challenges** against the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Fisheries Standard



Complete a **needs assessment** to understand the challenges in the fishery

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### Comprehensive FIPs



Aim to address **all of the fishery's environmental challenges** necessary to achieve a level of performance consistent with an unconditional pass of the MSC Fisheries Standard



Engage a party experienced with applying the MSC standard to complete an **MSC pre-assessment** to understand the challenges in the fishery



Must have **independent, in-person audits** of progress against the MSC standard every three years.

The primary difference between the two types of improvement projects are the level of scoping to inform development of the workplan, the objectives, and the verification required.



## Examples of Objectives Include:

### Basic FIP Objective(s)

- Reduce environmental impacts of fishing gear by 2020
- Achieve full compliance with fishery regulations by 2018

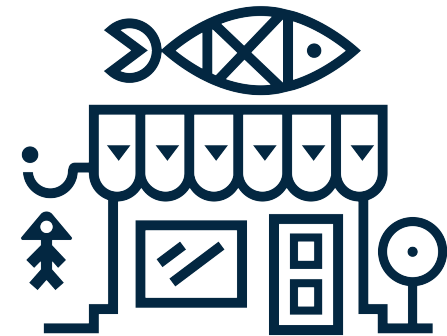
### Comprehensive FIP Objective(s)

- Achieve MSC certification by 2020
- Meet the MSC standard, with no conditions, by 2018

**BASIC**



**COMPREHENSIVE**



Seafood businesses can play an important role in encouraging basic FIPs to transition to comprehensive.

# Ecuador mahi-mahi - longline

- Edit FIP
- Overview**
- FIP Revisions
- Moderate
- Details
- Track
- Improvement Progress
- Actions Progress
- Red Indicator Progress
- Grant

## Overview

### FIP Description

Mahi-mahi is Ecuador's largest and most socio-economically important artisanal fishery. The majority of the catch is exported to the United States.

[MORE](#)

### FIP Objective(s)

The goal of the Ecuador mahi-mahi FIP is to move the fishery in a step-wise approach towards Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification by June 2019.

### FIP Type

Comprehensive

### FIP Stage

Stage 5: Improvements on the Water

### Start and Projected End Dates

January 2010 - December 2018

- [Follow this FIP](#)
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## FIP at a Glance

**FISHERY STATUS** FIP is addressing 28 of 28 indicators

### Current Status:



**Starting Evaluation:** January 01, 2010

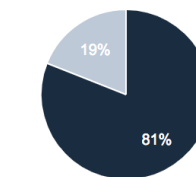


## FIP PROGRESS

### Progress Rating

**A**  
ADVANCED  
PROGRESS

### Actions Complete



● Complete ● Incomplete

### Next Update Due

MAR 2019

### Target End Date

DEC 2018

### 3. Is the FIP making progress?

How a fishery's scores change over time is an indicator of how the fishery is improving.

**FIP at a Glance**

**FISHERY STATUS** ⓘ FIP is addressing 28 of 28 indicators

**Current Status:**

11%	32%	57%
-----	-----	-----

**Starting Evaluation: January 01, 2010**

32%	32%	32%	4%
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**FIP PROGRESS**

**Progress Rating** ⓘ

**A**  
ADVANCED PROGRESS

**Actions Complete**

19%  
81%

● Complete ● Incomplete

**Next Update Due** ⓘ  
SEP 2018

**Target End Date**  
DEC 2018

**ADDITIONAL IMPACTS**

ROUNDTABLE



You can access more detailed information for each FIP on the **Improvement Progress** tab.

### 3. Is the FIP making progress? (Continued)

Reviewing the **progress the FIP is making against its workplan** is another indicator of the FIP's progress.

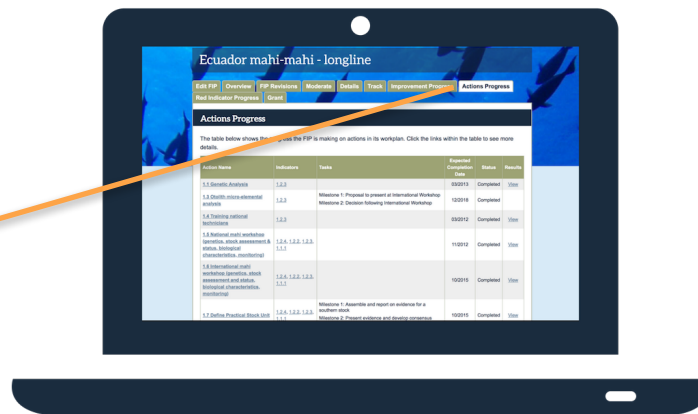
#### Actions Progress

The table below shows the progress the FIP is making on actions in its workplan. Click the links within the table to see more details.

