

SURINAME CORVINA AND ACOUPA WEAKFISH FIP PROGRESS REPORT

1 December 2025 – 31 May 2026

presented on 3 June 2026

Introduction

The Suriname corvina (*Cynoscion virescens*) and acoupa weakfish (*Cynoscion acoupa*) driftnet and trawling FIP was launched by Sea Delight, Deep Sea Atlantic and CeDePesca in October 2020. On 13 April 2022, the FIP welcomed Caribbean Sea Foods, Marisa Fisheries, and Omicron Seafood. The main goal of the FIP is to achieve the fisheries' certifiable status against the MSC standard in a 5-yr timeframe. This ninth progress report summarizes the improvement efforts conducted by the FIP between 1 November 2025 and 31 May 2026.

Action Plan Overview

Action plan Version and Date	Version 1.5 – 31 May 2026
Start date (actual)	End date (anticipated month/year)
1 October 2020	31 October 2027
FIP Lead (organization/individual responsible for Action Plan)	Improvements recommended by (meeting/group that supported the development)
CeDePesca / Tomas Willems, Gabriela McLean	CeDePesca
FIP Coordinator (organization/individual responsible for reporting on FisheryProgress)	Action plan developed by (consultant or person)
CeDePesca / Gabriela McLean, Tomas Willems	CeDePesca / Gabriela McLean / Ernesto Godelman / Tomas Willems

FIP Progress

During the current reporting period, the FIP mainly focused on the execution of Action 1 (Adopt Management Plans for the driftnet fishery and the trawling fishery), Action 2 (Implementing a data collection program to improve the quantity and quality of data used in stock assessments), and Action 3 (Implement data collection programs to improve knowledge on the impact of the fisheries on other ecosystem components). Further, activities relevant to the social requirements of the Fishery Progress' Human Rights and Social Responsibility Policy have continued to be executed. In the following pages, the progress made towards the completion of each active task between 1 December 2025, and 30 May 2026 is summarized.

Acronyms

CASS	Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions
CI-Suriname	Conservation International - Suriname
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
EAF4SG	Enhancing capacity for the adoption and implementation of the EAF in the shrimp and groundfish fisheries of the North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem
ETP	Endangered, Threatened and Protected species
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FIP	Fishery Improvement Project
FISMIS	Fisheries Management and Information System
FMP	Fisheries Management Plan
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GFW	Global Fishing Watch
HRSRP	Human Rights and Social Responsibility Policy
IFREMER	L'Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer
IUU	Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (Fisheries)
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
LB-SPR	Length-Based Spawning Potential Ratio
Ministry of LVV	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
MSY	Maximum Sustainable Yield
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
REBYC-III CLME+	Strategies, technologies and social solutions to manage bycatch in tropical Large Marine Ecosystem Fisheries (REBYC-III CLME+)
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

FIP Unit

Target species 1	Corvina (<i>Cynoscion virescens</i>)
Other common names	Green weakfish, kandratiki
Target species 2	Acoupa weakfish (<i>Cynoscion acoupa</i>)
Other common names	Grey seatrout, grey snapper, weakfish, corvina, bang bang

Stock distribution	North Brazil Large Marine Ecosystem (provisional)
Fishery geographical area	Suriname EEZ (FAO Statistical Area 31)
Fishing method or gear type	Trawling, driftnets
Fishing fleet	Guyana boats (trawling SK fleet and driftnet SK fleet) landing their catch in Paramaribo (Suriname)

FIP Objectives

The ultimate objective of this FIP is to achieve the fishery's certifiable status against the MSC standard by **October 2027**, in a socially responsible way. To this purpose, the FIP has updated its specific objectives as follows:

1. Ensure that data is collected in quantity and quality sufficient to perform LB-SPR stock assessments, and that it becomes sufficient to feed more sophisticated stock assessments.
2. Ensure that LB-SPR stock assessments are conducted in a regular way.
3. Achieve the adoption of explicit short- and long-term objectives and harvest control rules, while improving monitoring mechanisms and consultation processes.
4. Ensure that data is collected in quantity and quality sufficient to conduct regular risk analyses for both fisheries, in order to estimate the risk that the fisheries pose to other components of the ecosystem (primary species, secondary species, ETP species and habitats).
5. Promote bottom-up processes to issue ecosystem-related management recommendations, and adopt voluntary measures, if necessary.
6. Comply with the requirements of the FisheryProgress' Human Rights and Social Responsibility policy throughout the duration of the FIP.

