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. For 2016 Panama had registered 112 industrial vessels registered for tuna and 220 for Dolphin fish.

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.
How is this FIP Doing?

Current Status:

% of Indicators Tracked Basic FIPs may focus their workplans on a subset of the indicators. This shows the proportion of total indicators the FIP is working on.

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.

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.

FIP Objective(s)
The goal of the Panama Large Pelagics Longline & Green stick FIP is to strengthen the harvest strategy, related harvest control rules and the management system to reach, for the fall of 2024, a minimum score of 60-79 for all the principle 2 and 3 performance indicators for the MSC Standard.

Project outcomes for 2024 are:
• To establish a fishery monitoring and data collection program to document and evaluate the fishery impacts to biodiversity.
• To develop a management strategy to mitigate the fishery impacts on secondary and PET species
• To promote, at the RFMO level, the development and publication of a robust and comprehensive stock assessment for dolphin fish.
• To promote, at the RFMO level, the development and implementation of a harvest strategy and control rules for dolphin fish in the area of jurisdiction of the IATTC.
• To promote updates to the national fishery regulatory to meet the sustainability standards internationally accepted.

**FIP Type**
Basic

**FIP Stage**
Stage 2: FIP Launch

**Start and Projected End Dates**
January, 2020 -
December, 2024

**Species**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Buying Guide Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yellowfin Tuna</td>
<td>Thunnus albacares</td>
<td>Buying Guide</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

[Image of Yellowfin Tuna]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Common Name</strong></th>
<th>Mahi-mahi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scientific Name</strong></td>
<td>Coryphaena hippurus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Gear Type**
- Longline
- Pole

**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

**Estimated Total FIP Landings**
- 150 metric tons

**FIP Leads**
- **Organization Name**: MARPESCA SA
- **Organization Type**: Industry
- **Primary Contact**: Gustavo Zuñiga