

The www.fisheryimprovementprojects.com Website

2022 – Version 0.4

1. Introduction

Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs) are collaborations that commit to improving the environmental sustainability of a fishery. A FIP may not necessarily be owned by anyone and the decision-making entity of the FIP could take many forms. The www.fisheryimprovementprojects.com website has been set up to facilitate public posting of information about a FIP at the instruction of the FIP decision making entity. The website does not check or review information that is posted on it, the FIP itself is responsible for their information posted on the website and the website is simply a means of making information public.

This document lays out the process for FIPs that intend to be hosted on the www.fisheryimprovementprojects.com website. The site is impartial and an intermediary that passes on information from FIPs to display publicly. This facility is made available to FIPs that decide to commit to improve towards fully meeting the MSC Fisheries Standard and according to internationally recognised standards around FIPs e.g., the Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions (CASS) guidelines.

In addition to the FIP environmental workplans the website also enables FIPs to publish information around the work they are doing on traceability and social accountability. This will enable FIPs that are doing more than is set out in the Conservation Alliance guidelines to share this information publicly with stakeholders.

2. Website Process

The website has been designed to have spaces allocated for all the CASS FIP requirements, MSC Performance Indicators and information needed by SFP in order to receive a FIP rating (let's call them mandatory FIP requirements). It also has sections available for the optional information. The decision-making entities of FIPs posted on www.fisheryimprovementprojects.com will populate the spaces with the information from the FIP. This will be available with time stamps so that stakeholders can see and interrogate the information from the FIP. The FIP decision making entity will also be able to choose to populate the spaces available on the website for the optional information, which will also be available for anyone to view.

Mandatory FIP Requirements:

- There will be mandatory spaces on the website for all CASS FIP guidelines and are required to have all the documentation to be defined as a comprehensive FIP. These are:
 - An MSC pre-assessment with scoping: This is an evaluation of a fishery against all MSC performance indicators to provide a picture of the fishery's environmental performance and identify potential weaknesses.
 - A workplan: This includes a list of actions the FIP will undertake to meet its objectives, a breakdown of specific tasks under each action, organisations, or people responsible for completing each action, a month and year deadline for completing each action and a budget.
 - A participants list: This explains the participants in a FIP and identifies the FIP scope, name, names and organisations of participants, specific terms of agreement and shows that participants have committed to financially invest in (directly or in-kind) and make improvements to the fishery.

- All FIPs shall receive an independent, third-party review of their progress. This will be completed by the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) and will be shown on the FIP website.
- Improvement progress update showing performance year by year against the MSC performance indicators
- Workplan updates (twice per year)
- Stakeholder assessments and meeting information
- The fishing company must confirm that no vessels within the FIP have been convicted for forced or child labour violations within the last two years.
- FIP Lead and Decision making entity contact details.

Optional Reporting

- **Social Fishing Vessel Standards**
 - There will be space for the FIP to explain which social codes are adopted by the fishing vessels that participate in the FIP. The code could be formed of, for example, an international convention, private code of conduct, standard or other that details a set of rules outlining expectations, rules, responsibilities and proper practices aboard fishing vessels.
- **Social Assessments and Improvements**
 - If the fishing vessels are subject to social audits then information on the audits can be displayed. This can include any certificates, reports etc. achieved, proportion audited, common findings, improvements / improvement plan and any other transparency on social matters.
- **Vessel List**
 - A vessel list detailing vessel name, IMO number or other unique identifier, gear and flag, if this is not possible then there will be a space to describe a reasoning why, and a description of the fishers and vessels. For those that do not provide vessel lists, there will be a space for a description on how stakeholders should verify the vessels within the FIP.
- **Complaints Procedures**
 - There is a space for the FIP to show their procedure for receiving and dealing with questions, complaints or feedback from stakeholders.
 - There is space to explain the grievance procedure that is available for all fishing vessels, explaining how it is available to all fishers and how it fairly resolves disputes. If there is no grievance procedure, this will be clear due to its absence.
- **Traceability**
 - An explanation of how traceability is managed in the fishery (according to the MSC fisheries certification process)
 - Traceability in the supply-chain (i.e. chain of custody)
- **Other environmental**
 - Waste management
 - Carbon footprint
 - Ghost gear

The FIP lead/coordinator or external consultant can guide fisheries on how to complete these requirements but the responsibility for approving the information and consequences of not lay with the FIP decision making entity. Additionally, this optional list is not an exhaustive list and there is the option of sharing additional content where relevant.

3. Reporting

There is a space to detail the FIP review every six months within the same reporting timeframe as other FIP updates. The information will be available for stakeholders to be able to check it to ensure that it is correct and relevant.

There will be space for each FIP to update a report on the progress of each action every six months as well as updates on the scoring of each indicator on an annual basis. Any amendments can be made at any time.

4. Stakeholder Engagement

The website enables stakeholder engagement throughout the process. There is a space on the site so that new FIPs that join can share their 30-day open consultation. All stakeholders can comment, and comments can be responded to by the FIP decision making entity.

5. Terms of Use

This website provides a host for Fishery Improvement Projects and aligns with the CASS definitions of a FIP.

All participants have agreed to have all data presented publicly on this website.