

Six Month Update for the Atlantic Ocean purse seine tuna Fishery Improvement Project (GSK Marine S.A.)

Prepared by

by Key Traceability Ltd.

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Action updates for the Atlantic Ocean purse seine fishery.

This report is a summary of the steps made by the Atlantic Ocean purse seine fishery improvement project (FIP) from November 2021 to date. This document will provide a summary of activities since the initiation of the FIP, and the individual actions listed in the workplan.

The FIP was launched in November 2021 following an MSC pre-assessment and workplan conducted by Key Traceability Ltd. The fishery is managed by GSK Marine S.A., which operates out of Senegal. The singular vessel within the GSK Marine Atlantic Ocean purse seine tuna FIP is flagged to Guinea and targets Atlantic Ocean bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*) and yellowfin (*Thunnus albacares*), and east Atlantic skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) tuna stocks.

The steering group is comprised of the GSK Marine S.A. FIP managers, and the Key Traceability FIP coordinators. There is currently no supporting NGO representative in the Steering group but efforts are in place to find one. Steering calls have been occurring monthly but with more progression set to take place soon, the calls will now repeat fortnightly.

One of the most important progress updates for this FIP is the evidence received after the first site visit took place in February 2022. During the visit, the FIP coordinator was able to verify the implementation of the different policies and management plans that were previously absent across the vessel. After sitting down in a meeting with GSK Marine S.A., we were able to discuss the next steps for the FIP, including the upcoming actions and initiatives that will need to be conducted by the FIP to maintain progression across the project.

The FIP has also provided evidence of the self-evaluation form that is imperative for the FIP to comply with the new social performance on FisheryProgress. Following the submission of the self-evaluation form, the FIP will work towards producing the relative risk assessment and social workplan.

There is a grievance mechanism procedure in use by the company to provide all the crew with a way to submit a grievance or issue onboard at least once every 24 hours.

The next part of the report will address the work completed towards the completion of individual workplan actions.

Principle 1 – Sustainable fish stocks

1.1 – Stock status and rebuilding for bigeye tuna	
1.1a: Lobbying ICCAT and flag states to conduct re-building scenarios. Independent scientific assistance to support the ICCAT in developing bigeye re-building scenarios.	This action has two parts associated with it: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sla – a rebuilding timeframe is specified for the stock that is the shorter of 20 years or 2 times its generation time. 2. Slb – There is evidence that the rebuilding strategies are rebuilding stocks, or it is likely based on simulation modelling, exploitation rates or previous performance that they will be able to
1.1b: Lobbying ICCAT and flag states for robust, comprehensive BET rebuilding strategy developed to enable fishing to be at MSY levels.	
1.1c: Lobbying ICCAT and flag states to adopt the above rebuilding strategy.	

1.1d: Re-evaluation of the re-building plan at end of Yr. 3. Short-term technical assistance to the ICCAT. Fishing mortality (F) is $<F_{MSY}$.	rebuild the stock within the specified timeframe so that SG80 is met. The FIP must be able to meet these two scoring issues to enable a score of a pass. The action, therefore, consists of the FIP advocating to the RFMO to provide evidence of Atlantic Bigeye stock rebuilding within a specified timeframe and fishing mortality is reduced to achieve MSY.
1.1e: Review Stock status relative to reference points annually.	
Update as of May 2022 No progress because the ICCAT meeting does not take place until later in the year. An advocacy statement and supporting position statements from the flag state will be produced on behalf of the fishery before the meeting.	

