

Mexico Western Baja California Pacific bluefin tuna - purse seine Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) Workplan

Table 1: Workplan Overview

| | |
|---|--|
| Workplan Version and Date | 1.0 April, 2025 |
| Start date (expected) | End date (anticipated month/year) |
| June 10th, 2025 | December 2027 |
| FIP Lead (organization/individual responsible for Action Plan) | Improvements recommended by (meeting/group that supported the development) |
| Baja Aqua-Farms | Michel Dreyfus, Martha Betancourt, Josh Madeira, Rodrigo Armada, Christian Alcaraz, Luis Bourillón, Eva May y Antonio Gómez |
| FIP Coordinator (organization/individual responsible for reporting on FisheryProgress) | Workplan developed by (consultant or person) |
| Rodrigo Armada | Antonio Gómez |

Acronyms

| | |
|-------|---|
| BAF | Baja Aqua-Farms |
| EPO | Eastern Pacific Ocean |
| EEZ | Exclusive economic zone |
| FIP | Fishery Improvement Project |
| HCRs | Harvest control rules |
| HS | Harvest Strategy |
| IATTC | Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission |
| MCS | Monitoring, control, and surveillance |
| MSE | Management Strategy Evaluation |
| MSC | Marine Stewardship Council |
| PBF | Pacific bluefin tuna |
| P1 | Principle 1 |
| WCPFC | West Central Pacific Fisheries Commission |

Unit of Assessment(s)

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

| UoA 1 | Description |
|---|--|
| Target species (common and scientific name) | PBF (<i>Thunnus orientalis</i>) |
| Stock | EPO: west of Baja California, within approximately 100 nautical miles of the coast, between 23°N and the U.S. international border |
| Geographical area | EEZ of Mexico |
| Fishing method or gear type | Purse seine |
| Fishing fleet or group of vessels, or individuals fishing operators pursuing stock | BAF fleet |

FIP Actions

Table 3. Performance Indicator Action Plan Table for Action 1

| | |
|---|---|
| Action Number and Name (One sentence description) | 1. Follow up on the Management Strategy Evaluation process |
| Action Goal (One sentence that describe the result of the action) | Develop an HS with its components, the combination of monitoring, stock assessment, HCRs and management actions. |
| Action Description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives) | In 2021, an MSE process started to test the assessment model, define reference points once the rebuilding targets were achieved, set up HCRs and finally design a long-term HS. The outcome of this process will allow the FIP to reach a sustainable fishery level consistent with the MSC P1. |
| Expected Completion Date | December 2027 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Priority (Based on the implementers criteria: e.g., lowest scoring issues are high priority or actions that are necessary to complete before beginning other actions are high priority) | High |
| Estimated Cost (An estimate of the budget needed to complete the action) | 15000 USD |
| Responsible Parties (List of participants) | IATTC, WCPFC, BAF |
| MSC Performance Indicator(s) Addressed by the Action (The MSC performance indicator(s) that are directly impacted by the action. The completion of the action is likely to result in an improved score change for these performance indicators) | 1.1.1 Stock status 1.2.1 Harvest Strategy 1.2.2 Harvest control rules and tools 1.2.3 Information and Monitoring |

| Action | Tasks/ Milestones | Responsible (lead) | Responsible (supporting role) | Starting date | Expected completion date | Evidence of completion / results |
|--|---|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Follow up on the Management Strategy Evaluation process | Define reference points (e.g. PRI, MSY) | IATTC, WCPFC | BAF | June 2025 | December 2026 | Stock Assessment of Pacific bluefin tuna in The Pacific Ocean in 2026 |
| | Assess the stock against defined reference points | IATTC, WCPFC | BAF | June 2025 | December 2026 | Stock Assessment of Pacific bluefin tuna in The Pacific Ocean in 2026 |

