


# Brazil red and green lobster – trap Three-Year Evaluation Report

Version 1.3, November 2022

## FIP Information

Target species scientific name(s) and common name(s) state target stock(s), if relevant]	Red lobster ( <i>Panulirus argus</i> ); Green lobster ( <i>Panulirus laevicauda</i> )
Fishery location	Northeast coast of Brazil, FAO Area 041. Fishing area in the state of Ceará between 37°08' W and 41°25' W.
Gear type(s)	Traps
Estimated FIP Landings (weight in tons)	2,000 metric tons
Vessel type(s) and size(s)	Sail-propelled vessels and motorized
Number of vessels	53 vessels that comprise the Associação Pesca Sustentável (APS).
Management authority	Ministério do Meio Ambiente e Mudança do Clima (MMA) and Ministério da Pesca e Aquicultura (MPA)
Assessor name(s)	Lisa Borges
Assessor Organization/Affiliation	
Date of report completion	10 March 2025

## FIP Background (Optional)

The two lobster species, *Panulirus argus* (red lobster, or lagosta-vermelha in Portuguese) and *Panulirus laeviscauda* (green lobster, or lagosta-verde in Portuguese), represent the most important fishing resources of the coastlines of northern and northeastern Brazil. The fishery exports mainly to the US market, with an average worth 60 million USD per year, and can provide for the livelihood of more than 15,000 fishers. Unfortunately, largely due to a failure to apply timely management tools and inadequate enforcement, the fishery has faced mortality levels above those scientifically recommended for a long time.

## Stakeholder Consultation & Meetings

Name	Affiliation	Date and Subjects Discussed
Rochelle Cruz	CeDePesca, Brazil	<p style="text-align: right;"><u>22 January 2025</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates in FIP work</li> <li>• Fishery co-management</li> <li>• Lobster project status</li> </ul>
Antonio Queiroz	Ministério do Meio Ambiente e Mudança do Clima (MMA)	<p style="text-align: right;"><u>27 February 2025</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TAC &amp; management measures discussion</li> <li>• Fisheries surveillance &amp; control</li> <li>• Data collection &amp; fisheries monitoring</li> <li>• Collaboration between Ministries</li> </ul>
<p>Secretaria Nacional de Registro, Monitoramento e Pesquisa da Pesca e Aquicultura: Rafaela Passarone, Alex de Souza Lira, Ynês Alves de Araújo</p> <p>Secretaria Nacional de Pesca Artesanal: Sandy Evelin Rodrigues Lima</p>	Ministério da Pesca e Aquicultura (MPA)	<p style="text-align: right;"><u>5 March 2025</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TAC setting mechanism</li> <li>• Management measures discussion (30% lobster tails, species catch %, closures)</li> <li>• Fisheries surveillance &amp; control</li> <li>• Data collection &amp; fisheries monitoring</li> <li>• Collaboration between Ministries</li> </ul>

## Summary of Findings and Recommendations

In 2022 I reviewed the FIP workplan and at that time I had the following three main comments:

1. Action 1 of the workplan is extremely long and ambitious I suggested that two new actions be created: one referring to the creation or maintenance or re-establishment of the co-management groups and another related to the specific management measures agreed (TACs, gears limitations, closed seasons, etc.)
2. There were no specific actions to improve Principle 2 PIs that do not reach an 80 score, namely the PIs related to primary, secondary and particularly ETP species information.
3. illegal fishing (namely with illegal gears) is a widespread problem and the FIP companies do not have at the moment a way of making sure that they are not buying illegally caught lobsters. Fishers may lie on the gear used and the companies rely only on the information provided by the fisher. Traceability mechanisms, alongside fishers agreements against illegal fishing, should be in place to make sure that only legally caught lobster is under the FIP.

Through the last three years the co-management groups have been reactivated and are now established, where management measures have been discussed and agreed. The management measures agreed by the Management Committee for the Lobster Fishery (CGPL) has been taken up by management authorities, which publish them in legislation. In this context, many of the task under Action 1 have been completed and there is no longer a need to divide Action 1 in different tasks. Regarding point 2 above, on the actions to improve P2 PIs, a new Action 5 to “Implement data collection programs to improve knowledge about the species and the impact of fishing on other components of the ecosystem” has now been established. The subtasks can close some of the information loopholes that exist in the P2 PIs failing the minimum 60 requirements. Finally, on point 3, regarding illegal catch, the CGPL has been discussing regulating diving, one major aspect of illegal fishing in this fishery. A specific working group was created to discuss the regulation and meetings are already taking place. In addition, Ordinance SAP/MAPA No. 1448 of December 30 2022, although revoked in December 2023 due to a government restructuring, included diving as a legal fishery for catching lobster. Its provisions will continue to be discussed in the diving working group.