Action Name	Indicators	Tasks	Expected Completion Date	Status	Results
<a href="#">1.1 Genetic Analysis</a>	<a href="#">1.2.3</a>		03/2013	Completed	<a href="#">View</a>
<a href="#">1.3 Otolith micro-elemental analysis</a>	<a href="#">1.2.3</a>	Milestone 1: Proposal to present at International Workshop Milestone 2: Decision following International Workshop	12/2018	Completed	
<a href="#">1.4 Training national technicians</a>	<a href="#">1.2.3</a>		03/2012	Completed	<a href="#">View</a>
<a href="#">1.5 National mahi workshop (genetics, stock assessment &amp; status, biological characteristics, monitoring)</a>	<a href="#">1.2.4</a> , <a href="#">1.2.2</a> , <a href="#">1.2.3</a> , <a href="#">1.1.1</a>		11/2012	Completed	<a href="#">View</a>
<a href="#">1.6 International mahi workshop (genetics, stock assessment and status, biological characteristics, monitoring)</a>	<a href="#">1.2.4</a> , <a href="#">1.2.2</a> , <a href="#">1.2.3</a> , <a href="#">1.1.1</a>		10/2015	Completed	<a href="#">View</a>

Narrative updates are available by clicking on the Action Name.

FIP actions are listed as Completed, On Track, or Behind Schedule.



On FisheryProgress, a FIP reports all progress against their workplan on the **Actions Progress** tab. This includes the results of FIP actions and tasks.

# 4. How quickly is the FIP making progress?

### FIP at a Glance

**FISHERY STATUS** ⓘ FIP is addressing 28 of 28 indicators

**Current Status:**

11% 32% 57%

**Starting Evaluation: January 01, 2010**

32% 32% 32% 4%

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### FIP PROGRESS

**Progress Rating** ⓘ

**A**  
ADVANCED PROGRESS

**Actions Complete**

19% 81%

● Complete ● Incomplete

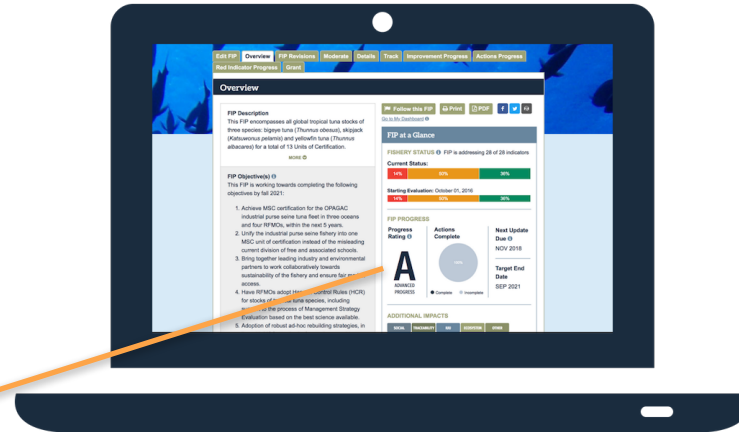
**Next Update Due** ⓘ  
SEP 2018

**Target End Date**  
DEC 2018

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**ADDITIONAL IMPACTS**

**ROUNDTABLE**



The FIP progress rating (A-E) reflects the **rate of progress** in the FIP against specific time benchmarks.

- A** – Advanced Progress
- B** – Good Progress
- C** – Some Recent Progress
- D** – Some Past Progress
- E** – Negligible Progress

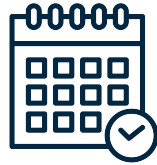
See the [Sustainable Fisheries Partnership \(SFP\) FIP Evaluation Tool](#) for more information about how the progress ratings are derived.

