

[FISHERYPROGRESS.ORG](https://fisheryprogress.org)

**A GUIDE FOR
SEAFOOD BUYERS
TO ENCOURAGE
FIP IMPACT**

FEBRUARY 2022 ↗

The Role of Seafood Buyers in Improving FIPs

CEA's 2020 [Global Landscape Review of Fishery Improvement Projects](#) found that access to key markets is one of the most important benefits to FIPs, pointing to the significant influence that seafood buyers have to encourage FIPs to make progress.

Seafood buyers can leverage their buying power to drive increased progress in FIPs. This includes:



COMMITTING PUBLICLY

to source from FIPs making demonstrable environmental and social progress

p 2



COMMUNICATING FIP EXPECTATIONS

to suppliers

p 6



ENGAGING DIRECTLY

with FIPs to encourage and applaud progress

p 10

This guide provides practical tips and resources for buyers looking to encourage the FIPs they are sourcing from to make more progress.

Commit Publicly to Source from FIPs Making Demonstrable Environmental and Social Progress

Businesses should commit publicly to source from FIPs that report publicly on an independent platform like FisheryProgress and demonstrate progress toward environmental and social responsibility.

Public reporting alone is not enough,

FIPs must also make progress over time.

You can integrate this into your corporate sustainability commitment, supplier expectation letter, or other public statement.



Below is sample text you can modify for your own company:

[COMPANY] sources from fishery improvement projects (FIPs) that are actively reporting on FisheryProgress, and demonstrating progress toward environmental and social responsibility.

We define progress as...

Below are examples of how industry leaders have integrated FIP sourcing into their sustainability commitments:

**Albertsons
Companies**

View the policy [here](#).

A FIP must:

- Be a “Stage 3 - FIP Implementation” or higher;
- Maintain a progress rating score of “C - some recent progress” or better; and
- Publicly report on progress every 6-12 months using:
 - FisheryProgress.org (preferred);
 - Other easily accessible industry website

H-E-B also sources from credible Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs) that meet the criteria outlined by the Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions, and that publicly track time-bound progress towards their sustainability goals on FisheryProgress.org. Suppliers must verify the origin of their FIP products and be in the “Implementation” stage or higher.

H-E-B

View the policy [here](#).

Demonstrating *environmental* progress could mean sourcing from FIPs that are:

Transitioning from basic to comprehensive

BASIC
↓
COMPREHENSIVE

Maintaining an A or B progress rating

A
ADVANCED
PROGRESS

or

B
GOOD PROGRESS

Reporting evidence of environmental improvements (e.g., changes in fishing policy, practice or change on the water, or changes in environmental indicators scores)



More information on how to use FisheryProgress to assess FIP progress is available [here](#).

Demonstrating *social* progress could mean sourcing from FIPs that are:

- In timely compliance with core social policy requirements
- Conducting a risk assessment and developing a social workplan to address areas of high or moderate risk
- Reporting improvements to social indicator scores

FISHERYPROGRESS.ORG

HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY POLICY

Version 1

Released May 12, 2021

www.fisheryprogress.org
contact@fisheryprogress.org

Communicate Expectations to Suppliers

Businesses should communicate their expectations to suppliers of FIP product, including:

- 1 Addressing human rights and social responsibility is as much of a priority as making environmental improvements
- 2 Encouraging suppliers to become active FIP participants
- 3 FIPs regularly and accurately report on FisheryProgress and demonstrate progress over time
- 4 FIPs that go inactive take steps immediately to reactivate, and the company will stop sourcing if the FIP remains inactive



Example of how industry leader Albertsons has integrated FIP sourcing into their sustainability commitment:

Albertsons Companies Vendors must engage in the following ways:

- **Sign** Albertsons Companies Supplier Expectations letter, which acknowledges receipt of Responsible Seafood Policy and Vendor Code of Conduct.
- **Ensure** the FIP meets the criteria above and notify Albertsons Companies if the FIP goes a year without progress.
- **Engage** in the FIP through one of the below options:
 - *Preferred:* Join the FIP and in doing so become an official “FIP participant”
 - Sign MOU and directly implement FIP workplan activities and/or financially support the FIP through direct or “in-kind” contributions
 - *Alternative:* If becoming an official FIP participant is not possible, join and maintain membership in an appropriate Supply Chain Roundtable for the FIP species



The following pages include template language you can use to communicate these expectations.



Template language for...

Communicating that addressing human rights and social responsibility is as much of a priority as making environmental improvements:

“

Along with striving for environmental sustainability, **[COMPANY]** expects our seafood suppliers to uphold internationally recognized human and labor rights principles **[as defined by the company]**. This includes each supply chain partner taking steps to identify risks and prevent abuses of human and labor rights, and to remediate abuses when they do arise.

”

Encouraging suppliers to become active FIP participants:

“

Helping improving fisheries in credible fishery improvement projects to make progress is critical to ensuring a long-term supply of sustainable seafood. We encourage suppliers to become participants in FIPs they source from, and contribute financial or in-kind support to the project and/or work on activities in the workplan.

”



Template language for...