1.2 - Develop a well-managed harvest strategy and stock assessment for bigeye, skipjack and yellowfin tuna

1.2a: Develop a strategy for engaging with RFMO scientists and CCM delegations to advocate for Management Strategy Options (MSEs) for controlling skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna harvest developed.	The fishery should detail how the performance of the harvest strategy is currently monitored, reviews and where necessary amended in response to the state of the stock. A harvest strategy can then be developed from this review. This action has three parts associated with it: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To address SIa, explicit harvest strategies for bigeye and yellowfin are to be designed. 2. To address SIb, a formal evaluation procedure for the harvest strategies is to be put in place for bigeye and yellowfin. 3. To address PI 1.2.4 to ensure a robust stock assessment is carried out for skipjack.
1.2b: Advocate for a more robust stock assessment of Atlantic skipjack to remove the noted major sources of uncertainty so the Committee can be in a position to provide a reliable estimate of the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and therefore provide advice on the state of the eastern stock unlike previous attempts.	
1.2c: Apply engagement strategy. FIP participants to engage with flag state delegation members at least once per year.	
1.2d: RFMO briefing document on Harvest Strategies (2020). Prior to RFMO plenary 2020 produce a formal briefing document regarding the status of the harvest strategy / stock rebuilding for each stock, the objective of RFMO, the position of key players and likely upcoming proposals, and the outcome preferred by the FIP, to brief the governments and other stakeholders.	
1.2e: Position paper for a harvest control strategy and HCRs. Prepare a position paper to submit to plenary in support of making significant progress in developing a harvest strategy and control rules for skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye. Work with the governments delegations to obtain their support for the paper, as well as that of other member states as far as possible.	

1.2e: Promote best practice for harvest strategy and stock rebuilding. Promote through the government a process of consultation to inform RFMO members about best practice for harvest strategy and stock rebuilding, to build consensus towards support of proposals of management measures prior to RFMO Sessions.	
1.2f: Continue to advocate for progression of harvest strategy development. Intersessional discussions to progress the harvest strategies between like-minded RFMO members and organisations, and formally at the relevant RFMO meetings.	
Update as of May 2022 No progress because the ICCAT meeting does not take place until later in the year. An advocacy statement and supporting position statements from the flag state will be produced on behalf of the fishery before the meeting.	

1.3 – Develop Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) and tools for eastern Atlantic skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin tuna	
1.3a: Building regional consensus on the need for robust HCRs. Intersessional discussions on HCRs and tools between like-minded ICCAT members and organisations and formally at each ICCAT meeting. Milestone: White paper on options for harvest control rules (HCRs) and tools for managing skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna harvest agreed.	To reach SG60 for SIA, harvest control rules are generally understood. HCRs are to be in place or available that are expected to reduce the exploitation rate as the point of recruitment impairment (PRI) is approached. Pending implementation of the ICCAT rebuilding plan, the HCR is provided through Rec. 16-01, which is extended through 2019 by Rec. 18-01. This is supplemented by some further provisions for the retention of tuna species in 17-01, which has the objective of achieving a substantial reduction in discards of tropical tunas by 2020. The PRI is being approached at the current level of effort, and F is not being reduced sufficiently (with the TAC being exceeded every year, for example catches in 2016-2017 exceeded the TAC by 20% and those in 2018 by 13% (ICCAT, 2019a)) and the TAC does not affect all countries that can catch bigeye (ICCAT, 2019a), so the ability for the TAC to be surpassed can still continue. The FIP must undertake an initial review of the tools which are used to set the exploitation rate in the fishery as determined by the HCRs. This will then be used to advocate for amendment of the tools in use to control the exploitation rate as defined by the HCR. These should then
1.3b: Ensure a holistic implementation HCR development. Monitor work plan development to ensure the development, evaluation, and agreement of a HCR for the three species, alongside the development of the tools required for implementation.	
1.3c: If necessary, provide an independent paper on the scope and needs of HCRs. Conduct a study to identify candidate HCRs and tools for all three for submission to ICCAT. Will include an evaluation of current (candidate) HCRs and tools for their effectiveness, and the main uncertainties identified and considered. Milestone: Study agreed by FIP participants and advocacy begins.	
1.3d: On-going engagement with coastal States and ICCAT over HCR development. Discussions held regarding the assessment of HCRs and tools for all stocks, including how to address the assessment's findings have occurred	

through inter-sessional discussions and formally through the ICCAT meeting process. To include intersessional discussions on HCRs and tools between like-minded ICCAT members and organisations and formally at meetings at each ICCAT meeting.	be implemented and periodically reviewed to ensure a reduction in catch so current projections do not materialise. The TAC needs to be all encompassing.
1.3e: Independent evaluation of HCR robustness and effectiveness. Conduct further study to evaluate progress made in developing HCRs, focussing on their potential effectiveness in reducing exploitation levels when required, and their ability to account for uncertainties that might affect their implementation.	
Update as of May 2022 A Harvest Control Rule white paper report is being produced by the FIP in order to learn more about the importance of HCRs and case studies of where the implementation of HCRs led to a stock rebuilding success. The FIP is planning on attending the ICCAT Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1 between 28-30 th June, 2022.	