ACTION PLAN

The FIP Action Plan is composed of 5 Actions related to improvements against MSC performance indicators, and 3 Complementary Actions, one of which is related to compliance with the requirements of the FisheryProgress' Human Rights and Social Responsibility (HRSR) Policy. All Actions related to the performance against the MSC standard and Action C, related to the FisheryProgress' HRSR policy are described in detail in the FIP profile at FisheryProgress.org: <https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/suriname-corvina-and-acoupa-weakfish-driftnet-and-trawl>

Action 1	Adopt Management Plans for the driftnet fishery and the trawling fishery.
Action Goal	Achieve the adoption of management plans for each fishery by Year 5, including explicit short- and long-term objectives, harvest control rules, monitoring mechanisms and consultation processes.
Action description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)	In July 2020, the MSC pre-assessment completed by CeDePesca showed that the management scheme available at the time for Suriname corvina and acoupa weakfish is not enough to rebuild the stocks nor to ensure that they are at -or fluctuating around- a level consistent with MSY. In addition, the level of monitoring available at the time is not enough to determine whether a redesigned harvest strategy would work. Therefore, the FIP must ensure that a proper harvest strategy is designed for both fisheries. Such strategy should include specific recovery objectives, harvest control rules, strengthened control and surveillance measures, and fishery and stock monitoring schemes. The harvest strategy must be responsive to the status of the stock, and it should include a mechanism for the regular review of alternative measures to minimize unwanted catch of the target stocks.
Expected Completion Date	October 2027
Priority (as gauged in January 2022)	High
Responsible Parties	CeDePesca, FIP Partners
Other stakeholders	Ministry of LVV (Fisheries Department), Fishers
MSC PIs Addressed by the Action	1.2.2, 1.2.1, 1.2.3, 1.1.2, 1.1.1, 3.2.3, 3.1.2, 3.2.2, 3.2.1, 3.1.3, 3.1.1, 3.2.4

Action	Task / Milestones	Responsible (lead)	Other relevant stakeholders	Starting date	Expected completion date	Evidence of completion / Results
Action 1. Adopt Management Plans for the driftnet fishery and the trawling fishery.	Task 1.1. Participate in the consultation process to update the Fishery Management Plan (2014-2018).	FIP Partners	CeDePesca Ministry of LVV	October 2020	October 2021	[RESULT] In early March 2021, Suriname adopted a National Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) for the period 2021-2025 during a two-day validation meeting with stakeholders. FIP partner Deep Sea Atlantic participated in the consultation and validation process of the FMP. The FMP lists specific management objectives for each fishery sub-sector, including coastal driftnet fishery and demersal fish trawling. The objectives are detailed with a timeline and relevant actors in part C of the FMP (operational plan). [EVIDENCE] Fisheries Management Plan Suriname 2021-2025_v1_March 2021_ (in Dutch).pdf
	Task 1.2. Determine short and long-term objectives for the driftnet fishery and the trawling fishery.	CeDePesca	FIP partners Ministry of LVV	October 2020	October 2027	
	Task 1.3. If an initiative arises to modernize the Sea Fisheries Act of 1980, then ensure that it explicitly states clear long-term objectives consistent with the sustainability of fisheries and the use of the precautionary approach.	FIP Partners	FIP partners Ministry of LVV	October 2020	October 2027	
	Task 1.4. Conduct a consultation process among fishery stakeholders (including	CeDePesca	FIP partners Ministry of LVV Fishers	July 2024	October 2026	

	fishers) to discuss a harvest control rule for the fisheries.					
	Task 1.5. Design and implement a monitoring process that would allow for the implementation of the harvest control rule.	CeDePesca	FIP Partners Ministry of LVV Fishers	October 2023	October 2026	
	Task 1.6. Strengthen the existing monitoring, control and surveillance mechanisms (including the sanctions system) to ensure that the fisheries are able to keep fishing mortality within the required values for stock rebuilding.	CeDePesca	FIP Partners Ministry of LVV Fishers	April 2022	October 2026	
	Task 1.7. Set up a fishery follow-up committee for the driftnet fishery and the trawling fishery that includes representatives from each fishery.	CeDePesca	FIP Partners Ministry of LVV Fishers	March 2023	October 2025	[RESULT] The national SGFWG was formally re-instated by the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries in July 2025. In 2025, the SGFWG met in August, September and October and discussed important issues in relation to the management of both FIP fisheries. The FIP intends to use the SGFWG as a forum to discuss improvements in policies. [EVIDENCE] National SGFWG_250811 Agenda (in Dutch).pdf
	Task 1.8. In the context of the follow-up committee, draft management plan/s for the driftnet fishery and the trawling fishery taking into consideration the results of Tasks 1.1-1.6.	CeDePesca	FIP Partners Ministry of LVV Fishers	April 2023	October 2027	