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|---|
| | Set up HCRs and tools | IATTC, WCPFC | BAF | June 2025 | December 2027 | Stock Assessment of Pacific bluefin tuna in The Pacific Ocean in 2026 |
| | Take into account the wide range of uncertainties in the HCRs | IATTC, WCPFC | BAF | June 2025 | December 2026 | Stock Assessment of Pacific bluefin tuna in The Pacific Ocean in 2026 / IATTC resolutions |
| | Design a long-term HS | IATTC, WCPFC | BAF | June 2025 | December 2026 | Stock Assessment of Pacific bluefin tuna in The Pacific Ocean in 2026 / IATTC resolutions |
| | Gather the evidence of the Management Strategy Evaluation process and previous Tasks/Milestones | BAF | CONAPESCA, IATTC | January 2027 | December 2027 | Stock Assessment of Pacific bluefin tuna in The Pacific Ocean in 2026 by the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean. 26 th Meeting of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean. Reports, resolutions, etc. |

Table 4. Performance Indicator Action Plan Table for Action 2

| | |
|---|--|
| Action Number and Name (One sentence description) | 2. Evaluate the impact of unwanted catch and discards |
| Action Goal (One sentence that describe the result of the action) | Address the persistent uncertainties regarding unwanted catches and discards |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Action Description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)</p> | <p>In order to evaluate the impact of the unwanted catch and discards, it is needed to gather comprehensive data related to, as well as, assess the discards morality, and at the same time whether there are measures to put in place that can minimize UoA-related mortality of unwanted catch. The importance of this action outcome is really on addressing specific information and monitoring issues that allow to reach high performance levels against MSC standard on P1.</p> |
| <p>Expected Completion Date</p> | <p>December 2027</p> |
| <p>Priority (Based on the implementers criteria: e.g., lowest scoring issues are high priority or actions that are necessary to complete before beginning other actions are high priority)</p> | <p>High</p> |
| <p>Estimated Cost (An estimate of the budget needed to complete the action)</p> | <p>50000 USD</p> |
| <p>Responsible Parties (List of participants)</p> | <p>IATTC, WCPFC, BAF</p> |
| <p>MSC Performance Indicator(s) Addressed by the Action (The MSC performance indicator(s) that are directly impacted by the action. The completion of the action is likely to result in an improved score change for these performance indicators)</p> | <p>1.2.1 Harvest Strategy 1.2.3 Information and monitoring</p> |

| Action | Tasks/ Milestones | Responsible (lead) | Responsible (supporting role) | Starting date | Expected completion date | Evidence of completion / results |
|--------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|---|
| 2. Evaluate the impact of unwanted catch and discards | Review alternative measures to minimize UoA-related mortality of unwanted catch | IATTC, WCPFC | BAF | June 2025 | December 2026 | Report of the revision process |
| | Gather comprehensive data on unwanted catch and discards | IATTC, WCPFC | BAF | June 2025 | December 2027 | Stock Assessment of Pacific bluefin tuna in The Pacific Ocean in 2026 and 2028, catch logbooks, reports, etc. |
| | Assess discard mortality | IATTC, WCPFC | BAF | June 2025 | December 2027 | Stock Assessment of Pacific bluefin tuna in The Pacific Ocean in 2026 and 2028, catch logbooks, reports, etc. |
| | Gather the evidence of the impact of unwanted catch and discards | BAF | CONAPESCA, IATTC | January 2027 | December 2027 | Stock Assessment of Pacific bluefin tuna in The Pacific Ocean in 2026 and in 2028 by the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean. 26 th Meeting of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean. Reports, resolutions, etc. |