P2 – Ecosystem

2.1 – Secondary species outcome and management	
2.1a: UoA observer data with associated forms obtained over at least a three-year period and analysed for shark finning incidents. Based on the findings of this analysis, a management strategy should be validated by the UoA that demonstrates shark finning is not taking place, as required.	Refer to workplan for description of this action as it encompasses multiple aspects of the fishery
2.1b: Verify if there is a shark finning policy implemented across the company, if not develop a robust policy to be used by the vessel	
2.1c: Determine the need for an Ecosystem Risk Assessment and if necessary, go out to tender to plan and organise that includes finding unknown parameters to complete a PSA.	
2.1d: Analyse, if necessary, the need for EM in the fleet to provide third-party coverage of fleet activities with regard to secondary species.	
2.1e: Development of a fleet-level generic bycatch reduction strategy to minimise bycatch levels, especially for associated sets. Strategy should include best-practice handling procedures.	
2.1f: Put in place additional management measures and data collection, if required.	

<p>2.1g: Review effectiveness of management strategy.</p> <p>A short consultancy project to be initiated to review the effectiveness of the management plan for mitigating impacts on ETP species. This is to include the measures and implementation processes to assess implementation successes and barriers, including results of data analysis to provide feedback on best practice procedures.</p> <p>Alternatives measures to be put in place as required.</p>	
<p>Update as of May 2022</p> <p>Fishery observer data for the past 3 voyages since October 2021 is being collected by the FIP participant and will be analysed by the FIP coordinator in the near future to assess the robustness of the current observer reporting techniques and efficacy of the reporting. The limited scope of the data is due to the fishing vessel being only recently added to the GSK Marine S.A. fishery, in which it had to change flags and the observer data was not provided by the previous owner fleet.</p> <p>Whilst taking part in the site-visit to Senegal, in February 2022, the FIP presented evidence of the shark finning policy on board the vessel, as well as the crew training on the main recommendations of the policy. This is important evidence because it shows that the FIP is using the shark finning policy and closes out Action 2.1b. The following progress will need to verify that there is no shark finning on board, based on the observer catch data.</p> <p>The GSK Marine S.A. fishery has purchased a Samsung electronic tablet, uploaded with an updated fishery observer report template, which includes a relevant section for reporting on ETP species bycatch. The observers have not yet been trained on how to report using the new tablet, so they have not been implemented on the vessel yet. There will be training taking place prior to the next 6-month update for FisheryProgress and the information on the template report records the species name, size, condition (dead/alive), and fate (retained/discarded). In the future, when the FIP coordinator has received the initial reports, further analysis will take place to identify any further improvements to the templates.</p> <p><i>Evidence:</i></p> <p>Photos of the shark finning policy implementation and crew training on board the FIP vessel, Sea Frontier (see Appendix II).</p>	

2.2 – FAD management	
<p>2.2a: Review current literature to understand the ‘ecological trap hypothesis’ of FADs on behaviour, feeding and migration of key elements of the ecosystem, including ETP sharks, indication of other potential impacts of FADs on key elements of the ecosystem to frame the problem and necessary research. This shall then be used to advise task 2.2b.</p>	<p>Action addresses multiple Performance Indicators (PIs): ETP, Habitat, and, Ecosystem PIs. Refer to workplan for more detail.</p>
<p>2.2b: Define the approach to investigate the ‘ecological trap hypothesis’ of FADs on behaviour, feeding and migration of key</p>	

