



© WWF-US/ Molly Edmonds

UPDATES FROM THE WATER

OCTOBER 2021

PERU MAHI MAHI

Gear Type: Longline

Volume: 42, 868 MT (average 2015-2020)

FIP Stage: Stage 4 (Improvements in Fishing Practices or Fishery Management)

Progress Rating: B (Good Progress)

Start Date: November 2013

Peru's mahi mahi fishery supports over 10,000 fishers and serves as a key link in the marine food chain, providing sustenance for sharks, dolphins, and other ocean predators. Peru is also a leading source of the world's mahi mahi and, like Ecuador, a top exporter to the United States. In 2020, 61% of Peru's mahi mahi was exported to the U.S., generating over USD 52 million. Over 1,500 fishers have been engaged directly in FIP efforts, motivated by the support they're receiving to complete the formalization process and get fishing permits, increased market benefits such as preferential purchasing, and improved safety at sea through real-time vessel monitoring.

After several months of development, in July, the Ministry of Production (PRODUCE) published the mahi mahi fishery management regulation (ROP), which establishes specific conservation and management measures for the fishery and is a key milestone for the FIP. Before its final approval, PRODUCE, with the support of WWF, socialized the draft regulations with different groups of artisanal fishermen through virtual workshops, intending to gather feedback under a more participatory approach. The ROP establishes a seasonal fishing quota, provisions for the protection of endangered species such as sea turtles, and the strengthening of traceability through improved monitoring efforts.

To date, 11 mahi mahi exporting companies representing almost 80% of Peru's mahi mahi exports have joined the Peru Mahi Alliance (PMA), a pre-competitive collaboration to advance the FIP through activity implementation, political advocacy efforts, and funding. Under its workplan developed with WWF, PMA members conducted several FIP activities including donating 32 mahi mahi samples to the

²Current PMA companies: COINREFRI, Fish Olg, Altamar Foods, Spring Valley Fruit/Agropesca, Mai Shi Group, Produpesca, DEXIM, SEAFROST, Oceano Seafood, Sercosta, and Peruvian Seafood

Peruvian Institute of the Sea (IMARPE) to use for biological research; training 212 artisanal fishers across 46 vessels on best practices for handling and release of sea turtles and distributing bycatch reduction toolkits³ to 44 vessels; providing feedback to PRODUCE on the new ROP and its importance for the mahi mahi fishery; and learning how to use TrazApp, WWF's mobile electronic catch documentation and traceability system, so that companies will be able to digitally receive at their processing plants all catch and fishing data being inputted by fishers. Starting in October, the second phase of the TrazApp pilot project will be launched, when PMA companies will transfer the data received to the US importing companies and ensure it complies with Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP) and [Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability \(GDST\) standards](#).

Priority activities expected to occur over the next several months include: working with IMARPE on a pilot electronic monitoring program that uses cameras in the place of human observers on smaller artisanal vessels to generate improved catch and bycatch data; training all PMA companies to conduct sea turtle handling and release training for fishers before the start of each fishing season; continuing the mahi mahi sample collection program between the PMA and IMARPE to support scientific research on the status and health of the stock in Peru; implementing key FIP actions under the recently adopted mahi mahi ROP including ensuring that all artisanal vessels have turtle release equipment on board and qualified crew to carry out turtle handling and release procedures; and strengthening the PMA and expanding its membership.

³The bycatch reduction toolkits include tools fishers can use to help release entangled and hooked sea turtles safely, including: dehookers, safe handling nets, and line cutters.

Sign up to become a FIP Participant today by visiting:

<https://seafoodsustainability.org/fisheries/fishery-improvement-projects-signup>

Help conserve marine ecosystems, protect livelihoods, and increase the number of sustainable fisheries and the overall supply of sustainable seafood.

Being a WWF FIP Participant provides a pre-competitive space for companies to engage with fisheries in their supply chains and leverage power across multiple companies to drive fishery improvements forward. By signing on to support a FIP, you are joining forces with other leaders in the industry that seek to help conserve marine ecosystems and advance the livelihoods for millions of people who depend on them.

WWF recognizes FIP participants on the industry website, [SeafoodSustainability.org](https://seafoodsustainability.org). WWF also works with FIP participants to communicate the benefits of FIPs among key buyers, sustainable business leaders, employees, environmental activists, and other key constituencies.

Together we can protect oceans and the food and livelihoods they can sustainably provide.

For more information, please visit seafoodsustainability.org