Sri Lanka Tuna and Swordfish - longline Fishery Improvement Project

Seafood Exporters' Association of Sri Lanka (SEASL)

Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) Workplan

Revision

3 September 2024

Acronyms

CAB	Conformance Assessment Body
MBOA	Multi-day Boat Owners' Association
BET	Bigeye tuna
CPC	Contracting Party Country to the IOTC
DFAR	Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource
ETP	Endangered threatened and protected species
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FIP	Fishery Improvement Project
IO	Indian Ocean
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
LKA	Sri Lanka
MFAR	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
NARA	National Aquatic Resources, Research and Development Agency
PI	Performance Indicator
SEASL	Seafood Exporters' Association of Sri Lanka
SL-NPOA	Sri Lanka National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks
SWO	Swordfish
UOA	Unit of Assessment
WP	Working Party
YFT	Yellowfin tuna

Workplan Overview

Table 1. Sri Lanka Fishery Improvement Process – Workplan update

Workplan Version and Date	Version 1 : 19 August 2024
Start date (expected)	End date (anticipated month/year)
1 September 2024	31 September 2028
FIP Lead (organization/individual responsible for Action Plan)	Improvements recommended by (meeting/group that supported the development)
Channa Weeratunga	Members of Seafood Exporters' Association of Sri Lanka (SEASL)
FIP Coordinator (organization/individual responsible for reporting on FisheryProgress)	Workplan developed by (consultant or person)
Channa Weeratunga	David William Japp

Unit of Assessment(s)

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

UoA 1	**Description**
Target species (common and scientific name)	Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)
Stock	Western and Eastern Indian Ocean (FAO 51 & 56)
Geographical area	In the EEZ of Sri Lanka and adjacent high seas in IOTC area
Fishing method or gear type	Longline
Fishing fleet or group of vessels, or individuals fishing operators pursuing stock	Sri Lankan multiday fishing boats registered to fish in the EEZ or High Seas
UoA 2	Description
Target species (common and scientific name)	Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*)
Stock	Western and Eastern Indian Ocean (FAO 51 & 56)
Geographical area	In the EEZ of Sri Lanka and adjacent high seas in IOTC area
Fishing method or gear type	Longline
Fishing fleet or group of vessels, or individuals fishing operators pursuing stock	Sri Lankan multiday fishing boats registered to fish in the EEZ or High Seas
UoA 3	Description
Target species (common and scientific name)	Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*)
Stock	Western and Eastern Indian Ocean (FAO 51 & 56)
Geographical area	In the EEZ of Sri Lanka and adjacent high seas in IOTC area
Fishing method or gear type	Longline
Fishing fleet or group of vessels, or individuals fishing operators pursuing stock	Sri Lankan multiday fishing boats registered to fish in the EEZ or High Seas

Introduction

In April 2017, a new fishery improvement project (FIP) for Sri Lanka's longline fishery was launched at the Seafood Expo Global in Brussels (Belgium) by the President of the Seafood Exporters' Association of Sri Lanka (SEASL). In May the SEASL signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, that aimed to improve the biological and ecological status of Sri Lanka's longline fishery. The MoU also commits the parties to implement fishery-specific management measures that will maintain the status of the fishery at a level consistent with a sustainably managed fishery.

At the start of this process, the SEASL commissioned a Gap Analysis to establish the scope of the new longline fishery improvement project and to internally assess with members of the new FIP, the status of the fishery/fisheries against the Marine Stewardship Council's (MSC) Fishery Standard. Further, a pre-assessment of the longline fishery against the MSC Fishery Standard by a Certified Assessment Body (CAB) was done (cofinanced by the SEASL and New England Seafood International Pvt Ltd). The FIP is therefore a collaboration between Sri Lanka's leading seafood manufacturers, the government's regulatory and export authorities, boat owners' associations, skippers and their crew. Representatives of these associations, agencies and authorities comprise the decision making 'members' of the Sri Lankan longline FIP. The FIP remains in place although the SEASL fell behind on their reporting on the FIP and has since 2023 being inactive.

This new workplan aims to re-establish the FIP. Much of the fundamental requirements remain in place – these include :

a) The MOU between the Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development and SEASL
b) The fishery as previously described remains largely unchanged
c) The members of SEASL remain the same and fully committed to the FIP
d) Gap Analysis and Preassessment undertaken in 2017 remains in place
e) The preliminary scoring as determined by the pre-assessment and forms the basis for the setting of the initial actions
f) Self-Evaluation of Risk Criteria

Sri Lanka continues to be an active member of the IOTC. The SEASL continue to support the Ministry. Updates on the fishery have been submitted to IOTC (see Sri Lanka National Report to the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, 2023[1], 2002 and 2021) in compliance with Sri Lanka's reporting obligations. In 2022 total production of tuna and tuna like species reported was 81973t. This catch was mainly made within Sri Lanka's EEZ (80%). In regard to the three tropical tuna species, yellowfin tuna (YFT) comprised 36%, skipjack (SKJ) 37% and bigeye tuna (BET) 5.6%. In regard to Sri Lanka's obligations to reduced YFT catch under CMM19/01, Sri Lanka was compliant.

Ther are several gear types used to target tuna and other pelagic species in Sri Lankan waters and the adjacent high seas. However this FIP relates only to the long-line directed effort. The aggregate longline effort of the fishery between 2018–2022 is shown in Figure 1 (IOTC, 2023). For this FIP, three species are the target of the fishery and would potentially each be a Unit of Assessment under an MSC assessment using the current version of the standard (MSC 2.01). These are UoA1 Yellowfin, UoA2 Bigeye tuna and UoA3 Swordfish. Longline spatial effort for these three species is similar with a proportion in national waters and some on the high seas as shown by the swordfish catch in Figure 2. VMS is mandatory for high seas operating vessels. Vessel locations are reported to the vessel monitoring center in Colombo (the Fisheries Monitoring Center or FMC). In addition, Sri Lanka has also implemented a fishery observer program for data collection in compliance with IOTC resolution 11/04 of IOTC since 2014. From an initial pool of 28 trained observers there is currently (2022) 10 observers. While this seems low, the majority of fishing fleet in are small vessels less than 24m length which is impractical to deploy on board human observers. Data is therefore collected mainly from larger vessels (<24m) and in 2022 some nine observer deployments were reported.