elements of the ecosystem, including ETP species such as sharks, indication of other potential impacts of FADs on key elements of the ecosystem. The objective of this is to add to the information base on indirect effects of the UoAs on ETP species and main impacts of the UoA on these key ecosystem elements. This can then be used to update the pre-assessment and action plan.	
2.2c: Verify the fishery has formally adopted best practice non-entangling FADs.	
2.2d: Species identification training for skippers is needed to improve the accuracy of fishery-dependent recordings of non-target species interacting with the fishery and make sure best practice on board is happening. These species are normally not of commercial interest, so may have been previously overlooked. Training should cover the commonly encountered species (ETP and secondary species) and identification guides provided to each vessel.	
2.2e: Fishery-dependent recording of ETP species needs to be improved to allow cross-checking with observer data and EMS analysis to build a more accurate picture of fishery-specific impacts and identify potential 'hot-spots' for ETP interactions.	
2.2f: Define a fishery specific FAD management plan aimed at reducing the risk of derelict and impact of entangling FADs and to make sure best practice on board is happening	
2.2g: Implement investigation approach as outlined in task 2.2b.	
2.2h: Align work with relevant e-NGOs to the fishery to test the difference in the impacts of biodegradable and traditional non-entangling FADs in selected locations.	
2.2i: Reach out to e-NGOs in relevant countries to determine the potential risk to corals from derelict FADs and entanglement of ETP species. This information will be included to the assessment, and possible additional actions shall be added at a later date.	
2.2j: Analyse fishery reporting on ETP species in conjunction with observer data to quantify direct effects of the fishery operations and FAD-use (entanglement). This analysis should be done annually to build an information base on the fishery.	
2.2k: Improve FAD management strategies at the fishery level, where necessary to fill gaps through advocacy to necessary states. Further advocate for the implementation of sustainable FAD management strategies at the RFMO level.	

2.2l: Implement the FAD management plan (2.2f) and ensure sure best practice (covering points described in the management plan).	
2.2m: Verify application of the FAD management plan in the fishery of through observer data	
2.2n: Present a report that provides evidence that the collected information has been analysed with the identification of the main impacts of derelict FADs on coral reefs, and an understanding of the spatial extent and timing of the interactions (as per 2.2f).	
2.2o: Present a report on investigation as outlined in 2.2b. Report will cover: (i) the potential impact of the UoAs FADs on the behaviour, feeding and migration of key elements of the ecosystem (including ETP species); and (ii) any other main consequences of the UoAs FADs for the ecosystem that may be inferred (i.e., indirect effects).	
2.2p: If necessary, the FIP shall advocate to the authorities to update this document to include the latest guidelines on FAD design as well as other FAD measures.	
Update as of May 2022	
<p>The FIP has approved the ‘ecological trap hypothesis’ report produced by the FIP coordinator, and has been submitted to FisheryProgress, completing actions 2.2a, 2.2b, 2.2g. This report will be considered in the future when the FIP begins to implement a FAD management plan.</p>	
<p>During the site visit to Senegal in February 2022, the FIP coordinator met with GSK Marine S.A. and discussed the aims and actions of the FIP, including the need for observer data to start recording how the fishery is interacting with both target and non-target/bycatch/ETP species. The FIP produced a bycatch reduction strategy and implemented Best Practice bycatch handling techniques (as recommended by ISSF) and provided evidence of crew training and the policy readily available on the walls of the vessel and closes out action 2.2d.</p>	
<p>Once the FIP coordinator receives the catch reports from the fishery observers, they will analyse the data and write a report about the current shortfalls of the reporting, if any, and the improvements the fishery can make to increase the robustness and efficacy of the data.</p>	
<p><i>Evidence:</i></p>	
<p>Photos of the crew training and bycatch reduction posters on board the vessel (Appendix II).</p>	

P3 – Fishery management

3.1 - Legal and customary framework for Senegal, Mauritania, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia

3.1a: Collect information and conduct a review of fishery dispute mechanisms of Senegal, Mauritania, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia with input from relevant stakeholders and produce a report of findings. This is to be arranged by the FIP coordinator and supported by the FIP participants with influence over the flag state. Any new information found will be used to update this workplan as necessary.	Please see workplan for further details regarding this task.
3.1b: Conduct a review of customary fishery rights of Senegal, Mauritania, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia with input from relevant stakeholders and produce a report of findings. This is to be arranged by the FIP coordinator and supported by the FIP participants with influence over the flag state. Any new information found will be used to update this workplan as necessary.	
3.1c: Engage regularly with coastal State management to develop dispute mechanism where absent in Senegal, Mauritania, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. Minutes should be kept of each meeting, topics discussed, outcomes and appropriate timelines for implementation.	
3.1d: Engage regularly with coastal State management to develop a mechanism to integrate and observe customary rights in Senegal, Mauritania, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia into the management system where absent. Minutes should be kept of each meeting, topics discussed, outcomes and appropriate timelines for implementation.	
3.1e: Ensure appropriate transparent and effective dispute resolution is enshrined in legislation in Senegal, Mauritania, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia.	
3.1f: Ensure appropriate dispute resolution and respect for rights is enshrined in legislation in Senegal, Mauritania, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia.	
Update as of May 2022 The site visit to Senegal, in February 2022 provided an opportunity to discuss the Principle 3 actions required to progress the FIP. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions, there were still limitations to the possibilities of meeting other coastal state delegates so this is still required during the progress of the FIP. The FIP participant has contacted the Guinea fisheries ministry to connect and begin collaborating for understanding more about the regulations for Guinean-flagged purse seine vessels. The FIP coordinator has contacted the different fisheries ministry delegates from the various coastal states that the FIP operates in, including Senegal, Mauritania, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, in order to start collaborating with them and obtain the relevant information from Principle 3 actions.	

Evidence:

Introduction letters to the relevant ministries (Appendix II).

3.2 - Consultation, roles and responsibilities for Senegal, Mauritania, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau and Guinea

3.2a: Conduct investigation and review the degree to which all roles and responsibilities within the fishery are clearly defined. Consult with industry and other stakeholders to ascertain how well the functions and responsibilities are understood.

See workplan for further details.

3.2b: Identify all relevant stakeholders in the fishery.

3.2c: Ensure all agencies within the management framework clearly identify the role publicly.

3.2d: Develop a strategy to ensure and encourage wider engagement and representation in consultations.

3.2e: Ensure the fishery management plan clearly identifies which departments will undertake which roles in the fishery.

3.2f: Periodically review the efficacy of the consultation process.

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The FIP participant has contacted the Guinea fisheries ministry to connect and begin collaborating for understanding more about the regulations for Guinean-flagged purse seine vessels.

The FIP coordinator has contacted the different fisheries ministry delegates from the various coastal states that the FIP operates in, including Senegal, Mauritania, Cape Verde, and Guinea Bissau, in order to start collaborating with them and obtain the relevant information from Principle 3 actions.

Evidence:

Introduction letters to the relevant ministries (Appendix II).

3.3 – Long-term objectives for Senegal, Mauritania and Guinea Bissau

3.3a: Conduct a review of long-term objectives in Senegal, Mauritania and Guinea Bissau with input from relevant stakeholders and produce a report of findings. Any new information found will be used to update this workplan as necessary.

See workplan for further details.

3.3b: Engage with national management authorities of Senegal, Mauritania and Guinea Bissau and other key stakeholders to promote the concept of long-term objectives in relation to MSC. A summary of topics discussed surrounding these objectives to be produced to demonstrate progress, including a list of participants.	
3.3c: The stakeholder group shall meet annually to discuss progress and formulation objectives where not in place.	
3.3d: Embed these explicit long-term objectives that have been discussed and agreed during meetings with stakeholders into a tuna management plan.	
3.3e: Review and report on appropriateness of the objectives implemented and amend as necessary.	
Update as of May 2022 The site visit to Senegal, in February 2022 provided an opportunity to discuss the Principle 3 actions required to progress the FIP. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions, there was still limitations to the possibilities of meeting other coastal state delegates so this is still required during the progress of the FIP. The FIP coordinator has contacted the different fisheries ministry delegates from the various coastal states that the FIP operates in, including Senegal, Mauritania, and Guinea Bissau in order to start collaborating with them and obtain the relevant information from Principle 3 actions. <i>Evidence:</i> Introduction letters to the relevant ministries (Appendix II).	

