

RE: Request for support of the Marpesca fisheries as they prepare to enter MSC Certification.

Dear Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panama (ARAP),

On behalf of Marpesca, this letter is requesting the support of the Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panama (ARAP) in the process of understanding more about the current management measures in place for longline tuna and mahi mahi fisheries in Panama, and management measures for shrimp fisheries in Panama. There are two fishery improvement projects (FIPs) in place and managed by Marpesca:

1. [The Panama large pelagics - longline FIP](#)
2. [The northern nylon shrimp – bottom trawl FIP](#)

The Marpesca longline fishery and bottom trawl fishery both operate in the Panamanian EEZ only. The longline fishery targets yellowfin tuna and mahi mahi (*Coryphaena hippurus*) and the bottom trawl fishery targets northern nylon shrimp (*Heterocarpus vicarius*). Both fisheries are currently involved in a fishery improvement project (FIP) and aim to become certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) within the next few years. The vessels within the fishery fleets land the catch at Port Vacamonte in Panama, and a full vessel list for each FIP can be found in the Appendix.

A requirement of the MSC when assessing a fishery aiming for certification is evidencing reasonable and reliable support behind the fishery to understand the compliance with the requirements of the MSC Fisheries Standard and to verify the changes made to the fishery as listed in the client action plan. As mentioned in the presentations, there are a number of conditions that were met and scored the Performance Indicators a pass for MSC requirements. All actions can be found in the MSC Full Assessment report, but Marpesca draws attention to the following actions:

1. PI 1.1.1-1.2.3 – Information about the currently shrimp management measures in place for shrimp fisheries in the Panama EEZ, including information about the health status of the shrimp stock.
2. PI 3.1.1 – Legal and customary framework. This information should include reference to effective management of fisheries in Panama, as well as outlining dispute mechanisms, and a clear respect for the rights of small-scale, local fishers.
3. PI 3.1.2 – Consultation, roles and responsibilities. This information should outline the specific roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders and interested parties.
4. PI 3.1.3 – Long-term objectives. This information should outline the objectives are in place that guide the decision-making and if they use the precautionary approach.
5. PI 3.2.1 – Fishery-specific objectives. This information should explain fishery-specific management objectives in place that will help to achieve Principle 1 and 2 requirements for the MSC
6. PI 3.2.2 – Decision-making processes. This information should demonstrate well established decision-making processes that respond to serious issues and in a timely manner.



7. PI 3.2.2 – Compliance and enforcement. There is a monitoring, control and surveillance system implemented into the fishery to enforce management measures. Non-compliance is met with sanctions.

8. PI 3.2.4 – Monitoring and management performance evaluation. There are regular internal and external reviews of the management procedure and measures.

At your earliest convenience, we request that you please review the above conditions and provide you support for their compliance, which can be used as evidence for the fishery's application to MSC certification.

If you have any questions or would like further clarification, please do not hesitate in emailing.

Kind regards,

Emily Wardrop,
Fishery Consultant, Key Traceability

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily Wardrop".

Table 1: Vessel list for the northern nylon shrimp - bottom trawl FIP (Marpesca)

Vessel name	Flag	License number
AMERICA X	Panama	C-114
AMERICA XI	Panama	C-115
AMERICA XII	Panama	C-116
PANAMA I	Panama	C-131
PANAMA V	Panama	C-134
PANAMA VI	Panama	C-135
PESCADOR I	Panama	C-142-A
PESCADOR IV	Panama	C-145-A
PESCADOR V	Panama	C-146-A
PESCADOR VI	Panama	C-147-A
PESCADOR IX	Panama	C-150-A

Table 2: Vessel list for the Panama large pelagics - longline FIP (Marpesca)

Vessel name	Flag	IATTC Registration number
AMERICA I	Panama	23086-96-CH
AMERICA III	Panama	23753-97-D
AMERICA IV	Panama	23143-96-D
AMERICA VI	Panama	09197-78-H
AMERICA IX	Panama	23107-96-E
AMERICA XII	Panama	
CRUSTACEOS I	Panama	FB-969-PINT-2
HERCULES VI	Panama	17883-88-F
HERCULES VIII	Panama	23109-96-CH
PANAMA IV	Panama	1305-PINT-1
PESCADOR VII	Panama	17843-88-E
PESCADOR VIII	Panama	18451-89-D