



Eastern Pacific Ocean Purse Seine Tuna (Messinia G)

Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) Workplan Addendum

Version 2.0

November 2025

Project ref: 0077

Prepared by

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Table 1: Workplan Overview

Workplan Version and Date	Version 3.0 04/11/2025
Start date (expected)	End date (anticipated month/year)
January 2020	January 2027
FIP Lead (organization/individual responsible for Action Plan)	Improvements recommended by (meeting/group that supported the development)
Key Traceability	Key Traceability Messinia G
FIP Coordinator (organization/individual responsible for reporting on FisheryProgress)	Workplan developed by (consultant or person)
Emily Wardrop – Key Traceability	Key Traceability

Acronyms

Acronym	Explanation
EPO	Eastern Pacific Ocean
EEZ	Exclusive economic zone
FIP	Fishery improvement project
IATTC	Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
UoA	Unit of Assessment
UoC	Unit of Certification
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System

Introduction

The fishery targets bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*), yellowfin (*T. albacares*), and skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) tuna in the high seas of the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO), and the exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of Nicaragua, Panama, and Ecuador. The fleet originally consisted of five purse seine vessels flagged to Panama and Nicaragua, and the fishery is regionally managed by the IATTC. As of November 2025, three new vessels have been added to the fleet, flagged to Venezuela, highlighted in yellow in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Vessel list for the eastern Pacific Ocean purse seine tuna FIP

Vessel Name	IMO Number	Flag
Tunamar	7409138	Panama
Pescatun	7305409	Nicaragua
Seatuna	7123473	Nicaragua
Tunapesca	7395375	Panama
Hellastuna	8021763	Panama
Cayude	7601736	Venezuela
Carmela	7827457	Venezuela
Don Francesco	7827471	Venezuela

In October 2025, a pre-assessment for Principle 3 was conducted on Venezuela to understand more about the effective management and practices in place within the nation that relate to its overseas tuna fishing vessels. The results of the pre-assessment addendum showed that improvements are required before P3 can meet an unconditional pass at the MSC assessment level. The purpose of this document is to add three new actions via an addendum to the existing FIP workplan, based on the findings from the pre-assessment.

Unit of Assessment(s)

Table 2: Unit(s) of Assessment (UoA)

UoA 1	Description
Target species (common and scientific name)	Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)
Stock	Eastern Pacific Ocean
Geographical area	High seas of the EPO and the EEZs of Panama and Nicaragua
Fishing method or gear type	Purse seine

Fishing fleet or group of vessels, or individuals fishing operators pursuing stock	Eastern Pacific Ocean purse seine tuna FIP (Messinia G)
UoA 2	Description
Target species (common and scientific name)	Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)
Stock	Eastern Pacific Ocean
Geographical area	High seas of the EPO and the EEZs of Panama and Nicaragua
Fishing method or gear type	Purse seine
Fishing fleet or group of vessels, or individuals fishing operators pursuing stock	Eastern Pacific Ocean purse seine tuna FIP (Messinia G)
UoA 3	Description
Target species (common and scientific name)	Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)
Stock	Eastern Pacific Ocean
Geographical area	High seas of the EPO and the EEZs of Panama and Nicaragua
Fishing method or gear type	Purse seine
Fishing fleet or group of vessels, or individuals fishing operators pursuing stock	Eastern Pacific Ocean purse seine tuna FIP (Messinia G)

Summary of Principle 3 Performance Indicator Scores for Venezuela

Table 3: Summary PI scores for Principle 3, Venezuela

PI number	PI name	Score
3.1.1	Legal and customary framework	60-79
3.1.2	Consultation, roles & responsibilities	<60
3.1.3	Long-term objectives	≥80
3.2.1	Fishery specific objectives	≥80
3.2.2	Decision making processes	≥80
3.2.3	Compliance & enforcement	<60
3.2.4	Monitoring & management performance evaluation	≥80

