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Client: Fishing Industry Association (FIA)
Papua New Guinea (PNG)
Type: Action plan – Next steps
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Consideration: For review and consideration



1. Executive summary

This document aims to provide FIA PNG board, NFA authorities, FIA members, and stakeholders guidance on responsibilities, entities to be contacted and next steps to comply with the SCS MSC fishery action plan within the 5 coming years of the PNG FIA MSC fishery certification.

2. Purpose

This document intends to inform the FIA PNG board, NFA authorities, and FIA members about planned activities including a contact entities, resources of information and responsibilities to comply with the SCS MSC fishery action plan imposed during the PNG FIA MSC fishery certification for the coming 5 years and follow up.

3. Background

On May 2020, PNG FIA members received the MSC certification for the tuna fish swimming on the PNG waters.

Part of the certification process also involved the National Fishery Authority (NFA) of Papua New Guinea (PNG) that in February 2020 sent a supporting letter to the MSC office and SCS Global supporting the action plan developed by SCS Global to the PNG FIA MSC fishery certification in order to maintain the certification during the coming 5 years.

The PNG FIA strategic plan 2020 - 2025 contains 4 elements, the second element includes sustainability and biodiversity and indicates compliance with the SCS MSC conditions described in the action plan within 5 years. By nature, a strategic plan involves marketing, finance, human resources, and operations to design and implement the strategy.

We intend to optimize resources, finance, and operations to comply with the SCS Global action plan.

3.1 SCS Global action plan

The surveillance program is expected to be set at Level 6: Default Surveillance. This was confirmed by the publication of the PCR.

The Fishery surveillance program was set up at level 6 which means, an on-site surveillance audit in year # 1, year # 2, year # 3, and year # 4 (re-certification).

In accordance with the FCRV2.0 7.23.4 and based on the number of conditions and information needed to verify progress. Note, the on-site audit may not necessarily include in-person meetings with representatives of all management systems relevant to the UoA.

It is important to remark that the complying of the action plan will be monitored also during the surveillance audit. The 14 conditions that PNG FIA shall comply, are described on the SCS Global fishery report on **8.2 Appendix 1 Conditions and Client Action Plan**, from the page 275 to the page 338. The relation between action plan from one year to another are described in this section.

The next surveillance audit will be carried out on May 8th 2021.

Table: Summary of the PNG FIA Appendix 1 Conditions and Client Action Plan (from 275 to 338)