	Task 1.9. Explore/conform alliances with other fishery stakeholders, including NGOs working towards similar objectives in Suriname.	CeDePesca	FIP Partners	October 2020	October 2025	[RESULT] The FIP has achieved the active involvement of other stakeholders in Suriname, and it has actively engaged with other initiatives where synergies with FIP objectives were found. In particular, successful alliances were formed with the Fisheries Department, FAO, the InterAmerican Development Bank (IDB), WWF-Guianas and CI-Suriname. [EVIDENCE] EAF4SG_Y1 progress report & Y2 workplan_SUR.pdf
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Action 2	Implementing a data collection program to improve the quantity and quality of data used in stock assessments.
Action Goal	Ensure that data is sufficient to conduct LB-SPR stock assessments in an annual basis as of Year 2, and to feed more sophisticated stock assessments as envisioned by WECAFC as of Year 4.
Action description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)	MSC Principle 1 is intended to cover all fishing activity on an entire target species stock. The use of the term “stock” implies that the particular fish population is a biologically distinct unit (MSC, 2019). At the time of completion of the MSC PA in July 2021, there has been no formal identification of stocks for acoupa weakfish (<i>Bang-bang</i> , <i>Cynoscion acoupa</i>) or corvina (Kandratiki, <i>Cynoscion virescens</i>) along their geographical distribution; however, it is expected that the stocks' biomass moves across the Brazil-Guianas shelf (coincident with the North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem). Therefore, it is important to support local efforts towards assessing the stocks using methods appropriate for data-deficient situations (such as the Length-Based Spawning Potential Ratio method), while improving data collection to contribute to regional investigations conducted in the context of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC).
Expected Completion Date	October 2027
Priority (as gauged in January 2022)	High
Responsible Parties	CeDePesca, FIP Partners
Other stakeholders	Ministry of LVV, Fishers, Researchers
MSC PIs Addressed by the Action	1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.2.1, 1.2.3, 1.2.4

Action	Task / Milestones	Responsible (lead)	Other relevant stakeholders	Starting date	Expected completion date	Evidence of completion / Results
Action 2. Implementing a data collection program to improve the quantity and quality of data used in stock assessments.	Task 2.1. Develop an at-port data collection program (includes the selection and training of data collectors, the design of data collection protocols, and preparing the materials and equipment needed to implement the program).	CeDePesca	FIP Partners Ministry of LVV Fishers	July 2021	October 2022	[RESULT] The methodology for at-port data collection has been developed by the Fisheries Department with the support from FAO and CeDePesca's consultants. For each of the data collection schemes, protocols and forms have been developed, training has been delivered as necessary for government data collectors in October 2022, and equipment has been made available. [EVIDENCE] Training at port data collection_artisanal fisheries_oct 2022.pdf
	Task 2.2. Collect data in as many landing points as possible to enable the estimation of length-frequency distributions and size of maturity needed for the LB-SPR stock assessments of the target species.	CeDePesca	FIP partners Fishers	July 2022	October 2026	
	Task 2.3. Encourage the reinstatement of the Ministry of LVV's onboard observers' program for the trawling sub-fishery and the adoption of protocols consistent with MSC Principle 1.	CeDePesca	FIP partners Ministry of LVV	October 2020	October 2021	[RESULT] Two onboard observers were hired in December 2020 by the Ministry of LVV. After a delay caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the program was reactivated in August 2021 in the trawling fishery. The observers have

						been collecting information on a regular basis, executing one observer trip per month. It is noted that the program is limited in nature and in coverage, and this will be addressed through Tasks 2.4, and 3.1 to 3.4. [EVIDENCE] Suriname observer protocol - forms - pics.pdf
	Task 2.4. Support the implementation of the onboard observer's program and ensure that it allows for the collection of additional data on target species.	CeDePesca	FIP Partners Fishers	July 2022	October 2027	
	Task 2.5. Share the collected data with researchers in charge of conducting the LB-SPR stock assessments, and with other interested stakeholders.	CeDePesca	FIP partners Ministry of LVV Researchers	October 2022	October 2027	
	Task 2.6. Support the conduction and dissemination of the LB-SPR stock assessments.	CeDePesca	FIP partners Researchers	October 2023	October 2027	
	Task 2.7. Support a peer-review of the LB-SPR stock assessments employed in the fishery, and the exploration of alternative stock assessment methods that take into account uncertainty in data.	CeDePesca	FIP partners Researchers	January 2022	October 2027	
	Task 2.8. Support -financially and/or technically- life history studies for the target species in Suriname. Relevant life history parameters include natural	CeDePesca	FIP partners Researchers	July 2022	October 2027	

	mortality, the von Bertalanffy growth coefficient, length-at-maturity, maximum length.					
	Task 2.9. Consider expanding the data collection protocol to include variables that help support a more sophisticated stock assessment approach as envisioned by WECAFC.	CeDePesca	Researchers	July 2023	October 2027	