[1] IOTC–2023–SC26–NRXX. Sri Lanka National Report to Scientific Committee of Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, 2023

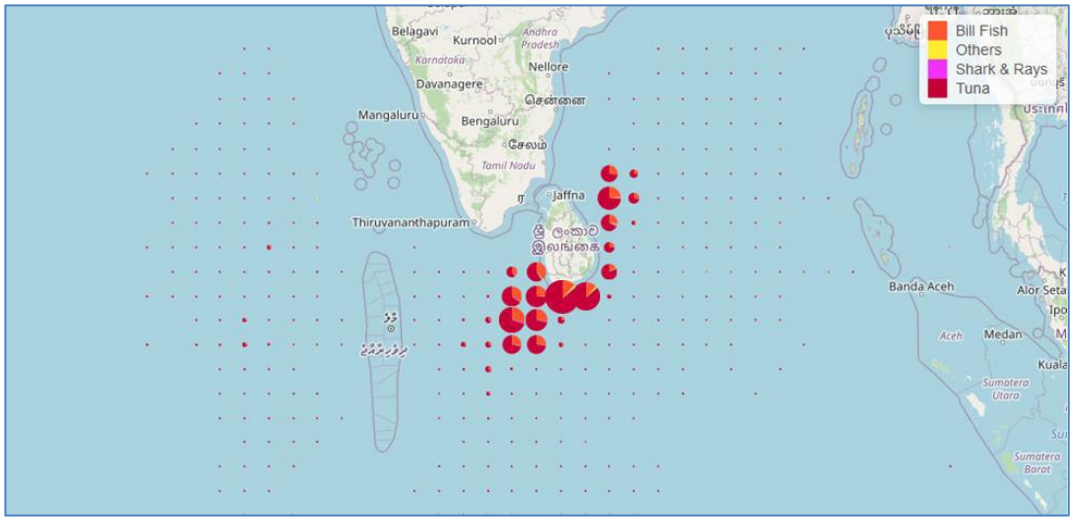

Figure 1. Map of distribution of fishing effort for Long Lines 2018-2023 (IOTC, 2023)

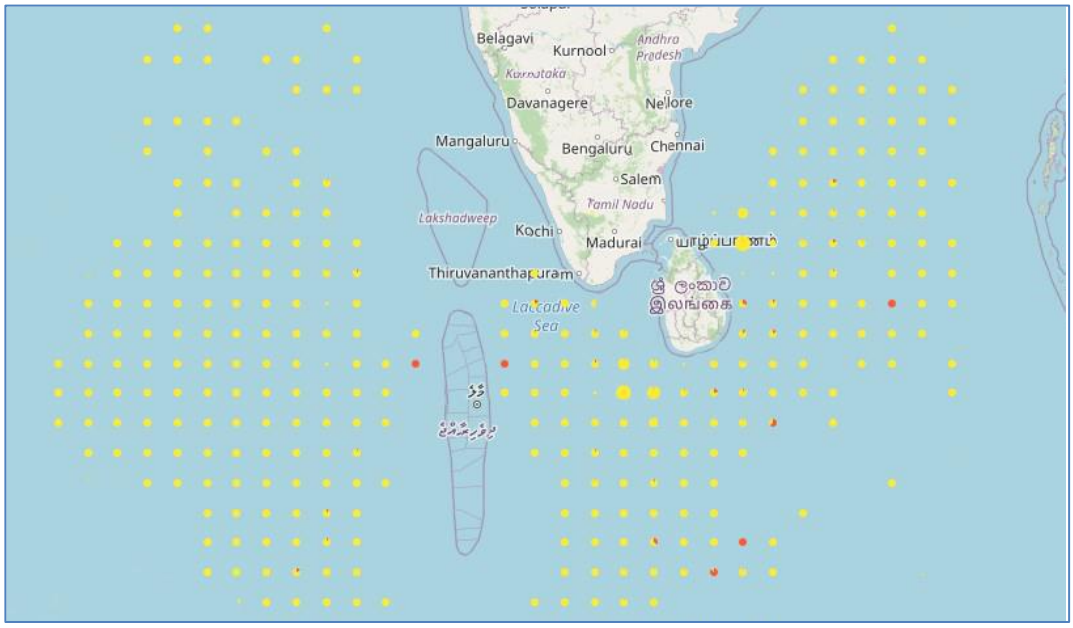

Figure 2. Map of distribution of swordfish catch in 2022 in IOTC area of competence as reported in IOTC, 2023.

This FIP aims to promote the development of the Sri Lanka longline fishery for YFT, BET and SWD. Part of the FIP however is the impact of the fishery on bycatch which include other non-target fish species and endangered, threatened and protected species (ETP) which including shark, skates and rays and seabirds. The Sri Lanka national report to IOTC provides some information on these species, though the available information is dated and needs improvement (Figure 3).

Further in regard to the vessels that apply to this FIP, they are only Longliners and a **subset** of the total number as reported to IOTC for 2022.

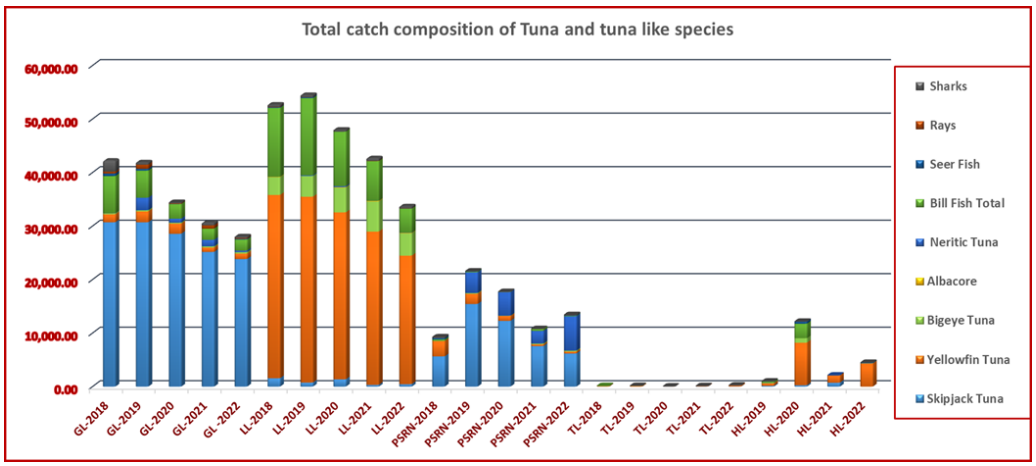

Figure 3. Total Catch composition of Tuna and tuna like species by gear for the years 2018 To 2022 as reported to IOTC in 2023. Source: PELAGIKOS database(NARA),log book database-(DFAR) & land based sampling database (DFAR/MFARD)