3.4 - Fishery Specific Objectives for Senegal, Mauritania, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia

3.4a: Conduct a review of fishery specific management legislation of Senegal, Mauritania, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia with input from relevant stakeholders and produce a report of findings. Any new information found will be used to update this workplan as necessary.	See workplan for further details.
3.4b: Engage with national management authorities of Senegal, Mauritania, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia and other key stakeholders to promote the concept of a specific fisheries management plan for tuna fisheries. A summary of topics discussed surrounding these objectives to be produced to demonstrate progress, including a list of participants.	

3.4c: The stakeholder group shall meet annually to discuss progress and formulation of tuna management plan where not in place.	
3.4d: Promote the production of a tuna management plan for Senegal which explicitly lists the short- and long-term objectives that have been discussed and agreed with stakeholders.	
3.4e: Review appropriateness of tuna management plan implemented and advocate for amendments as necessary.	
Update as of May 2022 The site visit to Senegal, in February 2022 provided an opportunity to discuss the Principle 3 actions required to progress the FIP. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions, there was still limitations to the possibilities of meeting other coastal state delegates so this is still required during the progress of the FIP. The FIP participant has contacted the Guinea fisheries ministry to connect and begin collaborating for understanding more about the regulations for Guinean-flagged purse seine vessels. The FIP coordinator has contacted the different fisheries ministry delegates from the various coastal states that the FIP operates in, including Senegal, Mauritania, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, in order to start collaborating with them and obtain the relevant information from Principle 3 actions. <i>Evidence:</i> Introduction letters to the relevant ministries (Appendix II).	

3.5 – Decision-making process for Senegal, Mauritania, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia

3.5a: Conduct review of decision-making processes in Senegal, Mauritania, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia to fully understand gaps identified in pre-assessment.	See workplan for further details.
3.5b: Define decision-making processes in the management system.	
3.5c: Hold consultations with relevant stakeholders to incorporate above into decision-making processes. Multiple consultations may need to be held.	
3.5d: Implement the decision-making process, ensuring stakeholder are consulted and informed (for example via email, website, formal report etc.) best-available information (from RFMOs, research etc.) and the precautionary approach are included.	
3.5e: Review the efficacy of the decision-making process.	

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The FIP participant has contacted the Guinea fisheries ministry to connect and begin collaborating for understanding more about the regulations for Guinean-flagged purse seine vessels.

The FIP coordinator has contacted the different fisheries ministry delegates from the various coastal states that the FIP operates in, including Senegal, Mauritania, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, in order to start collaborating with them and obtain the relevant information from Principle 3 actions.

Evidence:

Introduction letters to the relevant ministries (Appendix II).

3.6 - Compliance and enforcement for Mauritania, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia

3.6a: Review MCS systems in place in the fisheries.

See workplan for further details.

3.6b: Develop plan to combat the gaps identified in the national MCS systems based on findings of report in.

3.6c: Hold consultations with relevant stakeholders to discuss implementation and potential adjustments to plan. Meeting minutes should be produced after each consultation to allow topics, actions, opinions, difficulties and progress to be recorded and monitored for all affect parties.

3.6d: Implement finalised plan where necessary, allocating the necessary resources to ensure successful employment of improved MCS system.

3.6e: Review effectiveness of MCS system implemented and adjust where necessary. A report should be produced and supplied to stakeholders and consultations re-opened if necessary.

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Evidence:

Introduction letters to the relevant ministries (Appendix II).

3.7 - Management performance evaluation for Senegal, Mauritania, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia

3.7a: Review fishery-specific management processes currently in place. Ascertain whether these systems are subject to internal and/or external review, the format, the areas already reviewed (tuna management plan, performance, decision-making, MCS, compliance to RFMO/international regulations etc.) and the frequency to which these occur.

See workplan for further details.

3.7b: Develop plan to combat the gaps identified in the national fishery-specific systems based on findings of report.