Action 3.	Implement data collection programs to improve knowledge on the impact of fisheries on other ecosystem components.
Action Goal	Ensure that data is collected in quantity and quality sufficient to conduct regular risk analyses for both fisheries by Year 4.
Action description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)	In a general context, the Suriname finfish driftnet and trawling fisheries occur within the North-Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem, whose geographic limits could be said to coincide with those of what some authors call the Amazon-Guianas ecotone. Currently, there is not enough information on bycatch composition to classify non-target species in the Suriname corvina and acoupa weakfish driftnet and trawling fisheries, using the MSC standard categories. Furthermore, the information is not enough to establish if there is unwanted catch or discards of species with no commercial interest, nor to determine if the fishery interacts with Endangered, Threatened or Protected (ETP) species other than turtles. Therefore, monitoring should be put in place to identify non-target species in the fisheries and the data gathered must include quantitative information that is adequate to assess the impact of the fisheries on those species using stock assessments or Productivity and Susceptibility Analyses, if needed, and to support a partial strategy for non-target species.
Expected Completion Date	October 2027
Priority (as gauged in January 2022)	High
Responsible Parties	CeDePesca
Other stakeholders	FIP partners, Ministry of LVV, Fishers
MSC PIs Addressed by the Action	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	Task / Milestones	Responsible (lead)	Other relevant stakeholders	Starting date	Expected completion date	Evidence of completion / Results
Action 3. Implement data collection programs to improve knowledge on the impact of fisheries on other ecosystem components.	Task 3.1. Ensure that the onboard observer's program for the trawling fishery includes a protocol to collect data on the interaction of the fishery with other ecosystem components.	CeDePesca	FIP Partners	March 2023	December 2023	[RESULT] As a result of this task, government onboard observers received training, a data collection protocol and its corresponding forms were adopted and trialed, and materials and equipment needed by the observers to implement the program were secured. [EVIDENCE] Suriname trawl fishery_onboard observer protocol (in Dutch).pdf
	Task 3.2. Implement the trawling fishery's onboard observers' program and prepare annual technical reports on the interaction of the fishery with other ecosystem components.	CeDePesca	FIP Partners	June 2023	October 2027	
	Task 3.3. Set up a fishers-as-observers program for the driftnet fishery.	CeDePesca	FIP Partners Fishers	March 2024	December 2024	[RESULT] As a result of this task, a fishers-as-observers program has been set up for the driftnet fishery. Fishers are receiving regular training and data collection protocol and its corresponding forms were adopted and trialed. [EVIDENCE]

						Suriname driftnet fishery_Fishers as-observers data collection protocol.pdf
	Task 3.4. Implement the fishers-as-observers program for the driftnet fishery at as many landing points as possible and prepare annual technical reports with the collected data.	CeDePesca	FIP Partners Fishers	September 2023	October 2027	
	Task 3.5. Annually, conduct workshops with fishers and government officials to disseminate the results of the data collection programs.	CeDePesca	FIP partners Fishers Ministry of LVV	January 2024	October 2027	
	Task 3.6. Share the collected data with local and/or WECAFC researchers involved in assessing the impact of fishery on the ecosystem.			Yet to start	October 2027	

Action 4.	Conduct risk analysis to estimate the impact of fisheries on other ecosystem components.
Action Goal	Ensure that data is collected in quantity and quality sufficient to conduct regular risk analyses for both fisheries by Year 4.
Action description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)	It is clear that there are non-target species in the Suriname corvina and acoupa weakfish driftnet and trawling fisheries; however, a complete list is not available. Several of the known non-target species have been assessed with methods appropriate to data-poor situations and the outcomes show that some would be depleted. 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.
Expected Completion Date	October 2027
Priority (as gauged in January 2022)	Medium high
Responsible Parties	CeDePesca
Other stakeholders	FIP Partners
MSC PIs Addressed by the Action	2.1.1, 2.2.1, 2.3.1, 2.4.1, 2.5.1

Action	Task / Milestones	Responsible (lead)	Other relevant stakeholders	Starting date	Expected completion date	Evidence of completion / Results
Action 4. Conduct risk analysis to estimate the impact of the fisheries on other ecosystem components.	Task 4.1. Conduct Productivity and Susceptibility Analyses to estimate the risk posed by the fisheries to ETP species and to main primary and secondary species in both fisheries.	CeDePesca	FIP Partners	November 2024	October 2027	
	Task 4.2. Conduct Consequence Spatial Analyses to estimate the risk posed by the fisheries to frequently encountered habitats. In analyzing habitats, it is necessary to determine if the fishery interacts with any vulnerable marine ecosystems.	CeDePesca	FIP Partners	July 2024	October 2027	
	Task 4.3. Conduct Scale, Intensity and Consequence Analyses to estimate the risk posed by the fisheries to the ecosystem as a whole.	CeDePesca	FIP Partners Fishers	January 2025	October 2027	
	Task 4.4. Support existing efforts by local researchers and/or WECAFC researchers related to the assessment of the impact of fisheries on other ecosystem components.	CeDePesca	FIP Partners Fishers	April 2022	October 2027	