Table 3. Structure of the Sri Lankan fishing fleet as reported to IOTC (2023)

Vessels operated: Gears used and Trip Length		
EEZ Only		High seas +EEZ
IOTC Authorized		Active vessels only
8m-10.3m	2182	29% LL only 21% GI only 27% PSRN 23% Multi gear (more or less combination of all above gears) About 52% of the EEZ boats within the 8m-10.3m length category operates for 1-10 days while rest operates 10-30 days. - High seas operating multiday boats operates average 30-60 days
10.3m -15m	1420	1313
15m-24m	0	164
>24m	0	08
Total vessels engaged in tuna and tuna like fisheries EEZ& HS =3602+1485 = 5087		

The original scope of the FIP was determined based on the consideration of the following three factors:

a) The export demand for fresh and frozen tuna and billfish products.
b) The types of vessels and gears supplying tuna and billfish for export.
c) The current and short-term status of key export species.

Sri Lanka's fresh and frozen seafood export industry is driven mainly by demand for yellowfin tuna products. Demand for bigeye, indo-pacific sailfish, swordfish and marlin products is also important to the industry. Artisanal (<15m) and semi-industrial (<24 m) multiday fishing boats, deploying short (500 – 1,500 hooks) longlines are the main source of tuna and billfish for Sri Lankan exporters. Based on the original scope this revised FIP is defined as follows:

Jurisdiction: Sri Lanka's Exclusive Economic Zone & International Waters in the Indian Ocean

Vessel Type: Sri Lankan multiday fishing boats registered to fish in the EEZ or High Seas

Gear Type: Deep-set Longline

Target Species: Yellowfin Tuna, Bigeye Tuna, Swordfish

Stock Status Update

The original assessments for the FIP were undertaken in 2028, which included a Gap Analysis and also an MSC preassessment. While most performance indicators remain largely unchanged, there has been a significant shift in the status of IOTC tropical tuna stocks. The current status of the three selected UoAs as reported by IOTC in 2023 are as follows:

Yellowfin Tuna (2023)

APPENDIX 4

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: YELLOWFIN TUNA (2023)

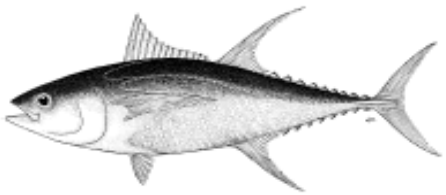

Table 1. Status of yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) in the Indian Ocean

Area[1]	Indicator	Value	Status[4]
Indian Ocean	Catch in 2022 (t)[2]	410,332	68%*
	Average catch 2018-2022 (t)[3]	429,421	
	MSY (1,000 t) (80% CI)	349 (286-412)	
	F_{MSY} (80% CI)	0.18 (0.15-0.21)	
	SB_{MSY} (1,000 t) (80% CI)	1,333 (1,018-1,648)	
	F_{2020} / F_{MSY} (80% CI)	1.32 (0.68-1.95)	
	SB_{2020} / SB_{MSY} (80% CI)	0.87 (0.63-1.10)	
	SB_{2020} / SB_{0} (80% CI)	0.31 (0.24-0.38)	

[1]Boundaries for the Indian Ocean stock assessment are defined as the IOTC area of competence
[2]Proportion of 2022 catch fully or partially estimated by IOTC Secretariat: 17.2%
[3]Including re-estimations of EU PS species composition for 2018 (only requested for stock assessment purposes)
[4]The stock status refers to the most recent years' data used in the assessment conducted in 2021, i.e., 2020

Table 2. Probability of stock status with respect to each of four quadrants of the Kobe plot. Percentages are calculated as the proportion of model terminal values that fall within each quadrant with model weights taken into account

Colour key	Stock overfished (SB_{2020} / SB_{MSY}<1)	Stock not overfished (SB_{2020} / SB_{MSY}≥ 1)
Stock subject to overfishing (F_{2020} / F_{MSY}≥ 1)	68%	2%
Stock not subject to overfishing (F_{2020} / F_{MSY}≤ 1)	13%	17%
Not assessed / Uncertain		

Figure 4. Current status of IOTC YFT as reported by IOTC for 2023

BigEye Tuna Stock Status (2023)

APPENDIX 2
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: BIGEYE TUNA (2023)

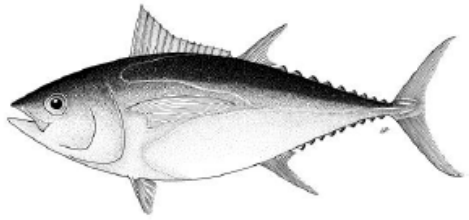

Table 1. Status of bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) in the Indian Ocean

Area[1]	Indicator	Value	Status[4]
Indian Ocean[1]	Catch in 2022 (t)[2]	102,266	79%*
	Average catch 2018-2022 (t)[3]	92,687	
	MSY (1,000 t) (80% CI)	96 (83 –108)	
	F_{MSY} (80% CI)	0.26 (0.18–0.34)	
	SB_{MSY} (1,000 t) (80% CI)	513 (332–694)	
	F_{2021} / F_{MSY} (80% CI)	1.43 (1.10–1.77)	
	SB_{2021} / SB_{MSY} (80% CI)	0.90 (0.75–1.05)	
	SB_{2021} / SB_0 (80% CI)	0.25 (0.23–0.27)	

[1]Boundaries for the Indian Ocean stock assessment are defined as the IOTC area of competence
[2]Proportion of 2022 catch fully or partially estimated by IOTC Secretariat: 18.7%
[3]Including re-estimations of EU PS species composition for 2018 (only requested for stock assessment purposes)
[4]The stock status refers to the most recent years' data used in the assessment conducted in 2022, i.e., 2021
*Estimated probability that the stock is in the respective quadrant of the Kobe Plot (**Table 2**), derived from the confidence intervals associated with the current stock status.

Table 2. Probability of stock status with respect to each of four quadrants of the Kobe plot. Percentages are calculated as the proportion of model terminal values that fall within each quadrant with model weights taken into account

	Stock overfished (SB_{2021} / SB_{MSY}<1)	Stock not overfished (SB_{2021} / SB_{MSY}≥ 1)
Stock subject to overfishing (F_{2021} / F_{MSY}≥ 1)	79%	17%
Stock not subject to overfishing (F_{2021} / F_{MSY}≤ 1)	2%	2%
Not assessed / Uncertain		

Figure 5. Current status of BET as reported by IOTC for 2023

Swordfish Stock Status (2023)

APPENDIX 16

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: SWORDFISH (2023)

TABLE 1. Status of swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) in the Indian Ocean.