#	Condition number	Condition	Principle (MSC fishery standard)	FIA action
1	1-1	By the second surveillance audit, demonstrate that the harvest strategy for skipjack tuna is responsive to the state of the stock and the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving management objectives reflected in the target and limit reference points	1.2.1	This was defined like a weakness and score 70 (harvest strategy), HCR because of WCPFC. PNGFIA shall contact WCPFC, and PNA. Initially I suggest contacting NFA, SPC, and FFA for HCR and assessing the progress. Also read page 166 - 168 of PNG FIA fishery report, it is the same action for PNA fishery. Check PNA fishery report 2011 and 2019 for guidance of this indicator 1.2.1
2	1-2	SI a) By the second surveillance audit, demonstrate that well defined HCRs are in place for skipjack tuna that ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as the PRI is approached, are expected to keep the stock fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY. SI b) By the second surveillance audit, provide evidence that the selection of the harvest control rules for skipjack tuna are robust to the main uncertainties. SI c) By the second surveillance audit, provide evidence that indicates that the tools in use for skipjack tuna are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules.	1.2.2	This was defined like a weakness and score 60 (harvest strategy), HCR because of WCPFC. PNGFIA shall contact WCPFC, and PNA. Initially I suggest contacting NFA, SPC and FFA for HCR and assessing the progress. Also read page 169 - 172 of PNG FIA fishery report, it is the same action for PNA and TMI fisheries. Check PNA fishery report 2011 and 2019 for guidance of this indicator 1.2.2 and also TMI SI.
3	1-3	By the second surveillance audit, demonstrate that the harvest strategy for yellowfin tuna is responsive to the state of the stock and the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving management objectives reflected in the target and limit reference points	1.2.1	This was defined like a weakness and score 70 (harvest strategy), HCR because of WCPFC. PNGFIA shall contact WCPFC, and PNA. Initially I suggest contacting NFA, SPC and FFA for HCR and assessing the progress. Also read page 166 - 168 of PNG FIA fishery report, it is the same action for PNA fishery. Check PNA fishery report 2011 and 2019 for guidance of this indicator 1.2.1
4	1-4	SI a) By the second surveillance audit, demonstrate that well defined HCRs are in place for yellowfin tuna that ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as the PRI is approached, are expected to keep the stock fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY. SI b) By the second surveillance audit, provide evidence that the selection of the harvest control rules for yellowfin tuna are robust to the main uncertainties. SI c) By the second surveillance audit, provide evidence that indicates that the tools in use for yellowfin tuna are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules.	1.2.2	This was defined like a weakness and score 60 (harvest strategy), HCR because of WCPFC. PNGFIA shall contact WCPFC, and PNA. Initially I suggest contacting NFA, SPC and FFA for HCR and assessing the progress. Also read page 169 - 172 of PNG FIA fishery report, it is the same action for PNA and TMI fisheries. Check PNA fishery report 2011 and 2019 for guidance of this indicator 1.2.2 and also TMI SI.
5	2-1	FAD sets and Free school sets: By the fourth surveillance audit, provide evidence that the direct effects of the UoA are highly likely to not hinder recovery of Cetacean species	2.3.1	Provide a plan to demonstrate the implementation of avoiding setting nets on whale sharks. Score was 75. Also ETP species. NFA partner support - NFA meeting bycatch mitigation - observers were reporting improper/ training of observer/crew training evidence / gap analysis/meeting with companies and fisheries / were not set up on whale
6	2-2	By the fourth surveillance audit provide at least some evidence that the measures/strategies for whale sharks and cetaceans are being implemented successfully	2.3.2	Provide a plan to demonstrate the implementation of avoiding setting nets on whale sharks. Score was 75. Also ETP species. NFA partner support
7	2-3	FAD sets and Free school sets: By the fourth surveillance audit, provide some quantitative information that is adequate to assess the UoA related mortality and impact and to determine whether the UoA may be a threat to protection and recovery of Cetaceans.	2.3.3	Provide a plan to demonstrate the implementation of avoiding setting nets on whale sharks. Score was 75. Also ETP species. NFA partner support