Action 5.	Adopt management strategies to address negative impacts on other ecosystem components.
Action Goal	Promote bottom-up processes to issue ecosystem-related management recommendations, and adopt voluntary measures by Year 5, if deemed necessary.
Action description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)	The impacts of the Suriname corvina and acoupa weakfish driftnet and trawling fisheries on other ecosystem components will be better understood once sufficient data is collected (Action 3) and risk analyses are performed (Action 4). Once that information becomes available, it will be disseminated among fishers and other fishery stakeholders to identify mitigation measures that are both effective and practical. The recommendations stemming from the consultation processes will be presented to fishery authorities, and voluntary measures will be adopted by FIP partners, if deemed necessary.
Expected Completion Date	October 2027
Priority (as gauged in January 2022)	High
Responsible Parties	CeDePesca
Other stakeholders	FIP partners, Ministry of LVV, Fishers
MSC PIs Addressed by the Action	2.1.2, 2.2.2, 2.3.2, 2.4.2, 2.5.2, 3.2.1, 3.2.2

Action	Task / Milestones	Responsible (lead)	Other relevant stakeholders	Starting date	Expected completion date	Evidence of completion / Results
Action 5. Adopt management strategies to address negative impacts on other ecosystem components.	Task 5.1. Conduct workshops with fishers to disseminate the results of the risk analysis and to gather input on how to collectively address negative impacts of the fisheries on medium and high-risk elements.	CeDePesca	FIP Partners	November 2024	October 2027	
	Task 5.2. Share the risk analysis' reports and management recommendations with the fisheries' follow-up committee, government officials and other interested stakeholders.	CeDePesca	FIP Partners Fishers Ministry of LVV	Yet to start	October 2027	
	Task 5.3. If necessary, adopt a voluntary Environmental Code of Conduct for the fisheries that address the intent of reducing negative impacts on other ecosystem components.	CeDePesca	FIP Partners Fishers	Yet to start	October 2027	
	Task 5.4. If necessary, implement voluntary measures to reduce risk posed to high-risk elements.	CeDePesca	FIP Partners	Yet to start	October 2027	

Complementary Action A.	
Action Goal	Disseminating the FIP's progress among partners and other interested parties
Action description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)	Ensure that fishery stakeholders and other interested parties are aware of the progress of the project.
Expected Completion Date	This Action is of paramount importance, as it ensures that FIP partners remain involved in FIP activities, and that FIP partners clients are aware of FIP progress. However, it is considered a complementary action, as it does not impact on the scoring of any MSC Performance Indicators.
Priority (as gauged in January 2022)	October 2027
Responsible Parties	Medium
Other stakeholders	CeDePesca
MSC PIs Addressed by the Action	FIP Partners
	Not Applicable

Action	Task / Milestones	Responsible (lead)	Other relevant stakeholders	Starting date	Expected completion date	Evidence of completion / Results
Complementary Action A. Disseminating the FIP's progress among partners and other interested parties	Task A.1. Create a FIP profile at FisheryProgress.org	CeDePesca		October 2020	January 2021	[RESULT] The FIP profile is available at FisheryProgress.org since November 2020. [EVIDENCE] https://fisheryprogress.org/fip/profile/suriname-corvina-and-acoupa-weakfish-driftnet-and-trawl
	Task A.2. Update the FIP profile at FisheryProgress.org, biannually.	CeDePesca		April 2021	October 2027	

Complementary Action B	Three-year FIP evaluation (required by CASS guidelines and FisheryProgress.org)
Action Goal	Ensuring that the FIP complies with the Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions guidelines for the implementation of comprehensive Fishery Improvement Projects, as well as with the FisheryProgress.org requirements.
Action description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)	According to the CASS guidelines, comprehensive FIPs must be subjected to independent evaluations of progress every three years. This Action involves subjecting the FIP to a three-year external, independent evaluation. An external MSC technical consultant will conduct the evaluation to confirm that the progress reported by the FIP is credible, especially in relation to any changes reported in policy and practices (Stage 4 results) and/or changes reported in outcome indicators (Stage 5 results). This Action is considered a complementary action because it does not impact the performance of any MSC Performance Indicators.
Expected Completion Date	October 2027
Priority (as gauged in January 2022)	Medium
Responsible Parties	CeDePesca
Other stakeholders	FIP Partners
MSC PIs Addressed by the Action	Not Applicable

