

Ecuador Mahi Mahi

FIP Participant Activities

This document identifies the activities that World Wildlife Fund (WWF) would like FIP Participants to implement over the next six months (through July 2016) in support of the Ecuador mahi mahi FIP. As the FIP continues to advance, there will be additional opportunities to engage in and support FIP activities.

A. Send letters to Ecuadorian government representatives¹:

Send letters to government representatives (as determined by WWF) with the following information included:

- a) Congratulate the Ecuadorian government for the implementation of the mahi mahi National Plan of Action (NPOA) and for their permanent efforts to support sustainable management of this important fishery.
- b) Request the continuation of efforts to implement the NPOA.
- c) Congratulate the Ecuadorian government on their continued support of the scientific initiative led by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) to develop a regional stock assessment for mahi mahi, and urge them to continue working with the IATTC and other countries in the eastern Pacific Ocean, particularly Peru, to complete a robust mahi mahi stock assessment and establish a mechanism for regional management of the mahi mahi stock.
- d) Request the continuation of efforts and establishment of sustainable financing to support the longline fleet national observer and dockside monitoring program.
- e) Congratulate the Ecuadorian government for having hosted the First International Mahi Mahi Scientific Workshop in Manta (Oct, 2014).

B. Support the Ecuadorian government's sustainability efforts

Participate in relevant FIP-related meetings as determined by WWF and work with WWF and other participants to implement activities identified in the FIP Action Plan.

C. Communicate with your local suppliers²

Communicate with your local suppliers (via meetings, phone calls, letters) that you want them to:

- a) Become an active FIP Participant³
- b) Participate in any relevant FIP-related meetings as determined by WWF.

¹ WWF will provide a template letter and contact details.

² Please contact Jimmy Martinez (jimmy.martinez@wwf.org.ec) or Pablo Guerrero (pablo.guerrero@wwf.org.ec) at WWF Ecuador, or Wendy Goyert (wendy.goyert@wwfus.org) at WWF-US for more information.

³ http://seafoodsustainability.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/FIP_Participant_Policy_2016.pdf

- c) Urge the Ecuadorian government to continue working together with the IATTC and other countries in the eastern Pacific Ocean, particularly Peru, to develop a regional stock assessment for mahi mahi and establish a mechanism for regional management of the mahi mahi stock.
- d) Conduct and finance pilot traceability projects for the fishery that will help your Ecuador mahi mahi supply chains move towards meeting “best practice” standards such as those set out in WWF’s Traceability Principles in order to facilitate achieving MSC Chain of Custody (CoC) certification and other benefits.
- e) Commit to purchasing only mahi mahi that has been monitored by the SRP inspectors and has been issued a monitoring certificate. Currently, the monitoring program is implemented in eight major ports along the Ecuadorian coast (primarily in Manta). This would help show high level Ecuadorian authorities that the monitoring program is working, and that it should be expanded to more ports.
- f) Support the national observer program for the artisanal longline fleet through commitments such as encouraging the fishing cooperatives and fishing associations that they work with to collaborate with the current fisheries monitoring programs that are in place, including having onboard observers at sea and cooperating with inspectors at landing sites.
- f) Work with WWF and other key stakeholders to implement activities identified in the FIP Action Plan and provide partial cost coverage for FIP activities.
- g) Publicly expressing a commitment to doing business with fishing cooperatives that are working towards improving their fishing practices under the FIP and have the support of the Subsecretary of Fisheries Resources (SRP).

Examples of best fishing practices that fishing cooperatives should adopt include:

- Use of circle hooks by artisanal vessels 100% of the time
- Training of crew on how to correctly handle sea turtles that have been caught incidentally (i.e., employ the proper techniques)
- Take onboard and use de-hookers, mouth openers and line cutters
- Use by vessels of the “T” floats designed by the SRP to reduce entanglements of turtles
- Accepting onboard observers of the SRP
- Support and collaborate with the monitoring program at the download sites (by providing data to the inspectors)
- Compliance with the closures and other management measures established (minimum size of 80 cm).

Fishing cooperatives that have adopted best fishing practices include:

- a) Santa Marianita (near Manta)
- b) Cámara de Pesquería (Esmeraldas)
- c) Cooperativa de Producción Pesquera San Mateo (San Mateo, near Manta),
- d) The following cooperatives in Muisne, near Esmeraldas: 7 de Febrero, Nuevo Muisne and 20 de Agosto
- e) The following cooperatives in Santa Elena Province: Cooperativa de Producción Pesquera de Santa Rosa; Cooperativa Pesquera “2 de Junio” , and Cooperativa Pesquera “Fuerza Anconcito”

D. Provide partial cost coverage for FIP activities that are included in the FIP Action Plan

A comprehensive budget for the Ecuador mahi mahi FIP has been developed, and there are a number of activities that need financial support. We look forward to discussing these funding gaps and identifying opportunities for you to support.

E. Establish a traceability system for Ecuador mahi mahi

Work with local suppliers, WWF, and the Ecuadorian government to conduct a pilot traceability project that will help your Ecuador mahi mahi supply chains move towards meeting “best practice” standards such as those set out in WWF’s Traceability Principles in order to facilitate achieving MSC Chain of Custody (CoC) certification and other benefits.