

BRAZIL RED AND GREEN LOBSTER - TRAP FIP ACTION PLAN

Updated by Rochelle Cruz (CeDePesca) CeDePesca on July 2025

Introduction

The Brazil red (*Panulirus argus*) and green (*Panulirus laeviscauda*) lobster FIP was formally launched by UNEP and CeDePesca in 2011. The Brazilian exporters agreed to support the FIP and in February 2013, SINDFRIO signed an agreement with CeDePesca. SINDFRIO provided funding and participated in the FIP between February 2013 and February 2022. In March 2022 they informed CeDePesca of its decision not to renew its participation in the project.

CeDePesca still continues to lead the FIP with support from the fishers association Associação Pesca Sustentável (APS), Colônia de Pescadores Z-33 do Rio Grande do Norte, Tequesta Bay, MM Sea, World Wildlife Fund, Inc (WWF), Colônia de Pescadores Z-4 do Rio Grande do Norte, Colônia de Pescadores Z-17 do Rio Grande do Norte e Federação dos Pescadores do Estado do Rio Grande do Norte (FEPERN). At the end of February 2024, CeDePesca finalized the signing of an agreement with exporting companies: Allmare, Condessa, Compex, Ipesca, Maris, MM Sea, Prime and Produmar. And 2025, the Mark Foods. This document details ongoing Actions with a horizon up to January 2029.

Action Plan Overview (Pending approval by the partners)

Action plan Version and Date	Update to the FIP Action Plan adopted by means of Specific Agreement N° 02.
Start date (Specific Agreement N°01)	End date (anticipated month/year)
1 October 2023	31 January 2029
FIP Lead (organization/individual responsible for Action Plan)	Improvements recommended by (meeting/group that supported the development)
CeDePesca (Rochelle Cruz)	CeDePesca
FIP Coordinator (organization/individual responsible for reporting on FisheryProgress)	Action plan developed by (consultant or person)
CeDePesca	CeDePesca

Acronyms

WWF	World Wildlife Fund, Inc
APS	Associação Pesca Sustentável
Z-33	Colônia de Pescadores Z-33 do Rio Grande do Norte
Z-4	Colônia de Pescadores Z-4 do Rio Grande do Norte
Z-17	Colônia de Pescadores Z-17 do Rio Grande do Norte

FEPERN	Federação dos Pescadores do Estado do Rio Grande do Norte
SAP	Secretaria de Aquicultura e Pesca/ Secretariat of Aquaculture and Fisheries
MAPA	Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária e Abastecimento / Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food
CGPL	Comitê Permanente de Gestão da Pesca de Lagostas/ Management Committee for the Lobster Fishery

FIP Unit of Assessment (UoA)

Target species	Red lobster (<i>Panulirus argus</i>) Green lobster (<i>Panulirus laevicauda</i>)
Other common names	Spiny lobster Caribbean, spiny lobster green
Stock distribution	FAO Area 041. Fishing area in the state of Ceará between 37°08' W and 41°25" W.
Fishing method or gear type	Trap
Fishing fleet	Sail-propelled vessels and motorized
FIP-related vessels	53 vessels that comprise the Associação Pesca Sustentável (APS)

ACTION PLAN

These Actions are detailed in the following pages. Please note that the Action Numbers are not sequential, but reflect those assigned in the FIP profile at FisheryProgress.org. All Actions (either active or complete) are described in detail in the FIP profile at FisheryProgress.org: <https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/brazil-red-and-green-lobster-trap>.

