



A new World Bank Project

Ocean Partnerships for Sustainable Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation

OCEAN HEALTH IS OCEAN WEALTH

Keeping our oceans healthy is crucial to sustainable development. Not only do oceans cover two-thirds of our planet, they sustain hundreds of millions of jobs in a multitude of sectors including tourism, transport, capture fisheries, aquaculture, mining and renewable energy. The majority of the world's poor live in coastal areas, along rivers and around lakes, with more than a billion people relying on fish as their main source of protein and good nutrition. Furthermore, oceans and climate are intricately linked. Oceans regulate climate by serving as heat and carbon sinks while protecting coastal cities and villages against floods and storms.

Incorporating oceans into development solutions is no longer a choice; it's an imperative. At stake is the viability of feeding the world's poor and ensuring their long term well-being.

Ocean resources fuel economic growth in many coastal developing countries. Unlocking the natural capital of oceans enables a vast contribution to poverty reduction and eases the pressure on dwindling land and agricultural resources. Increasing human impact on the marine ecosystems that underpin these benefits represents the greatest threat to long-term sustainability. Fisheries, in particular, are notorious in their common inability to address the destructive "race to fish." As a result, many fisheries remain underperforming natural resource assets whose capital base is being eroded and systematically undervalued. The nature and persistence of this threat is symptomatic of the existing patchwork of insufficient governance arrangements. Nevertheless, experience from around the world suggests that addressing fish resources with systems of secure tenure rights is gradually bringing fish resources under sustainable management and enabling them to make increasing contributions to economic growth and wellbeing.

While most economically important fisheries fall within national jurisdictions, *highly migratory stocks* such as tunas, billfishes and sharks, are transboundary and are found within and beyond

national jurisdictions. These stocks are of immense value. They are frequently shared between neighboring developing states and long distance fishing fleets. From a market perspective, financial returns spurred by incremental market demand support a large and diverse fishing industry of global importance for national economies, livelihoods, and seafood. The global tuna fishery engages 85 countries with landings worth over US\$10 billion per year and exports representing almost 10 percent of international seafood trade. Billfish and sharks are also important to a high value recreational sector valued recently by Pew at some US\$47 billion per year in 2003. Moreover, from a non-market perspective, they are a vital component of oceanic biodiversity, fulfilling crucial roles within healthy, productive marine ecosystems.

THE OCEAN PARTNERSHIP PROJECT—OPP

Owing to a combination of their value and transboundary nature, the management of fisheries on migratory stocks presents a particularly complex challenge, which requires an innovative and concerted response. We are now at a critical juncture. We know that the relentless intensification of ocean exploitation and competition for resource wealth is jeopardizing sustainability, efficiency, and biodiversity. We need to reverse this process and protect these resources from irreparable damage. We need to reverse this process and prevent these resources from irreparable damage.

OPP responds directly to this challenge by providing technical assistance and analytical support to identify and design *investment proposals for transformational pilot projects* to improve the management of these transboundary fisheries.

Promoting pilot investment. The case for transition to sustainable fisheries is already clear from the empirical evidence—fisheries generate significantly more value when they are properly managed than when they are not. Simultaneously, well-managed fisheries generate ecosystemic and social benefits over time. Transition, nevertheless, requires significant political commitment and investment.

The time to invest is now. With expanding global seafood markets, prices will continue to rise in line with demand for sustainably and responsibly sourced seafood products. Investing in sustainable fisheries and moving away from the destructive race-to-fish are essential for future global food supplies, and represent a “win-win” opportunity for long-term investment in jobs, economies, and ecosystems.

Proposals under the project will be grounded in partnerships between public and private sector stakeholders committed to principles of sound and effective management of a range of highly migratory fish stocks. In order to present a compelling value proposition for future investment, the OPP will combine rigorous analytical work with knowledge sharing. The project’s focus will be on ecosystem rather than geographic boundaries. Pilot design will draw on international best practice in managing shared stock fisheries, particularly focusing on states’ collective action in securing tenure rights. Better management will leverage access to high value and increasingly responsible global markets. Pilot design plans will ensure positive measurable outcomes for biodiversity conservation, inclusive social welfare and improved livelihoods. Work will also benefit small-scale fishers, such as those operating in the Indian Ocean, whose livelihoods often depend on access to these transboundary migratory fish stocks and who can benefit from expanding markets.