Action	Task / Milestones	Responsible (lead)	Other relevant stakeholders	Starting date	Expected completion date	Evidence of completion / Results
Complementary Action B. Three-year FIP audit (Required by CASS guidelines and FisheryProgress.org)	Task B.1. Hire a 3-year audit for the FIP (to be conducted by an independent party).	CeDePesca	FIP partners MSC technical consultant	April 2023	November 2023	[RESULT] Terms of reference were signed on 19 July 2023 with Dr. Jo Gascoigne for the execution of a 3-year evaluation. In November 2023, CeDePesca's FIP lead coordinated the execution of the 3-yr evaluation with Dr. Gascoigne, which consisted of the review of the existing documentation in the FIP profile, remote interviews with relevant stakeholders which took place on 10-17 November 2023, and the update of the 28 MSC Performance Indicators. [EVIDENCE] https://fisheryprogress.org/system/files/independent_audit/FP_3year_Evaluation_Suriname_weakfish_corvina_jogascoigne_reviewed.pdf
	Task B.2. Share the results of the audit in the FisheryProgress' FIP profile.	CeDePesca		November 2023	November 2023	[RESULT] Dr. Gascoigne submitted the 3-yr evaluation final report to CeDePesca on 23 November 2023. [EVIDENCE] https://fisheryprogress.org/system/files/independent_audit/FP_3year_Evaluation_Suriname_weakfish_corvina_jogascoigne_reviewed.pdf

	Task B.3. Hire a second 3-year audit for the FIP (to be conducted by an independent party).	CeDePesca	FIP partners MSC technical consultant	April 2026	November 2026	
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Complementary Action C	Implementing the FisheryProgress- Human Rights and Social Responsibility Policy.
Action Goal	To ensure the FIP is conducted in a socially responsible way.
Action description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)	FisheryProgress released its Human Rights and Social Responsibility Policy (HRSRP) on 12 May 2021. The policy contains three components: (1) a set of requirements for all FIPs reporting on FisheryProgress; (2) additional requirements for FIPs that meet one or more criteria for social high risks; and (3) requirements for voluntary reporting for FIPs that choose to exceed the minimum requirements outlined in the policy. Considering the release of the HRSRP, FIP partners have added this Complementary Action to the FIP Action Plan in January 2022.
Expected Completion Date	October 2027
Priority (as gauged in January 2022)	High
Responsible Parties	CeDePesca
Other stakeholders	FIP partners, Conservation International, Fishers
MSC PIs Addressed by the Action	Not Applicable

Action	Task / Milestones	Responsible (lead)	Other relevant stakeholders	Starting date	Expected completion date	Evidence of completion / Results
Complementary Action C. Implementing the Fishery Progress-Human Rights and Social Responsibility Policy.	Task C.1. Conduct a self-evaluation against four criteria for social high risk.	CeDePesca	FIP partners	January 2022	January 2022	[RESULT] The first self-evaluation against four criteria for social high risk was completed in December 2022. [EVIDENCE] https://fisheryprogress.org/sites/default/files/Suriname%20corvina%20and%20acoupa%20weakfish%20FIP_FisheryProgress_SelfEval_2022_0131.pdf
	Task C.1.a. Provide annual updates to self-evaluation against the four criteria for social high risk.	CeDePesca		November 2022	October 2027	[RESULT] Dr. Gascoigne submitted the 3-yr evaluation final report to CeDePesca on 23 November 2023. [EVIDENCE] https://fisheryprogress.org/system/files/independent_audit/FP_3year_Evaluation_Suriname_weakfish_corvina_jogascoigne_reviewed.pdf
	Task C.2. Coordinate the signature of a statement regarding social responsibility and human rights.	CeDePesca	FIP partners	April 2023	June 2023	[RESULT] Having been approved and endorsed by all FIP partners, the Policy Statement on Human Rights and Social Responsibility of the Suriname corvina and acoupa weakfish – driftnet and trawl FIP was signed on 31 May 2023. [EVIDENCE] https://fisheryprogress.org/sites/d

						default/files/Suriname%20corvina%20and%20acoupa%20weakfish%20FIP_Social%20Policy%20Statement_signed%20%2820230531%29.pdf
	Task C.3. Identify existing grievance mechanisms are available for workers and fishers.	CeDePesca		October 2022	December 2023	[RESULT] The grievance mechanisms available to fishers have been identified, and the need to document the mechanisms has been noted. Grievance mechanisms will be properly documented and improved as part of the implementation of the social workplan. [EVIDENCE] https://fisheryprogress.org/sites/default/files/Social%20Risk%20Assessment%20%28trawl%20component%29_Suriname%20corvina%20and%20acoupa%20weakfish%20FIP%20%282023Jun21%29.pdf
	Task C.4. Work with partners to create a list of the vessels associated to the FIP and keep the list up to date			April 2022	October 2027	
	Task C.5. Work with partners to make fishers aware of their rights.	CeDePesca	FIP Partners Fishers	October 2023	October 2027	
	Task C.6. Hire or conduct a social risk assessment (SRA) for the trawling fishery.	CeDePesca	Social expert FIP partners Fishers	April 2022	November 2022	[RESULT] An SRA for the Suriname corvina and acoupa weakfish trawl sub fishery was commissioned by CeDePesca to OSA International in late 2022. The SRA site visit took place in November 2022, and a report and its corresponding annexes