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8	2-4	FAD sets: By the fourth surveillance audit provide evidence that the UoA is highly unlikely to reduce structure and function of the VME habitats to a point where there would be serious or irreversible harm.	2.4.1	PNGFIA together with NFA develop and provide a plan for investigating the impact of lost FADs on the structure and function of coral reefs. Score was 75. NFA key supporter for implementation and conditions complies.
9	2-5	FAD sets: By the fourth surveillance audit, provide at least some quantitative evidence that the UoA complies with both its management requirements and with protection measures afforded to VMEs by other MSC UoAs/non-MSC fisheries, where relevant.	2.4.2	By the first surveillance and year PNGFIA provide information on the level of compliance with the requirement to report lost FADs and the impediments to full compliance. The score was 75. Improve in details the Marine litter and Fishing gear policy including elements that NFA can provide. This policy and procedure shall be enforced to all FIA fishing companies members.
10	2-6	For FAD sets: By the fourth surveillance audit, provide evidence that the information available is adequate to allow for identification of the main impacts of the UoA on the main habitats, and there is reliable information on the spatial extent of interaction and on the timing and location of use of the fishing gear; OR That some quantitative information is available that is adequate to estimate the consequence and spatial attributes of the main habitats.	2.4.3	By year 1, PNGFIA should develop and provide a plan for determining the spatial extent, timing and location of FAD interactions with coral reefs. The score was 75. NFA is the key entity to support this condition improvement.
11	2-7	By year four the fishery must provide evidence that the UoA is highly unlikely to disrupt the key elements underlying ecosystem structure and function to a point where there would be a serious or irreversible harm.	2.5.1	By the first surveillance audit, develop a plan with actions that could provide evidence as to the likelihood that FADS could disrupt the key elements underlying ecosystem structure and function to a point where there would be a serious or irreversible harm. The score was 60
12	3-1	Provide evidence to demonstrate that clear and transparent processes exist to regularly seek and accept "relevant information" provided via consultative processes and that any such information is considered in management decision making at national and regional levels.	3.1.2	This defines the improvement of the local governance and responsible coastal state (NFA). The score was 75. PNGFIA shall contact NFA to find evidence or build on evidence a corrective action or improvement to comply with this action plan within the four year. We can start to work on this for the next surveillance. Please read pages 257 -258. PNG must ensure that its management system is compatible with WCPFC CMMs and does not undermine any regional management arrangements . NFA, SPC, BFAR and WCPFC to be contacted.
13	3-2	By the fourth year, the client shall present evidence that short and long-term objectives, which are consistent with achieving the outcomes expressed by MSC's Principles 1 and 2, are explicit within the fishery-specific management system, for free school sets.	3.2.1	Demonstrate that PNGFIA is working with NFA and BFAR to prepare a basic proposal/plan for the development of short-term objectives, to ensure the condition is closed by the 4th year of certification. The process should identify: fisheries management objectives consistent with the Fisheries Management Act 1998 aimed to achieving outcomes express by MSC principles 1 and 2 and the stakeholders who should be consulted. NFA shall be contacted for this condition
14	3-3	SI b) By the fourth surveillance audit, provide evidence that decision-making processes respond to serious and other important issues identified in relevant research, monitoring, evaluation and consultation, in a transparent, timely and adaptive manner and take account of the wider implications of decisions. SI d) By the fourth surveillance audit, provide evidence that Information on the fishery's performance and management action is available on request, and explanations are provided for any actions or lack of action associated with findings and relevant recommendations emerging from research, monitoring, evaluation and review activity.	3.2.2	By the year 1 or first surveillance PNG FIA shall demonstrate that is working with NFA to develop a proposal to improve decision making processes such that they respond to important issues in a transparent, timely and adaptive manner and take account of the wider implications of decisions. Ensure the plan improves the flow of information on the fishery's performance and management action plan should identify: who will assess fishery performance, how frequently this will occur, how this information will be transmitted and to whom and what actions will be taken to address deficiencies. Overall, the plan should identify ways to improve input from all sources and how best to assess the wider



				implications of decisions. Score was 75 NFA shall oversees and supervise this condition improvement

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3.2 Considerations of SCS Global action plan

In yellow are marked the conditions that PNG FIA should start to work on for year 1, some of them are linked to the actions to be taken in the second surveillance and assessment of the action plan. In red is the action plan with the lowest score and that PNG FIA should give priority in order to maintain the scoring or increase the scoring in the next surveillance and/or fishery re-certification in order to maintain the MSC PNG FIA fishery certification. Blue and green are conditions with similar approach, based on the similar performance indicator within the MSC principle.

A generally understood Harvest Control Rules (HCR) is taken here by the SCS Global expert team to mean one that are not well defined and also the management system should be consistent between coastal state governance (NFA) and regional governance WCPFC. These are the two main actions that should FIA start to work on by the coming surveillance audit.

What we at FIA, need to keep in mind is that the same or very similar action plan and request was given to PNA more than 6 years ago and also to other MSC-certified tuna fisheries in the region because it is the same genetic stock, the same geographical area and we all belong to PNA; also, we are under the governance of WCPFC. We should move on and somehow align with them if this means an improvement.

NFA and BFAR should be the FIA’s support for accessing information and provide a realistic framework for implementation of the action plan request for the first and second surveillance (VDS, CMM, MSY)

4. Next steps

The log frame will allow to control and address the annual PNG FIA budget and investment; the impact of each log frame is measurable and should be reported to the FIA members in annual bases. The PNG FIA SAB will be informed on a regular basis about the status of the log frame.

This plan shall be published on our website.