## Summary of MSC Performance Indicator Scores

The following table is based on the previous FIP review carried out in 2022. The action reviewed in 2022 are in grey while the new actions and rationales are in black.

Principle	Component	Performance Indicator		Previous Score 2024	Current Score 2025	Rationale or Key Points
1	Outcome	1.1.1	Stock status	<60	<60	There has been no updated assessment for both stocks. In 2023 there was however an external peer-review of the most recent stock assessment (Canales & Ibarra, 2021a,b) where it is concluded that the stock status results are appropriate to be used for management advice (Minte-Vera, 2023). The author goes further by stating that both stocks may even be in more depleted state since:

						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- natural mortality may be lower than assumed,</li> <li>- the fishery may have expanded to other fishing grounds,</li> <li>- and that the recent decrease in fishing mortality for red lobster may not be driven by the closed areas but by the fishery expansion.</li> </ul> <p>Therefore the previous stock status scores are maintained.</p> <p>For red and green lobster:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. it is not likely that the stocks are above the point at which recruitment would be impaired (PRI) &lt;60</li> <li>b. the stocks are not at or fluctuating at a level consistent with MSY. 60-79</li> </ul>
		1.1.2	Stock rebuilding	<60	<60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. There is no rebuilding strategy. The Brazilian National Fisheries Policy does not have explicit objectives, and refers only to the “preservation, conservation and recovery of fisheries resources and aquatic ecosystems”. &lt;60</li> <li>b. There are some monitoring strategies in place since export data is being collect that allows for an assessment to be carried out, but there continues to be no signs of rebuilding for both species 60-79</li> </ul>
	Management	1.2.1	Harvest Strategy	60-79	60-79	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Lobster fishery is managed by Brazil under the Política Nacional de Desenvolvimento Sustentável da Aquicultura e da Pesca<sup>1</sup>, where there are several general regulations in place that contain different management measures. There is a TAC since 2024, a closed season, minimum size, a national licensing scheme, freeze on new vessels entering the fishery, gear restrictions, obligation of discarding egg bearing females and of selling live lobster and prohibition of selling lobsters during the last 3 months of the closed season. There is also data collection, namely of total catches by length category, that enables a stock assessment to be carried out and logbooks compulsory to all vessel. Therefore, all the elements of the harvest strategy exist.</li> </ul> <p>The harvest strategy is also responsive to the state of the stocks as shown by the TAC that has been recently agreed,</p>

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil\\_03/ato2007-2010/2009/lei/l11959.htm](http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/ato2007-2010/2009/lei/l11959.htm)

						<p>but it is too soon to say that the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving stock management objectives. The somewhat interim status of the 2024 TAC as a management measures was also acknowledged by stakeholders in the interview carried out 60-79.</p> <p>b. A catch limit, a closed season and a minimum size could limit exploitation, but the harvest strategy has not been tested 60-79.</p> <p>c. There is monitoring in place to collect data on total catches by length category that enables stock assessment of both species 60-79.</p> <p>d. There is now information that the harvest strategy is periodically review. The CGPL activity and decision to agree on further management measures such as the TAC is clearly a product of a review of the strategy. 80</p> <p>e. The fishery does not target a shark species. N/A</p> <p>f. There are no discards of lobster, and even if they would be it would have a high survival rate. N/A</p>
		1.2.2	Harvest control rules and tools	<60	<60	<p>a. A TAC was established in 2024 for both species combined based on the results of a model that estimated MSY values for red lobster (Cruz et al., 2020). Therefore, there are now generally understood HCR available that may reduce exploitation when the state of the stock approaches its PRI. However, as the TAC is combined for the two lobster species but mainly based on red lobster MSY values, it will not protect green lobster, which is estimated to be in poorer state. Furthermore, it will likely not limit fishing mortality as it is set at recent average catches. 60-79</p> <p>b. There is are now generally understood HCR available, but questions remain regarding the analysis behind the MSY values used in setting the TAC. Namely, these are related to the natural mortality assumptions used and possible fishery expansion. There is no information regarding the uncertainty of the analysis and the management system to those uncertainties. 60-79</p> <p>c. There is no evidence that exploitation is being controlled. &lt;60</p>

