

Community Catch

Newsletter on MSC's work with small-scale fisheries and fisheries in the Global South

August 2018



A pathway to sustainability

Multi-fishery pre-assessment projects (PPA) are a useful tool to increase accessibility to the MSC's program and engage with multiple fisheries at the same time, especially in the Developing World.

A PPA aims to involve not only fisheries and NGO stakeholders, but notably also management authorities, scientific advisory bodies and the supply chain.

The goal of a PPA is to engage fisheries that have the potential of working within the sphere of influence of the MSC market-based program and to engage fisheries that have the potential of using the MSC framework as a mechanism to transition to sustainability.

To ensure its success, a PPA should cover the following key elements:

1. Stakeholder engagement
2. Fisheries and supply chain mapping
3. Pre-assessment against the MSC Standard
4. Fishery improvement action plan
5. Implementation, monitoring and review

Some PPAs employ Advisory Groups to support the projects. These groups include representation from diverse stakeholder groups and play a crucial role during the implementation of a PPA. This includes reviewing outcomes at each stage, taking decisions on if/how to progress from one stage to the next, ensuring effective outreach to fisheries, government, NGO and supply chain stakeholders, providing a platform for transparency and accountability for fisheries as they progress to FIPs and providing the basis for longer term legacy of PPA initiatives.

Several multi-fishery pre-assessment projects have been set up by the MSC or its partners in countries around the world including India, Indonesia, Mexico, South Africa, South West Indian Ocean and Western Africa.

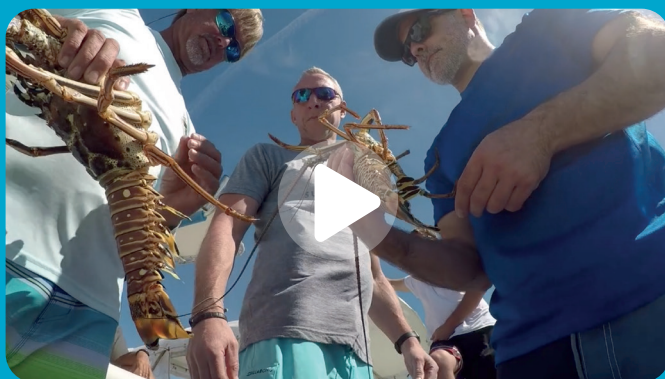
(If you're interested in learning more about the individual projects, we invite you to keep an eye out for regular updates in our newsletter)

Bahamian, Caribbean Fishery to be MSC Certified

The Bahamas Spiny Lobster (*Panulirus argus*) is the world's first Bahamian, Caribbean fishery to join the MSC program! The fishery was awarded MSC certification by accredited third-party assessment body Control Union Pesca Ltd. for meeting the MSC sustainability standards. The Bahamas is also now among only 8% of MSC certified fisheries from developing countries. With the certification, the lobster tails are now eligible to carry the internationally recognized **MSC blue fish label**, which makes it easy for consumers to know that they're choosing seafood that is as good for them as it is for the ocean.

Free diving fishers harvest spiny lobsters from casitas ("little houses") which look like small tables set on the ocean floor. Lobsters are attracted to the relative protection offered by the casita but are free to move in and out without becoming trapped.

Since 2009, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), together with Bahamas Marine Exporters Association (BMEA), The Bahamas Department of Marine Resources and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), have been driving improvements to the fishery. Through a Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) addressing governance, fishing practices, and environmental impacts, their efforts have been aimed at helping the fishery meet the MSC standard.



Fish for Good enters exciting new phase

Fish for Good has reached its next milestone. The South African advisory group with representatives from the government, the commercial and small-scale fishing sectors, scientific bodies, NGOs and retail have selected fisheries for gap analysis against the **MSC Fisheries Standard**.

What is Fish for Good?

Initiated by the MSC and sponsored by the Dutch Postcode Lottery, Fish for Good is a four-year project supporting fisheries in their transition towards sustainability in Indonesia, Mexico and South Africa. Want to know more? Take a look at our brand-new webpage via

msc.org/fishforgood

Meet the fisheries

The fisheries selected in South Africa for the next phase of the project include yellowfin tuna, albacore tuna, sardine, east coast rock lobster, west coast rock lobster, black mussel, kelp, squid and the west coast multi-species line fishery.

In Mexico Fish for Good is collaborating with stakeholders of four fisheries in Northwestern Mexico; sand bass, octopus, white snook and a multi-species fishery of snappers and groupers.

What happens next?