Area[1]	Indicators		2023 stock status determination
Indian Ocean	Catch 2022[2] (t)	23,597	97%
	Average catch 2018-2022 (t)	28,994	
	MSY (1,000 t) (80% CI)	30 (26–33)	
	F_{MSY} (80% CI)	0.16 (0.12–0.20)	
	SB_{MSY} (1,000 t) (80% CI)	55 (40–70)	
	F_{2021}/F_{MSY} (80% CI)	0.60 (0.43–0.77)	
	SB_{2021}/SB_{MSY} (80% CI)	1.39 (1.01–1.77)	
	SB_{2021}/SB_{1950} (80% CI)	0.35 (0.32–0.37)	

[1] Boundaries for the Indian Ocean stock assessment are defined as the IOTC area of competence

[2] Proportion of 2022 catch estimated or partially estimated by IOTC Secretariat: 20%

Colour key	Stock overfished ($SB_{year}/SB_{MSY} < 1$)	Stock not overfished ($SB_{year}/SB_{MSY} \geq 1$)
Stock subject to overfishing ($F_{year}/F_{MSY} > 1$)	0.002	0.000
Stock not subject to overfishing ($F_{year}/F_{MSY} \leq 1$)	0.03	0.97
Not assessed/Uncertain		

Figure 6. Current status of Swordfish in IOTC area of competence in 2023

The revision of this FIP therefore necessitated revision of the BMT in order to prioritize key actions needed moving forward, including effectively resetting the "bar" to 2024.

Benchmarking Tracking Tool – Revised Assessment and Timelines

Yellowfin Tuna - Revised BMT (2024)

BMT Report Sheet (updated 2024) Sri Lanka YFT

Principle	Component	Performance Indicator	Exp. Scoring Range	Actual Scoring Range	Status	Last Update
1	Outcome	1.1.1 Stock status	<60	60-79	On Target	update
		1.1.2 Reference points	<60	60-79	On Target	update
	Management	1.2.1 Harvest Strategy	60-79	60-79	On Target	update
		1.2.2 Harvest control rules and t	60-79	60-79	On Target	update
		1.2.3 Information and monitoring	60-79	60-79	On Target	update
		1.2.4 Assessment of stock statu	≥80	≥80	On Target	update
2	Primary species	2.1.1 Outcome	60-79	≥80	On Target	update
		2.1.2 Management	60-79	≥80	On Target	update
		2.1.3 Information	60-79	≥80	On Target	update
	Secondary species	2.2.1 Outcome	60-79	60-79	On Target	update
		2.2.2 Management	60-79	60-79	On Target	update
		2.2.3 Information	60-79	60-79	On Target	update
	ETP species	2.3.1 Outcome	60-79	60-79	On Target	update
		2.3.2 Management	60-79	60-79	On Target	update
		2.3.3 Information	60-79	60-79	On Target	update
	Habitats	2.4.1 Outcome	≥80	≥80	On Target	update
		2.4.2 Management	≥80	≥80	On Target	update
		2.4.3 Information	≥80	≥80	On Target	update
	Ecosystem	2.5.1 Outcome	≥80	≥80	On Target	update
		2.5.2 Management	60-79	≥80	On Target	update
		2.5.3 Information	60-79	≥80	On Target	update
3	Governance and Polic	3.1.1 Legal and customary fram	≥80	≥80	On Target	update
		3.1.2 Consultation, roles and res	≥80	≥80	On Target	update
		3.1.3 Long term objectives	≥80	≥80	On Target	update
	Fishery specific management system	3.2.1 Fishery specific objectives	≥80	≥80	On Target	update
		3.2.2 Decision making processe	≥80	≥80	On Target	update
		3.2.3 Compliance and enforcem	≥80	60-79	Behind	update
		3.2.4 Management performance	60-79	60-79	On Target	update
Total number of PIs equal to or greater than 80			11	10		
Total number of PIs 60-79			15	16		
Total number of PIs less than 60			2	2		
Overall BMT Index			**0,66**	**0,64**		

This is an updated FIP BMT. It has been based on the 2018 preassessment baseline. It has assumed a new time line commencing from 2024 - so the FIP progression is from Year 1 = 2024 then for a further 4 years to 2028.

Yellowfin Tuna in the IOTC has been assessed as Overfished and that Overfishing is occuring (2023). This impacts the BMT scoring mainly on Principle 1 where the HCR aims to rebuild stocks. The poor YFT status and now also BET and also overfishing of the SKJ allowable catch impacts the PRIMARY species outcome.
SRI Lanka has submitted comprehensive report to IOTC–2023–SC26–NRXX. Raw Observer data is needed to more fully judge progress in the fishery. Observer coverage is quite low though it seems within IOTC CMM requirements. There is a large secondary bycatch in the longline fishery - this is reported to IOTC but the actual extent / proportions is difficult to estimate - so this is an area where improvement is needed.
Similalry, for ETP, especially turtles clarification on impact is needed to properly measure any improvement, as well as the bycatch of silky sharks and mobillids.
For compliance - information is needed related to both the domestic and high seas components to show compliance with both IOTC and domestic governance.
Evidence of management performance evaluation is needed to upgrade the score.

The MSC cannot verify the accuracy of any information provided on this form and is not responsible for any issues arising to any parties as a result of any information provided therein. The results are the sole responsibility of individual/company applying the Benchmarking and Tracking Tool and give an indication of the likely status of a fishery. These results can only be verified by the fishery completing the MSC full assessment process.

