*updated on 7 April 2018*

# Sri Lankan Longline Fishery Improvement Project

## Sub Project Proposal (04 / 2018)

**Sub Project Title** **The introduction and evaluation of a 'Crew-based Observer Programme on 30 Sri Lankan longline vessels**

**MSC Principle 2** ***Minimizing the ecological impact of the Sri Lankan longline fishery***

*Performance Indicator(s)* *P2.3.1 Outcome*
*P2.3.3 Information*

**Justification** Insufficient information and data are available to assess the Sri Lankan longline fishery's impact on endangered, threatened and protected (ETP) species. The fishery therefor failed the Marine Stewardship Council's (MSC) Performance Indicators P2.3.1 (ETP Species Outcome SG = <60) and P2.3.3 (ETP Species Information SG = <60), according to the Certified Assessment Body MSC Pre Assessment Report completed in March 2018 (see Annex A).

The catch monitoring system currently in place uses paper logbooks to record information about the target and non-target species, but is incapable of generating sufficient information and data to enable the fishery to pass these two Indicators in the future. The small size (<16 m) of Sri Lanka's offshore and high-seas fishing vessels prohibits the deployment of On-board Observers, due to concerns about the health and safety of On-board Observers. The high cost of installation, maintenance and data management associated with electronic observer (eObserver) systems, as well as concerns about privacy, are likely obstacles to the introduction of an eObserver programme in Sri Lanka's longline fishery. Since 2013, the World Wide Fund for Nature's (WWF) Country Office in Pakistan has successfully improved the accuracy of catch data collection, verification and analysis by training and supporting fishworkers to record retained and discarded species (including ETP species). A recent presentation by WWF Pakistan to the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DFAR) has provide a template through which to replicate the success of this programme in Sri Lanka. The DFAR therefore proposes to address the problem of inadequate information and data regarding ETP species caught and discarded from Sri Lanka's longline fishery, by introducing a similar 'Crew-based Observer Programme' on 30 Sri Lankan longline vessels registered under the Negombo and Chilaw District Fisheries Office in 2018/19.

**Implementation & Management**

| | |
|---|---|
| **FIP Implementing Agency (IA)** | Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DFAR) |
| **Focal Point** | M. Marcus, Acting Director, Fishery Management Division |
| **Authority** | Prasanna Ginige, Director General |
| **Administration & Management** | pelagikos pvt ltd |

| **Investment Overview** | **Total Cost** | **DFAR** | **FIP Partner** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sub Project Cost (LKR) | **7,995,500.00** | **3,875,000.00** | **4,120,500.00** |
| Sub Project Cost (US$) | **53,303.33** | **25,833.33** | **27,470.00** |
| | | 48.5% | 51.5% |

**Objective**

The sub project's objective is to ensure that sufficient information and data are collected, analyzed and submitted to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission by the Government of Sri Lanka, to enable the Sri Lankan longline fishery to pass the MSC Standard for PI I 2.3.1 and PI 2.3.3 (*i.e.* Scoring Guidepost = 60 – 790), by December 2020.

**Activities**

**Activity A.** **Orientation and Planning**: Members of the FIP including officers and staff from DFAR, the National Aquatic Resources, Research and Development Agency (NARA), the Ceylon Fisheries Harbour Corporation (CFHC) and representatives of the Seafood Exporters' Association of Sri Lanka (SEASL) will meet to discuss and finalize the IOTC / MSC information and data requirements and plan the implementation of the sub project in Colombo.

