Overview

2017/18: The Seafood Exporters’ Association of Sri Lanka (SEASL) launched a new fishery improvement project (FIP) for Sri Lanka’s longline fishery (SLL) at the Seafood Expo Global in Brussels last year. In May 2017, the President of the SEASL signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, committing both parties to work together to improve the biological and ecological status of Sri Lanka’s longline fishery and to develop and implement national and international fishery specific management measures that will maintain the biological and ecological status of each fishery at a level consistent with a ‘sustainably managed fishery’. Members of the new FIP also agreed to work together to ensure that supply chains are socially responsible and to improve the economic equity of Sri Lanka’s longline fishery. National Steering Committee meetings were convened by the Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development (MFARD) in July and October with representatives of SEASL, MFARD and the key departments, authorities and agencies under the ministry as well as representatives of the Sri Lankan Export Development Board (SLEDB). Focal Points were appointed in each key department, authority and agency under the ministry, as well as in the MFARD, SEASL and SLEDB. The members of the FIP agreed to include representatives of longline vessel owners’ associations and skippers as members of the FIP in 2018/19.

The scope of the new FIP and the status of each fishery (i.e. yellowfin, bigeye and swordfish) against the Marine Stewardship Council’s (MSC) Fishery Standard established through an internal ‘Gap Analysis’ conducted with members of the new SLL FIP between July and December 2017, by pelagikos pvt ltd. The findings of the ‘Gap Analysis’ were used to identify the sub projects necessary to improve the status of each fishery and design the FIP implementation plan for 2018/19 (see overleaf). The ‘Gap Analysis’, design, administration and management of the new Sri Lankan longline FIP in 2017/18 was co-financed by the SEASL.

An independent pre assessment of the longline fishery against the MSC Fishery Standard was completed in March 2018 (see Annex A), by Capricorn Marine Environmental (Pty) Ltd a South African based MSC approved Certified Assessment Body (CAB). The results suggest that Sri Lankan longline yellowfin, bigeye and swordfish fisheries would each fail a full assessment against the MSC Fishery Standard (see Annex A for details), but the results are encouraging given the overall scores for the fisheries were 0.68 for yellowfin tuna and 0.69 for the bigeye and swordfish fisheries. The expected trajectory of the longline fishery against the MSC Fishery Standard over the next four years using the MSC’s Bench Mark Tracking Tool is shown below. The FIP’s goal is to achieve a level equivalent to an unconditional pass of the MSC’s Fishery Standard for one or more of the three fisheries by 30th December 2020. The pre assessment was co-financed by New England Seafood International Pvt Ltd.
Implementation Plan 2018/19

2018/19: The priority issue that needs to be address by the FIP in 2018/19 is the lack of verifiable information and data about **endangered, threatened or protected (ETP)** non-target species (NTS) that are accidently caught and discarded by Sri Lankan’s longline fishery fleet. The lack of sufficient information and data about discarded ETP non-target species is the reason for the fishery’s failure to pass MSC Performance Indicators (PI) 2.3.1 and 2.3.3. The failure of the fisheries against these PIs caused the target species fisheries to failure the MSC Fishery Standard overall (see Annex A). The Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DFAR) proposed a sub project (04/2018) to address this issue during the Gap Analysis. In March of this year Sea Pact - a group of leading North American Seafood Companies dedicated to driving stewardship and continuous improvement of social, economic, and environmental responsibility throughout the global seafood supply chain – unanimously agreed to support the DFAR to implement Sub Project 04/2018 – the introduction and evaluation of a crew based observer programme on 30 longline fishing vessels.

A comparison between the MSC Score for the stock status of yellowfin tuna estimated by the ‘Gap Analysis’ (PI 1.1.1 Scoring Guidepost <0.60) and the CAB ‘pre assessment’ (PI 1.1.1 Scoring Guidepost 0.60 – 0.79), highlights the importance of improving the FIP members’ understanding and interpretation of the methods used by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) to estimate the stock status of the target species. The Gap Analysis score was based on assessments conducted by International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) and Seafood Watch. The CAB pre assessment score was based on a scientific understanding of the Limit Reference Point for the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna fishery. The National Aquatic Resources, Research and Development Agency (NARA) has proposed a sub project (05/2018) to improve FIP members’ understanding and interpretation of the methods used by the IOTC to estimate the stock status of the target species. **The FIP needs to secure a further US$10,368 to co-finance this sub project in 2018 (see Investment Plan below).**