Action Number and Name	Action 1. Promotion of improvements in fishery management and research systems
Action Goal	Promote improvements in the management system with the implementation of measures to assist in the recovery and sustainability of stocks.
Action Description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)	Due to the constant administrative changes in the Government and especially to the fishing and aquaculture segment in Brazil, there is a noticeable lack of progress in the fisheries management of the lobster resource. Thus, CeDePesca, in partnership with SINDFRIO, has over the years reaffirmed the importance of looking for concrete improvements, such as the operation of the Management Committee for the Lobster Fishery (CGPL) and, consequently, adopting the regulations proposed by the FIP.
Expected Completion Date	January 2029
Priority (as gauged in September 2021)	High
Responsible Parties	CeDePesca, FIP partners
Other stakeholders	SAP/MAPA
MSC PI(s) Addressed by the Action	1.1.2, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 2.1.2, 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.3.2, 2.3.3, 2.4.2, 2.4.3, 2.5.1, 2.5.2, 2.5.3, 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.2.4

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Action	Tasks/ Milestones	Responsible (lead)	Other relevant stakeholders	Starting date	Actual completion date	Evidence of completion / results
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	FIP partners SAP/MAPA	February 2013	ONGOING Expected completion date: January 2029	
	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 9 th Meeting of the CPG, and in line with FIP	CeDePesca	SAP/MAPA	June 2018	ONGOING Expected completion date: January 2029	
	Task 1.3. Follow the regulatory process of the recommendations adopted at the 9 th Meeting of the CPG to ensure that they are implemented	CeDePesca	SAP/MAPA	January 2018	May 2020	[RESULT] In October 2019, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supplies, published the Normative Instruction 54/2019, determining the harvesters and dealers to deliver only whole lobsters to processing plants with a tolerance of 5% for tails. Additionally, any form of commercialization and transport within the domestic market will be prohibited between February and April. Also, the fishing season has moved one month and now goes from May 1 to October 31. The new rules for fishing and marketing will come into force on January 1, 2020. [EVIDENCE] Normative Instruction N°54-2019 (MAPA).pdf

	<p>Task 1.4. Participate in a working group to define the start-up and control mechanisms for the implementation of the quota system</p>	<p>CeDePesca</p>	<p>SAP/MAPA</p>	<p>February 2018</p>	<p>May 2020</p>	<p>[RESULT] In 2018, CeDePesca participated in two meetings of the working group to define the implementation of the quota system and in 2019, of the 3 Debate Cycles that aimed to discuss the system with fishing communities.</p> <p>[EVIDENCE]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CeDePesca_1º Meeting Working Group Cota_ 2018 02.pdf - CeDePesca_2º Meeting Working Group Cota_ 2018 07.pdf - CeDePesca_1st Cycle of Lobster Fishing Quota Debates_2019 08. pdf - CeDePesca_2st and 3st Cycle of Lobster Fishing Quota Debates_2019 10. pdf
	<p>Task 1.5. Promote the recreate of the Permanent Management Committee (CPG)</p>	<p>CeDePesca</p>	<p>SAP/MAPA</p>	<p>January 2020</p>	<p>June 2021</p>	<p>On June 30, Decree Nº 10.736 of June 29, 2021, was published establishing the Rede Nacional Colaborativa para a Gestão Sustentável dos Recursos Pesqueiros- Rede Pesca Brasil, which will be structured with a technical working group and 10 permanent management committees (CPGs), including the Permanent Committee for Fisheries Management and the Sustainable Use of Lobsters</p> <p>[EVIDENCE] Decree Nº 10.736 of June 29, 2021.pdf</p>
	<p>Task 1.6. Accompany the implementation of the measures regulated by SAP / MAPA</p>	<p>CeDePesca</p>	<p>SAP/MAPA</p>	<p>July 2021</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>	

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	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 mandatory delivery of whole lobsters in processing plants in 2022 and from 2023 onwards, alive only.				Expected completion date: January 2029	
	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.	CeDePesca	FIP partners SAP/MAPA	January 2020	ONGOING Expected completion date: January 2029	
	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).	CeDePesca	FIP partners SAP/MAPA	August 2020	ONGOING Expected completion date: January 2029	
	Task 1.9. Promote a discussion based on social and technical data about the possibilities and conditions to legalize diving.	CeDePesca	FIP partners SAP/MAPA	September 2020	January 2023	[RESULT] In January 2023, Ordinance SAP/MAPA No. 1448, of December 30, 2022, was published, establishing fishing modalities, complementary fishing modalities and general rules for Brazilian fishing vessels for the sustainable use of fishing resources. The Ordinance, which comes into force in January 2024, brings the insertion of Fishing Modality 8.02.001 with the diving method for catching lobster. However, the authorization