3.7c: Hold consultations with relevant stakeholders to discuss implementation and potential adjustments to plan. Meeting minutes should be produced after each consultation to allow topics, actions, opinions, difficulties and progress to be recorded and monitored for all affect parties.

3.7d: Implement finalised plan with binding commitment and requirements to undertake reviews where necessary, allocating the necessary resources to ensure regular internal and occasional external reviews from relevant bodies.

3.7e: Review effectiveness of review system implemented and adjust where necessary. A report should be produced and supplied to stakeholders and consultations re-opened if necessary.

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Conclusion for the May 2022 6-month update

To conclude, the fishery has made some progress in its FIP action plan since it was first published on FisheryProgress. The main progress was made during the site visit to Senegal in February 2022 when the FIP coordinator and participant were able to meet and discuss the future needs and actions of the FIP to progress on FisheryProgress. Here, the fishery observer data was discussed, and steps were taken to initiate conversations with the Guinean fisheries ministry to obtain fishery observer data reports from the initiation of the FIP in October 2021. The data is currently being prepared by the ministry and will be sent to the FIP coordinator soon, for analysis. Furthermore, the FIP has bought a Samsung electronic tablet for the observers to use and improve efficiency of catch data recording. The observers will soon be trained on the tablets and the new templates for observer catch data.

The crew training on ETP species and bycatch handling techniques were an important progression for the FIP and once the observers record catch data with the updated template and tablets, the FIP coordinator will be able to identify the impact of the fishery on bycatch and ETP species. Furthermore, the shark finning policy crew training is significant in completing one of the actions for Principle 2 because there is evidence that the policy has, not only been posted on the vessel walls, but has also been communicated and educated to the crew.

Meetings with the relevant coastal states fisheries ministry delegates would be beneficial for the progression of the FIP in the future to coordinate and obtain the relevant information required for the Principle 3 tasks.

Likewise, prior to the following 6-month update for November 2022, there will be position statements and advocacy letters written on behalf of the FIP to the ICCAT delegations for the annual plenary meeting, which will take place at the end of November.

