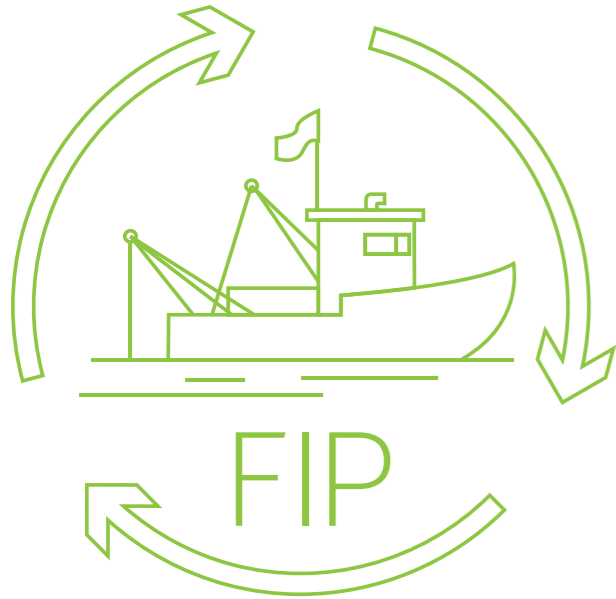


A BIM Sustainability Initiative:

FISHERY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS



WHAT IS A FIP?

Fishery Improvement Projects provide a platform for fishermen, seafood buyers and suppliers to develop a strategy to improve a specific fishery by considering better policies and management over a given time period. Engagement in a FIP allows producers and processors access markets which demand sustainability and environmental credentials. The aim of a FIP is to improve sustainability within a fishery and progress to certification under the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC).

BIM have linked the participation of registered FIPs to BIM's RSS standard (Responsible Sourced Seafood), under its 1st pillar: Responsible Fishing Practices. This link provides the opportunity for actions and participation in a FIP to be independently third party verified and certified.

Why a FIP?

Fisheries need a high level of organisation and funding to meet the rigor of international fishery sustainability standards. A FIP provides a starting point to organise participants in a fishery to ultimately achieve certification to international fishery based sustainability standards. Working with industry and Bord Bia (The Irish Food Board), BIM have identified 4 pilot FIPs.

These are:

- Brown Crab.
- Whitefish (Hake, Monkfish and Megrim).
- Nephrops.
- Albacore Tuna.

Are FIPs Recognised?

BIM and industry are working closely with Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) one of the recognised NGOs that operate globally in the FIP arena. The organisation engages fishery stakeholders and seafood businesses throughout the supply chain to promote the sustainable production of seafood.

SFP, sits on the advisory committee of www.FisheryProgress.org, with other conservation and business representatives with expertise in developing and evaluating fishery improvement projects. While FisheryProgress.org is overseen by the advisory committee it's managed day to day by FishChoice.

FisheryProgress.org, in conjunction with global FIP experts, has created a collection of publically available resources to track progress, maintain a global database on FIPs and provide tools to the FIP stakeholders to help them on their journey. These resources help collate and communicate information and improvement.

Information

Science is at the core of all FIPs at FisheryProgress.org. The science programme is based on an MSC pre-assessment. The pre assessment identifies the gaps that need to be addressed and informs the third party reviewed plan to improve the fishery. Basic FIP objectives address a specific set of the environmental challenges identified in the needs assessment to improve the fishery's performance against the MSC standard. Comprehensive FIP objectives address all of the fishery's environmental challenges necessary to achieve a level of sustainability consistent with an unconditional pass of the MSC standard.

Improvement

FIPs encourage and expect stakeholders to use objective scientific information identified in the pre assessment, convene pre-competitive supply chain roundtables, identify practical action and set realistic timeframes to achieve improvements. The Conservation Alliance's updated guidelines for fishery improvement projects, including the criteria for basic and comprehensive FIPs, serve as the foundation for FisheryProgress.org

FIP progress is tracked throughout the period of the plan and improvement information is publically available at fisheryprogress.org.

More details and resources can be found at the following websites:

www.fisheryprogress.org

Conservation Alliance:

www.solutionsforseafood.org

Marine Stewardship Council:

www.msc.org

Sustainable Fisheries partnership:

www.msc.org/sustainablefish.org/

Contact BIM for help with your sustainability performance at:

RSSstandard@bim.ie

Bord Iascaigh Mhara
Head Office
Crofton Road,
Dún Laoghaire,
Co. Dublin, A96 E5A0

T +353 (0)1 214 4100
F +353 (0)1 284 1123
E RSSstandard@bim.ie
www.bim.ie



5 STEPS TO A SUCCESSFUL FIP FISHERY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT:

1



GET TALKING

Identify the different stakeholders needed to work together to deliver improvements in the target fishery.

Get Talking and Participate!

- Get talking and participate!
- Find your stakeholders.
- Who has a role in making changes to improve a fishery?
- What information is available about the fishery?
- Is there a MSC pre-assessment available?
- Sign up and register your interest to join a FIP by contacting RSSstandard@bim.ie or **01 2144100**.

2



COMMIT

Decide on actions to be done to achieve a credible FIPs.

Develop and Decide

- Using the MSC pre-assessment, identify the scientific gaps and assess the fishery's environmental performance.
- Members decide on the scope of FIP.
- Set improvements actions and targets.
- Set timeframes and deadlines.
- Confirm project participants. Sign a Memorandum of Understanding that will be publicly available.

3



GET A WORKPLAN

Improvements, and actions to achieve them, should generally be set within a five year timeframe.

Write the FIP Plan

- Templates are available from FisheryProgress.org, fill them out with the actions and improvements.
- Submit the FIP workplan and finance budget plan to FisheryProgress.org for external review.

4



LAUNCH THE FIP

Launch the FIP

- Participants and workplan are finalised and made public.
- Start your actions and keep your deadlines.
- Communicate your achievement.

5



KEEP ON TRACK

Keeping on track will equip stakeholders with science, knowledge and industry experience to implement successful FIPs.

Progress Tracking and Reporting

- Regularly track the work progress against the activities and outcomes in the work plan.
- These are publicly tracked on FisheryProgress.org
- FisheryProgress.org requires supporting documentation every six months.
- Evidence for implementing your actions and improvements under the pillar, Responsible Fishing Practices is required for BIM's RSS.