Bigeye Tuna - Revised BMT (2024)

BMT Report Sheet BET 2024

Principle	Component	Performance Indicator	Exp. Scoring Range	Actual Scoring Range	Status	Last Update
1	Outcome	1.1.1 Stock status	60-79	60-79	On Target	update
		1.1.2 Reference points	<60	<60	On Target	update
	Management	1.2.1 Harvest Strategy	<60	<60	On Target	update
		1.2.2 Harvest control rules and t	<60	<60	On Target	update
		1.2.3 Information and monitoring	≥80	≥80	On Target	update
		1.2.4 Assessment of stock statu	≥80	≥80	On Target	update
2	Primary species	2.1.1 Outcome	60-79	60-79	On Target	update
		2.1.2 Management	60-79	60-79	On Target	update
		2.1.3 Information	60-79	60-79	On Target	update
	Secondary species	2.2.1 Outcome	60-79	60-79	On Target	update
		2.2.2 Management	60-79	60-79	On Target	update
		2.2.3 Information	60-79	≥80	Ahead	update
	ETP species	2.3.1 Outcome	60-79	60-79	On Target	update
		2.3.2 Management	60-79	60-79	On Target	update
		2.3.3 Information	60-79	60-79	On Target	update
	Habitats	2.4.1 Outcome	≥80	≥80	On Target	update
		2.4.2 Management	≥80	≥80	On Target	update
		2.4.3 Information	≥80	≥80	On Target	update
	Ecosystem	2.5.1 Outcome	≥80	≥80	On Target	update
		2.5.2 Management	60-79	60-79	On Target	update
		2.5.3 Information	60-79	60-79	On Target	update
3	Governance and Polic	3.1.1 Legal and customary fram	≥80	≥80	On Target	update
		3.1.2 Consultation, roles and res	≥80	≥80	On Target	update
		3.1.3 Long term objectives	≥80	≥80	On Target	update
	Fishery specific management system	3.2.1 Fishery specific objectives	≥80	≥80	On Target	update
		3.2.2 Decision making processe	≥80	≥80	On Target	update
		3.2.3 Compliance and enforcem	≥80	60-79	Behind	update
		3.2.4 Management performance	60-79	60-79	On Target	update
Total number of PIs equal to or greater than 80			12	12		
Total number of PIs 60-79			13	13		
Total number of PIs less than 60			3	3		
Overall BMT Index			**0,66**	**0,66**		

This is an updated FIP BMT. It has been based on the 2018 preassessment baseline. It has assumed a new time line commencing from 2024 - so the FIP progression is from Year 1 = 2024 then for a further 4 years to 2028.

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Similalry, for ETP, especially turtles clarification on impact is needed to properly measure any improvement, as well as the bycatch of silky sharks and mobillids.
For compliance - information is needed related to both the domestic and high seas components to show compliance with both IOTC and domestic governance.
Evidence of management performance evaluation is needed to upgrade the score.

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Swordfish - Revised BMT (2024)

BMT Report Sheet for SWO updated 2024

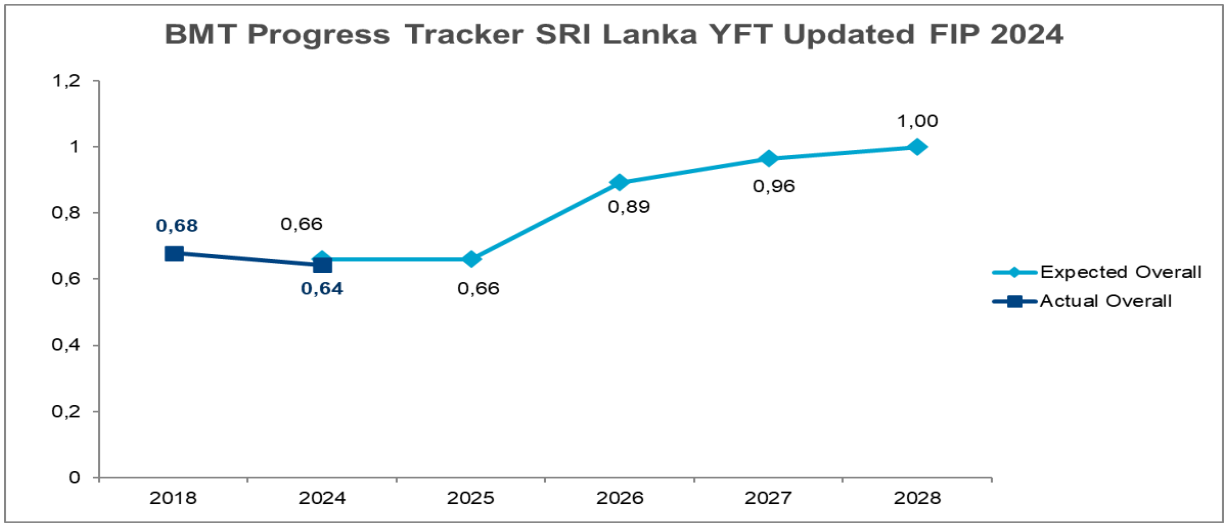
Principle	Component	Performance Indicator	Exp. Scoring Range	Actual Scoring Range	Status	Last Update
1	Outcome	1.1.1 Stock status	≥80	≥80	On Target	2024
		1.1.2 Reference points	---	---	---	---
	Management	1.2.1 Harvest Strategy	≥80	≥80	On Target	2024
		1.2.2 Harvest control rules and t	60-79	60-79	On Target	2024
		1.2.3 Information and monitoring	60-79	60-79	On Target	2024
		1.2.4 Assessment of stock statu	≥80	≥80	On Target	2024
2	Primary species	2.1.1 Outcome	60-79	60-79	On Target	2024
		2.1.2 Management	60-79	60-79	On Target	2024
		2.1.3 Information	60-79	60-79	On Target	2024
	Secondary species	2.2.1 Outcome	60-79	60-79	On Target	2024
		2.2.2 Management	60-79	60-79	On Target	2024
		2.2.3 Information	60-79	60-79	On Target	2024
	ETP species	2.3.1 Outcome	60-79	60-79	On Target	2024
		2.3.2 Management	60-79	60-79	On Target	2024
		2.3.3 Information	60-79	60-79	On Target	2024
	Habitats	2.4.1 Outcome	≥80	≥80	On Target	2024
		2.4.2 Management	≥80	≥80	On Target	2024
		2.4.3 Information	≥80	≥80	On Target	2024
	Ecosystem	2.5.1 Outcome	≥80	≥80	On Target	2024
		2.5.2 Management	60-79	60-79	On Target	2024
		2.5.3 Information	60-79	60-79	On Target	2024
3	Governance and Polic	3.1.1 Legal and customary fram	≥80	≥80	On Target	2024
		3.1.2 Consultation, roles and res	≥80	≥80	On Target	2024
		3.1.3 Long term objectives	≥80	≥80	On Target	2024
	Fishery specific management system	3.2.1 Fishery specific objectives	≥80	≥80	On Target	2024
		3.2.2 Decision making processe	≥80	≥80	On Target	2024
		3.2.3 Compliance and enforcem	60-79	60-79	On Target	2024
		3.2.4 Management performance	60-79	60-79	On Target	2024
Total number of PIs equal to or greater than 80			12	12		
Total number of PIs 60-79			15	15		
Total number of PIs less than 60			0	0		
Overall BMT Index						

This is an updated FIP BMT. It has been based on the 2018 preassessment baseline. It has assumed a new time line commencing from 2024 - so the FIP progression is from Year 1 = 2024 then for a further 4 years to 2028.