						were delivered by OSA to CeDePesca on 12 December 2022. [EVIDENCE] Confidential documents shared with FIP partners. CeDePesca is using OSA report and its annexes to produce an SRA report that follows FisheryProgress' SRA template.
	Task C.7. Using the results from the SRA, design a social workplan to address any high-risk indicators in the trawling industrial fishery.	CeDePesca	FIP Partners	November 2022	June 2023	[RESULT] The social workplan contains 15 Actions that address all high-risk indicators and one medium-risk indicator detected in the SRA. The design and review of the workplan were made possible by a grant made by Resources Legacy Fund's Sustainable Fisheries Fund. [EVIDENCE] https://fisheryprogress.org/sites/default/files/Social%20Workplan%20%28trawl%20component%29_Suriname%20corvina%20and%20acoupa%20weakfish%20FIP%20%282023Jun28%29.pdf
	Task C.8. Liaise with Conservation International to explore ways to support any social workplan set for the driftnet artisanal fishery.	CeDePesca	Conservation International FIP partners	July 2022	May 2026	
	Task C.9. Once a social workplan is adopted for the trawling and	CeDePesca	FIP partners Fishers	October 2023	October 2027	

	driftnet fisheries, implement its actions.					
	Task C.10. Once a social workplan is adopted for the trawling and driftnet fisheries, update the SRA on an annual basis.	CeDePesca		Yet to start	October 2027	

SELF-ASSESSMENT

The current reporting period continued to show significant progress in the implementation of the data collection programs supported by the FIP. Through the various programs, high-quality data continued to be collected on catch and effort (at-port data collection), biological aspects of the landings (length data collection) and bycatch ((fishers-as-) observer programs), in both the trawl and driftnet fishery. All this data has been subject to analysis and has recently led to draft reports on general statistical aspects of fishery, stock status and bycatch. The second half of 2026 will see consolidation of the preliminary results presented in these reports, and the production of finalized reports for publication. Importantly, an updated length dataset from both sub-fisheries will be analyzed with the support of experts in a CRFM CSFWG meeting in August 2026, which should lead to a finalized stock assessment report on both FIP target species.

Monitoring, Control and Surveillance, in line with a sound legal framework, are key aspects of any fishery management system. The FIP is actively supporting the current momentum at the Suriname Fisheries Department in addressing some key issues in this area. CeDePesca successfully negotiated the hiring of an international legal consultant by the IDB, who is has started revising the Suriname Fisheries Act with technical backstopping from FAO. Other key advances in fisheries MSC include the start of VMS implementation in the driftnet fleet (CLS Nemo system) and the signing of an inter-agency MoU for improved fisheries MCS in Suriname's EEZ.

Several projects are working complementary to the FIP and are actively supported by CeDePesca. In the currently reporting period, CeDePesca has been involved in an IDB-funded project to reconstruct historical fisheries catches, with the aim of applying alternative stock assessment models to the FIP target species. Further, the FAO project REBYC-III CLME+ and EAF4SG are implementing activities in the field of bycatch information and mitigation, and fisheries data and statistics, respectively. The outputs produced by both projects are of significant value to the FIP.

Regarding social aspects, implementation of the trawl fishery social work plan has seen significant progress, while the review of the driftnet fishery social workplan has started based on work done by CI.

As the FIP moves on, additional efforts will be made to ensure that progress continues to be made in all programmed tasks, especially in relation to improvements in the management system.

NEXT STEPS

During the next reporting period (1 June 2026 – 30 October 2026), the FIP will focus on making progress towards completion of the tasks listed in the table below.