**Activity B.** **Awareness and training:** Officers and staff from the DFAR's Electronic Data Unit (EDU) will conduct awareness and training programmes with officers and staff from the District Fishery Office (DFO) in Negombo and Chilaw and CFHC officers and staff in Dikowitta and Negombo. In these programmes the EDU will brief the DFO / CFHC officers and staff, regarding the justification, objectives, activities and deliverables as set out herein. The district / harbour level programme will provide an opportunity for the EDU staff to fine tune the identify potential boat owners / skippers to participate in the sub project, as well as find tune the logistics of data collection. The DFAR DFO and CFHC programmes will be followed by meetings / awareness programmes for longline boat owners, skippers and crew under the Negombo and Chilaw DFO. During the course of these meetings and programmes, boat owners / skippers will be selected for implementation. 30 boat / skippers (20 offshore and 10 high seas) will be selected from the two DFOs. A technical training programmes will then be conducted with the boat owners / skippers (and crew?) prior to the deployment of the tablets / digital cameras / smart phones.

**Activity C.** **Implementation**: Tablets / digital cameras / smart phones will be deployed on 30 Sri Lankan longline vessels licensed to fish offshore (30 vessels – funded by DFAR) and or on the high seas (15 vessels – funded by the FIP Partner). Each skipper (and crew?) will be briefed prior to departure and debriefed upon the completion of fishing trip by officers and staff of the DFO / CFHC. Data will be downloaded from the tablets / digital cameras / smart phones immediately upon completion of the fishing trip and transferred to the EDU for analysis.

**Activity D.** **Data analysis:** Officers and staff from the EDU will analyse the data downloaded from each fishing trip within two weeks of the vessel returning to harbour. An initial non-target species vessel report will be produced within two weeks of the vessels arrival. The draft analysis will be discussed and finalised with the vessel owner and skipper, prior to completion.

**Activity E.** **Reporting and Evaluation:** Quarterly progress monitoring reports will be prepared and submitted to the FIP Partner by pelagikos pvt ltd on behalf of the Director General, DFAR. The impact of the sub project will evaluated after six and twelve months by pelagikos pvt ltd on behalf of the Director General, DFAR.

## Implementation Plan

The five activities described above will be implemented by the DFAR in accordance with the implementation schedule shown below.

| Activities | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **A** | **Orientation and planning** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *A1* | *DFAR, NARA, CFHC, SEASL meetings to discuss and finalize the IOTC / MSC information and data requirements and plan the implementation* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **B** | **Awareness and training** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *B1* | *programmes with officers and staff from the Negombo & Chilaw DFO in and CFHC in Dikowitta and Negombo* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *B2* | *meetings / awareness programmes for longline boat owners, skippers and crew under the Negombo & Chilaw DFO* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *B3* | *training programmes will then be conducted with the boat owners / skippers (and crew?) prior to the deployment of the tablets / digital cameras / smart phones* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **C** | **Implementation** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *C1* | *Vessel briefing, debriefing and data collection* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **D** | **Data analysis** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *D1* | *Data analysis and trip report* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *D2* | *Trip report validation* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *E* | **Reporting and Evaluation** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *E1* | *Quarterly Progress Monitoring* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *E2* | *Impact Evaluation* | | | | | | | | | | | | |

## Investment Breakdown

| Activities | Total Cost | | | DFAR | FIP Partner | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | LKR | | | LKR | LKR | US$ | |
| **Sub Project Cost** | **7,995,500.00** | | | | | | |
| A. Orientation and planning | 334,000.00 | 4% | | 250,000.00 | 84,000.00 | 560.00 | 2% |
| B. Awareness and training | 945,000.00 | 12% | | 625,000.00 | 320,000.00 | 2,133.33 | 8% |
| C. Implementation | 4,350,000.00 | 54% | | 1,350,000.00 | 3,000,000.00 | 20,000.00 | 73% |
| D. Data analysis | 2,047,500.00 | 26% | | 1,350,000.00 | 697,500.00 | 4,650.00 | 17% |
| E. Reporting and Evaluation | 319,000.00 | 4% | | 300,000.00 | 19,000.00 | 126.67 | 0% |
| | | | | | | | |
| **Total Sub Project Cost (LKR)** | **7,995,500.00** | | | **3,875,000.00** | **4,120,500.00** | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| **Total Sub Project Cost (US$)** | **53,303.33** | | | **25,833.33** | **27,470.00** | | |
| | | | | 48.5% | 51.5% | | |