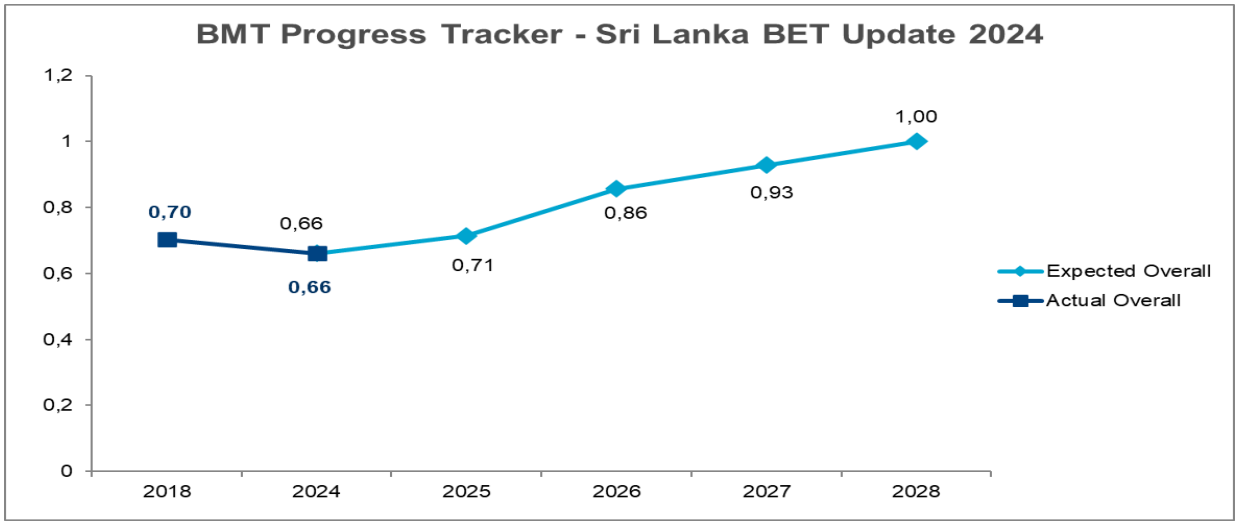
Swordfish stocks are healthy. Bigeye and Yellowfin Tuna in the IOTC has been assessed as Overfished and that Overfishing is occuring (2023). This impacts the BMT scoring mainly on Principle 1 where the HCR aims to rebuild stocks. The poor YFT status and now also BET and also overfishing of the SKJ allowable catch impacts the PRIMARY species outcome.
SRI Lanka has submitted comprehensive report to IOTC–2023–SC26–NRXX. Raw Observer data is needed to more fully judge progress in the fishery. Observer coverage is quite low though it seems within IOTC CMM requirements. There is a large secondary bycatch in the longline fishery - this is reported to IOTC but the actual extent / proportions is difficult to estimate - so this is an area where improvement is needed.
Similalry, for ETP, especially turtles clarification on impact is needed to properly measure any improvement, as well as the bycatch of silky sharks and mobillids.
For compliance - information is needed related to both the domestic and high seas components to show compliance with both IOTC and domestic governance.
Evidence of management performance evaluation is needed to upgrade the score.

Revised FIP Targets for the three Selected Species (Sri Lanka Longline)

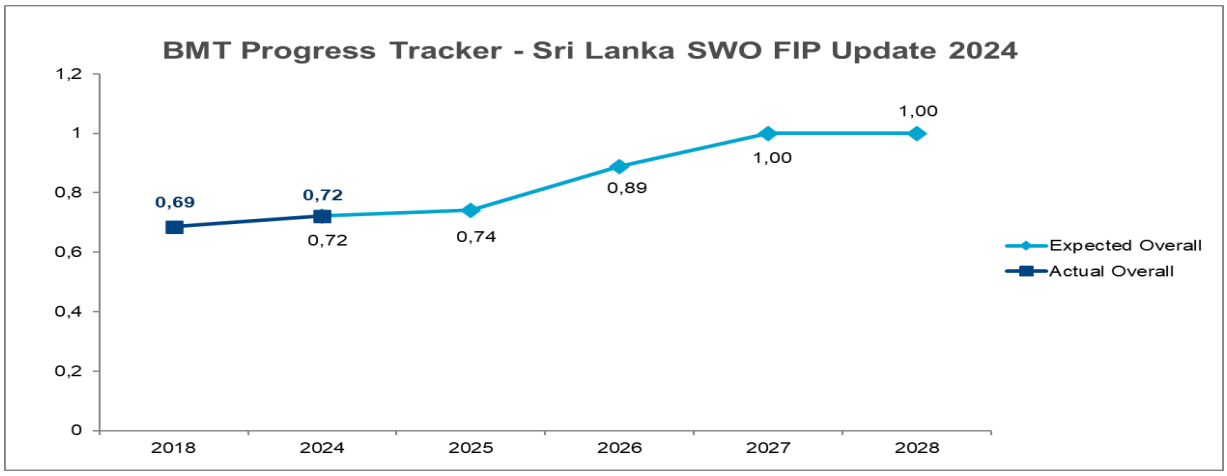
Yellowfin Tuna



Bigeye Tuna



Swordfish



FIP Work Plan for Period 2024 to 2028

The workplan template aims to help stakeholders develop a clear plan for implementing the fishery improvements that need to be made and ensures that information needed for reporting on FisheryProgress.org is included in the workplan. For Comprehensive FIPs, each performance indicator (PI) that has a scoring category of <60 (i.e., red) or 60-79 (i.e., yellow) must have at least one action directly linked to it, that would, when completed, result in a score of >80 (i.e., meeting the requirements of the >80 guidepost for that PI). For Basic FIPs, there must be at least one action directly linked to a PI that has a scoring category of <60 (i.e., red) or 60-79 (i.e., yellow). The actions, when completed, must lead to at least one increased score change (i.e., meeting the requirements of the next scoring guidepost for that PI).

