

## COMPLETED Japan Hokkaido Japanese sardine - purse seine

### Overview

#### FIP Description

The distribution of Japanese sardine ranges across the surrounding waters of Japan, but the stock is divided into Pacific stock and the Tsushima warm-current stock for stock assessment. These stocks were defined based on the main foraging and migration areas for the target fish.

The Pacific stock ranges along the Pacific Ocean side of Japan and its management is delineated into eight blocks for purse seiners. The client fishery is a member of "Kitamaki" which manages the purse seine operation in the north Pacific Ocean sector. The main fisheries are large and medium-sized purse seines and set nets targeting juvenile and adult Japanese sardines. This fishery is managed by the TAC system with permission from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries.

In the 1980s, when resources were abundant, large-scale fishing grounds were formed in the Joban-Sanriku along the Pacific coast area as well as the East Hokkaido area in summer and autumn, and more than 2,000,000 tons of fish were caught. However, the fishing ground in the east of Hokkaido ceased to exist after 1994. As a result of multiple effects such as high fishing pressure, the synchrony of the stock with regime shifts, and other environmental change, the stock declined further in the 2000s, and the fishing grounds in the northern Sanriku area almost disappeared. In recent years, as resources have increased and the range of forage migration has expanded, fishing grounds have formed in the east of Hokkaido since 2012, and the catch in this area has increased from 6,000 tons in 2012 to 218,000 tons in 2019.

Along with mackerel, Japanese sardine is the most commonly consumed popular fish in Japan. In addition to fresh fish, it is processed into dried, salted, canned, and fish oil for human consumption, and is also used as feed for farmed fish and livestock. Overall, there is much demand for Japanese Sardine in Japan. In recent years, the number of seafood products with the ASC certification increases and its demand is also high both at national and international levels. In order to respond to this situation, feed material resources (i.e. Japanese Sardine) for aquaculture granted ASC certification are essential to obtain MSC certification. At the same time, ensuring the sustainable production of domestic feed materials is expected to improve the competitiveness of the entire aquaculture supply chain in Japan. Therefore, we aim to improve the competitiveness of the entire Japanese aquaculture supply chain by acquiring MSC certification for the large and medium-sized purse seine fleet that catches Japanese sardine (Pacific group) procured by Ikeshita Sangyo Co.

## 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.

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

### FIP Objective(s)

FIP Objective(s): This fishery is managed by total allowable catch (TAC) and harvest control rules (HCRs) with control thresholds based on MSY, which are documented in official management documents. Therefore, long-term targets for achieving the outcomes outlined in MSC Principle 1 are clearly stated. On the other hand, long-term targets to achieve the outcomes outlined in MSC Principle 2 are largely unknown: for primary (main) species, clear management targets such as TACs have been established; secondary species have not been identified, and for ETP species and habitats, management of impacts exists, but management targets and fishery-specific management plans have not unknown. So, to achieve a level of performance consistent with a pass of the MSC Standard, this Basic FIP aims to improve scores in Principle 2 mainly by collecting data by 2023 June. The following are specified objects in this basic FIP.

1. To identify the primary and secondary species and understand how to manage them.
2. To identify the ETP species and verify that management methods are appropriate.
3. To check that the fishery isn't negatively affecting the habitat.
4. To clarify the background of the above three issues, identify issues in the current fishery, and incorporate solutions to the issues into management measures.

**FIP Type**

Basic

**FIP Stage**

Stage 3: FIP Implementation

**Start and Projected End Dates**

July, 2022 -  
July, 2023

**Species****Common Name**

Japanese Sardine

**Scientific Name**

Sardinops melanostictus

**Gear Type**

[Purse Seine](#)

**Location****FAO Major Fishing Area**

[Area 61 \(Pacific, Northwest\)](#)

**Exclusive Economic Zones****Country**

Japan

**Geographic Scope**

Off the east coast of Hokkaido

**Country Flag of Vessel**

Japan

**Estimated Total FIP Landings**

5000 metric tons

**FIP Leads****Organization Name**

UMITO Partners Inc.

**Organization Type**

Consultant

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