

## ARAP – KT Introduction Meeting

1<sup>st</sup> September, 2022

### Attendees

ARAP	Key Traceability
Yesuri Pino	Emily Wardrop
Dario Lopez	Iain Pollard
	Lia Hayman

### Meeting summary

Introductions to all attending parties and a quick overview of Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs)

The aim of this meeting is to discuss the current lack of information available to verify some of the Principle 3 – Effective Management requirements from the MSC, regarding Panamanian fisheries. There is current data paucity around Panama fisheries management because much of it is not disclosed online or on the website, which has made remote pre-assessments for FIPs difficult to complete, during the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### *Observer data*

ARAP does not have observers for the longline or bottom trawl vessels, but they are employed on purse seine vessels. The catch data are available for these specific purse seine vessels, upon request from ARAP directly.

#### *Management measures and policies*

ARAP has robust and efficient management policies, which cover all types of fishery operated out of Panama. The management measures are not explicitly disclosed on the website; however, the authority has a document, which outlines and explains all management measure collated across the country and different fisheries. This is will be sent to the client as soon as possible, which will then be able to improve the current Principle 3 scoring.

ARAP also has location data from Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMSs) onboard the vessels, which will be useful in identifying where the vessels are operating specifically and be able to advise on the potential impacts that the fishing gears have on the surrounding environment, especially for more invasive fishing methods.

ARAP also works with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to support the work of fisheries management and NOAA will check the vessels once a year, when in port. The FIP will attempt to engage with NOAA to learn more about the reasons for their visits and what checks are conducted on the vessels.

#### *Longline fisheries*

ARAP visits Vacamonte port every time the vessels come in from a trip to survey them and assess that they are complying with the regulations. It checks the number of hooks, hook size, type of net, turtle excluder devices (TEDs). ARAP will provide the information relevant to the regulations imposed on these vessels and this fishery, including net size and type of net that is used. All this information will be included in the document outlining all Panama fishery management measures and will be used to improve the scoring of some Principle 3 performance indicators.