Workplan actions

Principle 3: Effective Management

Action Number and Name	3.5 – Legal and Customary Framework - Venezuela
Action Goal	Venezuela fisheries management can demonstrate that the dispute resolution mechanism described in the Fishing and Aquaculture Law is effective.
Action Description	The FIP will work with the fisheries management ministry/authority in Venezuela to learn more about the dispute resolution mechanism and understand how it is both implemented into legislation and how it is effectively used, with examples.
Expected Completion Date	January 2027
Priority	Medium
Estimated Cost	Year 5: \$2000 Year 6: Same as year 5 Year 7: Same as year 5
Responsible Parties	FIP coordinator, FIP participant, Venezuelan fisheries ministry
MSC Performance Indicator(s) Addressed by the Action	3.1.1b

Action	Tasks/ Milestones	Responsible (lead)	Responsible (supporting role)	Starting date	Expected completion date	Evidence of completion / results
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3.5 - Legal and/or customary framework	3.5a: Prepare a letter introducing the FIP to the Venezuelan fisheries ministry, outlining the needs of the ministry regarding information on effective management systems, and particularly the implementation of the dispute mechanism.	FIP co-ordinator	FIP Participant	November 2025	January 2027	
	3.5b: Organise and conduct a meeting with the Venezuelan fisheries ministry to discuss the questions in 3.5a.	Ministries/ FIP coordinator	FIP co-ordinator, FIP Participant	November 2025	January 2027	
	3.5c: Conduct a review of the information on the implementation and use of the dispute resolution mechanism is presented by the Venezuelan fisheries ministry, including evidence to demonstrate that it is effective, the FIP will write a P3 scoring update report that closes out this action.	Ministries/ FIP coordinator	FIP co-ordinator, FIP Participant	November 2025	January 2027	
	3.5d: If no information on the implementation and use of the dispute resolution mechanism is presented by the Venezuelan fisheries ministry, formally request that these measures are implemented into the fisheries policies and regulations.	Ministries/ FIP coordinator	FIP co-ordinator, FIP Participant	November 2025	January 2027	
	3.5e: The FIP will work with the ministry to ensure that they are fully implementing the dispute resolution mechanism and are reporting on the use of the mechanism where necessary.	Venezuelan fisheries ministry FIP coordinator	FIP Participant	November 2025	January 2027	

Action Number and Name	3.6 – Consultation, roles and responsibilities - Venezuela
Action Goal	The FIP will be able to demonstrate that all roles and responsibilities within the Venezuelan fisheries ministry and associated authorities will be explicitly defined and well understood. Furthermore, there will be a transparent consultation process that regularly seeks, considers and accepts relevant information, including local knowledge when determining regulations. Finally, the Venezuelan fisheries ministry will be able to provide evidence that the consultation process provides an opportunity for all affected parties to be involved.
Action Description	The FIP will meet and discuss the consultation, roles and responsibilities within the Venezuelan fisheries ministry to learn how the authority uses information from relevant stakeholders when discussing new management measures or regulations. By effectively consulting with stakeholders at key stages in the management process, managers provide and obtain relevant information, and this helps to ensure that subsequent decisions are appropriate and that the process of decision-making is both transparent and well understood.
Expected Completion Date	January 2027
Priority	High
Estimated Cost	Year 5: \$2000 Year 6: Same as year 5 Year 7: Same as year 5
Responsible Parties	FIP coordinator, FIP participant, Venezuelan fisheries ministry
MSC Performance Indicator(s) Addressed by the Action	3.1.2a, b, c

