

Panama large pelagics - longline (Marpesca)

Overview

FIP Description

The Panama Republic is a relatively small country in surface (75,000 Km²), but has a substantial biological potential as seafood producing country thanks to its geographic location. Panama coasts add up to 2,988 kilometers, 1,700 in the Pacific and 1,288 in the Caribbean. The continental shelf has an extension of 250,900 Km² and the Exclusive Economic Zone reaches 319,188 Km².

The fishing activity in Panama occurs mostly in the Pacific Ocean with 95% of the total. The Gulf of Panama upwelling during the dry season is the basis for the relevant fishing activities in the Panamanian waters. The industrial fishing operates in the Pacific Ocean and focus on shrimp, small pelagics for reduction, tuna, dolphin fish and finfish species, being the export markets the main objective. Except for tuna and dolphin fish, the rest of the target species are in critical status.

At the end of last century, the tuna and dolphin fish longline fishery had a strong and important evolution in terms of income and generation of jobs. The export of fresh tuna and dolphin fish initially, and later the frozen presentations were the factors boosting the Panama exports. The growing demand and the seasonal abundance of these transnational resources, generated the fishing effort increment with the inclusion of all kind of vessels, including shrimp trawlers transformed and adapted to the target species and market.

According to the IATTC, the tuna and dolphin fish stocks in the Eastern Pacific Ocean are not overexploited but close to their maximum yield. However, the generalized lack of biological information of the target species and the fishery environmental impacts difficult the design and implementation of harvest strategies and harvest control rules which would allow to maintain the target species populations at healthy levels, mitigate the environmental impacts and satisfy the increasing social and environmental responsibility demands at the markets for the Panamanian production.

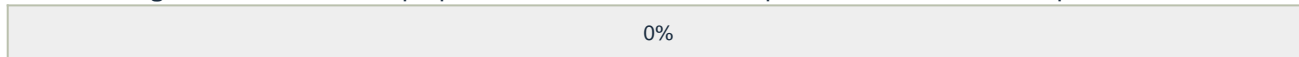
The fishery being assessed is the Marpesca Panama longline fishery. The fishery operates in the Eastern Pacific Ocean high seas and Panama EEZ and targets yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) and mahi-mahi (*Coryphaena hippurus*). The fishery is regionally managed by the Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).

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
38%	63%	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
33%	67%	0%	0%

FIP Progress Rating



FIP Objective(s)

Sustainable Fish Stocks: To ensure the catches of yellowfin tuna and mahi-mahi across the Eastern Pacific Ocean and Panamanian EEZ do not exceed sustainable levels by 2027.

Minimizing Environmental Impacts: To support the implementation of the ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management by 2027.

Effective Management: To strengthen governance systems in IATTC, and the fishery by 2027.

Be in place to enter MSC full assessment in 2027.

FIP Type

Comprehensive

FIP Stage

Stage 4: Improvements in Fishing Practices or Fishery Management

Start and Projected End Dates

January, 2020 -

January, 2027

Species

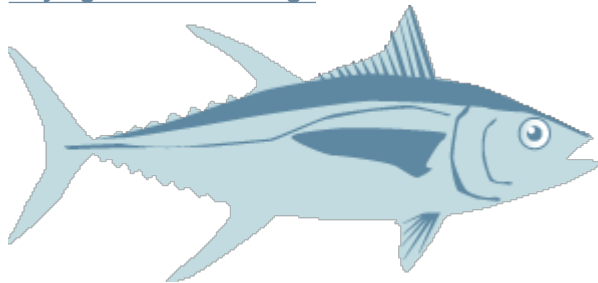
Common Name

Yellowfin Tuna

Scientific Name

Thunnus albacares

[Buying Guide](#) [Link Image](#)



[Yellowfin Tuna](#)

[Buying Guide](#)

Common Name

Mahi-mahi

Scientific Name

Coryphaena hippurus

Gear Type

[Longline](#)

Location

FAO Major Fishing Area

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

Exclusive Economic Zones

Country

Panama

Geographic Scope

Gulf of Chiriqui & Gulf of Panama

Country Flag of Vessel

Panama

Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO)

IATTC

High Seas Name

Pacific Ocean

Estimated Total FIP Landings

150 metric tons

FIP Leads**Organization Name**

Marpesca Fishing

Organization Type

Industry

Primary Contact

Saky Lymberopulos

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Website Name

[Marpesca Seafood](#)

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