		1.2.3	Information and monitoring	60-79	60-79	<p>There are no activities reported and as such the previous scoring remains, although the new FIP Action 5 is likely to improve the information and thus this score.</p> <p>a. There is some information on total catches by length category between 2004 and 2020, and assumptions regarding stock structure and growth that allow for the species to be quantitatively assessed. 60-79</p> <p>b. UoA removals are monitored regularly through the export catch data that comprises 90% of total catches and these constitute one indicator. 60-79</p> <p>c. There are no recreational fisheries, but there is no information on the level of illegal fishing that is known to occur. 60-79</p>
		1.2.4	Assessment of stock status	60-79	60-79	<p>In 2023 there was an external peer-review of the most recent stock assessments (2021) where several short-, medium- and long-term recommendations are made to improve the assessments (see PI 1.1.1).</p> <p>a. The stock assessment is appropriate for the stock but does not take major biological features into account 30</p> <p>b. The assessment estimates stock status relative to reference points 30</p> <p>c. The assessment identifies major sources of uncertainty but does not take it into account 60-79</p> <p>d. The assessment has not been tested. 30</p> <p>e. The assessment was subject to external peer-review 100</p>
2	Primary species	2.1.1	Outcome	≥80	≥80	<p>CeDePesca (2016) study of bycatch of the lobster trap fishery shows that there are no species bycatch in the trap fishery. However, the study is based on a single day where fishing of 12 vessels was observed, is six years old, and confined to a very small sample of fishing vessels fishing in the same area. In addition, CeDePesca (2020) refers to several other studies where Brazilian lobster trap catch is associated to other species, nonetheless with fish, which is a common bycatch in trap fisheries. CeDePesca (2016) therefore gives some quantitative information that there is little bycatch in the fishery, but uncertainty on the possible bycatch species and levels remain.</p>

						<p>Also, based on stakeholders interviews, fish, whelks, octopus and turtles may occasionally come in to the traps, the two later to prey on lobster.</p> <p>a. There are no main primary species. <span style="background-color: #90EE90;">80</span></p> <p>b. There is uncertainty if there are any minor primary species <span style="background-color: #90EE90;">80</span></p>
		2.1.2	Management strategy	≥80	≥80	<p>a. There are no main primary species. <span style="background-color: #90EE90;">80</span></p> <p>b. There are no main primary species <span style="background-color: #90EE90;">80</span></p> <p>c. CeDePesca (2016) serves as evidence that the fishing strategy using traps works to prevent catch of main primary species. <span style="background-color: #90EE90;">80</span></p> <p>d. There are no sharks capture by the UoA. N/A</p> <p>e. There is no unwanted catch of main primary species, although there is no review of alternative measures to reduce unwanted catch or of lost traps. N/A</p>
		2.1.3	Information	<60	<60	<p>There are no activities reported and as such the previous scoring remains, although the new FIP Action 5 is likely to improve the information and thus this score.</p> <p>a. CeDePesca (2016) serves as some quantitative evidence available, but this evidence is not adequate to assess the impact of the fishery, while there is information from stakeholders that bycatch may occur <span style="background-color: #FFFF00;">60-79</span></p> <p>b. There are no minor primary species but there is also no information on lost traps and their impact <span style="background-color: #90EE90;">80</span></p> <p>c. The information available is not adequate to support measures to manage main primary species <span style="background-color: #FF0000;">&lt;60</span></p>
	Secondary species	2.2.1	Outcome	≥80	≥80	<p>a. There are no main secondary species. <span style="background-color: #90EE90;">80</span></p> <p>b. There is uncertainty if there are any minor secondary species such as whelks (discarded alive) or octopus, that may come to the traps to prey on the lobsters and are retained on board. <span style="background-color: #90EE90;">80</span></p>
		2.2.2	Management strategy	≥80	≥80	<p>a. There are no main secondary species. <span style="background-color: #90EE90;">80</span></p> <p>b. There are no main secondary species. <span style="background-color: #90EE90;">80</span></p>