Action	Tasks/ Milestones	Responsible (lead)	Responsible (supporting role)	Starting date	Expected completion date	Evidence of completion / results
3.6 – Consultation, roles, and responsibilities	3.6a: Prepare a letter introducing the FIP to the Venezuelan fisheries ministry, outlining the needs of the ministry regarding information on the roles and responsibilities of all areas of management, and stakeholder participation in management decisions.	FIP coordinator	FIP Participant	November 2025	January 2027	
	3.6b: Organise and conduct a meeting with the Venezuelan fisheries ministry to discuss the questions in 3.6a.	Venezuelan fisheries ministry FIP coordinator	FIP Participant	November 2025	January 2027	
	3.6c: Conduct a review of the information provided on the roles and responsibilities of critical parties in Venezuelan fisheries management. If there is evidence demonstrating that the ministry considers relevant information and local knowledge, the FIP will write a P3 scoring update report that closes out this action.	Venezuelan fisheries ministry FIP coordinator	FIP Participant	November 2025	January 2027	
	3.6d: If no information on the roles and responsibilities of key parties, and evidence for the consideration of relevant and local knowledge is presented by the Venezuelan fisheries ministry, formally request that these measures are implemented into the fisheries policies and regulations.	Venezuelan fisheries ministry FIP coordinator	FIP Participant	November 2025	January 2027	
	3.6e: The FIP will work with the ministry to ensure that they are considering local knowledge and making the roles and responsibilities of key members publicly available.	Venezuelan fisheries ministry FIP coordinator	FIP Participant	November 2025	January 2027	



Action Number and Name	3.7 Compliance and enforcement - Venezuela
Action Goal	The monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) system has been implemented in the fishery and can demonstrate that it is enforced via the application of sanctions. There is evidence that fishers comply with the management system in Venezuela via published records of compliance. Finally, there is no evidence of systematic non-compliance in Venezuela.
Action Description	The FIP will work with the Venezuelan fisheries ministry to learn more about the MCS mechanisms in place and how these are enforced via sanctions to prevent non-compliance.
Expected Completion Date	January 2027
Priority	High
Estimated Cost	Year 5: \$2000 Year 6: Same as year 5 Year 7: Same as year 5
Responsible Parties	FIP coordinator, FIP participant, Venezuelan fisheries ministry
MSC Performance Indicator(s) Addressed by the Action	3.2.3a, b, c, d

Action	Tasks/ Milestones	Responsible (lead)	Responsible (supporting role)	Starting date	Expected completion date	Evidence of completion / results
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3.7 - Compliance and enforcement	3.7a: Prepare a letter introducing the FIP to the Venezuelan fisheries ministry, outlining the needs of the ministry regarding information the MCS mechanisms in place and enforcement of such mechanisms via sanctions etc.	FIP coordinator	FIP Participant	November 2025	January 2027	
	3.7b: Organise and conduct a meeting with the Venezuelan fisheries ministry to discuss the questions in 3.7a.	Venezuelan fisheries ministry FIP coordinator	FIP Participant	November 2025	January 2027	
	3.7c: Review MCS systems in place in the fisheries. This should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MCS plans and strategies; 2. Information on MCS mechanisms in place (VMS, logbooks, landed catch documentation etc.); 3. Interviews with enforcement personnel; 4. Records of previous infringements, penalties, sanctions and/or court proceedings; 5. Any previous reviews or evaluations of MCS systems. <p>A report should be produced for relevant and interested stakeholders and should detail the findings and identify the gaps.</p>	FIP coordinator	FIP Participant	November 2025	January 2027	
	3.7d: Develop plan to combat the gaps identified in the national MCS systems based on findings of report in 3.7c.	Venezuelan fisheries ministry FIP coordinator	FIP Participant	November 2025	January 2027	

	<p>3.7e: The FIP will work with the ministry to ensure that they have resources to ensure successful employment of improved MCS system.</p>	<p>Venezuelan fisheries ministry FIP coordinator</p>	<p>FIP Participant</p>	<p>November 2025</p>	<p>January 2027</p>	
	<p>3.7f: Review effectiveness of MCS system implemented and adjust where necessary. A report should be produced and supplied to stakeholders and consultations re-opened if necessary.</p>	<p>FIP coordinator</p>	<p>FIP Participant Venezuelan fisheries ministry</p>	<p>November 2025</p>	<p>January 2027</p>	