## Annex A: MSC Approved CAB Pre Assessment of the Sri Lankan Longline Fishery (March, 2018)

A MSC approved Pre Assessment of the Sri Lankan Longline Fishery was conducted by Capricorn Marine Environmental (Pty) Ltd. South Africa between November and March 2018. A summary of the scoring guideposts for each Performance Indicator and the overall MSC Scores for the three Units of Assessment is presented below

| Principle | Component | Performance Indicator (PI) | | Yellowfin | Bigeye | Swordfish |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P1 | Outcome | 1.1.1 | Stock status | 60-79 | >80 | >80 |
| | | 1.1.2 | Stock rebuilding | 60-79 | not applicable | |
| | Management | 1.2.1 | Harvest strategy | >80 | >80 | >80 |
| | | 1.2.2 | Harvest control rules & tools | 60-79 | 60-79 | 60-79 |
| | | 1.2.3 | Information & monitoring | 60-79 | 60-79 | 60-79 |
| | | 1.2.4 | Assessment of stock status | >80 | >80 | >80 |
| P2 | Primary species | 2.1.1 | Outcome | >80 | 60-79 | 60-79 |
| | | 2.1.2 | Management strategy | >80 | >80 | >80 |
| | | 2.1.3 | Information/Monitoring | >80 | >80 | >80 |
| | Secondary species | 2.2.1 | Outcome | 60-79 | | |
| | | 2.2.2 | Management strategy | 60-79 | | |
| | | 2.2.3 | Information/Monitoring | >80 | | |
| | ETP species | 2.3.1 | Outcome | <60 | | |
| | | 2.3.2 | Management strategy | 60-79 | | |
| | | 2.3.3 | Information strategy | <60 | | |
| | Habitats | 2.4.1 | Outcome | 60-79 | | |
| | | 2.4.2 | Management strategy | >80 | | |
| | | 2.4.3 | Information | >80 | | |
| | Ecosystem | 2.5.1 | Outcome | >80 | | |
| | | 2.5.2 | Management | 60-79 | | |
| | | 2.5.3 | Information | 60-79 | | |
| P3 | Governance & Policy | 3.1.1 | Legal &/or customary framework | >80 | | |
| | | 3.1.2 | Consultation, roles & responsibilities | >80 | | |
| | | 3.1.3 | Long term objectives | >80 | | |
| | Fishery specific management system | 3.2.1 | Fishery specific objectives | 60-79 | | |
| | | 3.2.2 | Decision making processes | 60-79 | | |
| | | 3.2.3 | Compliance & enforcement | 60-79 | | |
| | | 3.2.4 | Monitoring & Management | 60-79 | | |

Principle 1 PIs are scored separately for each UoA. The lack of clear HCRs and the poor reporting on catches by fisheries in the Indian Ocean are areas of concern for all three UoAs.
The Yellowfin UoA is not likely to pass MSC full assessment. The bigeye and swordfish UoAs may pass if the aggregate score for P1 does not fall below 80.

The Principle 2 PIs are scored once and the scores apply to all three UoAs. This means that if a single PI fails here then all UoAs will fail full assessment.
There are too many interactions with ETP species and no validation of release statistics.
Also of concern are the lack of secondary species management strategies and the unreliability of catch statistics and data reported. An at-sea observer program and electronic monitoring could help scoring for P2.

Principle 3 has no major issues however, the aggregate score during full assessment may only be marginally above 80. Clarity on decision making processes and evidence of compliance and enforcement will likely need to be provided during a MSC full assessment.

| Summary of Scores | Yellowfin UoA 1 | Bigeye UoA 2 | Swordfish UoA 3 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total number of PIs equal to or greater than 80 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Total number of PIs 60-79 | 14 | 13 | 13 |
| Total number of PIs less than 60 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| **Overall Pre-Assessment Likely Score** | **0.68** | **0.69** | **0.69** |