

## Costa Rica large pelagics - longline and green stick

### Overview

#### FIP Description

The multi-species longline fishery targeting highly migratory large pelagic species as tuna, swordfish and mahi mahi, is of crucial environmental, social and economic importance in Costa Rica for coastal livelihoods and the processing and export industries. It is the most relevant seafood sector in the country for the international markets; specifically, the US, which imports 80% of the landed volume. Additionally, domestic consumption of these three species has increased recently. Costa Rican commercial fleet mainly uses surface longline as fishing gear and complementary a fiberglass pole is carrying on for green stick fishing. Approximately, 350 vessels are registered (please, visit full list is in Memorandum of Understanding section), ranging from 12 m to 25 m in length, denominated medium and advance. The main Pacific fishing communities for these species are Cuajiniquil, Puntarenas, Quepos and Golfito. This is a national FIP that encompasses the total medium and advance-type longline vessels fishing in the Pacific Ocean.

The Costa Rica large pelagics fishery with longline and greenstick targets the Eastern Pacific Ocean stocks of the yellowfin tuna (YFT; *Thunnus albacares*), Swordfish (SWO; *Xiphias gladius*) and Mahi mahi (DOL; *Coryphaena hippurus*). The fishery occurs in and outside the Costa Rica Exclusive Economic Zone and in the international waters under the management of the Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).

Several species of tunas, billfishes and sharks, among others, are primary and secondary species, and olive ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) is the most abundance endangered, threatened and protected species (ETP) of this fishery.

INCOPECA is the institution that manages, regulates and promotes the development of the fishing and aquaculture sector with an ecosystem approach, under the principles of sustainability, social responsibility and competitiveness. The National Coast Guard System (SNG) is responsible for monitoring and surveillance at sea.

The main regulation instrument is the Fisheries and Aquaculture Law No. 8436 of 2005 and its Norm. INCOPECA's highest institutional authority is the Board of Directors (Law 7384, the law creating the Costa Rican Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture) and its purpose is to direct and establish institutional policies for compliance with the laws governing the country's fisheries and aquaculture. Executive Decree No. 38681 MAG-MINAE for the management of tuna and tuna-like species in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Costa Rican Pacific Ocean establishes zoning and regulation for these species. The National Fisheries and Aquaculture

Development Plan guides this sector.

Costa Rica is a member of the Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA), the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (CIAT) and the Inter-American Convention on the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC), which establishes binding resolutions and conservation measures in the country.

To improve the sustainability performance of this fishery, an alliance between Costa Rican Fishery and Aquaculture Institute (INCOPESCA), Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), producers, exporters, a group of US supply chain actors, and United Nation Development Program (UNDP) along with fisheries in Costa Rica have come together to start a Fishery Improvement Project. FIP will be led in country and receive support from market chain actors.

Lead FIP participants from Costa Rica are organized under a FIP working group included in the National Sustainable Fishery Platform for Large Pelagic, a multi-stakeholder dialogue forum facilitated by UNDP and participated by all national stakeholders linked to the large pelagic fisheries in country. The National FIP working group that will lead implementation of the project is composed by:

- Costa Rican Fishery and Aquaculture Institute (INCOPESCA)
- Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG)
- National Longline Fishing Sector: Cámara Nacional de la Industria Palangrera (CNIP); Cámara de pescadores artesanales de Puntarenas (CAPAP); Cámara de pescadores de Quepos; Cámara de pescadores de Guanacaste; Cámara de pescadores de Golfito; CAMAPUN; UNIPESCA.
- Exporters Association- CANEPP Cámara Nacional de Exportadores de Productos Pesqueros y Acuícolas (CANEPP)
- MARTEC
- FRUMAR
- UNDP

Participants from the Supply Chain have organized under a Market Support Group. As such, US participants in the FIP, provide assistance to the project through financial support arising from a percentage of the sales. Market Support Group is formed by:

- Chefs Trading
- Trinity Seafood
- Seattle Fish Company
- Frequentz

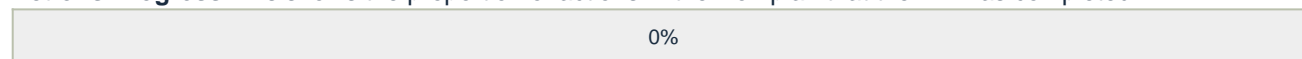
The National Sustainable Fishery Platform for Large Pelagic is an initiative framed within the UNDP's International Green Commodities Programme and the Global Sustainable Supply Chains for Marine Commodities, a joint programme implemented by UNDP and the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP), who has provided support and technical advice during FIP development.