						<p>c. CeDePesca (2016) serves as evidence that the fishing strategy using traps works to prevent catch of main secondary species. <b>81</b></p> <p>d. There are no sharks capture by the UoA. N/A</p> <p>e. There is no unwanted catch of main secondary species, but there is no review of alternative measures to reduce unwanted catch or of lost traps. N/A</p>
		2.2.3	Information	<60	<60	<p>There are no activities reported and as such the previous scoring remains, although the new FIP Action 5 is likely to improve the information and thus this score.</p> <p>a. CeDePesca (2016) serves as some quantitative evidence available, but this evidence is not adequate to assess the impact of the fishery, while there is information from stakeholders that bycatch may occur <b>60-79</b></p> <p>b. There are no minor primary species but there is also no information on lost traps and their impact <b>81</b></p> <p>c. The information available is not adequate to support measures to manage main secondary species <b>&lt;60</b></p>
	ETP species	2.3.1	Outcome	60-79	60-79	<p>There are no activities reported and as such the previous scoring remains.</p> <p>a. There are no set limits for ETP species. N/A</p> <p>b. There is little information on likely interaction of UoA with any ETP species (marine mammals, turtles, etc). Stakeholders interviews refer to the occasional interaction of turtles that come to prey on lobster, and it was stated that they are not caught in the trap. <b>60-79</b></p> <p>c. Stakeholders interviews refer to the occasional interaction of turtles that come to prey on lobster, and it was stated that they are not caught in the trap. <b>60-79</b></p>
		2.3.2	Management strategy	60-79	60-79	<p>There are no activities reported and as such the previous scoring remains.</p> <p>a. No national or international requirements for the protection of ETPs N/A</p>

						<p>b. Traps deployment and lifting only allows for limited interaction with ETP species, and the possibility of release of unwanted catch. 60-79</p> <p>c. Traps deployment are likely to work. 60-79</p> <p>d. Illegal fishing with other gears than traps, such as nets is widespread. 60-79</p> <p>e. For turtles they do not seem to be caught by the traps so there is no unwanted catch. Lost traps (and ghost fishing) do not seem to be a problem as the traps are made of wood and only resist a fishing season in salt water, while traps are usually “taken” by fishers and not lost at sea. N/A</p>
		2.3.3	Information	<60	<60	<p>There are no activities reported and as such the previous scoring remains, although the new FIP Action 5 is likely to improve the information and thus this score.</p> <p>a. CeDePesca (2016) serves as some quantitative evidence available, but this evidence is not adequate to assess the impact of the fishery, while there is information from stakeholders that ETP interaction can occur. 60-79</p> <p>b. The information available is not adequate to support measures to manage ETP species &lt;60</p>
		2.4.1	Outcome	≥80	≥80	<p>The CSA elaborated by CeDePesca (2020) provides a scoring for status of habitat that reached a score of 82.</p>
	Habitats	2.4.2	Management strategy	<60	<60	<p>There are no activities reported and as such the previous scoring remains, although the new FIP Action 5 is likely to improve the information and thus this score.</p> <p>a. There are some management measures in place that limit fishing in coastal areas, even if the gear has low impact in habitats 60-79</p> <p>b. There is no requirement for vessels spatial information to be reported and there is little monitor and control. Therefore, the area-based limits are not likely to work, even if the gear has low impact in habitat &lt;60</p> <p>c. There is some quantitative evidence the gear has low impact in the habitat, but there is no information available (no VMS</p>

						onboard vessels) if the area-based fishing limits are being followed 60-79 d. The are no VMEs requirements N/A
		2.4.3	Information	60-79	60-79	There are no activities reported and as such the previous scoring remains, although the new FIP Action 5 is likely to improve the information and thus this score.  a. Qualitative information is available 60-79 b. Qualitative information is available 60-79 c. But no further information is being collected 60-79
	Ecosystem	2.5.1	Outcome	60-79	60-79	There are no activities reported and as such the previous scoring remains, although the new FIP Action 5 is likely to improve the information and thus this score.  The lobster trap fishery is unlikely to disrupt the key elements underlaying the ecosystem dues to their high selectivity and low habitat impact. However, there are significant information shortfalls that prevent a higher score. 60-79
		2.5.2	Management strategy	<60	<60	There are no activities reported and as such the previous scoring remains.  a. There are no measures to manage the fishery and its bycatch and impact on habitat <60 b. There are no measures to manage the fishery impact on key elements of the ecosystem <60 c. There are no measures 60-79
		2.5.3	Information	<60	<60	There are no activities reported and as such the previous scoring remains, although the new FIP Action 5 is likely to improve the information and thus this score.  a. there are significant information shortfalls that prevent identification of key elements of the ecosystem <60 b. the main impact of UoA can be inferred base on the light nature of the gear 60-79 c. the main function of the ecosystem components are not known 60-79