Table 5. Performance Indicator Action Plan Table for Action 3

| | |
|---|---|
| Action Number and Name (One sentence description) | 3. Enhance the available information on the fishery's impact on In-scope species, ETP/OOS species, habitats, and the environment. |
| Action Goal (One sentence that describe the result of the action) | Address the information gaps regarding the fishery impacts on Principle 2. |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Action Description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)</p> | <p>Conduct targeted research and data collection to improve knowledge on the fishery's impact on In-scope species, endangered, threatened, and protected (ETP) or out-of-scope (OOS) species, as well as on habitats and the broader environment. This will involve reviewing existing data from observer programs, and collaborating with experts to assess interactions and potential mitigation measures. The findings will support compliance with MSC certification requirements and inform management strategies to minimize environmental impacts.</p> |
| <p>Expected Completion Date</p> | <p>December 2027</p> |
| <p>Priority (Based on the implementers criteria: e.g., lowest scoring issues are high priority or actions that are necessary to complete before beginning other actions are high priority)</p> | <p>High</p> |
| <p>Estimated Cost (An estimate of the budget needed to complete the action)</p> | <p>12400 USD</p> |
| <p>Responsible Parties (List of participants)</p> | <p>BAF, FIDEMAR</p> |
| <p>MSC Performance Indicator(s) Addressed by the Action (The MSC performance indicator(s) that are directly impacted by the action. The completion of the action is likely to result in an improved score change for these performance indicators)</p> | <p>2.1.3 In-scope species information 2.2.3 ETP/OOS species information 2.3.3 Habitats information 2.4.1 Ecosystem outcome 2.4.3 Ecosystem information</p> |

| Action | Tasks/ Milestones | Responsible (lead) | Responsible (supporting role) | Starting date | Expected completion date | Evidence of completion / results |
|--------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|----------|--------------|-----------|---------------|---|
| 3. Enhance the available information on the fishery's impact on other species, ETP/OOS species, habitats, and the environment. | Gather comprehensive historical data of the observer programs | BAF | BAF, FIDEMAR | June 2025 | December 2027 | Report on the observer programs, related to different seasons. |
| | Gather comprehensive data on potential interaction with habitats | BAF | BAF | June 2025 | December 2027 | Report about vessel tracking data, GPS or AIS records showing fishing activity occurring exclusively in midwater or pelagic zones, away from benthic habitats |
| | Define and conduct a literature review focused on fisheries operating in similar ecosystems, with the aim of establishing a comparative baseline to guide the analysis of potential ecosystem impacts of the fishery. | BAF, TBD | BAF | June 2025 | December 2026 | Technical reports and peer-reviewed documents, including literature reviews, trophic models, etc. |

Table 6. Performance Indicator Action Plan Table for Action 4

| | |
|---|---|
| Action Number and Name (One sentence description) | 4. Enhancing Transparency and Responsiveness in Decision-Making. |
| Action Goal (One sentence that describe the result of the action) | Strengthen the decision-making process by improving transparency, and timely responsiveness to all identified issues. |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Action Description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)</p> | <p>The current decision-making framework is effective in addressing serious and important issues but lacks explicit reasoning behind some decisions and does not always provide formal explanations on how management actions are determined. Additionally, while stakeholders have access to some fishery performance data, detailed reporting linking findings to specific actions is not consistently provided. This action aims to enhance the transparency and responsiveness of decision-making processes by improving documentation and formal reporting mechanisms.</p> |
| <p>Expected Completion Date</p> | <p>December 2027</p> |
| <p>Priority (Based on the implementers criteria: e.g., lowest scoring issues are high priority or actions that are necessary to complete before beginning other actions are high priority)</p> | <p>High</p> |
| <p>Estimated Cost (An estimate of the budget needed to complete the action)</p> | <p>5000</p> |
| <p>Responsible Parties (List of participants)</p> | <p>BAF, IMIPAS, CONAPESCA</p> |
| <p>MSC Performance Indicator(s) Addressed by the Action (The MSC performance indicator(s) that are directly impacted by the action. The completion of the action is likely to result in an improved score change for these performance indicators)</p> | <p>3.2.2 Decision-making processes</p> |

