

Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) Workplan

Taiwan Tuna Association Pacific Albacore Tuna Longline Fishery

Introduction

The fishery being assessed is the Taiwan Tuna Association's Pacific Tuna Longline Fishery. The fishery targets albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*). The pelagic longline vessels are flagged to Taiwan and Vanuatu, fish on the high seas in the Pacific Ocean. The fishery is managed regionally by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) and by the Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO).

This workplan is to respond the challenges identified by the needs assessment report and scoping document, with an aim to assisting this fishery toward more sustainable development.

Table 1: Workplan Overview

Workplan Version and Date	Version 1, June 2021
Start date (expected)	End date (anticipated month/year)
July 2021	July 2026
FIP Lead (organization/individual responsible for Action Plan)	Improvements recommended by (meeting/group that supported the development)
Taiwan Tuna Association Overseas Fisheries Development Council	Evaluation team organized by Overseas Fisheries Development Council
FIP Coordinator (organization/individual responsible for reporting on FisheryProgress)	Workplan developed by (consultant or person)
Overseas Fisheries Development Council	Hui-Shan Ma

Acronyms

EPO	Eastern Pacific Ocean
FIP	Fishery Improvement Project
IATTC	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WCPO	Western Central Pacific Ocean
OFDC	Overseas Fisheries Development Council
TTA	Taiwan Tuna Association
ETP Species	Endangered, Threatened and Protected Species

Unit of Assessment(s)

Table 2. Unit(s) of Assessment (UoA)

UoA 1	Description
Target species (common and scientific name)	Albacore tuna (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)
Stock	South Pacific albacore
Geographical area	WCPO & EPO high seas
Fishing method or gear type	Pelagic longline
Fishing fleet or group of vessels, or individuals fishing operators pursuing stock	Taiwan longline vessels Vanuatu longline vessels

UoA 2	Description
Target species (common and scientific name)	Albacore tuna (Thunnus alalunga)
Stock	North Pacific albacore
Geographical area	WCPO & EPO high seas
Fishing method or gear type	Pelagic longline
Fishing fleet or group of vessels, or individuals fishing operators pursuing stock	Taiwan longline vessels Vanuatu longline vessels

FIP Actions

Table 3. Performance Indicator Action Plan Table for Action 1

Action Number and Name (One sentence description)	1.1 Promoting the development of a well-managed harvest strategy for South Pacific albacore
Action Goal (One sentence that describe the result of the action)	Ensure there are robust and precautionary harvest strategies in place for the South Pacific albacore stocks.
Action Description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)	<p>According to the requirement of PI 1.2.1 harvest strategy within the environmental risk assessment (ERA) that harvest strategy should includes all necessary components, such as monitoring, stock assessment, harvest control rules (HCRs) or some other science-based mechanism to limit harvest, and management actions to maintain sustainability.</p> <p>To achieve the goals above mentioned, the action at this part include to design a clear harvest strategy and develop an evaluation process for harvest strategy.</p>
Expected Completion Date	July 2026

Priority (Based on the implementers criteria: e.g., lowest scoring issues are high priority or actions that are necessary to complete before beginning other actions are high priority)	Medium
Estimated Cost (An estimate of the budget needed to complete the action)	There will be costs involved in this action related to coordinating and holding meetings. Year1: \$ 5,000 USD Year2: \$ 5,000 USD Year3: \$ 5,000 USD Year4: \$ 5,000 USD Year5: \$ 5,000 USD
Responsible Parties (List of participants)	TTA, OFDC and FIP participants
MSC PI(s) Addressed by the Action	1.2.1 Harvest strategy 1.2.2 Harvest control rules

Action	Tasks/ Milestones	Responsible (lead)	Responsible (supporting role)	Starting date	Expected completion date	Evidence of completion / results
1.1 Develop a well-managed harvest strategy for South	Track and report the development of harvest strategy on WCPFC south Pacific albacore	OFDC	FIP Participants	July 2021	July 2026	

Pacific albacore	Hold the FIP participants' meeting to advocate the importance of the development of harvest strategy to the stock.	TTA and OFDC	FIP Participants	January 2022	July 2026	
	Urge the government to actively participate in the harvest strategy development in WCPFC to facilitate to achieve a consensus on the issue of Harvest control rules.	TTA	OFDC and FIP Participants	July 2022	July 2026	
	Urge the WCPFC to actively develop the harvest strategy, and as appropriate, develop the evaluation process to understand the effectiveness of the management	TTA	OFDC and FIP Participants	July 2022	July 2026	