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						of a vessel in this type of Fishing will depend on a specific normative act. [EVIDENCE] Ordinance SAP_MAPA 1.448, of December 30, 2022.pdf
	Task 1.10. [New] Follow the regulation of diving.	CeDePesca	FIP partners SAP/MAPA	February 2023	ONGOING Expected completion date: January 2024	

Action Number and Name	Action 3. Updating the stock assessment for Brazilian lobster with the export data by commercial category.
Action Goal	Provide researchers with a data base representative of the populations of lobsters explored in Brazil and offer an evaluation based on these data to be used in decision making.
Action Description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)	<p>Since 2006 the lobster fishery in Brazil did not count on stock assessment to understand its situation. In collaboration with the export sector of Ceará (SINDFRIO), CeDePesca has been conducting an evaluation based on export data since 2004 and is being updated annually.</p> <p>The technical reports present the conclusions and recommendations to raise the awareness of the authorities and unite the will of any productive chair in favor of changes necessary for the sustainable management of the fishery.</p>
Expected Completion Date	January 2029
Priority (as gauged in September 2021)	Medium
Responsible Parties	CeDePesca, FIP partners
Other stakeholders	SAP/MAPA
MSC PI(s) Addressed by the Action	1.1.1, 1.2.3, 1.2.4, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 3.1.2, 3.2.3

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Action	Tasks/ Milestones	Responsible (lead)	Other relevant stakeholders	Starting date	Actual completion date	Evidence of completion / results
Action 3. Updating the stock assessment for Brazilian lobster with the export data by commercial category	Task 3.1. Complete the stock assessment with the data corresponding to the "2004-2017" fishing seasons and present the results to the partners.	CeDePesca		February 2013	March 2018	<p>[RESULT]</p> <p>In December 2017, the export data for the year 2017 were collected by commercial category of the companies affiliated to SINDFRIO to follow up the update of the Inventory Assessment. In the first months of the year, the data were systematized and in August the results of the fifth Assessment were released.</p> <p>[EVIDENCE]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brazilian_red_lobster_Stock_Assessment_2014.pdf - Brazilian_red_lobster_Stock_Assessment_2015.pdf - Brazilian_red_lobster_Stock_Assessment_2016.pdf - Brazilian_red_lobster_Stock_Assessment_2017.pdf - Brazilian_red_lobster_Stock_Assessment_2018.pdf

	Task 3.2. Collect and systematize export data by commercial category, referring to the year 2018, in the companies involved with FIP.	CeDePesca	FIP partners	December 2018	January 2019	<p>[RESULT] CeDePesca received for the sixth year export data classified by weight of companies affiliated to SINDFRIO, to digitize and systematize as a contribution to the knowledge of the state of fish stocks.</p> <p>[EVIDENCE] Export data by commercial category_2018.pdf</p>
	Task 3.3. Conduct Stocks Assessment update with export data for 2018.	CeDePesca	FIP partners	February 2019	July 2019	<p>[RESULT] The technical report No. 6 is made available with its conclusions and recommendations.</p> <p>[EVIDENCE] Brazilian_red_lobster_Stock_Assesment_2019.pdf</p>
	Task 3.4. Collect and systematize export data by commercial category, referring to the year 2019, in the companies involved with FIP.	CeDePesca	FIP partners	April 2020	July 2020	<p>CeDePesca received for the seventh year export data classified by weight of companies affiliated to SINDFRIO, to digitize and systematize as a contribution to the knowledge of the state of fish stocks.</p> <p>[EVIDENCE] Export data by commercial category_2019.pdf</p>
	Task 3.5. Conduct Stocks Assessment update with export for 2019.	CeDePesca	FIP partners	May 2020	May 2021	<p>[RESULT] CeDePesca completed, in May, the seventh update of stock assessment for Brazil red lobster,</p>