Tasks	Estimated Start Date
Task 1.2. Determine short and long-term management objectives for the driftnet fishery and the trawling fishery.	ONGOING
Task 1.3. If an initiative arises to modernize the Sea Fisheries Act of 1980, then ensure that it explicitly states clear long-term management objectives consistent with the sustainability of fisheries and the use of the precautionary approach.	ONGOING
Task 1.4. Conduct a consultation process among fishery stakeholders (including fishers) to discuss a harvest control rule for the fisheries. The harvest control rule might be simple but must be pre-agreed by stakeholders and must respond to changes in the status of the stocks.	ONGOING
Task 1.5. Design and implement a monitoring process that would allow for the implementation of the harvest control rule.	ONGOING
Task 1.6. Strengthen the existing monitoring, control and surveillance mechanisms (including the sanctions system) to ensure that the fisheries are able to keep fishing mortality within the required values for stock rebuilding.	ONGOING
Task 1.8. In the context of the follow-up committee, draft management plan/s for the driftnet fishery and the trawling fishery. The plans must include mechanisms to regularly review key areas of the management system.	ONGOING
Task 2.2. Collect data in as many landing points as possible to enable the estimation of length-frequency distributions and size of maturity needed for the LB-SPR stock assessments of the target species.	ONGOING
Task 2.4. Support the implementation of the onboard observer's program.	ONGOING
Task 2.5. Share the collected data with researchers in charge of conducting the LB-SPR stock assessments, and with other interested stakeholders.	ONGOING
Task 2.6. Support the conduction and dissemination of the LB-SPR stock assessments.	ONGOING
Task 2.7. Support a peer-review of the LB-SPR stock assessments employed in the fishery, and the exploration of alternative stock assessment methods that take into account uncertainty in data.	ONGOING
Task 2.8. Support -financially and/or technically- life history studies for the target species in Suriname. Relevant life history parameters include natural mortality, the von Bertalanffy growth coefficient, length-at-maturity, maximum length.	ONGOING
Task 2.9. Consider expanding the data collection protocol to include variables that help support a more sophisticated stock assessment approach as envisioned by WECAFC.	ONGOING
Task 3.2. Implement the trawling fishery's onboard observers program and prepare annual technical reports on the interaction of the fishery with other ecosystem components.	ONGOING
Task 3.4. Implement the fishers-as-observers program for the driftnet fishery at as many landing points as possible and prepare annual technical reports with the collected data.	ONGOING
Task 3.5 Annually, conduct workshops with fishers and government officials to disseminate the results of the data collection programs.	TO START – August 2026

Task 3.6. Share the collected data with local and/or WECAFC researchers involved in assessing the impact of the fishery on the ecosystem.	TO START – August 2026
Task 4.1. Biennially, conduct Productivity and Susceptibility Analysis to estimate the risk posed by the fisheries to ETP species and to main primary and secondary species in both fisheries. In analyzing ETP species, it is necessary to determine whether any of these coincide between both fisheries and the MSC-certified seabob trawling fishery in order to consider their combined effects on the species.	ONGOING
Task 4.2. Conduct Consequence Spatial Analyses to estimate the risk posed by the fisheries to frequently encountered habitats. In analyzing habitats, it is necessary to determine if the fishery interacts with any vulnerable marine ecosystems.	TO START
Task 4.4. Support existing efforts by local researchers and/or WECAFC researchers related to the assessment of the impact of fisheries on other ecosystem components.	ONGOING
Task 5.1. Conduct workshops with fishers to disseminate the results of the risk analysis and to gather input on how to collectively address negative impacts of the fisheries on medium and high risk elements.	ONGOING
Task 5.2. Share the risk analysis' reports and management recommendations with the fisheries' follow-up committee, government officials and other interested stakeholders.	TO START
Task 5.3. If necessary, adopt a voluntary Environmental Code of Conduct for the fisheries that address the intent of reducing negative impacts on other ecosystem components.	TO START
Task 5.4. If necessary, implement voluntary measures to reduce risk posed to high-risk elements.	TO START
Task A.2. Update the FIP profile at FisheryProgress.org, biannually.	June 2026
Task B.3. Hire a second 3-year evaluation for the FIP (to be conducted by an independent party).	July 2026
Task C.4. Keep the vessel list up-to-date.	ONGOING
Task C.5. Work with partners to make fishers aware of their rights.	ONGOING
Task C.9. Once a social workplan is adopted for the trawling and driftnet fisheries, implement its actions.	ONGOING
Task C.10. Once a social workplan is adopted for the trawling and driftnet fisheries, update the SRA on an annual basis.	TO START

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

The supporting documents listed below are provided as annexes and constitute evidence of the progress described in this report. If the reader has any questions regarding the narrative report or its attachments, please contact Tomas Willems (tomas.willems@cedepesca.net) or Gabriela McLean (gabriela.mclean@cedepesca.net).

- Annex 1 – License Conditions Decree 2026
- Annex 2 – Mission Programme May 2026 for Fisheries Act consultant
- Annex 3 – Concept Note CRFM CSWG 2026
- Annex 4 – MOU Interagency Cooperations for MCS
- Annex 5 – Draft statistical report for artisanal fisheries
- Annex 6 – Draft statistical report for industrial fisheries
- Annex 7 – Observer Report Fish Trawl February 2026
- Annex 8 – Fifth Meeting of the Shrimp and Groundfish WG, Dec 2025 Agenda
- Annex 9 – Draft report of fisher-as-observer program
- Annex 10 – PSA Report
- Annex 11 – REBYC-III presentation for 2026 project steering committee meeting
- Annex 12 – EAF4SG presentation for 2026 project steering committee meeting
- Annex 13 – Presentation for WGFTFB 2026 on sorting grids in Suriname demersal trawl fishery