Appendix I

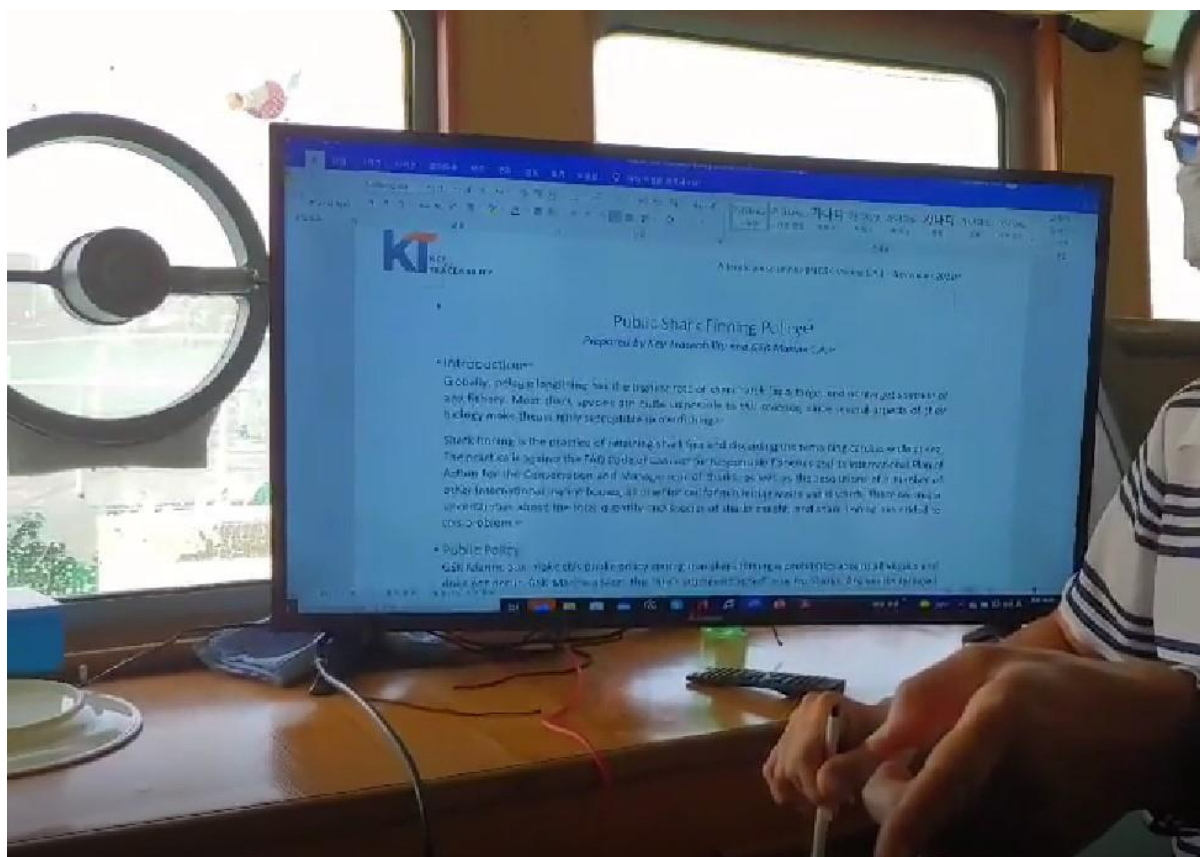


Figure 1: Public shark finning policy training on board Sea Frontier



Figure 2: Shark finning policy training onboard Sea Frontier



Figure 3: ETP species identification training on board Sea Frontier



Figure 4: Best practice handling techniques for bycatch species training on board Sea Frontier

Appendix II



0082d KT – Atlantic Ocean purse seine tuna FIP (GSK Marine S.A.)

Key Traceability Ltd.,
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Via email to [REDACTED]

RE: Introduction to the Atlantic Ocean purse seine tuna (GSK Marine S.A.) FIP

Dear All,

The submission of this letter is an introduction to the Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) currently operating in the Atlantic Ocean purse seine tuna fishery (GSK Marine S.A.). The fishery targets Atlantic bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*), Eastern Atlantic skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), and Atlantic yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*). The singular purse seine vessel within the FIP is flagged to Guinea and operates on the high seas and within the following coastal states' EEZs: Guinea, Senegal, Mauritania, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, and Liberia (see Appendix 1 for full vessel details). The fishery is regionally managed by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in the Atlantic Ocean. Please view the FIP overview and [action workplan](#) on the [FisheryProgress profile](#), to find out more information.

In order to achieve its aims of becoming certified by the Marine Stewardship Council Fisheries Standard by 2025, the FIP will adopt the ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management to ensure that the fishing effort does not exceed sustainable levels for tuna stocks. Moreover, the FIP aims to build and maintain relations with governance systems to strengthen local policies.

As part of this FIP reaching MSC standards there are various actions that need to be undertaken that involve a range of different stakeholders. As one of the coastal states, your cooperation is necessary to ensure the project succeeds. This FIP will have shared aims with the fisheries agency, and we would like to align and cooperate as much as possible on issues such as employing observers and electronic monitoring (EM) systems on the vessel to conduct catch data reports, ensure best practices in the handling and release of ETP species, and ensuring a robust Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) is implemented across all vessels. Further clarity on the legal and customary framework, roles and responsibilities of parties within the stakeholders, decision-making processes, compliance and enforcement within the governing systems, and the systems in place for assessing management performance are all critical information that will be required for the progression of the FIP.

If this and the above tasks are addressed effectively, it will have positive long-term implications for both the Atlantic Ocean ecosystem and tuna stock health, and in turn will allow FIPs to achieve the sustainability targets in line with MSC certification standards.

It is through this collective action and stakeholder collaboration that a sustainable blue economy can be formed. If you would like more details of any of the above, we would be eager to engage further and go through the FIP action plan in greater detail, either in person or via call/online meeting. Either way, please do not hesitate to get into contact and we can arrange it.

Kind regards,

Emily Wardrop – FIP Coordinator, Key Traceability

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