The OPP forms one component of the broader Common Oceans¹ “ABNJ Program” led by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). In line with internationally agreed global targets, this program promotes efficient and sustainable management of fisheries resources and biodiversity conservation in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) with a focus on deep-sea fisheries and migratory species.

The project comprises *four regional activities* aimed at designing pilot investments, an *innovation support* activity to guide regional activities, and a *global think tank* to facilitate south-south knowledge sharing and best practice.

⌘ FOUR REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Around \$7.1m in grants is being allocated by the project to four partner agencies covering the marine regions indicated in the table below. Each agency will lead regional activities that contribute to the project’s overall development objective: to catalyze pilot investment in selected transformational public-private partnerships that mainstream the sustainable management of highly migratory fish stocks spanning areas within and beyond national jurisdictions. Given the focus on highly migratory stocks, the geographic coverage inevitably extends well beyond traditional



Photo: Shutterstock, LLC

Top quality, sustainably sourced fresh / frozen tuna is in big demand: value over volume is an increasingly important economic development choice.

World Bank regional and country interests and into areas beyond national jurisdiction.

⌘ INNOVATION SUPPORT TO THE FOUR PROJECT REGIONS

A further \$2.2m grant is being allocated to Conservation International to support a range of innovative activities that will inform both regional and global solutions to shared stocks management and biodiversity conservation as well as contribute to the transformational impact that the regional pilot business plans are expected to realize. In this regard, funds will complement prioritized pilot business planning activities and are intended to be incremental. Three types of activity are proposed, and initial priorities have been identified in consultation with regional partners; additional innovation activities will be selected based on further consultations and to take advantage of emerging opportunities:

- Conduct analyses/evaluations to inform management decisions
- Field test new gears or technologies, including for monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS)
- Coordinate regional and global workshops/exchanges and networking to build capacity and share experiences and lessons learned.

This activity also contributes significantly to the Global Think Tank...

¹ www.commonoceans.org

WEST AND CENTRAL ATLANTIC AND CARIBBEAN

Executing Agency: Western and Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC/FAO)

In brief. Billfish—combining the interests of recreational and commercial small-scale fisheries to identify and operationalize win-win management and conservation arrangements. Billfish species include blue and white marlin, sailfish and spearfish. Sharks may also be included.

Business case. Innovative management arrangements based on the divergence in value between low value commercial and high value recreational subsectors, represents a significant and innovative “entry point” opportunity for conservation and value creation. The investment case is likely to revolve around institutional mechanisms to create and enforce rights for commercial small scale fishers to adopt catch, tag and release systems for iconic species in exchange for financial compensation from the recreational sector.

Partners. A consortium of private and public sector game fish recreational interests (led by International Game Fish Association—IGFA and WECAFC) and local commercial fishing interests, within a wide range of client states who have expressed interest.

WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

Executing Agency: Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)

In brief. Tuna fisheries—both purse seine and long-line—mainly by distant water fishing nations under the Parties to Nauru Agreement’s effort-based management system, the Vessel Day Scheme (VDS). Global outreach and raising awareness about best practice in the Western Central Pacific will aid activities in other regions.

Business case. Supporting efforts by Pacific Island states will increase and sustain economic returns by designing and implementing targeted rights-based management reforms. Focus is on underpinning, enhancing and sustaining the performance of the region’s vessel day scheme (VDS) and examining the potential to secure a share of tuna access revenues for fishing communities by facilitating their participation in the vessel day market. An incremental share of tuna access revenues for fishing communities has potential to increase community resilience and reduce pressure on inshore resources by leveraging inshore co-management.

Partners. Close collaboration agreed with Bank IDA investment (Pacific Regional Oceanscape Program—PROP). Community participation is not yet identified although initial proposal suggests Tuvalu.

SOUTH ASIA AND BAY OF BENGAL

Executing Agency: Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP-IGO)

In brief. Small-scale long-line fisheries for tuna and other highly migratory large pelagic species in the Bay of Bengal region. The focus will be on South India but with regional outreach particularly in Sri Lanka and Maldives with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and Bay of Bengal large marine ecosystem.

