

ARGENTINA FLATHEAD – BOTTOM TRAWL FIP ACTION PLAN

updated by CeDePesca on 10 January 2024

Introduction

The Argentina flathead FIP has been formally launched by Simplot Australia Pty. Ltd., Pacific West Foods Australia Pty. Ltd. and CeDePesca, in October 2023. This document includes an update of the original FIP Action Plan.

Action Plan Overview

Action plan Version and Date	Version 1.1 – 10 January 2024
Start date (actual)	End date (anticipated month/year)
1 November 2023	31 October 2028
FIP Lead (organization/individual responsible for Action Plan)	Improvements recommended by (meeting/group that supported the development)
CeDePesca	CeDePesca
FIP Coordinator (organization/individual responsible for reporting on FisheryProgress)	Action plan developed by (consultant or person)
CeDePesca	CeDePesca

Acronyms

CTMFM	Comisión Técnica Mixta del Frente Marítimo / Joint Technical Commission of the Maritime Front
PESCA BS.AS.	Departamento de Pesca de La Provincia de Buenos Aires / Department of Fisheries of the Province of Buenos Aires
CFP	Consejo Federal Pesquero / Fisheries Federal Council
INIDEP	Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo Pesquero / National Institute of Fisheries Research and Development
SAGPyA	Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca y Acuicultura/ Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Aquaculture

FIP Unit

Target species	<i>Percophis brasiliensis</i>
Other common names	Pez palo, Argentina flathead, Brazilian flathead, South-American flathead
Stock distribution	North of 39°S Within the Argentina-Uruguay Common Fishing Zone (ZCPAU) and in Argentina waters under the jurisdiction of the province of Buenos Aires. FAO Fishing Zone 41
Fishing method or gear type	Bottom-trawl
Fishing fleet	Coastal chilling fleet (vessels to be determined)

FIP Objectives

The ultimate objective of this FIP is to achieve the fishery's certifiable status against the MSC standard by the end of October 2028. To this purpose, the FIP has set the following specific objectives:

1. Promote the adoption of an explicit catch control rule and the adoption of target and limit reference points specific for the stock.
2. Compile information that allows the understanding of the impacts of the fishery on other components of the ecosystem.
3. Ensure that the fishery obtains explicit management objectives both in relation to the target species and other components of the ecosystem.
4. Promote the creation of a Stakeholder Commission for the fishery in the context of the Joint Technical Commission for the Maritime Front (CTMFM) with the participation of stakeholders
5. Promoting improvements in fishing practices and in the management of fishery impacts on other ecosystem components.

ACTION PLAN

This Action Plan is made up of three actions and fourteen tasks. All Actions are described in detail in the FIP profile at [FisheryProgress.org](https://fisheryprogress.org).

Action Number and Name	Action 1. Promoting improvements in the fishery's management and research systems
Action Goal	Establish and strengthen fisheries management with the objective of guaranteeing its long-term sustainability, preserving the population, its environment, and encouraging the active participation of the actors involved.
Action Description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)	When the pre-assessment was completed in June 2023, the results indicated that the current management system needs to improve to be consistent with Principles 1 and 3 of the MSC. Therefore, the FIP seeks to (a) The definition of reference points, (b) achieve the definition of explicit short and long-term objectives for the fishery, (c) the establishment of explicit catch control rules, (d) the creation of a Follow-Up Commission for the fishery in the context of the Mixed Technical Commission for the Maritime Front (CTMFM) with the participation of stakeholders and (e) ensure that the management system is periodically reviewed internally and externally.
Expected Completion Date	October 2028
Priority (as gauged in November 2023)	High
Responsible Parties	CeDePesca, FIP partners
Other stakeholders	CFP, INIDEP, SAGPyA, CTMFM, Pesca Bs. As.
MSC PI(s) v3.0 addressed by the Action	1.2.2, 1.2.4, 3.1.2, 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.2.4
MSC PI(s) v2.01 addressed by the Action	1.2.2, 1.2.4, 3.1.2, 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.2.4

Action	Tasks/ Milestones	Responsible (lead)	Other relevant stakeholders	Starting date	Expected completion date	Evidence of completion / results
Action 1. Promoting improvements in the fishery's management and research systems	Task 1.1. Promote the estimation and adoption of non-generic Target and Limit Reference Points (TRP and LRP) specific to the Brazilian flathead stock north of parallel 39°S.	CeDePesca	CTMFM, INIDEP	November 2023	October 2028	
	Task 1.2. Achieve the formalization of the fishery harvest control rules, so that these explicitly aim at keeping the stock fluctuating around its TRP and at ensuring that the exploitation rate is reduced as the stock comes near its LRP.	CeDePesca	CTMFM, INIDEP	November 2024	October 2028	