Table 4. Performance Indicator Action Plan Table for Action 2

Action Number and Name (One sentence description)	2.1 Improve information on other and ETP species and follow implementation of conservation measures
Action Goal (One sentence that describe the result of the action)	Support ETP species data collection and reporting to assist in improvement of stock assessments and keep tracking status of the relevant stocks, and understand the impact of the albacore longline fishery on these species.
Action Description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)	<p>To strengthen ETP species data collection, it is recommended that to deliver skipper training to enhance the ability of filling in the logbook, safe handling and release, as well as species identification. Besides, to increase observer coverage rate appropriately, to collect the representative catch data, discard and interaction data from fisheries.</p> <p>For Pacific saury, EPO bigeye tuna and south Pacific blue shark, keep tracking the stock status of those species and keep paying attention on the implementation of the conservation measures of those species, if necessary, consider taking possible alternative measures.</p>
Expected Completion Date	July 2026
Priority (Based on the implementers criteria: e.g., lowest scoring issues are high priority or actions that are necessary to complete before beginning other actions are high priority)	High
Estimated Cost (An estimate of the budget needed to complete the action)	Year1: \$ 3,000 USD Year2: \$ 5,000 USD Year3: \$ 60,000 USD Year4: \$ 60,000 USD Year5: \$ 60,000 USD
Responsible Parties (List of participants)	TTA, OFDC, FIP participants, Taiwan Fisheries Agency

MSC PI(s) Addressed by the Action	2.2.1 other species outcome 2.2.3 other species information 2.3.1 ETP species outcome 2.3.3 ETP species information
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Action	Tasks/ Milestones	Responsible (lead)	Responsible (supporting role)	Starting date	Expected completion date	Evidence of completion / results
2.1 Improve information on other and ETP species and follow implementation of conservation measures	Deliver skipper training to enhance the ability of filling in the logbook.	TTA and OFDC	FIP Participants and related experts	July 2021	July 2022	
	Deliver skipper training to teach best practices on safe handling and release, as well as species identification.	TTA and OFDC	FIP Participants and related experts	July 2022	July 2025	
	Development of electronic observer program and maintain its operation.	TTA and OFDC	FIP Participants, related expert, and Fisheries Agency of Taiwan	July 2022	July 2025	

	Enhance scientific observer coverage of the UoA fishery through engaging with the human observer schemes or EM, to ensure to collect the representative catch data, discard and interaction data from the fishery.	TTA and OFDC	FIP Participants, related expert, and Fisheries Agency of Taiwan	July 2023	July 2026	
	Track and understand the results of stock assessment of Pacific saury, EPO bigeye tuna and south Pacific blue shark. Decide whether to hold a meeting to discuss follow-up actions according to the situation.	OFDC	FIP Participants	July 2021	July 2026	
	Continue to collect relevant information to understand the impact of	OFDC	FIP Participants and related experts	July 2021	July 2026	

	albacore longline fisheries on ETP Species.					
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Table 5 Performance Indicator Action Plan Table for Action 3

Action Number and Name (One sentence description)	3.1 Monitoring and Management Performance Evaluation for Vanuatu
Action Goal (One sentence that describe the result of the action)	To fully understand the implementation of internal review on relevant measures (such as MCS measures and Inspection Plan) in Vanuatu.
Action Description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)	The evidence of implementation of internal review processes in Vanuatu is not clear so an initial fact finding is required to understand. If there is none or not sufficient, advocacy must take place.
Expected Completion Date	July 2026
Priority (Based on the implementers criteria: e.g., lowest scoring issues are high priority or actions that are necessary to complete before beginning other actions are high priority)	Medium
Estimated Cost (An estimate of the budget needed to complete the action)	\$ 5,000 USD

Responsible Parties (List of participants)	TTA, OFDC, FIP participants
MSC PI(s) Addressed by the Action	3.2.4 Monitoring and management performance evaluation

Action	Tasks/ Milestones	Responsible (lead)	Responsible (supporting role)	Starting date	Expected completion date	Evidence of completion / results
3.1 Monitoring and Management Performance Evaluation for Vanuatu	Contact with Vanuatu authority or it representative to understand whether the internal review process is happening.	TTA and OFDC	FIP participants	July 2024	July 2025	
	If there is no internal review process being implemented, advocacy for the implementation must take place.	TTA and OFDC	FIP participants	July 2025	July 2026	

Additional Impacts

其他的影響因素

Some FIPs include objectives that go beyond the MSC PIs. Please provide additional detail below on additional impacts that FIP stakeholders are working to address.

Labor rights improvements

Addition Impact Title	Additional Impact Description
Status Summary	In recent years, news regarding fatal incidents on board and mistreatment of foreign crew members often refers to fishing vessels operated by Taiwanese owners. The U.S. Department of State indicated such abuses in its Human Rights Report, pointing out the possibility distant water fishing fleets of Taiwan having excessive working hours, egregious work environment, and verbal and physical violence. The U.S. Department of Labor also included fish caught by Taiwan in the List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor in 2020. Due to these reports, public attentions have turned to foreign crew members employed overseas and working on board Taiwanese fishing vessels. Thus, it is necessary to understand the actual labor working condition at sea, and to improve any deficiency to be found.
Improvement Recommendation	To improve the deficiency and to ensure that the improvement results comply with the relevant regulations and international standards, according to the outcome of the fact-finding.