The successful development and implementation of Sri Lanka’s **Scientific Observer Programme** (SOP) on commercial longline fishing vessels (i.e. > 24 m) is critical to ensuring the fishery continues to pass the assessment for compliance and enforcement (PI 3.2.3). The DFAR has proposed a sub project (06/2018) to further develop and improve the capacity of the SOP to collect and submit verifiable information and data from Sri Lanka’s commercial longline fishing vessels in compliance with the requirements set by IOTC regulations. **The FIP needs to secure a further US$38,313 to co-finance this sub project in 2018 (see Investment Plan below).**

Sri Lanka’s **National Plan of Action for the Management and Conservation of Sharks** (NPOA – Sharks) was published in 2013, in compliance with the requirements set in IOTC regulations. The NPOA – Sharks expired in 2017. The DFAR has proposed a sub project (07/2018) to review, revise and publish an updated NPOA – Sharks in 2018, which will enable the Sri Lankan longline fishery to maintain or improve its score against MSC Performance Indicator 2.3.2 (ETP Species Management). In March of this year Blue Resources Trust - a Sri Lankan marine resource management and conservation organisation – generously agreed to support the DFAR to implement Sub Project 07/2018 – updating and revising the national plan of action for the management and conservation of sharks.

Finally someone has to meet the core cost of running the new FIP. This includes providing **technical assistance** to the members of the FIP; the **design**, planning and provision of assistance to implement FIP sub projects; **coordination** of the actions of members, their partners and FIP associates; **administration** of the FIP and **management** of finances raised to improve the Sri Lanka’s longline fishery for yellowfin and bigeye tuna and swordfish. Members of the **SEASL** have undertaken to meet the core costs of running the new Sri Lankan longline FIP in 2018 (Sub Project 03/2018). The FIP’s design (i.e. the overall goal, the intermediate and immediate objectives, the results, sub projects and sub activities) is based on the MSC Fishery Standard (v2.0). The FIP’s design also includes a 4th ‘Principle’, intended to guide the fishery towards compliance with international norms for **social responsibility** and **equity** throughout supply chains for Sri Lankan longline tuna and swordfish. A series of project documents (i.e., Logic Model, Implementation Schedule, Investment Plan and Performance Monitoring Frameworks against the MSC’s Fishery Standard and Seafood Watch’s Criteria for Fisheries) have been prepared and shared with FIP members, their partners and FIP associates for 2018/19. These documents will be reviewed and updated every six months or so by pelagikos pvt ltd on behalf of the members of the FIP.

For details about Sri Lankan longline FIP, email steve@pelagikos lk
# Implementation Schedule (2018/19)

**updated on 5th April 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Technical Assistance, Design, Monitoring, Evaluation Administration &amp; Management</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub Project 03/2018 - SEASL (TA / Design)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub Project 03/2018 - SEASL (M&amp;E / A&amp;M)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B. Third Party Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub Project 01/2017 - SEASL (Gap Analysis)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Seafood Watch (Desktop)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MSC Full Assessment (In Country)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principle 1: Biological Status of the Fisheries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub Project 05/2018 - NARA (SA &amp; FM)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principle 2: Ecological Impacts of the Fishery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub Project 04/2018 - DFAR (COP)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub Project 07/2018 - DFAR (NPOA - Sharks)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principle 3: Management of SLL&amp;T&amp;B Fishery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub Project 06/2018 - DFAR (SOP)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principle 4 : Social Responsibility &amp; Equity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub Project XX/2018 - ??? (Social Responsibility / Equity)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Investment Plan (2018/19)**

As of 21<sup>st</sup> April 2018, a sum of **US$ 153,638.00** (LKR 23.05 million) is required to deliver the improvements to the Sri Lankan longline fishery identified by the members of the FIP during the Gap Analysis in 2018. Members of the FIP have already raised 68% of investment required for this year, amounting to **US$ 104,957.00** through direct investments from the SEASL, Blue Resources Trust and Sea Pact and in-kind contributions from the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and the National Aquatic Resources, Research and Development Agency. Members of the FIP are currently seeking investments from partner or associates to raise the balance **US$ 48,681.00** (32% of the investment cost for 2018) necessary to improve the Sri Lankan longline fishery in 2018/19, as shown below.