						with export data for the years 2019 and 2020 provided by SINDFRIO. [EVIDENCE] Brazilian_red_lobster_Stock_Assessment_2019-2020.pdf
Task 3.6. Collect and systematize export data by commercial category, referring to the year 2020, in the companies involved with FIP.	CeDePesca	FIP partners	December 2020	January 2021	[RESULT] CeDePesca received for the eight year export data classified by weight of companies affiliated to SINDFRIO, to digitize and systematize as a contribution to the knowledge of the state of fish stocks. [EVIDENCE] Export data by commercial category_2020.pdf	
Task 3.7. Conduct Stocks Assessment update with export for 2020.	CeDePesca	FIP partners	February 2021	May 2021	[RESULT] CeDePesca completed, in May, the seventh update of stock assessment for the red lobster in Brazil, with export data for the years 2019 and 2020 provided by SINDFRIO. [EVIDENCE] Brazilian_red_lobster_Stock_Assessment_2019-2020.pdf	
Task 3.8. Collect and systematize export data by commercial category, referring to the year 2021, in the companies involved with FIP.	CeDePesca	FIP partners	December 2021	January 2022	[RESULT] CeDePesca received for the ninth-year export data classified by weight of companies affiliated to SINDFRIO, to digitize and	

						<p>systematize as a contribution to the knowledge of the state of fish stocks.</p> <p>[EVIDENCE] Export data by commercial category_2021.pdf</p>
	Task 3.9. (MODIFIED) Conduct a peer review of the assessment of red and green lobsters stocks by a fisheries scientist.	CeDePesca		March 2022	March 2023	<p>[RESULT] CeDePesca completed, in March, the peer review of the assessment of red and green lobster stocks.</p> <p>[EVIDENCE] Brazilian red and green lobster_Peer Review_2023.pdf</p>
	Task 3.10. Disseminate Stock Assessment of <i>Panulirus argus</i> and <i>Panulirus laevicauda</i> lobsters with its findings and recommendations to raise awareness of the authorities and the entire value chain at the national level	CeDePesca	FIP partners	February 2013	ONGOING Expected completion date: January 2029	
	Task 3.11. Conduct stock assessment of <i>Panulirus laevicauda</i> with the data corresponding to the “2004-2020” fishing seasons and present the results to the partners	CeDePesca	FIP partners	February 2021	April 2021	<p>CeDePesca completed, in April, the first assessment for the green lobster in Brazil with export data provided by SINDFRIO.</p> <p>[EVIDENCE] Brazilian_green_lobster_Stock_Assessment. pdf</p>
	Task 3.12. [NEW] Collect and systematize export data by	CeDePesca	FIP partners	October 2023	ONGOING	

	commercial category, referring to the year 2022 in the companies involved with PROME.				Expected completion date: April 2024	
	Task 3.13. [New] Conduct Stocks Assessment of <i>Panulirus argus</i> update with export for 2021.	CeDePesca	FIP partners	June 2024	ONGOING Expected completion date: September 2024	
	Task 3.14 [NEW] Collect and systematize export data by commercial category, referring to the year 2023, in the companies involved with FIP.	CeDePesca	FIP partners	June 2024	ONGOING Expected completion date: September 2024	
	Task 3.15 [NEW] Collect and systematize export data by commercial category, referring to the year 2024, in the companies involved with FIP.	CeDePesca	FIP partners	June 2025	ONGOING Expected completion date: October 2025	
	Task 3.16: [NEW] Analyze export data regarding the structure of captures.	CeDePesca	FIP partners	October 2025	ONGOING Expected completion date:	

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					January 2029	
	Task 3.17: [NEW] Disseminate the results of the analyzes so that they can be used as input for Brazilian researchers to carry out stock assessments.	CeDePesca	FIP partners	December 2025	ONGOING Expected completion date: January 2029	

