

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



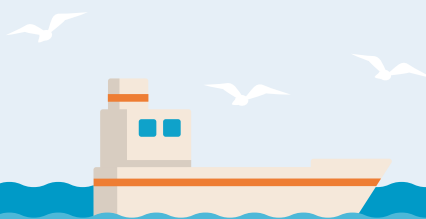
Pre-determined timeframe

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

1

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

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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

3

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

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To find out more visit msc.org/go/fip

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