

Guatemala Mahi-Mahi FIP – 6.20.15

Summary

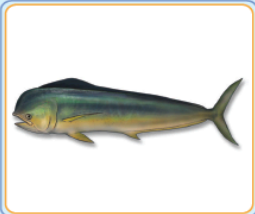


Guatemala Mahi-Mahi FIP

A fishery improvement project (FIP) is a multistakeholder effort to address environmental challenges in a fishery.

Summary

Sea Delight's financial contributions to improve the mahi-mahi fishery in Guatemala are an important source of revenue to maintain on-the-ground Action Plan activity implementation. A national scope mahi-mahi FIP coordinated by CeDePesca was established in 2010 with the goal of MSC certification for the manually operated pelagic longline and mechanized pelagic longline fisheries.



Species	Mahi-mahi (<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>)
Location	Territorial waters of Guatemala and international waters
Gear	1. Manually operated pelagic longlines 2. Mechanized pelagic longlines
Stakeholders	Directorate of Fisheries & Aquaculture, National Federation of Artisanal Fishers in Guatemala, CeDePesca, Fishing Cooperatives, and others
Start Date	April 2013

- Active supply chain participation?
- Public commitment?
- Timebound objectives defined?
- Published work plan?
- System for progress tracking & reporting?

Highlights

Participants – U.S. importers, Guatemala exporters, artisanal fishing cooperatives, and CeDePesca – signed MOU



A delegation from Guatemala attends the 1st IATTC International Scientific Workshop on mahi-mahi in Ecuador

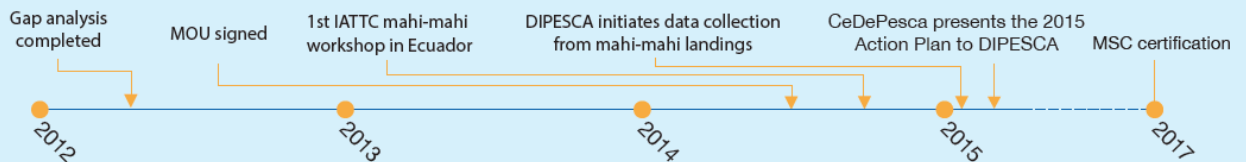


Initiated data collection program collaborating with fishing associations and DIPESCA staff



Timeline

Prepared on 6.20.15 in collaboration with **FISH WISE**



Background

The Guatemala mahi-mahi FIP is one of four FIPs for this species in the Central and South American regions. Ecuador implemented the first FIP in 2010, followed by both Peru and Panama in 2014. In 2012 representatives from Incredible Fish, Tasty Seafood and CeDePesca met at the SFP mahi-mahi Roundtable in Miami to discuss the need for a mahi-mahi FIP in Guatemala. In early 2013 CeDePesca initiated the Gap Analysis using MSC standards to evaluate the fishery. The Gap Analysis was made public on November 2013 and identified four critical areas for improvement:

1. Lack of catch/effort data for the small-scale fleet;
2. Lack of information about interactions with ecosystem components;



3. Lack of a Management Plan for the fishery, including harvest rules; and
4. Lack of international coordination in regards to science and management.

Sea Delight's FIP Membership and Contribution

In February of 2014 Sea Delight, LLC was invited by CeDePesca to attend the first FIP stakeholder meeting in Guatemala City, Guatemala. Later that year Sea Delight formally committed to supporting the FIP by signing the "Framework Collaboration Agreement". Sea Delight and the other U.S. buyers agreed to encourage their Guatemalan suppliers to participate in the FIP and to also provide funding for the FIP's implementation. Sea Delight's principal contributions to the FIP are as one of the project's financiers and as a participant in discussions regarding the FIP's progress and Action. It is likely that Sea Delight will become more actively involved in FIP activities in the future.

2014-2015 Sea Delight FIP Activities

1. **Participation in stakeholder meetings, MOU, and creation of Action Plan:** On February 27, 2014 a Sea Delight representative attended the first FIP stakeholder meeting in Guatemala. This event brought together US importers, Guatemala exporters, and artisanal fishing cooperatives to discuss a work plan and basic budget. Sea Delight and other FIP participants confirmed their support in June by signing the MOU. The financial contributions of Sea Delight and other U.S. companies helped secure the support of local seafood companies in the MOU. Starting in 2015 Sea Delight was part of discussions lead by CeDePesca to draft the new FIP Action Plan for 2015-2016. The main goal of the new Action Plan is to launch an onboard observer program to gather information on bycatch and fishing effort.
 - a. **National FIP Action Supported:** These activities supported the initial launching of the FIP. During this stage FIP stakeholders collaborated to draft and make a publically available workplan.
 - b. **Importance:** The Action Plan defines timelines and objectives based on the findings from the gap analysis. The achievement of these objectives will help increase scoring on high priority MSC indicators.
2. **Support of regional collaboration efforts for scientific research:** The financial support provided by Sea Delight and other FIP partners sponsored a Guatemalan delegation to attend the 2014 Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) mahi-mahi scientific workshop in Ecuador. It is already confirmed that as part of the new Action Plan, the same delegation will attend the 2015 Second IATTC mahi-mahi scientific workshop that will take place in Peru.
 - a. **National FIP Action Supported:** Conducting a stock assessment for this species, one of the main objectives of the Action Plan, requires collaboration from the different countries sharing the resource. The IATTC scientific meetings are key to engage national fishing authorities and to organize research efforts. An assessment of the stock status will inform the creation of an effective management plan, another important objective outlined in the Action Plan.
 - b. **Importance:** The IATTC scientific meetings are crucial to coordinate data collection efforts. These meetings also offer an opportunity for scientists and managers from different countries



to share their research results and experiences. The 1st IATTC mahi-mahi scientific workshop was particularly important as it motivated the Guatemalan authorities to prioritize a data collection program for mahi-mahi in their domestic fishery.

3. **Support for onboard observer program:** The financial support of Sea Delight and other FIP partners will assist in launching the onboard observer program for the small-scale fleet targeting mahi-mahi. CeDePesca will be responsible for the training of the observers. It is expected that the program start in May of 2015.
 - a. **National FIP Action Supported:** The onboard observer program will collect information on the interactions of the fishery with bycatch species. This data will guide the creation of measures in the management plan to minimize the fishery's impact on endangered, threatened or protected species.
 - b. **Importance:** The data collected by observers will be used to develop strategies to ensure that the fishery does not threaten the populations of bycatch species, particularly sea turtles. By engaging DIPESCA and the artisanal fishing cooperatives in this process CeDePesca is ensuring that the local authorities will eventually adopt the program as part of a management plan for this fishery.

Sea Delight Next Steps

In the first quarter of 2015 Sea Delight approved the 2015-2016 Action Plan and agreed to provide additional financial support to initiate the onboard observer program. The level of future support of Sea Delight is foreseen to remain the same. The company is expected to remain engaged as a funder and to support future revisions of the Action Plan. There are six main objectives outlined within the 2015-2016 Action Plan:

1. Systematic data collection of volumes, lengths and effort in collaboration with Fisher's associations and Guatemalan exporters;
2. Development of a database that aggregates information from FIP program, government information and other independent research projects;
3. Participate in the regional stock evaluation carried out by the IACCT Scientific Group;
4. Launch onboard observer program to collect bycatch data;
5. Evaluations of bycatch data collected by onboard observer program; and
6. Host workshops in collaboration with Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DIPESCA) to approve a management plan using information collected through FIP and IATTC recommendations. presented in the 2nd IATTC Technical Meeting on mahi-mahi in Peru later in 2015.