The critical elements that need to be included in the FIP workplan are:

1) **Actions:** Defined as a major activity in the FIP's workplan that must be completed to address specific deficiencies identified in the needs assessment (for basic FIPs) or MSC pre-assessment (for comprehensive FIPs). For comprehensive FIPs, actions should clearly link to the PIs of the MSC Fisheries Standard. For FIPs reporting their progress on FisheryProgress.org, both basic and comprehensive FIPs need to report progress against the MSC Principles.
2) **Completion dates:** To ensure accountability, an expected completion date should be included for each action.
3) **Priority:** High, medium or low priority taking into account scoring in the needs assessment or MSC pre-assessment and sequencing of actions (output of one action needed to begin another action).
4) **Estimated Cost:** Costs for each action.
5) **Responsible parties:** Organizations/individuals responsible for completing the actions as agreed upon by FIP stakeholders.
6) **MSC PIs:** All PIs that will be addressed by the action.
7) **Tasks:** This section breaks the actions identified above down into specific steps that describe how the action will be accomplished. Tasks provide more clarity on how the FIP intends to complete each action. This allows participants to better track progress over time and communicate about progress being made in the FIP.

FIP Actions

Action 1.

Table 1. Performance Indicator Action Plan Table for Action 1

Action Number and Name	Provide support to the Sri Lanka management authority to actively work towards rebuilding YFT and BET stocks through the development and implementation of Harvest Controls Rules and Strategies
Action Goal	Rebuilding of YFT and BET stocks in the Indian Ocean to MSY level and the maintenance of the swordfish at or above MSY
Action Description	This action requires no direct activities. SEASL is required to provide evidence over the period of the FIP that they have actively engaged with the management of the fishery and at IOTC to develop HCRs and strategies and that they are implemented by all members of IOTC with the primary aim of improving the stock status of both YFT and BET
Expected Completion Date	September 2028
Priority	High
Estimated Cost	$10 000 USD (mainly for direct participation at IOTC scientific and commission meetings.
Responsible Parties	Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DFAR), Seafood Exporters Association of Sri Lanka, National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA)
MSC Performance Indicator(s) Addressed by the Action	For both YFT and BET 1.1.1 Stock status 1.1.2 Stock rebuilding 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**
Active engagement with DFAR and IOTC	Support at IOTC and the Ministry of Fisheries	DFAR and SEASL	NARA and SEASL	September 2024	September 2028	Implementation of HCRs and recovery of YFT and BET

Action 2

Table 2. Performance Indicator Action Plan Table for Action 2

Action Number and Name	Develop a strategy and implement land-based monitoring in collaboration with DFAR to increase accuracy of estimates of **primary species** data in the longline fishery
Action Goal	Improved information and estimates of catches of managed species (other than target species) in the Sri Lanka longline fishery by 2028
Action Description	SEASL, in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries supports the training of shore-based monitors to collect accurate data on the catch landings of **primary species** (those that are considered managed species other than the three target species and secondary species) (MSC Principle 2)
Expected Completion Date	September 2028
Priority	Medium
Estimated Cost	$10,000 USD ($2 500 per year for duration of the FIP)
Responsible Parties	SEASL, DFAR, NARA
MSC Performance Indicator(s) Addressed by the Action	Primary: 2.1.1 Outcome 2.1.2 Management 2.1.3 Information

Action	**Tasks/ Milestones**	**Responsible (lead)**	**Responsible (supporting role)**	**Starting date**	**Expected completion date**	**Evidence of completion / results**
Develop shore-based Monitor Capacity	Year 1. Undertake training of monitors for the SEASL fleet	DFAR, NARA	SEASL	September 2024	March 2028	10 Monitors trained and initiation of land-based monitoring of catches of SEASL longline
	Year 2 Undertake training of monitors for the SEASL fleet of at least 20% of landing of the SEASL fleet	DFAR, NARA	SEASL	September 2025	March 2028	10 more Monitors trained and increased land-based monitoring of catches of SEASL longline. Provide comparative report between SEASL and DFAR catch data.
	Year 3 Undertake training of monitors for the SEASL fleet of at least 30% of landings.	DFAR, NARA	SEASL	September 2026	March 2028	20 Monitors trained and undertaking regular monitoring of landings of Primary catch species. Data base established and annual report provided

	Year 4 Maintain independent monitoring of the SEASL fleet of at least 30% of landing.	DFAR, NARA	SEASL	September 2027	March 2028	20 land-based monitors trained and SEASL catches of Primary species independently verified. Database of catches maintained working collaboratively with DFAR.

Action 3

Table 3. Performance Indicator Action Plan Table for Action 3

Action Number and Name	Develop a strategy and implement Observers for the collection of data on secondary species in the longline fishery
Action Goal	Increased at-sea data collection by trained scientific observers increased annually from 5% of the fleet to 30% by 2028
Action Description	SEASL, in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries develops a structured Observer programme that systematically capacitates the collection of rigorous data on **secondary species** caught in the fishery. The end goal should be at least 30% observer coverage and analysis of the data collected using an established data based that facilitates the assessment of the likely impact of the directed fishery on main and minor secondary fish species. (MSC Principle 2)
Expected Completion Date	September 2028
Priority	High
Estimated Cost	$20,000 USD ($5 000 per year for duration of the FIP)
Responsible Parties	SEASL, DFAR, NARA
MSC Performance Indicator(s) Addressed by the Action	Secondary species: 2.2.1 Outcome 2.2.2 Management 2.2.3 Information

Action	**Tasks/ Milestones**	**Responsible (lead)**	**Responsible (supporting role)**	**Starting date**	**Expected completion date**	**Evidence of completion / results**
Develop Observer Capacity and monitoring	Year 1. Undertake training of observers and deploy on 5% of the SEASL fleet	DFAR, NARA	SEASL	September 2024	March 2028	50 Observer deployments 50 Observer reports Data base established and preliminary analysis
	Year 2 Undertake training of observers and deploy on 10% of the SEASL fleet	DFAR, NARA	SEASL	September 2025	March 2028	100 Observer deployments 100 Observer reports Data base established and preliminary analysis and report

	Year 3 Undertake training of observers and deploy on 15% of the SEASL fleet	DFAR, NARA	SEASL	September 2026	March 2028	200 Observer deployments 200 Observer reports Data base established and annual report provided
	Year 4 Undertake training of observers and deploy on 20% of the SEASL fleet	DFAR, NARA	SEASL	September 2027	March 2028	200 Observer deployments 200 Observer reports Data base established and analysis with close out report