Communicating that FIPs should regularly and accurately report on FisheryProgress and demonstrate progress over time:

“ [COMPANY] is committed to sourcing from FIPs that are listed as active on FisheryProgress and meeting reporting requirements as outlined in the site’s review guidelines. [COMPANY] expects FIPs to demonstrate improvement over time by **[maintaining an A or B progress rating, reporting improved indicator scores, etc.]**. ”

Communicating that FIPs that go inactive take steps immediately to reactivate, and the company will stop sourcing if the FIP remains inactive:

“ [COMPANY] is committed to sourcing from FIPs that are listed as active on FisheryProgress. If a FIP becomes inactive, it should take immediate steps to reactive the FIP profile and communicate support it needs to its FIP participants. ”

Engage with FIPs to Encourage Progress

Businesses should actively monitor and engage with FIPs to encourage their progress. This includes:



Financially supporting
FIP activities



Supporting
improving FIPs



Using Follow This FIP
to engage with FIP

Contribute financially to the FIPs you source from to support improvement activities and assessments.



Fund performance assessments,
such as three-year environmental
audits or annual social risk
assessments.



Fund implementation of
the action plan to address
challenges identified in the
assessments.

ENGAGE
DIRECTLY

FISHERYPROGRESS.ORG

Businesses should support FIPs that are reporting transparently on their human rights risks and efforts to address them.

Many FIPs have areas of human rights risks or even violations – but they are best-positioned to address them and improve outcomes for workers when buyers stay engaged as they make improvements.



Follow This FIP

FisheryProgress’ Follow This FIP tool makes it easy for buyers to track progress of the FIPs they source from or are considering sourcing from. Information and updates on the FIPs a user follows are available through the user’s personal FIP dashboard and automated monthly email updates.

Follow a FIP by clicking the “Follow this FIP” button on the FIP’s Overview Tab.



Date	Progress Rating	Listing Status	FIP Type
Last Month	B	Active	Comprehensive
This Month	B	Active	Comprehensive
Change	<div>N/A</div>	<div>N/A</div>	<div>N/A</div>
In compliance with Environmental reporting requirements?*		In compliance with Social reporting requirements?*	
Yes		Yes	
Congratulate FIP Progress		Encourage Reporting Compliance	
		Address Stalled Progress Rating	

Receive a monthly digest in your inbox summarizing progress and changes in all the FIPs you follow.

Each month, review the Follow This FIP digest and note any improvements or regressions in the FIP’s overarching progress. Reach out to the FIP lead to either congratulate the FIP on improvements or identify any role your business could play in addressing company needs, such as seeing the FIP shift from basic to comprehensive.

The Follow This FIP update email makes this easy by providing links to reach out directly to the FIP leads and pre-populated email templates.

FIP Annual Updates

When FIPs report an annual update, visit the FIP profile to review updated indicator scores, reported results, and social responsibility data. This deeper look will help you better understand whether the FIP is progressing in a way that meets your company's needs and commitment or if you need to engage with the FIP lead to identify opportunities to support the FIP make improvements faster.

Social Responsibility Early Adopters

FIPs that have signed up as early adopters have committed to fulfilling some or all of the relevant requirements of the [FisheryProgress Human Rights and Social Responsibility Policy](#) in advance of the deadlines detailed in the policy. Early adopters are at different stages of implementation of the policy, depending on when they signed up and whether or not their FIP already included a social focus.

Requirements that have been completed by a FIP are indicated by an 'X' in the corresponding column.

FIP Name	Code of Conduct	Self-Evaluation of Risk Criteria	Vessel or Fisher Information	Fisher Awareness of Rights	Grievance Mechanism	Risk Assessment	Social Workplan
Indian Ocean tuna and large pelagics - longline (Afrifex)	X	X	X	X	X		
Western and Central Pacific Ocean skipjack & yellowfin tuna - purse seine (CFC)	X	X		X	X		
Indonesia North Sumatra squid -handline	X	X	X				
Mexico El-Rosario finfish - trap/handline	X	X	X				
Mexico Sinaloa artisanal blue shrimp - drift/cast nets	X	X	X				
Indonesia Central Java white prawn - trammel net and trap	X	X	X				

3 - Effective management

Indicator	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Legal/customary framework (3.1.1)						
Consultation roles & responsibilities (3.1.2)						
Governance/policy long-term objectives (3.1.3)						
Fishery-specific objectives (3.2.1)						
Decision-making processes (3.2.2)						
Compliance & enforcement (3.2.3)						
Monitoring & management performance evaluation (3.2.4)						

Multi-Species/Multi-Gear/Multi-Jurisdiction FIPs Indicator Scores

NP Albacore / WCPFC

Last Update: November 11, 2021



NP Albacore / IATTC

Last Update: November 11, 2021



NP Albacore / Taiwan

Last Update: November 11, 2021



SP Albacore / WCPFC

Last Update: November 11, 2021



More information on how to use FisheryProgress for these insights is available [here](#).



**FisheryProgress makes tracking progress more
efficient, consistent, and reliable for businesses
that support fishery improvement projects.**

Questions? Please email us at contact@fisheryprogress.org

FisheryProgress.org is overseen by an Advisory Committee and managed day to day by FishChoice. The Technical Oversight Committee helps to guide the evaluation process and related functionality. The Social Advisory Committee is providing input on the development of FisheryProgress' permanent policy on social responsibility and supporting its implementation. The Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions developed the guidelines that are the foundation for the website.