

Mauritania octopus - bottom trawl, pot/trap and jig

Overview

FIP Description

The Société Mauritanienne de Commercialisation des Poissons (SMCP), the Association Mauritanienne de Producteurs et Exportateurs de Poulpe (AMPEP) and The Global Octopus Supply chain roundtable (GO SR) are developing a Fishery Improvement Project for the octopus fishery operating within Mauritanian waters.

Octopus is a widely distributed species, mainly exploited at depths of up to 150 meters. It is one of the most important harvested cephalopods around the world. *Octopus vulgaris* is the most abundant and ubiquitous cephalopod species on the Saharan Bank (northwest Africa, from 21°N to 26°N).

In Mauritania waters there is an important industrial fishery targeting this species, but also several small-scale fisheries that have an enormous social and economic impact.

The recruitment of *Octopus vulgaris* in Mauritanian, Moroccan, and Galician (northwest Spain) waters is highly linked to Upwelling conditions.

The Mauritanian octopus fishery operates through three distinguished types of segments:

- Artisanal segment, using the pirogues (small open vessels) and decked vessels of total length less than 15 meters, fishing mainly with pots, traps and jigs
- inshore segment fishing with boats of total length ranging from 15 to 26 meters, using traps and
- deep-sea segment fishing with vessels that use bottom trawls and which differ mainly in the way they preserve their products (freezing or ice).

How is this FIP Doing?

Current Status:

36%

43%

21%

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

0%

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 overall objective of the FIP is to correct the shortcomings identified in the MSC pre-assessment of the fishery, carried out in 2023. To this end, by June 2029, the FIP aims to:

- Collect data and develop scientific tools and approaches to improve the quality and accuracy of stock assessments
- Evaluate bycatch, discards, and habitat interactions and propose measures to limit fishing gear impacts on the environment
- Ensure that the fishery is managed consistent with ecosystem requirements and respective MSC standards
- Support the government in adapting and implementing the Octopus Management Plan
- Enhance the decision-making process and improve fishery surveillance and governance systems.

FIP Type

Comprehensive

FIP Stage

Stage 3: FIP Implementation

Start and Projected End Dates

July, 2024 -

June, 2029

Species

Common Name

Common Octopus

Scientific Name

Octopus vulgaris

Gear Type

[Bottom Trawl](#)

[Jig](#)

[Pot/Trap](#)

Location

FAO Major Fishing Area

[Area 34 \(Atlantic, Eastern Central\)](#)

Exclusive Economic Zones**Country**

Mauritania

Geographic Scope

West Africa

Country Flag of Vessel

Mauritania

Estimated Total FIP Landings

35000 metric tons

FIP Leads

Organization Name

AMPEP

Organization Type

Industry

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