

Project UK Fisheries Improvements

Project UK Fisheries Improvements (PUKFI) is working towards an environmentally sustainable future for UK fisheries by running Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs) on six UK fisheries that have been selected by the UK supply chain. They were selected due to their importance for the UK market.

- North Sea plaice, demersal trawl, beam trawl & seine
- North Sea lemon sole, demersal trawl, beam trawl & seine
- Channel scallops, dredge
- Western & Channel monkfish, demersal trawl, beam trawl & gill net
- Southern crab, pots
- Southwest lobster, pots

PUKFI will do this through strategic use of the MSC process to develop credible FIPs, giving each fishery the tools to implement changes and to ensure their sustainable future. It will use the MSC Pre-Assessment process as a gap analysis to determine current status, identify improvements and inform development of an Action Plan designed to ultimately improve the sustainability of the fishery.

The project will implement the Action Plan for each fishery and track progress through the MSC's Bench-Marking and Tracking tool (BMT). Once the individual improvement projects are completed they will be entered into MSC assessment. Each FIP has a steering group to inform, guide and implement the work identified. These are made

up of industry, fishery managers, scientists, NGOs, retailers and supply chain. They will be chaired and facilitated by MSC. A PUKFI Advisory Group made up of project funders will oversee the work of the project. PUKFI is one work-stream of a larger over-arching project, Project UK, currently in development which aims to identify, improve and ultimately certify market-relevant fisheries in the UK. It will use the Project Inshore model of large-scale Pre-Assessments to identify data gaps, best practice and areas for improvement to inform FIP development and set up.



4 steps to a credible FIP

Supporting fisheries as they move towards MSC certification

Fisheries that are keen to become MSC certified but do not yet meet the MSC Fisheries Standard may choose to make the necessary improvements to their operations through a Fishery Improvement Project (FIP). A credible FIP involves four key stages, each with associated tools and support mechanisms.



Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder engagement underpins every stage of the FIP process. Different stakeholder groups need to work together to deliver improvements



Pre-determined timeframe

There should be a pre-determined limit to the amount of time spent as a FIP. This should generally be no longer than five years



Stakeholder training

The Working to MSC certification guide and Capacity building training program equip stakeholders with knowledge to implement successful FIPs



1 Undertake MSC Pre-assessment



what: A gap analysis against the MSC Fisheries Standard is the first stage of a credible FIP



tools: MSC Pre-Assessment Template



notes: Should be carried out by an MSC approved assessor

2 Develop an action plan for improvement



what: An action plan linked to MSC performance indicators and designed to close gaps in the performance of the fishery



tools: MSC Action Plan Tool



notes: Should be developed by someone with MSC expertise with the end goal of meeting the MSC Fisheries Standard

4 Enter full MSC assessment



what: The comprehensive, transparent and independent MSC assessment process validates the sustainability of the fishery



tools: Get Certified! a guide to the MSC fishery assessment process



notes: Must be carried out by an accredited certification body

3 Implement actions and track progress



what: Implement the actions as set out in action plan and track progress consistently and transparently



tools: Benchmarking and Tracking Tool (BMT)



notes: Progress should be publicly reported on an annual basis

MSC assessments are based on three core principles:

MSC Fisheries Standard

Principle 1: Sustainable fish stocks

The fishing activity must be at a level which ensures it can continue indefinitely

Principle 2: Minimising environmental impact

Fishing operations must be managed to maintain the structure, productivity, function and diversity of the ecosystem

Principle 3: Effective management

The fishery must comply with relevant laws and have a management system that is responsive to changing circumstances

For more information please contact:

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Or go to: Seafish
www.seafish.org/pukfi
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