						<p>d. there are significant information gaps 60-79</p> <p>e. Information is not continued to be collected 60-79</p>
3	Governance and Policy	3.1.1	Legal and customary framework	60-79	60-79	<p>There are no activities reported and as such the previous scoring remains.</p> <p>a. There is an effective national legal system 80</p> <p>b. There is a mechanism for resolution of disputes but not necessarily transparent or effective 60-79</p> <p>c. The management system has a mechanism to generally respect the legal rights of people dependent on fishing contemplated in the National Fisheries Law. 60-79</p>
		3.1.2	Consultation, roles and responsibilities	60-79	≥80	<p>a. The major institutions involved in the management of the Brazilian lobster trap fishery are well known and their functions and roles are now explicitly defined and well understood for key areas of responsibility and interaction. This was clear by the interviews carried out with MPA and MMA, although some aspects of their co-management and collaboration is still developing. The GCPL has defined roles and responsibilities. 80</p> <p>b. The law to form the Permanent Management Committee (CPG) has been published, and the recent Portaria of 22 February 2022 opens a call for application for members of the CPGs. The GCPL is now operational, having met already several times, and agreeing on several management measures that have been implemented, not at least the lobster TAC. 80</p> <p>c. The GCPL, that provides an opportunity for all interested and affected parties to be involved, is now operational 80</p>
		3.1.3	Long term objectives	60-79	60-79	<p>There are no activities reported and as such the previous scoring remains.</p> <p>Brazilian general fisheries law has implicit but not explicit long-term objectives. 60-79</p>
		3.2.1	Fishery specific objectives	60-79	60-79	<p>There are no activities reported and as such the previous scoring remains.</p>

						There are implicit (but not explicit) fisheries objectives of conservation and recovery of species which are broadly consistent with achieving the outcomes expressed by MSC's Principles 1 and 2 <b>60-79</b>
	Fishery specific management system	3.2.2	Decision making processes	<60	60-79	<p>a. There are established decision-making processes that result in measures and strategies to achieve the fishery-specific objectives, such as establishing specific technical measures like the TAC or the regulation of diving by co-decision through the GCPL, while measures discussed have been adopted (Ordinance MPA/MMA No. 11 and Ordinance SAP/MAPA No. 1448). <b>80</b></p> <p>b. Decision-making processes respond to serious issues identified in relevant research, monitoring, evaluation and consultation. This was the case of in the past the status of the stock and the introduction of the closed season. And more recently the setting of a TAC. <b>60-79</b></p> <p>c. It is unclear if the decision-making processes use the precautionary approach (no reference to PA in the Brazilian National Fisheries Law) and are based on best available information. <b>60-79</b></p> <p>d. Some information on the fishery's performance and management action is generally available on request to stakeholders. The formal and informal exchanges that have taken place between CeDePesca and fishery managers in recent years (especially in regards to the latest Portaria) is proof of this. The CGPL is now active, where stakeholder have access to information. Exchanges between CeDePesca and fishery managers continue. Lobster catches are now reported against the TAC and are available online. <b>80</b></p> <p>e. There is evidence that the fishery repeatedly violates several fisheries laws necessary for the sustainability for the fishery, namely minimum size, gear restrictions, market restrictions, closed season etc. Although there is limited information, the management authority, namely MPA and MMA, are not indicating a disrespect or defiance of the law. <b>60-79</b></p>
		3.2.3	Compliance and enforcement	<60	<60	The recent inclusion of diving as an official lobster fishery and its future regulation is likely to reduce illegal fishing.

