

Minutes of the NFI BSC FIP Managers Workshop held on 7 - 9 May 2024 at Eastin Grand Hotel Sathorn, Bangkok, Thailand

- On Tuesday 7th evening at 7 pm all FIP country members arrived for group dinner and discussed about strengthening the FIP and introducing Ocean Outcomes to the FIP team.
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8th May 2024

- The FIP managers meeting kick started on 8th May started with self-introductory session and Dr. Ed Rhodes explained about the NFI goals and future responsibility to all country to address the country specific problems and way forward.
- NFI enlightened that FIP funding is based on workplan, and trade (export) and budget proposals need to be submitted in October of each year.
- The proposed budget should be in line with MSC principles.

Thailand BSC FIP Activities

- Initiated public hearing through the support of Department of Fisheries to document the feedback from the fishermen communities related to draft Harvest Control Rules (HCRs).
- Through Thai Blue Swimming Crab Resource Management Committee, a consultative meeting with the participation of various stakeholders were organized to update various initiatives undertaken for the conservation of the ETP species.

Thailand focus plan for 2024

- Continuously monitoring and collecting the data related to Spawning Potential Ratio (SPR).
- Data collection on fishing coordinated for BSC.
- Awareness of the importance of implementing the HCRs.

India BSC FIP Activities

- Mr. Pulikesi Senabathi made the presentation about Indian FIP

- Research activities on non-target species and stock assessment of BSC where emphasized.
- Present HCRs for BSC in the project area intimated
- SPR data has been periodically collected and intimated to NFI-CC
- Documentation of the violation of the fishing activities
- Awareness program related to conservation of ETP species and BSC crab habitat undertaken

India focus plan for 2024

- Seagrass and coral reef surveys in the project area
- Collection of data on fishing trips in selected project villages
- Documentation of fishing coordinated for BSC in the project villages.
- Restoration initiatives for seagrass and non-target species
- Formation of management committee at village and district level

Vietnam BSC FIP Activities

- Fishing of BSC undertaken through bottom gillnet with an mesh size of 120mm, Chinese net with 43mm.
- The total catches were about 11,300 tons in 2009 and BSC stocks are heavily exploited

Vietnam focus plan for 2024

- More knowledge on stock status through research initiatives
- Development of harvest strategy
- Strengthening research works to address the MSC principles.
- Reactivate the FIP network linked institutions and stakeholders

Sri Lanka BSC FIP Activities

- Standardized the size at first maturity for BSC through continuous research activities and data collection.
- Minimum Legal Size with an mesh size of 110-130 mm in practices for fishing
- Data collection on non-target species evaluated for bottom set gill net

Indonesia BSC FIP Activities

- Involvement of stakeholders from all supply chain in BSC conservation
- Greater awareness for implementing HCRs.
- Published the book “Harvest Strategy for Crab” in 2020.
- Socialization and Training for Fishermen on crab resources and its conservation needs

FIP Reporting to NFI and Fishery Progress.org

- Dr. Ed Rhodes, NFI-cc and Dr. Jocelyn Drugan – Ocean Outcomes are explained the submitting the reports regarding to NFI and fishery progress.org
- The annual report needs to be submitted within December/ January and the mid-year report during June/ July.
- Requested funds from NFI Association contributing 10% or more to NFI contribution.
- Periodical submission of SPR data based on NFI requirements.
- Regular updating the FIP activities in the fishery progress sites needs to be undertaken.



Ocean Outcomes (o2) as an additional resource

- Dr. Jocelyn Drugan introduced herself with the FIP members and enlightened about the O² organization role as sustainability envoy and technical support for FIP workplan and activity review and ensure progress is being made in priority areas with respect to environmental sustainability and the MSC standards
- And also, identify and reduce the risk of human and labor rights abuses at the harvest stage of FIP supply chains increase transparency around the efforts FIPs are taking to address human and labor rights risks.
- All FIPs must provide a documented agreement that publicly discloses responsibilities, commitments, and/or expectations regarding, at a minimum, human rights and social responsibility

Spawning Potential Ratio (SPR), stock status and harvest controls

Dr. Steve Creech explained about the SPR data collection and how to analyze the raw data in Barefoot Ecological toolbar.

Effective Fisheries Management

Dr. Ed Rhodes present the effective fisheries management regarding the SPR data collection and how to implement the HCRs regulation and role of co management committee support to facilitate harvest control rules and future crab fishing sustainability for MSC certification standards.

Section closed at 5:00pm and dinner provided to the participants.



On 9th May 2024

End goals for FIPs

- Dr. Ed. Rhodes and Dr. Jocelyn Drugan intimated that Fishery Progress has worked well for us in tracking our progress on a global perspective.
- They also intimated that FIPs having “green” scores for all MSC principles and progress rating of “A” is more difficult to achieve.
- Usually customers in the U.S. only look at the progress rating in determining purchases.
- FIPs that have met all MSC standards can be classified as “completed” on FP.org and go dark leaving customers without an information source Therefore, when we get to the “completed” point on FIP, we see the need to have our fisheries certified, preferably under a scheme that is not MSC.
- Certification ideas is the Crab Council has started to explore a certification system that complies with GSSI (Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative) standards.

- ASIC Fisheries Standard as an option

During the discussion it was also emphasized on getting good SPR data and valuable spawning potential ratios and uniform mesh size regulation.

Lesson learnt from other FIP

1. CMPA needs to actively collect data for SPR and values needed to undertake the calculation need to be established like Size at first maturity, asymptotic length, M/K ratio.
2. Habitat survey and habitat restoration initiatives needs to be undertaken
3. BSC fishing coordinated needs to be established
4. Conservation initiatives for ETP species in Palk Bay needs to be undertaken in collaboration with line departments and other stakeholders
5. All needful committees to address FIP at ground level needs to be formed and coordinated by CMPA

CMPA team reached Tuticorin on 11-05-2024