

Evaluating FIP Environmental Progress

A Guide to Understanding and Using FIP Progress Ratings

One of the key values of FisheryProgress is the ability to track a FIP's progress towards its goals, allowing buyers to determine whether it is a good fit for their sourcing needs and sustainability goals. There are a lot of ways that users can use FIP information on FisheryProgress to gauge progress over time, but one of the most accessible and easily trackable indicators of environmental progress is the FIP progress ratings.

Read on for more information about what FIP progress ratings are, how to interpret them, and what it means for a FIP's improvement progress over time.

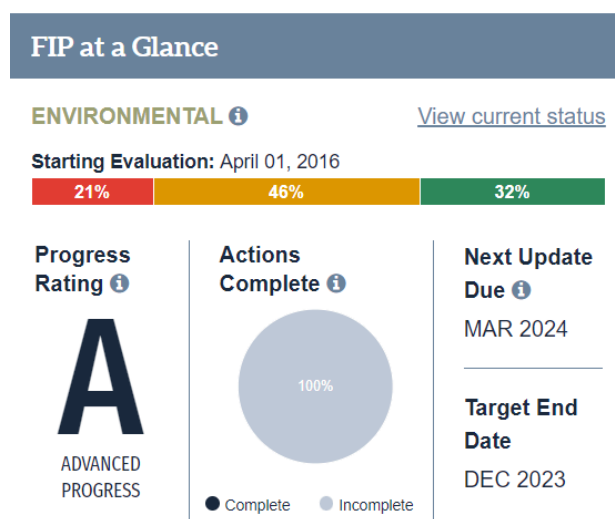
What are FIP progress ratings?

FIP progress ratings are a high-level metric of a FIP's environmental improvement progress over time. Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) developed the evaluation [methodology](#) and the [FIP progress ratings](#), and assigns them based on evidence active FIPs submit to FisheryProgress as part of their six-month and annual reports.

A FIP's progress rating is shown on the Overview Tab in the "FIP at a Glance" section on FisheryProgress. Progress ratings are only assigned to environmental progress; they do not evaluate social progress. You can access more detailed information on the FIP's environmental progress on the Improvement Progress tab within a FIP profile.

How do you use the progress ratings to evaluate FIP progress?

How a fishery's scores change over time is an indicator of how the FIP is progressing towards achieving its objectives and its impact on fisheries improvements on the water. The FIP progress rating reflects the rate of environmental progress against specific time benchmarks, determined by SFP's [methodology](#). SFP then assigns a rating from A ("Advanced Progress") to E ("Negligible Progress").



A	Advanced Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none">A comprehensive FIP that has achieved a stage 4 or 5 result within the last 12 months.
B	Good Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none">A FIP that has achieved a stage 4 or 5 result more than 12 months ago, and stage 3 activity within the last 12 months.A basic FIP that has achieved stage 4 or 5 results within the last 12 months.
C	Some Recent Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none">A FIP that has achieved a stage 4 or 5 result more than 12 months ago, and stage 3 activity within the last 12 months.A basic FIP that has achieved stage 4 or 5 results within the last 12 months.
D	Some Past Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none">A FIP for which the most recent publicly reported stage 4 or 5 result is more than 24 (but less than 30) months.
E	Negligible Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none">A FIP older than one year that has not reported a stage 4 or 5 result in more than 30 (but less than 36) months.A FIP younger than one year that has not reported a stage 3 activity.

SFP determines a FIP's progress rating within one month of when the FIP completes its six-month or annual report. SFP releases updated ratings approximately within the second week of each month, following the month in which a report was completed. Any updated ratings are reflected on the respective FIPs' profiles on the FisheryProgress website.

FIP progress ratings are only one way that users can gauge FIP improvement progress. Those interested in a FIP's progress should also:

- Review environmental or social indicators.
- Review progress the FIP is making against activities in its environmental workplan.
- Review progress meeting the site's social requirements and against its social workplan, if it has one.

What does it mean if a FIP has a good or improving progress rating?

If a FIP has a good environmental progress rating (often an A or B, dependent on each company's sourcing goals) or it is continuously improving, buyers should recognize the improvement. Potential actions include:

- Congratulate the FIP lead on the progress rating.
- Ask the FIP lead how you can help continue progress to maintain the good progress rating.

What do you do if a FIP has a low progress rating or one that isn't improving over time?

Some FIPs may have a lower FIP progress rating due to factors outside of their control - for example, a change in government leaders. Buyers should consider the reasons behind the progress rating when making any decisions about continuing to source or not.

A first step is to connect with the FIP lead to better understand the FIP's challenges. Other potential actions include:



Communicate with their suppliers who are engaged in the FIP to let them know progress is important in order for them to keep sourcing



Encourage their suppliers who are not engaged in the FIP to become active FIP participants



Check the "Engagement Opportunities" section of the FIP profile on FisheryProgress



Ask the FIP lead if there are any actions the buyer can take to help advance the FIP

Have questions?

You can direct questions about the progress ratings or how they are determined by contacting SFP at fipevaluation@sustainablefish.org.