

# Brazil croaker and whitemouth croaker - trawl & bottom gillnet

## FIP Action Plan

update by CeDePesca in September 2025

### Introduction

Beaver Street Fisheries and CeDePesca joined efforts to start the Brazil croaker (*Umbrina canosai*) Trawl and Bottom Gillnet FIP in February 2021, with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to undertake the prospective stages of the project. In December 2021, CeDePesca completed the MSC pre-assessment of the fisheries and presented its results to Beaver Street Fisheries, together with improvement recommendations. On 22 March 2022, CeDePesca and Beaver Street Fisheries signed FIP Specific Agreement N1, adopting the FIP Action Plan with the aim of attaining a certifiable status for the fisheries by April 2027.

In December 2023, CeDePesca completed the MSC pre-assessment of the whitemouth croaker (*Micropogonias furnieri*) and in July 2024, Cais do Atlântico and Ayamo expressed interest in participating in the FIP. A Specific Agreement was signed and the whitemouth croaker was included in this FIP.

### Action Plan Overview

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| <b>Action plan Version and Date</b>   | Version 1.0, adopted by means of FIP Specific Agreement N1.                       |
| <b>Start date</b>   | <b>End date</b> (anticipated month/year)  |
| 1 April 2022  | 1 April 2027  |
| <b>FIP Lead</b> (organization/individual responsible for Action Plan)                         | <b>Improvements recommended by</b> (meeting/group that supported the development) |
| CeDePesca (Rochelle Cruz)   | CeDePesca   |
| <b>FIP Coordinator</b> (organization/individual responsible for reporting on FisheryProgress) | <b>Action plan developed by</b> (consultant or person)                            |
| CeDePesca (Rochelle Cruz)   | Rochelle Cruz   |

### Acronyms

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| MPA | Ministério da Pesca e Aquicultura / Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture  |
| CPG | Comitê Permanente de Gestão e do Uso Sustentável de Recursos Demersais Sudeste e Sul/ Committee for the Management and Sustainable Use of Southeast and South Demersal Resources |

## FIP Unit of Assessment (UoA)

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Target species              | <i>Umbrina canosai</i>                                  |
| Other common names          | Croaker, Brazilian croaker, Argentine croaker, Castanha |
| Stock distribution          | FAO Area 041. Southern Brazil                           |
| Fishing method or gear type | Trawl and Bottom Gillnet                                |
| Fishing fleet               | Vessels motorized                                       |

|                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Target species              | <i>Micropogonias furnieri</i> |
| Other common names          | Whitemouth croaker, Corvina   |
| Stock distribution          | FAO Area 041. Southern Brazil |
| Fishing method or gear type | Trawl and Bottom Gillnet      |
| Fishing fleet               | Vessels motorized             |

## ACTION PLAN

Four FIP Actions are currently active. These Actions are detailed in the following pages, and all are described in detail in the FIP profile at [FisheryProgress.org](http://FisheryProgress.org).

|   |  |
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| <b>Action Number and Name</b>   | <b>Action 1. Promotion of improvements in fishery management and research systems</b>  |
| <b>Action Goal</b>  | Promote improvements in the management system with the implementation of measures to assist in the recovery and sustainability of stocks.  |
| <b>Action Description</b><br>(Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives) | <p>In August 2021, the MSC pre-assessment completed by CeDePesca showed that the management system available for Brazil croaker is not enough to rebuild the stocks nor to ensure that they are at -or fluctuating around- a level consistent with MSY and there is no defined capture strategy and control rule for <i>Umbrina canosai</i>. Also, there is not enough information on bycatch composition or on the impacts of the fishery on habitat structure and function. The same results were found for <i>Micropogonias furnieri</i>, during a pre-evaluation completed in December 2023.</p> <p>Therefore, the FIP must ensure that a catch strategy is designed for the fisheries that includes recovery objectives, catch control rules and tools, control and surveillance measures, and stock monitoring schemes. Meetings should be held with national fisheries authorities to drive improvements in the management system and encourage the resumption of a data collection program. In addition, a monitoring plan must also be implemented to seek evidence that the delivery of onboard maps and the use of the satellite tracking system on vessels is taking place, and the fishery must demonstrate that sanctions are applied consistently. The Permanent Management Committees must be re-established, resuming their meetings to relaunch the decision-making processes that result in strategies to achieve specific fisheries objectives and using the precautionary approach, in addition to subjecting the management system to continuous review and improvement.</p> |
| <b>Expected Completion Date</b>   | April 2027   |
| <b>Priority (as gauged in February 2022)</b>  | High   |
| <b>Responsible Parties</b>  | CeDePesca  |
| <b>Other stakeholders</b>   | Cais do Atlântico, Ayamo, MPA  |
| <b>MSC PI(s) Addressed by the Action</b>  | 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.4, 2.1.3, 2.2.3, 2.3.3, 2.4.3, 2.5.3, 3.1.1, 3.1.3, 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.2.4  |