						<p>Furthermore, the reactivation of the CGPL could also increase compliance with measures agreed by co-decision. The catch reporting is also now available publicly online. However, the MSC system has not changed significantly to adapt to the introduction of a TAC and the lack of systematic non-compliance.</p> <p>a. the MCS mechanisms, if exist, are not effective. &lt;60</p> <p>b. sanctions exist but there is no evidence they are being applied. &lt;60</p> <p>c. Fishers are not generally thought to comply with the management measures in place. &lt;60</p> <p>d. There is evidence of systematic non-compliance. 60-79</p>
		3.2.4	Management performance evaluation	<60	<60	<p>There are no activities reported and as such the previous scoring remains.</p> <p>a. There are no mechanisms in place to evaluate the fishery-specific management system. &lt;60</p> <p>b. The reinstatement of the CPGs reflects that the fishery-specific management system is subject to at least occasional reviews. 60-79</p>

## Environmental Workplan Results

Action 2 of the WorkPlan relates to the “Project Lobster” that was suspended and is no longer included in the workplan. Therefore, Project Lobster was not reviewed. There is also a new Action 5 “Implement data collection programs to improve knowledge about the species and the impact of fishing on other components of the ecosystem” but no activities has (yet) been reported under this action.

Result	Related Action on FisheryProgress	Related MSC Performance Indicator	Explanation
Task 1.1. Participate in meetings with national fisheries authorities to advance the improvement and improvement of fishery	Promotion of improvements in fishery management and research systems	1.2.2, 1.2.1, 1.2.3, 1.1.2, 2.3.3, 2.3.2, 2.5.3, 2.5.2, 2.5.1, 2.4.3, 2.4.2, 2.1.2, 2.2.3, 2.2.2, 3.2.3,	Task 1.1. CeDePesca has participated in several meeting over the years with nation fisheries authorities, notably at state level, to promote data collection and improvement in fisheries governance and management. CeDePesca has continue to participate actively in meetings with the Secretariat of Aquaculture and Fisheries (SAP), the

<p>management, monitoring and research systems <b>On going</b></p> <p>Task 1.2. Participate formally or informally in the meetings of the CPGL and SCC and to follow up the discussions on the proposals adopted at the 9th Meeting of the CPG, and in line with <b>FIP On going</b></p> <p>Task 1.3. Follow the regulatory process of the recommendations adopted at the 9th Meeting of the CPG to ensure that they are implemented <b>Completed</b></p> <p>Task 1.4. Participate in a working group to define the start-up and control mechanisms for the implementation of the quota system <b>Suspended</b></p> <p>Task 1.5. Promote the recreate of the Permanent Management Committee (CPG) <b>Completed</b></p> <p>Task 1.6. Accompany the implementation of the measures regulated by SAP / MAPA Ordinance No. 221, of June 8, 2021: prohibition of the sale of lobsters in the domestic market in the last 3 months of closed season (February 1 to April 30) and</p>	<p>3.1.2, 3.2.2, 3.2.1, 3.1.3, 3.1.1, 3.2.4</p>	<p>Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture (MPA), the Management Committee for the Lobster Fishery (CGPL) among other meetings.</p> <p>Task 1.2. CeDePesca has continue to be available and willing to participate in the CPGs whenever they will be formed and established. CeDePesca has participate in all the meetings of the CGPL, as well in other meetings requested by fishery stakeholders, including MPA.</p> <p>Task 1.3. The recommendations adopted at the 9th Meeting of the CPG included those recently adopted in the latest Portaria SAP/MAPA N° 22 of 8th June 2021. The one recommendation that has still not been adopted relates to the establishment of fishing quotas and/or export quotas. Interministerial Ordinance MPA/MMAC No. 3 of 28 April 2023 states that, by 31 December 2023, MPA and MMA will carry out a review of the lobster management plan with the objective of defining an annual catch limit for red and green lobster species to be implemented as of 1 May 2024. On the 30 April 2024 Interministerial Ordinance MPA/MMA No. 11 was published, establishing the catch limit for the 2024 fishing season of 6,192 t for red and green lobster combined, and the associated monitoring and control measures.</p> <p>Task 1.6. The SAP / MAPA Ordinance No. 221 of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021 establishes the rules for the management, monitoring and control of fishing, transport, processing, storage, and marketing of <i>Panulirus argus</i>, <i>Panulirus laevicauda</i> and <i>Panulirus echinatus</i>. The ordinance has only been in place for 9 months, so it is early to evaluate its implementation. However, at present there is a prohibition of the sale of lobsters in the domestic market, which continues to be followed by CeDePesca. CeDePesca continues to follow the implementation of several legislation that include the following management measures: a) prohibition of the sale of lobsters in the domestic market in the last 3 months of closed season (February 1 to April 30), b) only live lobsters can be stored on board, landed, transported and delivered (but up to 30% of total catch can still be retained and landed as lobsters tails), c) prohibition of retention on board, landing and marketing of egg bearing females.</p> <p>Task 1.7. CeDePesca continues to promote and discuss the establishment of a maximum allowable capture for the resources in formal and informal meetings with government representatives. A maximum allowable catch for red and green lobster combined to be set for the fishery was agreed in the second CGPL meeting, while its value was agreed in the third GCPL meeting. On the 30 April 2024 Interministerial Ordinance MPA/MMA No. 11 was published, establishing the catch limit for the 2024 fishing season of 6,192 t but there are no changes to established monitoring and control measures.</p>
--	---	---