## 5. What can buyers do to help ensure that FIPs are making progress and achieving their objectives?

Examples of FIPs not making adequate progress include:



FIPs with a low progress rating



FIPs whose scores aren't improving over time



FIPs that aren't making progress against their workplan

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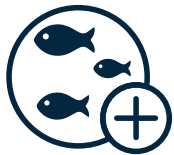
If a FIP is not making adequate progress, buyers can:



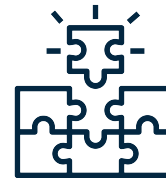
Communicate with their suppliers who are engaged in the FIP to let them know progress is important in order for them to keep sourcing



Encourage their suppliers who are not engaged in the FIP to become active FIP participants



Check the “Engagement Opportunities” section of the FIP profile on FisheryProgress

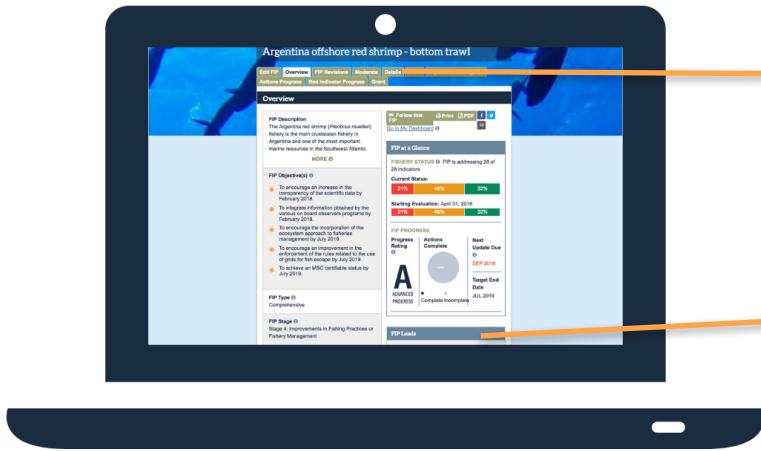


Ask the FIP lead if there are any actions the buyer can take to help advance the FIP

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[Supply chain roundtables](#) have been established by SFP for a number of FIPs. The supply chain roundtables are a forum for those that buy directly from a specific seafood sector to work together in a pre-competitive environment to achieve fisheries improvements.

# 6. How can I source from this FIP ?



### Details

**Participants** ⓘ

Ocean Allies of America (OAA)

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### FIP Leads

**Organization Name**  
Fish Buyers LLC.



Find Suppliers who source from FIPs on [www.FishChoice.com](http://www.FishChoice.com)

**Fishery Improvement Project (FIP)**



# FIP Stages



## Stage 0

### FIP Identification

A target fishery is identified and a supply chain analysis is conducted to understand who else is involved in the fishery and what market leverage exists.



## Stage 1

### Scoping & Development

The fishery's performance is evaluated against the MSC standard and stakeholders are recruited to participate in the project.



## Stage 2

### Workplan & Launch

Project participants and workplan are finalized and posted publicly. An associated budget is adopted by participants.



## Stage 3

### Implementation

The fishery takes action addressing its shortcomings and tracks its progress to increase transparency.



## Stage 4

### Improvements in Fishing Practices or Fishery Management

The fishery has improved fisheries policy or management, or modified fishing practices.



## Stage 5

### Change on the Water

The fishery has achieved verifiable improvements on the water, such as reduced fishing mortality, habitat impacts, and bycatch.

Non-public phase

Public,  
**no change** made

Public,  
**change** made



# A

## Advanced Progress

- A comprehensive FIP that has achieved a stage **4** or **5** result within the last **12 months**.
- 

# B

## Good Progress

- A FIP that has achieved a stage **4** or **5** result more than **12 months** ago, and stage **3** activity within the last **12 months**.
  - A basic FIP that has achieved stage **4** or **5** results within the last **12 months**.
- 

# C

## Some Recent Progress

- A FIP that has achieved a stage **4** or **5** result more than **12 months** ago, and stage **3** activity within the last **12 months**.
  - A basic FIP that has achieved stage **4** or **5** results within the last **12 months**.
- 

# D

## Some Past Progress

- A FIP for which the most recent publicly reported stage **4** or **5** result is more than **24** (but less than **30**) **months**.
- 

# E

## Negligible Progress

- A FIP older than **one year** that has not reported a stage **4** or **5** result in more than **30** (but less than **36**) **months**.
- A FIP younger than **one year** that has not reported a stage **3** activity.