## How is this FIP Doing?

### Current Status:



**Actions Progress** This shows the proportion of actions in the workplan that the FIP has completed.



**Actions Overview** This shows the proportion of actions that are behind schedule, on track, completed, or not yet started.

Behind	On Track	Complete	Future
0%	100%	0%	0%

**Red Indicator Progress** This shows the proportion of actions specifically addressing red indicators that are behind schedule, on track, completed, or not yet started. This helps users understand the progress the FIP is making on the biggest challenges in the fishery.

Behind	On Track	Complete	Future
0%	100%	0%	0%

### FIP Objective(s)

The main objective of the FIP is making the sustainable the fishery targeting the Yellowfin tuna, Mahi mahi and Swordfish Eastern Pacific Ocean stocks in Costa Rica, according to Marine Stewardship Council Fisheries Standard and aligned with Sustainable Development Goals by December 2027.

By December 2027, this FIP aims to:

- Define biological unit for mahi in the EPO and conducted the stock assessment.
- Establish harvest control rules and strategy for mahi and swordfish in the EPO.
- Improve data collection, monitoring and analysis of target, secondary and ETP species in the fishery.
- Recognize traditional and local ecosystem knowledge and women's roles in the research, management and decision making of the fishery.
- Mitigate environmental impact of longline and green stick fleet on the fishery.
- Achieve an effective management by a participatory plan for the fishery agreed with all stakeholders.
- Position the Costa Rican responsible fishing product from the FIP on the international and national market.

### FIP Type

Comprehensive

## FIP Stage

Stage 4: Improvements in Fishing Practices or Fishery Management

### Start and Projected End Dates

April, 2019 -

December, 2027

### Species

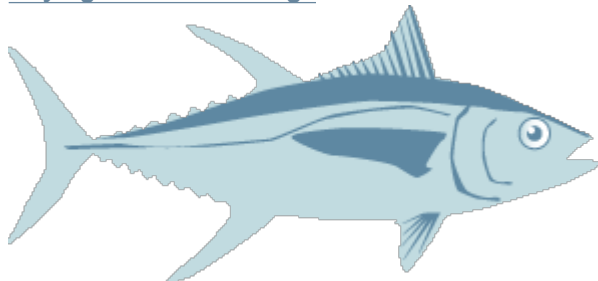
#### Common Name

Yellowfin Tuna

#### Scientific Name

Thunnus albacares

[Buying Guide Link Image](#)



[Yellowfin Tuna](#)

[Buying Guide](#)

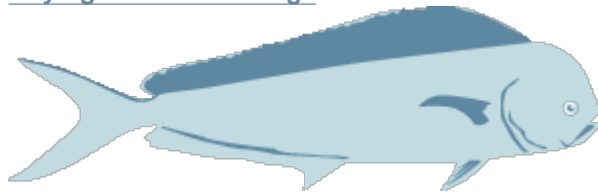
#### Common Name

Mahi-mahi

#### Scientific Name

Coryphaena hippurus

[Buying Guide Link Image](#)



[Mahi-mahi](#)

[Buying Guide](#)

#### Common Name

Swordfish

#### Scientific Name

Xiphias gladius

[Buying Guide Link Image](#)



[Swordfish](#)

[Buying Guide](#)

**Gear Type**

[Longline](#)

[Pole](#)

**Location**

**FAO Major Fishing Area**

[Area 77 \(Pacific, Eastern Central\)](#)

[Area 87 \(Pacific, Southeast\)](#)

**Exclusive Economic Zones**

**Country**

Costa Rica

**Geographic Scope**

Eastern Pacific Ocean

**Country Flag of Vessel**

Costa Rica

**Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO)**

IATTC

**Estimated Total FIP Landings**

6000 metric tons

**FIP Leads**

**Organization Name**

Federación Nacional de Cámaras de la Industria Palangrera, Artesanal y Afines

**Organization Type**

Industry

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[FEDENAP](#)

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