<p>mandatory delivery of whole lobsters in processing plants in 2022 and from 2023 onwards, alive only. <b>On going</b></p> <p>Task 1.7. Promote the establishment of a maximum allowable capture for the resource and participate in the process to define the functioning and control mechanisms of the system. <b>Completed</b></p> <p>Task 1.8. To encourage government institutions to resume data collection programs and to include aspects related to other components of the ecosystem (secondary species, ETP and habitats). <b>On going</b></p> <p>Task 1.9. Promote a discussion based on social and technical data about the possibilities and conditions to legalize diving. <b>Completed</b></p>			<p>Task 1.8. CeDePesca continues to have frequent contacts and a good relationship with representatives of the Secretaria das Pescas and other government institutions, to continue to incentivize the collection of scientific data. Note that it is suggested that a new Action 1 is created, where the monitoring programme and data collections is incentivized through official government channels, but also through private industry related companies (current task 1.8, new task related to industry collecting data). CeDePesca has continued to promote the collection of scientific data with government institutions, including participating in the event “Science in Fisheries and Aquaculture Management: Actions for Sustainable Development” organized by National Secretariat of Registration, Monitoring and Research (SERMOP). MPA has stated that in 2024 it will put into operation a “National Fisheries Statistics Plan” with the compilation of past information and the mathematical reconstruction of marine fishing statistics for the years 2015 to 2022, accompanied by the dissemination of data through statistical bulletins and Business Intelligence (BI) panels. In addition, pilot projects for collecting data on marine fisheries will be implemented. However, in the interviews carried out it was clear that this plan has not (yet) been implemented.</p> <p>Task 1.9. In 2021 SAP placed for Public Consultation the Ordinance SAP / MAPA N°. 159, of May 10, 2021, where they approve the general rules and organization of the permission system for fishing vessels. This Ordinance would add diving as a fishing method to capture lobster, through scuba diving and free diving and its authorization will depend on the regulation of a specific act. SAP will analyze the proposals and then publish the Matrix of Fishing Modalities for the concession of Prior Fishing Permits and Fishing Authorizations for Brazilian fishing vessels for the sustainable use of fishing resources. On the 29-30 October 2022, in the first meeting of the CGPL, a working group was created to regulate diving as a legal lobster fishery. In January 2022, SAP/MAPA No. 1448, although revoked due to a government restructuring, included diving as a legal fishery for catching lobster. Its provisions will continue to be discussed in the diving working group.</p>
<p>Task 3.1. Complete the stock assessment of <i>Panulirus argus</i> with the data corresponding to the "2004-2017" fishing seasons and present the results to the partners. <b>Completed</b></p>	<p>Task 3. Updating the stock assessment for Brazilian lobster with the export data by commercial category.</p>	<p>1.2.4, 1.2.3, 1.1.1, 2.1.3, 2.1.2, 2.1.1, 3.2.3, 3.1.2</p>	<p>Task 3.9. The stock assessment of <i>Panulirus argus</i> has been completed by Canales &amp; Ibarra (2021a) and is available publicly on the FIP page. The stock assessment for both lobster stocks carried out by Canales &amp; Ibarra (2021a) were reviewed by Minte Vera (2023).</p> <p>Task 3.10. The results of the two species stock assessments have been shared with the authorities and the FIP Partners. The stock assessments for the two species historically have been sent in July 2023 to the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture (MPA), to be used as input in the review of the management plan for the lobster fishery.</p>