	Task 1.3. Promote the creation of a Stakeholder Commission for the fishery in the context of the Joint Technical Commission for the Maritime Front (CTMFM) with the participation of stakeholders in the fishing sector to strengthen the consultation process of this regional management organization.	CeDePesca	CTMFM	November 2023	October 2025	
	Task 1.4. Promote the definition of a Management Plan (or proxy) for the Brazilian flathead fishery, including explicit objectives related to the sustainability of the fishery and its interaction with other ecosystem components.	CeDePesca	CTMFM, CFP	November 2024	October 2028	
	Task 1.5. Request the elaboration of a document with the history of compliance with management measures, including sanctions related to at sea and inland operations, and promote the publication of regular reports on control and surveillance of fishery activities.	CeDePesca	SAGPyA , Pesca Bs. As.	November 2023	October 2026	
	Task 1.6. Promote the formalization of a regular external revision of the effectiveness of the fishery-specific management system.	CeDePesca	CTMFM, CFP	November 2025	October 2028	

Action Number and Name	Action 2. Improving the knowledge about the impacts of the fishery on other ecosystem components.
Action Goal	Evaluate the risks and mitigation of impacts that the fishery could exert on other components of the ecosystem
Action Description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)	By gaining a more complete understanding of these impacts, more sustainable and effective fisheries management strategies can be developed that take into account the conservation of the entire ecosystem. To achieve this, an on-board Observer Program and a risk analysis will be carried out.
Expected Completion Date	August 2028
Priority (as gauged in November 2023)	High
Responsible Parties	CeDePesca
Other stakeholders	FIP Partners
MSC PI(s) v3.0 addressed by the Action	2.2.1, 2.2.3, 2.3.1, 2.3.3, 2.4.1, 2.4.3
MSC PI(s) v2.01 addressed by the Action	2.2.1, 2.2.3, 2.3.1, 2.3.3, 2.4.1, 2.4.3, 2.5.1, 2.5.3.

Action	Tasks/ Milestones	Responsible (lead)	Other relevant stakeholders	Starting date	Expected completion date	Evidence of completion / results
Action 2. Improving the knowledge about the impacts of the fishery on other ecosystem components.	Task 2.1. Design a Private Onboard Observer Program (POP) and consider the possibility of implementing an Electronic Monitoring Program for the fishery.	CeDePesca	FIP partners	November 2023	October 2024	
	Task 2.2. Implementing the POP and/or the Electronic Monitoring Program for the fishery, collecting data onboard on the interaction with in-scope and out-of-scope species, ETP species, and habitats.	CeDePesca	FIP partners	December 2023	October 2028	

	Task 2.3. Produce technical reports using the data collected by the POP in order to characterize the interaction of the fishery with other ecosystem components.	CeDePesca		November 2025	November 2027	
	Task 2.4. Conduct a Consequence Spatial Analysis (CSA) to assess the risk posed by the fishery to the commonly encountered habitats.	CeDePesca		November 2025	October 2025	
	Task 2.5. Ensure that FIP partners, fishing crews and other interested stakeholders are informed on the objectives of the POP and its development.	CeDePesca	FIP partners	November 2023	October 2028	

Action Number and Name	Action 3. Promoting improvements in fishing practices and in the management of fishery impacts on other ecosystem components.
Action Goal	Achieve a reduction in the negative impacts of fishing, if needed, and promote sustainable practices that favor the conservation of biodiversity and the well-being of the marine ecosystem.
Action Description (Brief summary of the steps involved in the action and importance of the action in achieving the FIP objectives)	Involve all actors to improve fishing practices, and encourage the adoption of more responsible fishing practices, taking into consideration the data and analysis provided by the Onboard Observer Program and the results of risk analyses.
Expected Completion Date	October 2028
Priority (as gauged in November 2023)	Low
Responsible Parties	CeDePesca
Other stakeholders	FIP Partners
MSC PI(s) v3.0 addressed by the Action	2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.4.1, 2.4.2.
MSC PI(s) v2.01 addressed by the Action	2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.4.1, 2.4.2, 2.5.1, 2.5.2.

Action	Tasks/ Milestones	Responsible (lead)	Other relevant stakeholders	Starting date	Expected completion date	Evidence of completion / results
Action 3. Promoting improvements in fishing practices and in the management of fishery impacts on other ecosystem components.	Task 3.1. Conduct capacity-building workshops for crew members in relation to the identification of, and data collection on, ETP species interacting with the fishing fleet.	FIP Partners	CeDePesca	November 2023	November 2027	
	Task 3.2. Conduct awareness workshops for fishing crews in relation to sustainable fishing and promote the adoption of good fishing practices. The workshops will be geared considering the main issues identified through the implementation of the POP.	FIP Partners	CeDePesca	November 2025	October 2028	

	<p>Task 3.3. Promoting the adoption of mitigation measures and/or changes in fishing practices in light of the data collected by the POP and the results of risk analyses.</p>	<p>FIP Partners</p>	<p>CeDePesca</p>	<p>November 2025</p>	<p>October 2028</p>	
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