| Action   | Tasks/ Milestones  | Responsible (lead) | Other relevant stakeholders       | Starting date | Expected completion date | Evidence of completion / results |
|--|--|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Action 1. Promotion of improvements in fishery management and research systems | Task 1.1. Participate in meetings with national fisheries authorities to advance the improvement and improvement of fishery management, monitoring, and research systems   | CeDePesca          | MPA                               | April 2022    | April 2027               |                                  |
|  | Task 1.2. Encourage the reinstatement and participate formally or informally in the meetings of the Permanent Management Committee (CPG) and present management proposals in line with FIP.                          | CeDePesca          | Cais do Atlântico<br>Ayamo<br>MPA | October 2022  | April 2027               |                                  |
|  | Task 1.3. 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).                         | CeDePesca          | Cais do Atlântico<br>Ayamo<br>MPA | April 2022    | April 2027               |                                  |
|  | Task 1.4. Review the fishery-specific management objectives that are currently established and promote improvements.   | CeDePesca          | MPA                               | April 2022    | April 2027               |                                  |
|  | Task 1.5. Encourage government and research entities to update and carry out regular assessments of stocks considering the catches of trawl and bottom gillnet fisheries.  | CeDePesca          | MPA                               | July 2022     | April 2027               |                                  |
|  | Task 1.6. Establish specific management measures for <i>Umbrina canosai</i> and <i>Micropogonias furnieri</i> that consider the current state and structure of the stock, including harvest control rules and tools. | CeDePesca          | Cais do Atlântico<br>Ayamo<br>MPA | April 2023    | April 2027               |                                  |

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| <b>Action Number and Name</b>   | <b>Action 2. Implement data collection programs to improve knowledge on the impact of the fisheries on other ecosystem components.</b>  |
| <b>Action Goal</b>  | Ensure that data is collected in quantity and quality sufficient to conduct regular risk analyses for fisheries.  |
| <b>Action Description</b><br>(Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives) | There is not enough information on bycatch composition to classify non-target species in the Brazil croaker and Whitemouth croaker if the fishery interacts with Endangered, Threatened, or Protected species using the MSC standard categories. Furthermore, the information is not enough to claim that the UoA is unlikely to cause harm to habitat structure and function and to disrupt the key elements underlying ecosystem structure and function to a point where there would be serious or irreversible harm. Therefore, monitoring should be put in place and the data gathered must include quantitative information that is adequate to assess the impact of the fisheries on those species, habitats and ecosystems using Productivity and Susceptibility Analyses, Spatial Consequence Analysis and Conduct Scale, Intensity and Consequence Analysis. |
| <b>Expected Completion Date</b>   | April 2027  |
| <b>Priority (as gauged in February 2022)</b>  | High  |
| <b>Responsible Parties</b>  | CeDePesca   |
| <b>Other stakeholders</b>   | Cais do Atlântico, Ayamo, Fishers   |
| <b>MSC PI(s) Addressed by the Action</b>  | 2.1.1, 2.1.3, 2.2.1, 2.2.3, 2.3.1, 2.3.3, 2.4.1, 2.4.3, 2.5.1, 2.5.3  |

| Action   | Tasks/ Milestones  | Responsible (lead) | Other relevant stakeholders | Starting date | Expected completion date | Evidence of completion / results |
|--|--|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Action 2. Implement data collection programs to improve knowledge on the impact of the fisheries on other ecosystem components | Task 2.1. Implement the trawl fishery's onboard observers program and prepare annual technical reports on the interaction of the fishery with other ecosystem components.  | CeDePesca          | Cais do Atlântico<br>Ayamo  | April 2023    | April 2027               |                                  |
|  | Task 2.2. Implement the bottom gillnet fishery's onboard observers program and prepare annual technical reports on the interaction of the fishery with other ecosystem components.   | CeDePesca          | Cais do Atlântico<br>Ayamo  | April 2023    | April 2027               |                                  |
|  | Task 2.3. Carry out an evaluation of indicators of Principle 2 with the information obtained from the onboard observers program.   | CeDePesca          | Cais do Atlântico<br>Ayamo  | April 2025    | April 2027               |                                  |
|  | Task 2.4. Conduct workshops and interviews with fisheries to collect information for the indicators that are not covered and on how to collectively address negative impacts of the fisheries on medium and high-risk elements, if necessary | CeDePesca          | Cais do Atlântico<br>Ayamo  | April 2025    | April 2027               |                                  |