<p>Task 3.2,4,6,8. Collect and systematize export data by commercial category, annually, in the companies involved with FIP. <b>Completed</b></p> <p>Task 3.3,5,7. Conduct stock assessments update annually. <b>Completed</b></p> <p>Task 3.9. Conduct Stocks Assessment update with export for 2021 <b>Completed</b> [MODIFIED] Conduct a peer review of the assessment of red and green lobsters stocks by a fisheries scientist. <b>Completed.</b></p> <p>Task 3.10. Disseminate stock assessment of <i>Panulirus argus</i> and <i>Panulirus laeviscauda</i> lobsters with its findings and recommendations to raise awareness of the authorities and the entire value chain at the national level. <b>On going</b></p> <p>Task 3.11. Conduct stock assessment of <i>Panulirus laeviscauda</i> with the data corresponding to the “2004-2020” fishing seasons and present the results to the partners <b>Completed</b></p>			<p>Task 3.11. The stock assessment of <i>Panulirus laeviscauda</i> has been completed by Canales &amp; Ibarra (2021b) and is available publicly on the FIP page. Concluded. The latest export data from companies participating in the FIP is being reviewed and systematize by commercial category, to be update the stock assessment in the short-term future.</p>
<p>Task 4.1. Conduct a Consequence Spatial Analysis (CSA) to assess the impact of fishing activity on</p>	<p>Task 4. Conducting Ecological Risk Assessments for the Effects of Fishing</p>	<p>2.4.3, 2.4.2, 2.4.1</p>	<p>No activities were carried out under Task 4 since the last review of the FIP in 2022, as all subtasks were completed.</p>

<p>habitat structure and function. <b>Completed</b></p> <p>Task 4.2. Disseminate the results of the risk assessment <b>Completed</b></p> <p>Task 4.3. Promote management measures or changes in fishing practices in light of the CSA results, if necessary. <b>Completed</b></p>			
<p>Task 5.1. Collect data in processing plants. <b>Not started.</b></p> <p>Task 5.2. Implement an onboard observer program in trap fisheries and prepare annual technical reports on the interaction of fisheries with other components of the ecosystem. <b>Not started.</b></p> <p>Task 5.3. Implement a diving data collection program on rotating beaches and prepare annual technical reports on the interaction of fisheries with other components of the ecosystem (if any). <b>On going.</b></p>	<p>Task 5. (NEW) Implement data collection programs to improve knowledge about the species and the impact of fishing on other components of the ecosystem.</p>	<p>2.3.3, 2.5.3, 2.4.3, 2.1.3, 2.2.3</p>	<p>Task 5.3. Meetings were held with fishers divers from Rio Grande do Norte and Ceará during the fishing season to discuss the importance of data collection. Data collection began in October 2024, from a vessel from Rio Grande do Norte (vessels size, number of divers, fishing season and catch of red and green lobster) and at a lobster receiving site in Ceará (species, sex, tale and cephalothorax length).</p>

## Supporting References

Canales, C. M., Ibarra, M. 2021a. Evaluación de la población de langosta verde (*Panulirus laeviscauda*) explotada en costas del noreste de Brasil. Valparaíso, Chile (Informe no publicado). 52p.

Canales, C. M., Ibarra, M. 2021b. Evaluación de la población de langosta roja (*Panulirus argus*) explotada en costas del noreste de Brasil. Valparaíso, Chile (Informe no publicado). 18p.

Cruz, R., J. V.M. Santana, C. G. Barreto, C. A. Borda, M. T. Torres, J. C. Gaeta, J. L. S. DA Silva, S. Z. R. Saraiva, I. O. Salazar & I. H. A. Cintra, 2020. Towards the rebuilding of spiny lobster stocks in Brazil: a review. *Crustaceana*, 93: 957-983.

Minte Vera, CV. 2023. Revisão das avaliações populacionais da lagosta verde (*Panulirus laevicauda*) e da lagosta vermelha (*Panulirus argus*) exploradas no litoral do nordeste do Brasil. Relatório final (não publicado, 17 páginas)