Independent certified auditors will carry out pre-assessments for each fishery against the MSC Fisheries Standard to identify areas where sustainability improvements are needed. From this gap analysis, five of the nine South African fisheries will be selected to have an action plan developed, addressing the fisheries' sustainability shortfalls. All nine in Mexico will have action plans developed. For further updates, keep an eye out for the next edition of Community Catch!



South African advisory group meeting



Increasing technical expertise in Indonesia

The MSC, together with the Indonesian Pole & Line and Handline Fisheries Association (AP2HI) and IPNLF-Indonesia hosted a five-day Capacity Building workshop in Jakarta which was offered as a component of the four-year MSC project 'Fish for Good'.

Attended by 30 participants from AP2HI secretariat as well as members of AP2HI, Ministry of Marine and Maritime Affairs (MMAF) staff, e-NGO's and universities, the workshop's aim is to increase the technical expertise and understanding amongst Indonesian stakeholders of the MSC Fisheries Standard and how it can be applied as a framework for fisheries improvement.

Participants learned how to apply the MSC's Risk Based Framework in data limited fisheries and how to use the **fishery improvement tools** to deliver change. Throughout the workshop best practice case study fisheries are used to illustrate how to meet the requirements of the standard. Challenges to meeting the standard are discussed and actions for improvement are identified. This training is intended for stakeholders whose role in a fishery improvement project (FIP) involves undertaking a gap analysis, developing a fisheries improvement Action Plan, supervising implementation of a FIP and undertaking other specialist activities within a FIP.

Download the Capacity Building Toolkit and register your interest in a training workshop

[Download here](#) ▶



Stakeholders agree on joint actions to work towards certification of Indian fisheries

Representatives from a range of stakeholder groups met in Kerala, India and identified 10 marine fisheries to be benchmarked against the MSC Fisheries Standard and develop and implement action plans to work towards more sustainable fishing practices and eventual MSC certification.

Blue swimming crab, shrimps (Karrikadi, Poovalan, flower shrimp & Deep-sea shrimp), squid, cuttlefish, skipjack tuna, lobster & Japanese threadfin bream are the ten fisheries identified by stakeholders in India's marine fisheries sector. The stakeholders include marine scientists, seafood exporters, retailers and fishermen. Decisions on details regarding fishery improvement projects (FIPs) for these fisheries will be made under regular stakeholder consultation. At a recent meeting held at the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) under the leadership of the MSC, CMFRI and the World Wildlife Fund-India (WWF), it was unanimously agreed that collaborated efforts are required to implement the fishery improvement plans. India has so far obtained MSC certification for the short-necked clam fishery in Ashtamudi lake.



'Sustainable Seafood Network of India' Launched

A 'Sustainable Seafood Network' involving membership from CMFRI, CIFT, MPEDA, seafood industry, retailers, trawlers, traditional fishermen and NGOs has been launched to promote sustainable practices and ultimately certification of fisheries, including the identified fisheries. An advisory board has been set up to support the network and Dr Sunil Mohammed, Principal Scientist at CMFRI, India nominated as chair.



Send us your feedback developingworld@msc.org



MSC helps fund research into ocean sustainability

We are proud to announce the 5 winners of the latest round of the scholarship program, including projects to monitor FADs in small-scale Indonesian tuna fisheries, a study of Arctic food webs and trials to monitor lobster stocks off the coast of Scotland. The program provides funding of up to £4,000 per student to support research looking at environmental improvement, supply chain management or best practice in fisheries management.

This year's winners

- **Laurissa Christie** from the University of Windsor, Canada, is studying the influence of sea ice on deep-water food web dynamics in the Arctic.
- **Ahmad Widyatmoko** from the University of Basque Country, Spain and MER Consortium, will be researching the use of Fish Aggregating Devices in small-scale Indonesian tuna fisheries.
- **Zelin Chen** from the University of Washington, USA, will be researching management strategies for a quota-based management system in China's red swimming crab fishery.
- **Catherine Seguel** a student at the Universidad Austral de Chile, will be mapping the value chain of the Chilean marmola crab fishery.
- **Matthew Coleman** from Heriot-Watt University in Scotland, will be trialling a new way of monitoring stocks of European lobster off the coast of Scotland.

To be notified of future MSC scholarship application rounds, please email scholarship@msc.org

Global South Fisheries in the MSC

36  **certified fisheries**

18  **fisheries in assessment**
(Around 11% of total MSC certified catch volume)

843 CoC **certificate holders**

1059  **MSC PRODUCTS** 