

# Swordfish

## Fishery Improvement Projects Planning Meeting, July 2023

FIP Project Hosts:

Fong Hsiang Enterprise & Chun Cheng Fishery Enterprise of 1 Fishery Port Rd,  
Singapore 619729

SYM-PAC International of 1600 Potrero Grande Dr # 7, Rosemead, CA 9177

Science and Secretariat are provided by the Sustainability Incubator, Inc, Honolulu.

Harvest Meat Company, Inc. CA and Sprouts Farmers Market AZ are FIP Members.

# FIP purpose & scope

- The purpose of the projects is to improve the longline fisheries for swordfish with progress towards meeting the global standard for sustainable fisheries of the Marine Stewardship Council program.
- The FIP for Indian Ocean Swordfish FIP represents swordfish caught by vessels flagged to Malaysia and fishing under the rules of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).
- The Eastern Pacific Ocean Swordfish FIP represents swordfish caught by vessels flagged to Vanuatu and Panama under the rules of the InterAmerican Tropical Tuna Commission.
- Pacific swordfish stocks are designated North / South so two more intergovernmental organizations are involved: Secretariat of the Pacific Community and Western and Central Pacific Tuna Commission.

# FIP Accomplishments so far in 2023

- Priority is on improvements for Endangered, Threatened and Protected Species
- **FIP vessels contributed in 3 ways:** catch data, safe handling training materials, plastics assessment & plan
- **EPO:** May 2023: The conclusion of the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee was that the stock did not breach the biomass and fishing limit reference points but may be approaching the target reference points. Panama presented its Annual Scientific Observer Report and showed 6.4% coverage. Vanuatu did not present a report.
- **IO:** May 2023: Nine important conservation and management measures were adopted. IOTC adopted an important measure to protect seabirds, and cetaceans from adverse fishing impacts. The IOTC is the first tuna RFMO to require electronic monitoring and at this meeting adopted minimum electronic monitoring standards. Swordfish stock details were tabled at this meeting and accepted as final.

## **VESSEL PLAN TO RE-USE & REDUCE PLASTIC WASTE TO THE SEA**

*Prepared for the Indian Ocean Swordfish Fishery Improvement Project and the Eastern Pacific Ocean Swordfish Fishery Improvement Project by the Sustainability Incubator, November 2022*

*Updated January 17, 2023*

This is a plan for re-using and reducing the flow of plastic waste to the sea.

The plan is based on a Material Flow Analysis of plastics that was prepared for longline vessels participating in the Indian Ocean Swordfish Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) and the Eastern Pacific Ocean Swordfish FIP. Swordfish fished by these vessels is available to American families at Sprouts Farmers Market. Sprouts Farmers Market is committed to ocean sustainability and is a member of the Fishery Improvement Project. The project includes all actors in the two supply chains, including vessel companies Kha Yang and Asia Tank for the Indian Ocean and Star Trading for the Eastern Pacific, as well distributors Fong Hsiang Enterprises, Chun Success International, SYMPAC Inc..

The longline vessel companies completed a gear disposal survey and provided key information about how they manage end-of-life microfilament longline gear including how they dispose of it. The results allowed for a material flow analysis and the preparation of this vessel plan.

# FIP Tasks in 2023

1. Priority is for project to achieve consistently great grades on FisheryProgress.org in 2023.
2. The project will improve knowledge of swordfish's role in the ecosystem.  
*to meet 80 on MSC indicator 2.5.1 for ecosystem outcome, currently scoring 60-79*
3. The project will support an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management  
*to meet 80 on MSC indicator 2.5.2 for ecosystem management, currently scoring 60-79*