Action 4

Table 4. Performance Indicator Action Plan Table for Action 4

Action Number and Name	Develop a strategy and implement Observers for the collection of data on ETP species in the longline fishery
Action Goal	Increased at-sea data collection by trained scientific observers increased annually from 5% of the fleet to 30% by 2028
Action Description	SEASL, in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries develops a structured Observer programme that systematically capacitates the collection of rigorous data **on ETP species** impacted by the fishery. The end goal should be at least 30% monitoring coverage and analysis of the data collected using an established data based that facilitates the assessment of the likely impact of the directed fishery on main and minor secondary fish species. (MSC Principle 2)
Expected Completion Date	September 2028
Priority	High
Estimated Cost	$20,000 USD ($5 000 per year for duration of the FIP)
Responsible Parties (List of participants)	SEASL, DFAR, NARA
MSC Performance Indicator(s) Addressed by the Action	**ETP species** 2.3.1 Outcome 2.3.2 Management 2.3.3 Information

Action	**Tasks/ Milestones**	**Responsible (lead)**	**Responsible (supporting role)**	**Starting date**	**Expected completion date**	**Evidence of completion / results**
Develop Observer Capacity and monitoring	Year 1. Undertake training of observers and deploy on 5% of the SEASL fleet	DFAR, NARA	SEASL	September 2024	March 2028	50 Observer deployments 50 Observer reports Data base established and preliminary analysis

	Year 2 Undertake training of observers and deploy on 10% of the SEASL fleet	DFAR, NARA	SEASL	September 2025	March 2028	100 Observer deployments 100 Observer reports Data base established and preliminary analysis
	Year 3 Undertake training of observers and deploy on 15% of the SEASL fleet	DFAR, NARA	SEASL	September 2026	March 2028	200 Observer deployments & 200 Observer reports Data base established and report with data analysis
	Year 4 Undertake training of observers and deploy on 20% of the SEASL fleet	DFAR, NARA	SEASL	September 2027	March 2028	200 Observer deployments 300 Observer reports Data base established and analysis and final report

Action 5

Table 5. Performance Indicator Action Plan Table for Action 5

Action Number and Name	Develop a strategy for the collection of ecosystem information by trained Observers on SEASL longline vessels in collaboration with a research institution
Action Goal	Increased at-sea data collection on ecosystem impacts by trained scientific observers increased annually from 5% of the fleet to 30% by 2028
Action Description	SEASL, in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries and a research institution to collect at-sea data on the ecosystem to support the management of the fishery in Sri Lankan waters. (MSC Principle 2)
Expected Completion Date	September 2028
Priority	High
Estimated Cost	$10,000 USD ($2 500 per year for duration of the FIP)
Responsible Parties	SEASL, DFAR, NARA
MSC Performance Indicator(s) Addressed by the Action	Ecosystems: 2.5.2 Management 2.5.3 Information

Action	**Tasks/ Milestones**	**Responsible (lead)**	**Responsible (supporting role)**	**Starting date**	**Expected completion date**	**Evidence of completion / results**
Develop Observer Capacity and monitoring	Year 1. Undertake training of observers and deploy on 5% of the SEASL fleet	DFAR, NARA	SEASL	September 2024	March 2028	50 Observer deployments 50 Observer reports Data base established and preliminary analysis

	Year 2 Undertake training of observers and deploy on 10% of the SEASL fleet	DFAR, NARA	SEASL	September 2025	March 2028	100 Observer deployments 100 Observer reports Data base established and preliminary analysis and report
	Year 3 Undertake training of observers and deploy on 15% of the SEASL fleet	DFAR, NARA	SEASL	September 2026	March 2028	200 Observer deployments 200 Observer reports Data base established and annual report provided
	Year 4 Undertake training of observers and deploy on 20% of the SEASL fleet	DFAR, NARA	SEASL	September 2027	March 2028	200 Observer deployments 200 Observer reports Data base established and analysis with close out report

Action 6

Table 6. Performance Indicator Action Plan Table for Action 6

Action Number and Name	Undertake a compliance and management review of the management system
Action Goal	Provide independent verification of catches landed and provide an annual compliance report of the fishery and any sanctions taken
Action Description	SEASL, in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries supports increased land-based monitoring of catches from SEASL vessels. This could include training of shore monitors and can be coordinated with the observer programme. In the final year of the FIP, support an independent review of the management system.
Expected Completion Date	September 2028
Priority	Medium
Estimated Cost	$10,000 USD ($2 500 per year)
Responsible Parties (List of participants)	SEASL, DFAR
MSC Performance Indicator(s) Addressed by the Action	Fishery specific management system 3.2.3 Compliance and enforcement 3.2.4 Management performance evaluation

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

Support land-based monitoring (including traceability).	Year 1. Undertake training of land based monitors of landings of the SEASL fleet	DFAR	SEASL	September 2024	March 2028	10 Monitors trained and initiation of land-based monitoring of catches of SEASL longline
	Year 2. Undertake further training of land based monitors of landings of the SEASL fleet	DFAR	SEASL	September 2024	March 2028	10 more Monitors trained and increased land-based monitoring of catches of SEASL longline. Provide comparative report between SEASL and DFAR catch data.
	Year 3. Undertake further training of land based monitors of landings of the SEASL fleet	DFAR	SEASL	September 2024	March 2028	20 Monitors trained and undertaking regular monitoring of landings. Data base established and annual report provided
	Year 4. Undertake further training of land based monitors of landings of the SEASL fleet	DFAR	SEASL	September 2024	March 2028	20 land-based monitors trained and SEASL catches of landings independently verified. Database of catches maintained working collaboratively with DFAR.

Additional Impacts

Some FIPs include objectives that go beyond the MSC PIs. Please provide additional detail below on additional impacts that FIP stakeholders are working to address.

Traceability, Monitoring and Data Veracity

Addition Impact Title	Additional Impact Description
Status Summary	Broadly the Actions aim at increasing monitoring of the fishery both at sea and on land. The data collected by at-sea observers and land-monitors will independently assist with traceability and verification of catches. These data provided increased accuracy of Sri Lanka data reporting to IOTC
Improvement Recommendation	Overall increased confidence in catch data reported to IOTC on Target and bycatch species. Increased understanding of impacts on ETP and Ecosystems providing an information based for mitigation of negative impacts and decision-making.