### Sri Lankan Longline FIP 2018/19 (US$)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>SEASL</th>
<th>GoSL</th>
<th>BRT</th>
<th>Sea Pact</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**A. TA / Design / M&E / Coord / Admin & Man**

Sub Project 03/2018 - SEASL (TA)

20,800  

---

**B. Third Pary Assessment**

Seafood Watch (Desktop)
MSC Full Assessment (In Country)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>P1 - Biological Status of the Target Species</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sub Project 05/2018 – NARA / ??? (SA &amp; FM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14,701 - 4,333 10,368 4,333 10,368 21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>P2 - Ecological Impact of the Fishery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sub Project 04/2018 - DFAR (COP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53,303 - 25,833 27,470 53,303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub Project 06/2018 - DFAR (NPOA - Sharks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16,187 - 5,500 10,687 16,187</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>P3 - Policy, Governance &amp; Management</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sub Project 04/2018 – DFAR / ??? (SOP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48,647 - 10,333 38,313 10,333 38,313 79%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>P4 - Social Responsibility &amp; Equity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sub Project XX/2018 – ??? / ??? (SR &amp; E)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIP Investment Plan 2018/19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>153,638 20,800 46,000 10,687 27,470 48,681 104,957 48,681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14% 30% 7% 18% 32% 68% 32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For details about Sri Lankan longline FIP sub projects, email steve@peligkiks.lk
Annex A  MSC Approved CAB Pre Assessment of the Sri Lankan Longline Fishery  
(March, 2018)

A pre-assessment of the Sri Lankan longline fishery against the Marine Stewardship Council’s (MSC) Fishery Standard was completed by Capricorn Marine Environmental (Pty) Ltd (a South African based MSC approved Certified Assessment Body), between November and March 2018.

A summary of the scoring guideposts for each MSC Performance Indicator and the overall MSC Scores for the three fisheries (Units of Assessment) is presented below. The pre-assessment was co-financed by New England Seafood International Ltd and the SEASL.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principle</th>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Performance Indicator (PI)</th>
<th>Yellowfin</th>
<th>Bigeye</th>
<th>Swordfish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P1</td>
<td>Outcome</td>
<td>1.1.1 Stock status</td>
<td>60-79</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.1.2 Stock rebuilding</td>
<td>60-79</td>
<td>not applicable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Management</td>
<td>1.2.1 Harvest strategy</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.2.2 Harvest control areas &amp; tools</td>
<td>60-79</td>
<td>60-79</td>
<td>60-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.2.3 Information &amp; monitoring</td>
<td>60-79</td>
<td>60-79</td>
<td>60-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.2.4 Assessment of stock status</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P2</td>
<td>Primary species</td>
<td>2.1.1 Outcome</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Secondary species</td>
<td>2.2.1 Outcome</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ETP species</td>
<td>2.3.1 Outcome</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.3.2 Management strategy</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.3.3 Information &amp; monitoring</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P3</td>
<td>Governance &amp; Policy</td>
<td>3.1.1 Legal &amp; or customary framework</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fishery specific management system</td>
<td>3.2.1 Fishery specific objectives</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.2.2 Decision making processes</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.2.3 Compliance &amp; enforcement</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.2.4 Monitoring &amp; Management</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
<td>&gt;80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Principle 1 PIs are scored separately for each UoAs. The lack of clear HCRs and the poor reporting on catches by fisheries in the Indian Ocean are areas of concern for all three UoAs. YFT P1.1.1 achieves a pass now, but SEASL should be careful to track the progress of both the stock assessment results & efforts to implement the rebuilding plan prior to moving ahead with full assessment. The bigeye and swordfish UoAs may pass if the aggregate score for P1 does not fall below 80.

The Principle 2 PIs are scored once and the scores apply to all three UoAs. This means that if a single PI fails here then all UoAs will fail full assessment. There are too many interactions with ETP species and no validation of release statistics. Also of concern are the lack of secondary species management strategies and the unreliability of catch statistics and data reported. An at-sea observer program and electronic monitoring could help scoring for P2.

Principle 3 has no major issues however, the aggregate score during full assessment may only be marginally above 80. Clarity on decision making processes and evidence of compliance and enforcement will likely need to be provided during a MSC full assessment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary of Scores</th>
<th>Yellowfin UoA 1</th>
<th>Bigeye UoA 2</th>
<th>Swordfish UoA 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of PIs equal to or greater than 80</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of PIs 60-79</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of PIs less than 60</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Pre Assessment Likely Score</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>0.69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>