Action Number and Name	Action 4. Conducting Ecological Risk Assessment for the Effects of Fishing
Action Goal	This action aims evaluate the impacts of fishing on habitat.
Action Description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)	The Ecological Risk Assessment for the Effects of Fishing (ERAEF) is a methodology that allows the assessment of risks posed by the fishery to target and non-target species, habitats and ecosystems, and results can inform management decisions to mitigate potential impacts of the fishery. It consists of 4 methodologies, and CSA is a semiquantitative analysis that assesses the impact of fishing activity on the structure and function of the habitat.
Expected Completion Date	January 2023
Priority (as gauged in September 2021)	Medium
Responsible Parties	CeDePesca, FIP partners
Other stakeholders	SAP/MAPA
MSC PI(s) Addressed by the Action	2.4.1, 2.4.2, 2.4.3

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Action	Tasks/ Milestones	Responsible (lead)	Other relevant stakeholders	Starting date	Actual completion date	Evidence of completion / results
Action 4. Conducting Ecological Risk Assessments for the Effects of Fishing	Task 4.1. Conduct a Consequence Spatial Analysis (CSA) to assess the impact of fishing activity on habitat structure and function.	CeDePesca		July 2019	November 2020	CeDePesca completed a risk assessment of the impact of the lobster fishery on habitats, by applying the Consequence Spatial Analysis (CSA), included in the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) risk-based framework. The risk posed by the fishery was estimated as low, consistent with a score of 85 points on the MSC scale. [EVIDENCE] 2020 12_CeDePesca_Consequence Spatial Analysis (CSA).pdf
	Task 4.2. Disseminate the results of the risk assessment	CeDePesca	FIP partners	December 2020	September 2022	[RESULT] During the XIX Congreso Latinoamericano de Ciencias del Mar-COLACMAR, CeDePesca presented the results of the risk assessment. [EVIDENCE] COLACMAR_CSA_Brazil lobster_CeDePesca.pdf
	Task 4.3. Promote management measures or changes in fishing practices in light of the CSA results, if necessary.	CeDePesca	SAP/MAPA	September 2020	ONGOING Expected completion date: January 2029	

Action Number and Name	Action 5. [NEW] Implement data collection programs to improve knowledge about the species and the impact of fishing on other components of the ecosystem.
Action Goal	This action aims to evaluate the impacts of fishing on other components of the ecosystem and improve knowledge about the species.
Action Description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)	The available information is not sufficient to assess the impact of the fishery on other components of the ecosystem. Therefore, data should be collected including adequate quantitative information to assess the impact or lack thereof.
Expected Completion Date	January 2029
Priority (as gauged in September 2021)	Hight
Responsible Parties	CeDePesca, FIP partners
Other stakeholders	Fishers
MSC PI(s) Addressed by the Action	2.1.3, 2.2.3, 2.3.3, 2.4.3, 2.5.3

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Action	Tasks/ Milestones	Responsible (lead)	Other relevant stakeholders	Starting date	Actual completion date	Evidence of completion / results
Action 5. [NEW] Implement data collection programs to improve knowledge about the species and the impact of fishing on other components of the ecosystem.	Task 5.1. Collect data in processing plants	CeDePesca	FIP partners Fishers	June 2024	ONGOING Expected completion date: January 2029	
	Task 5.2. REMOVED] Implement an onboard observer program in trap fisheries and prepare annual technical reports on the interaction of fisheries with other components of the ecosystem	CeDePesca	Fip partners Fishers	June 2024	ONGOING Expected completion date: January 2029	
	Task 5.3. Implement a data collection program at strategic points along the Brazilian coast.	CeDePesca	Fip partners Fishers	June 2024	ONGOING Expected completion date: January 2029	
	Task 5.4: [NEW] Talk to fishers about the idea of collecting photographic/video data on bycatch.	CeDePesca	Fip partners Fishers	July 2025	ONGOING Expected completion date: January 2029	