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| <b>Action Number and Name</b>   | <b>Action 3. Conduct risk analyses to estimate the impact of the fisheries on other ecosystem components</b>  |
| <b>Action Goal</b>  | To estimate the risk that the fisheries pose to other components of the ecosystem (primary species, secondary species, ETP species, and habitats)   |
| <b>Action Description</b><br>(Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives) | There are non-target species in the Brazil croaker and whitemouth croaker trawl and bottom gillnet Fishery, however, a complete list is not available. The FIP intends to collect data regarding bycatch composition to conduct different risk analyses that would help better understand the potential impacts of the fisheries over other components of the ecosystem (including non-target species, ETP species, and habitats), and use the results to propose mitigation measures, if needed. |
| <b>Expected Completion Date</b>   | April 2027  |
| <b>Priority (as gauged in February 2022)</b>  | Medium high   |
| <b>Responsible Parties</b>  | CeDePesca   |
| <b>Other stakeholders</b>   | Cais do Atlântico, Ayamo  |
| <b>MSC PI(s) Addressed by the Action</b>  | 2.1.1, 2.2.1, 2.3.1, 2.4.1, 2.5.1   |

| Action  | Tasks/ Milestones   | Responsible (lead) | Other relevant stakeholders | Starting date | Expected completion date | Evidence of completion / results |
|---|---|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Action 3. Conduct risk analyses to estimate the impact of the fisheries on other ecosystem components | Task 3.1. Conduct Productivity and Susceptibility Analysis to estimate the risk posed by the fisheries to ETP species and secondary species in both fisheries | CeDePesca          | Cais do Atlântico Ayamo     | April 2025    | April 2027               |                                  |
|   | Task 3.2. Conduct a Spatial Consequence Analysis (CSA) to assess the impact of fishing activity on habitat structure and function.                            | CeDePesca          | Cais do Atlântico Ayamo     | October 2025  | April 2027               |                                  |
|   | Task 3.3. Conduct Scale, Intensity and Consequence Analysis to estimate the risk posed by the fisheries to the ecosystem as a whole.                          | CeDePesca          | Cais do Atlântico Ayamo     | April 2026    | April 2027               |                                  |

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|---|---|
| <b>Action Number and Name</b>   | <b>Action 4. Promote the adoption of management strategies to address negative impacts on other ecosystem components</b>  |
| <b>Action Goal</b>  | Issue ecosystem-related management recommendations.   |
| <b>Action Description</b><br>(Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives) | The impacts of the Brazil croaker and whitemouth croaker trawl and bottom gillnet fisheries on other ecosystem components will be better understood once sufficient data is collected (Action 2) and risk analyses are performed (Action 3). Once that information becomes available, it will be disseminated among stakeholders to identify mitigation measures that are both effective and practical. |
| <b>Expected Completion Date</b>   | April 2027  |
| <b>Priority (as gauged in September 2021)</b>   | Medium high   |
| <b>Responsible Parties</b>  | CeDePesca   |
| <b>Other stakeholders</b>   | Cais do Atlântico, Ayamo, MPA   |
| <b>MSC PI(s) Addressed by the Action</b>  | 2.1.2, 2.2.2, 2.3.2 2.4.2, 2.5.2  |

| Action  | Tasks/ Milestones   | Responsible (lead) | Other relevant stakeholders       | Starting date | Expected completion date | Evidence of completion / results |
|---|---|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Action 4. Adopt management strategies to address negative impacts on other ecosystem components | Task 4.1. Share the risk analysis' reports and management recommendations with the CPG, government officials and other interested stakeholders. | CeDePesca          | Cais do Atlântico<br>Ayamo<br>MPA | October 2026  | April 2027               |                                  |
|   | Task 4.2. Promote management measures or changes in fishing practices based on risk analysis results, if necessary.                             | CeDePesca          | Cais do Atlântico<br>Ayamo<br>MPA | October 2026  | April 2027               |                                  |