



Baja Scallop Fishery Improvement Project

WORK PLAN

Baja Scallops Fishery Improvement Project Work Plan

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I. Assessment Findings

The fishery is managed adaptively. Fishing is prohibited except during fishery openings agreed to jointly by representatives of fishers and municipal, state and federal authorities and only when bay studies indicate that stocks are abundant.

The fishery reopened in 2018 after a multi-year closure. In 2019 it was open for 10 days in May and 15 days in July. The fishery is in a rebuilding phase and does not yet meet principle 1 of the MSC standard for sustainable fish stocks. The fishery has a limited data set from annual landings and data are not standardized according to effort or catch per unit effort. More information on catches, effort, and age/size distribution is needed for assessment of stock status.

The fishery meets principle 2 of the MSC standard. This is a dive fishery with minimal impacts to other marine life or to the seafloor.

Management of the fishery meets the standard for consultation and fishery-specific objectives set out in principle 3 of the MSC standard. Control of the harvest by CONAPESCA improved in 2018 and 2019 with the support of all fishery stakeholders, and will require ongoing attention. Some work is still needed to set long-term objectives for the fishery.



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Summary of pre-assessment scoring

P	Component	PI	Performance Indicator	2020 Score
1	Outcome	1.1.1	Stock status	60-79
		1.1.2	Stock rebuilding	60-79
	Management	1.2.1	Harvest Strategy	60-79
		1.2.2	Harvest control rules and tools	60-79
		1.2.3	Information and monitoring	60-79
		1.2.4	Assessment of stock status	<60
2	Primary species	2.1.1	Outcome	60-79
		2.1.2	Management	60-79
		2.1.3	Information	80
	Secondary species	2.2.1	Outcome	80
		2.2.2	Management	80
		2.2.3	Information	80
	ETP species	2.3.1	Outcome	80
		2.3.2	Management	80
		2.3.3	Information	80
	Habitats	2.4.1	Outcome	100
		2.4.2	Management	80
		2.4.3	Information	80
	Ecosystem	2.5.1	Outcome	80
		2.5.2	Management	80
		2.5.3	Information	80
3	Governance and Policy	3.1.1	Legal and customary framework	80
		3.1.2	Consultation, roles and responsibilities	80
		3.1.3	Long term objectives	60-79
	Fishery specific management system	3.2.1	Fishery specific objectives	60-79
		3.2.2	Decision making processes	80
		3.2.3	Compliance & enforcement	60-79
		3.2.4	Monitoring and management performance evaluation	<60

II. Improvement Actions

Action 1. The FIP will establish a catch register to record daily catches by permit holder with size data and bed locations. This will be critical data for monitoring the current fishing mortality and current age/size distribution of the stock. This data is also needed to improve scores on the MSC Principle 1 for stock status.

Details: FIP participant Don Savely has time series data for historical catches per permit holder.



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Katrina Nakamura will work with Don to enter the historical catches into a spreadsheet and to expand the data elements to include sizes and bed locations. The complete spreadsheet will be utilized at the Spring opening. Upon its completion, a meeting will be held with INAPESCA to share the data and to establish an ongoing data sharing protocol.

Deadline for Implementation: December 2020

Underway?: Yes. The catch register was approved by FIP participants. New data fields have been agreed to. The draft spreadsheet has been sent to the fishery's major buyer for editing and filling.

Action 2. The FIP will add parameters to the stock study to align it with the MSC standard for information and monitoring. Currently, a stock study for the bay is completed by INAPESCA when an opening is being considered.

Details: The bay is 150 miles long. INAPESCA regularly assesses the abundance of scallops on larger banks, before a proposed opening, but does not have the resources to study every bank. For several years, FIP participant Don Savely has contributed manpower and resources to expand the studies to cover the bay. Don has identified several ways to improve the study to include spawning times, HP levels, and other variables. The current study framework will be assessed in February 2020 and recommendations will be discussed with INAPESCA ahead of preparations for a Spring opening. The FIP is likely to recommend adding data field and new banks to the study and a rollout is likely to take 2 years.

Deadline: December 2021

Underway: Yes. The expanded study was approved by FIP participants. New data fields and areas will be discussed with INAPESCA in March 2020.

Action 3. The FIP will track productivity in the fishery and its biological and socio-economic significance.

Details: The fishery is very important to local livelihoods. Openings provide a significant income boost to fishing families. Productivity has been mentioned as a priority by the municipal, state, federal and federation/co-op representatives who meet to decide on openings and closures. The socio-economics of fishery participants are fairly well documented but have not yet been



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linked to fishery productivity. The FIP will sponsor new research on fishery productivity and its biological and socio-economic significance. This is a matter of first adding productivity data elements to the stock study and collecting data and second consulting with the representatives to arrive at a shared concept which can be tracked over time to benefit fishers and the stock.

Deadline for implementation: December 2022

Underway: No, this action will be proposed to INAPESCA in March 2020 then raised with other fishery stakeholders during the next meeting to learn their priorities for tracking fishery productivity. Key data elements will be identified and the action refined so it can begin in Fall 2020.

III. FIP Roles

Don Savely of Don's Gulf Select is the major scallop buyer in the region and he provides in-kind expertise and resources and pays for the FIP's local representative. Don plays the lead role in the FIP for data collection and monitoring for the catch register and for stock studies.

Hernan Orduna of Don's Gulf Select is the local representative for the FIP. He will attend fishery meetings and be the FIP's main point of contact with fishery stakeholders in the area.

Katrina Nakamura of the Sustainability Incubator provides the science and secretariat for the FIP. Her role is to coordinate FIP improvements, conduct new research, outreach and verification, and to complete all FIP requirements of the Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions needed to keep the FIP on track.

Jeff Bolton and team at Atlantic Capes Fisheries, Inc. are major buyers of the product in the USA and their role is to finance the FIP science and secretariat, also providing in-kind expertise and resources. Every decision in the FIP requires approval from the Atlantic Capes Fisheries team.

George Khouri and team at Northern Wind are major buyers of the product in the USA and their role is to finance the FIP science and secretariat, also providing in-kind expertise and resources. Every decision in the FIP requires approval from the Northern Wind team.

IV. Budget

The fishery improvement actions will be paid for by FIP participants. Don's Gulf Select funds



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expanded stock studies and maintenance of the catch. The company pays for the FIP's local representative and provides in-kind expertise. Atlantic Capes Fisheries, Inc. and Northern Wind, Inc. have funded the FIP launch, including \$15k for the MSC pre-assessment, and have agreed to fund a budget of \$15k/year for ongoing FIP maintenance.

Atlantic Capes Fisheries, Inc., Northern Wind Inc., Don's Gulf Select and the Sustainability Incubator all contribute in-kind time, support and direction to the project.

V. Agreement on the Work Plan

This work plan has been discussed and improvement actions have been agreed to by all FIP participants. The work plan was approved on January 17, 2020 at a FIP meeting attended by teams from Atlantic Capes Fisheries, Inc., Northern Wind, Inc., Don's Gulf Select, and Sustainability Incubator, Inc..

VI. FIP Status as of January 17, 2020

The FIP satisfies the criteria for Stage 3 status today. The first improvement is underway with a draft spreadsheet and a longitudinal time series of catch data. Work has also begun on the second improvement.

For more information about this FIP, please do not hesitate to contact Katrina Nakamura at katrina@sustainability-incubator.com.