Business case. Capitalise on financial incentives to small-scale fishermen from enabling supply of high-quality fish products from well-managed fisheries to high value niche markets (regional and international). Pilot design will demonstrate increased sustainable economic value derived from evolving fisheries management approaches which harness market incentives and regulation of fishing capacity and effort through secure use rights. Analyses and knowledge sharing concerning value chains, market access and international best practice on fisheries reform at local and regional levels.

Partners. Collaboration with small-scale South Indian long-line fleet based around Thoorthoor in Tamil Nadu to design a pilot business case for future investment. The South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies (SIFFS) and the Association of Deep Sea-going Artisanal Fishermen are highly effective community based organizations operating in this region and will play important roles in pilot project design.

EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN

Executing Agency: WWF (US)

In brief. Skipjack tuna purse seine fisheries—large scale purse seine vessels fishing in this region, primarily but not limited to, those flagged to Ecuador, EU member nations and Mexico.

Business case. Detailed designs and financial analyses for one or more promising management scenarios prioritized by stakeholders. Options include tradable bigeye tuna catch and by-catch quotas in exchange for an exemption to the IATTC annual closure; trading of existing authorized harvest (hold) capacity; development of mechanisms to convert hold capacity into tradable tonnage quota; other rights-based management arrangements, considering both effort and catch limiting systems.

Partners. Builds on existing efforts pursued by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and ideas discussed by regional stakeholders in recent years to address increasing recognition of the value of secure access for sustainable fishing, employment in the tuna industry and long-term value generation. A Stakeholder Advisory Group will be created, and collaborative processes with IATTC, industry and other stakeholders will strengthen future business plans.

⌘ A GLOBAL THINK TANK (GloTT)

This key global activity coordinated by WWF-US, responds directly to the significant and well-known gaps in knowledge on institutional performance and best practice regarding the effective management of shared highly migratory fisheries and conservation of associated biodiversity. The GloTT will provide space in which all five project partners together with a multidisciplinary group of thematic specialists and thought leaders will

come together to exchange experiences and learning associated with best practice and pilot project design. The GloTT is likely to cover (a) exchange of knowledge and experience to support regional pilot design and planning processes; and (b) south-south awareness, capacity building and knowledge sharing on theory and best practices in action. A key GloTT output will be a World Bank / GEF Economic and Sector Work on the management, performance and prospects for these fisheries and associated marine biodiversity.



Clockwise from top right: 1) India—Fishermen and women of the Association of Deep Sea Going Fishermen, Thoorthoor, Tamil Nadu (image courtesy of Bostock); 2) India—Small-scale long liner, Tamil Nadu (image courtesy of Bostock); and 3) Ecuador—tuna purse seiner, Manta (image courtesy of WWF).

SHAPE OF PILOT INVESTMENTS

Depending on context, in order to attract future investment, pilot proposals will need to satisfy an array of transitional factors and other criteria. Some of these are indicated below:

Physical infrastructure: Investment in infrastructure will be conditioned upon value proposition and commitment to establish secure tenure rights, enforcement mechanisms, conservation safeguards, and inclusive, cooperative business management arrangements. Infrastructure investment may involve integrated harvesting and processing systems to ensure high quality / high value products and market demand, or large-scale buy-back schemes and other operations to decommission fishing capacity.

Reform: Investment into specific public sector schemes such as regional collective action management to either improve existing management schemes (such as the Pacific Vessel Day Scheme) or develop new schemes, will be predicated on their ability to demonstrate sustainable economic, social and biodiversity conservation benefits.

Technology innovation: Opportunities for investment in new technologies that support future management for sustainable fisheries would be welcomed as part of an overall investment proposal. Examples include real time catch data generation, catch documentation and certification, cost effective fisheries monitoring and surveillance such as remote sensing techniques, and specific systems for monitoring catch / tag / release compensation programs involving recreational and commercial fishers; technologies to reduce habitat damage and incidental bycatch of sharks, marine mammals and reptiles whilst improving catching efficiency.

Pollution control: Investment opportunities may arise where handling of high value seafood may be impacted negatively by pollution from urban outfalls or agriculture. Hygienic and sanitary working conditions and fish workers' rights provide a value advantage for responsible exporters and importers.

Social investment for shared prosperity: Investment that enables inshore fishers / fishing communities to participate in the wealth of fisheries. For example, community participation in rights allocations and markets for quota and/or vessel day markets. A particular emphasis would be placed on gender sensitive proposals.