| Action | Tasks/ Milestones | Responsible (lead) | Responsible (supporting role) | Starting date | Expected completion date | Evidence of completion / results |
|--------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|-----|-------------------|-----------|---------------|--|
| 4. Enhancing Transparency and Responsiveness in Decision-Making. | Consult with authorities to gather evidence on how independent research and monitoring outside of the IATTC framework are addressed transparently and in a timely manner, and identify examples of timely compliance with legal decisions | BAF | CONAPESCA, IMIPAS | June 2025 | December 2026 | Records of meetings with authorities and documented examples of timely compliance with legal decisions. |
| | Establish a consultation process with authorities to ensure that information on the fishery's performance and management actions is available upon request | BAF | CONAPESCA, IMIPAS | June 2025 | June 2027 | Formalized consultation process and reporting mechanism. |
| | Gather and document current evidence on all details of the decision-making process to inform future evaluations and improve transparency in fishery management. | BAF | CONAPESCA, IMIPAS | June 2026 | December 2027 | A report compiling decision-making processes, supporting evidence, and documentation for future assessments. |

Table 7. Performance Indicator Action Plan Table for Action 5

| | |
|---|---|
| Action Number and Name (One sentence description) | 5. Strengthen evidence on compliance and enforcement systems. |
| Action Goal (One sentence that describe the result of the action) | Address the information gaps regarding the compliance and enforcement system at a national level. |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Action Description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)</p> | <p>During the pre-assessment, a lack of evidence prevented a full review of indicator 3.2.3. There is a general perception that the fishery complies with the regulations. To address these information gaps, meetings and consultations will be held with authorities to identify missing data, gather supporting evidence, and review processes for monitoring, compliance and enforcement. Finally, the indicator will be reassessed if deemed necessary.</p> |
| <p>Expected Completion Date</p> | <p>June 2027</p> |
| <p>Priority (Based on the implementers criteria: e.g., lowest scoring issues are high priority or actions that are necessary to complete before beginning other actions are high priority)</p> | <p>High</p> |
| <p>Estimated Cost (An estimate of the budget needed to complete the action)</p> | <p>5000</p> |
| <p>Responsible Parties (List of participants)</p> | <p>BAF, CONAPESCA</p> |
| <p>MSC Performance Indicator(s) Addressed by the Action (The MSC performance indicator(s) that are directly impacted by the action. The completion of the action is likely to result in an improved score change for these performance indicators)</p> | <p>3.2.3 Compliance and enforcement</p> |

| Action | Tasks/ Milestones | Responsible (lead) | Responsible (supporting role) | Starting date | Expected completion date | Evidence of completion / results |
|--------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|-----|-----------|-----------|-----------|--|
| 5. Strengthen evidence on compliance and enforcement systems | Organize meetings and consultations with CONAPESCA to identify available information to show the MCS (Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance) is in place. | BAF | CONAPESCA | June 2025 | June 2026 | Records of meetings and consultations with CONAPESCA |
| | Gather evidence that demonstrates that the fishery complies with all of the fishery regulations and is subject to enforcement. | BAF | CONAPESCA | June 2025 | June 2027 | Documentation of inspections and sanctions related to the fishery. |

Table 8. Performance Indicator Action Plan Table for Action 6

| | |
|---|---|
| Action Number and Name (One sentence description) | 6. Strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation of the Fishery-Specific Management System. |
| Action Goal (One sentence that describe the result of the action) | Improve documentation and verification of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms at the national (Mexico) level to ensure effective and timely review of the fishery-specific management system. |
| Action Description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives) | This action aims to enhance the assessment of PI 3.2.4 by identifying, documenting, and strengthening monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Key steps include compiling evidence of existing internal and external reviews at the national level, engaging with relevant authorities to confirm compliance with review processes, and promoting transparency in fisheries management. In addition, the fishery management plan should be updated. This action is crucial for demonstrating that the fishery-specific management system is effectively reviewed. |
| Expected Completion Date | December 2027 |

| | |
|---|--|
| Priority (Based on the implementers criteria: e.g., lowest scoring issues are high priority or actions that are necessary to complete before beginning other actions are high priority) | High |
| Estimated Cost (An estimate of the budget needed to complete the action) | 5500 |
| Responsible Parties (List of participants) | BAF, CONAPESCA, IMPAS |
| MSC Performance Indicator(s) Addressed by the Action (The MSC performance indicator(s) that are directly impacted by the action. The completion of the action is likely to result in an improved score change for these performance indicators) | 3.2.4 Monitoring and Management Performance Evaluation |

| Action | Tasks/ Milestones | Responsible (lead) | Responsible (supporting role) | Starting date | Expected completion date | Evidence of completion / results |
|--|---|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---|
| 6. Strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation of the Fishery-Specific Management System | Organize meetings and consultations with CONAPESCA and IMPAS to identify available information related to the evaluation of the key parts of the fishery management system. | BAF | CONAPESCA, IMPAS | June 2025 | June 2026 | Records of meetings and consultations with CONAPESCA and IMPAS. |

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|-----|-------------------|-----------|---------------|--|
| | Demonstrate that the fishery management system is subject to internal and/or external review. | BAF | CONAPESCA, IMIPAS | June 2026 | June 2027 | Gather and document evidence demonstrating the fishery management system is subject to internal and/or external review, such as: reports and documentation confirming internal and/or external reviews of the fishery management system at the national level. |
| | Review and update the bluefin tuna Fishery Management Plan | BAF | CONAPESCA | June 2025 | December 2027 | Updated and officially documented Fishery Management Plan. |

Table 9. Performance Indicator Action Plan Table for Action 7

| | |
|---|---|
| Action Number and Name (One sentence description) | 7. Strengthening Fishery-Specific Management Objectives. |
| Action Goal (One sentence that describes the result of the action) | This action aims to establish clear, measurable short- and long-term objectives that explicitly incorporate sustainability and ecosystem considerations into the fishery management plan. |
| Action Description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives) | The fishery management plan in Mexico is currently under review, presenting an opportunity to refine its objectives to better align with MSC Principles 1 and 2. This action aims to establish clear, measurable short- and long-term objectives that explicitly incorporate sustainability and ecosystem considerations. The process will involve reviewing existing objectives, engaging with fisheries authorities and stakeholders to ensure alignment with best practices, and integrating the refined objectives into national regulations and management frameworks. |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Expected Completion Date</p> | <p>December 2027</p> |
| <p>Priority</p> <p>(Based on the implementer's criteria: e.g., lowest scoring issues are high priority or actions that are necessary to complete before beginning other actions are high priority)</p> | <p>Medium</p> |
| <p>Estimated Cost</p> <p>(An estimate of the budget needed to complete the action)</p> | <p>14000</p> |
| <p>Responsible Parties</p> <p>(List of participants)</p> | <p>BAF, CONAPESCA, IMIPAS</p> |
| <p>MSC Performance Indicator(s) Addressed by the Action</p> <p>(The MSC performance indicator(s) that are directly impacted by the action. The completion of the action is likely to result in an improved score change for these performance indicators)</p> | <p>3.2.1 Fishery-specific objectives</p> |

| Action | Tasks/ Milestones | Responsible (lead) | Responsible (supporting role) | Starting date | Expected completion date | Evidence of completion / results |
|---|---|--------------------|--|---------------|--------------------------|---|
| 7. Strengthening Fishery-Specific Management Objectives | Review and refine the fishery management plan's objectives to ensure explicit alignment with MSC Principles 1 and 2. | CONAPESCA, IMPAS | BAF | June 2025 | December 2026 | Revised fishery management plan with clear, measurable objectives aligned with MSC standards. |
| | Consult with fisheries authorities and stakeholders to define measurable short- and long-term objectives that incorporate ecosystem considerations. | BAF | Fishing Industry, NGOs, CONAPESCA, IMPAS | June 2025 | June 2027 | Stakeholder meeting records and documented objectives reflecting sustainability and ecosystem health. |
| | Integrate the refined objectives into national regulations and management frameworks to ensure long-term implementation. | CONAPESCA | BAF | June 2026 | December 2027 | Updated and officially published Fishery Management Plan. |