CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD

Marine Stewardship Council

Guidance for using the MSC Benchmarking and Tracking Tool (BMT)

Benchmark and track fisheries as they progress towards sustainability and MSC certification

Contents

Cover photography
India clam fishery
© Wetjens Dimmlich / WWF SFI

NB: It is assumed that the reader of this document has some familiarity with the MSC program. This document does not include specific information about how individual fisheries should or can pass the MSC Standard. For more information on this, please see the **MSC Standard** itself and pre-assessment or FIP reports.

1. Introduction

As market demand grows for sustainable seafood, an increasing number of fisheries are becoming interested in making the necessary changes and improvements to become sustainable and access these markets. This has led to considerable growth in organised efforts to improve fisheries towards sustainability, often called 'Fishery Improvement Projects' (FIPs).

At the same time, many of the retailers who are leading the market demand for sustainable seafood, have recognised the importance of encouraging these improvements and ultimately increasing the availability of sustainable seafood.

One mechanism that is being used by retailers to support these efforts is to offer an incentive to fisheries by including FIPs in their sourcing policies. These incentives work by requiring that over time, a fishery makes actual improvements in their environmental performance and eventually achieves certification. This assures retailers that the seafood they buy is from a sustainable source.

Successful FIPs rely on support from stakeholders. In addition to retailers' interests, governments, fishers, producers, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), scientists, funders, fishery managers and supply chain actors all play a role in delivering improvements necessary for the fishery to achieve sustainability. All of these stakeholders will need to understand and be able to track the FIP and their efforts to make actual improvements on the water.

There are some excellent examples of FIPs with transparent and easily accessible information. However, there was no universally accepted tool available to provide a consistent way of tracking and communicating this information. This made it difficult for interested stakeholders to track how and when a FIP would likely make the necessary improvements to achieve sustainability.

1.1 Purpose

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Benchmarking and Tracking tool (BMT) provides a method for reporting the status of fisheries against the MSC Fisheries Standard and tracks the progress being made as fisheries improve towards sustainability and certification. It provides a method for consistently reporting information about FIPs, which helps interested stakeholders understand the status of FIPs that are being developed around the world.

This guidance document has been developed to help stakeholders understand how the BMT works and its application for FIPs. You will find snapshots of the various tables and explanations for their intended use throughout.

© Blue Ventures / Garth Cripps

MSC encourages the use of the MSC FIP tools to support the development and continued monitoring of FIPs.

1. Introduction *continued*

1.2 Background to the MSC

The MSC operates a certification and ecolabelling program. Fisheries can be assessed against the MSC Fisheries Standard to determine whether the wild capture fishery is ecologically sustainable and well-managed. The MSC blue ecolabel can then be used on products coming from certified fisheries to identify it to be from a well managed and sustainable fishery.

The MSC program has created market incentives to reward sustainable fishing practices. When any buyer chooses to purchase MSC-certified seafood, certified fisheries are rewarded for their sustainable practices through that market preference. These purchasing preferences increase the global demand and market access for sustainable seafood, and provide the critical incentives needed for fisheries to undergo the rigorous assessments required in the MSC program.

Since the launch of the MSC program in 1999, there has been a steady growth in market demand for sustainably harvested and certified seafood. This growth in demand has subsequently led to a greater number of fisheries entering MSC assessment and becoming certified against the MSC Fisheries Standard for sustainability.

The same incentives also provide a significant influence on many fisheries where environmental performance levels do not currently meet the MSC Standard. If such fisheries want to access these market rewards, hey will need to reduce their environmental impact and improve their management practices to become eligible for certification.

The MSC Standard provides a clear set of performance indicators against which fisheries can be assessed to determine their level of sustainability.

© Tomas Willems

1.3 MSC Fisheries Standard

Many FIPs have chosen to use the MSC Fisheries Standard as a framework for benchmarking the environmental performance of their fishery, and based upon that benchmark to write a detailed plan of action to improve performance up to the level of sustainability.

The MSC Fisheries Standard is comprised of three core principles:

1) Sustainable fish stocks
2) Minimum environmental impact
3) Effective management

The MSC assessment process reviews 28 performance indicators (PIs), all grouped under each of the three principles (more detail available in Appendix 1). During an assessment, the fishery's performance and management are evaluated based on the PIs to determine a fishery's sustainability status.

Each of the 28 PIs is scored on a graded scale, with the 60, 80 and 100 levels defining key sustainability thresholds. These thresholds correspond to levels of quality and certainty of fisheries management practices and their likelihood to deliver sustainability. In order for a fishery to be certified as sustainable against the MSC Standard, the PIs that make up each principle need to score at least an average of 80, and none of the PIs can score less than 60.

The sustainability thresholds were derived from the experience of fisheries managers, scientists and other stakeholders worldwide. The MSC's "scoring system", has been developed over the past decade with the help of hundreds of international fisheries and environmental experts.

Key sustainability benchmarks

A score of 100 represents the performance expected from a 'near perfect' fisheries management system; one that has high levels of certainty about a fishery's performance and a very low risk that current operations will result in detrimental impacts to the target stocks, non-target species and supporting ecosystem.

A score of 80 conforms to the sustainability outcomes expected from fisheries management systems performing at 'global best practice' levels and confers increased certainty about the fishery's long-term sustainability.

A score of 60 represents the 'minimum acceptable limit' for sustainability practice that is established in the MSC's Fisheries Standard. This limit provides assurance that the basic biological and ecological processes of all components impacted by the fishery are not compromised now or into the future.

The table below shows the scoring levels for one of the 28 MSC PIs:

Component	**Outcome**		
PI 1.1.1 Stock status	The stock is at a level which maintains high productivity and has a low probability of recruitment overfishing		
Scoring issues	**SG 60**	**SG 80**	**SG 100**
a. Stock status relative to recruitment impairment	It is likely that the stock is above the point where recruitment would be impaired (PRI).	It is highly likely that the stock is above the PRI	There is a high degree of certainty that the stock is above the PRI
b. Stock status in relation to achievement of Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)		The stock is at or fluctuating around a level consistent with MSY	There is a high degree of certainty that the stock has been fluctuating around a level consistent with MSY or has been above this level over recent years.

2. Developing a Fishery Improvement Project (FIP)

2.1 MSC pre-assessment (gap analysis)

When developing a FIP, it is necessary to have a good understanding of the issues that a fishery faces and where it falls short of meeting the MSC Fisheries Standard. This will ensure that an action plan of improvement can be developed to address all of the identified issues. There may be situations where certain issues are prioritised and addressed first. The issues should still link to one or more of the MSC PIs so that improvements can be tracked against the MSC Standard and progress can be made towards sustainability.

An MSC pre-assessment uses the MSC's 28 PIs to provide a baseline determination of how the fishery performs relative to each of the indicators within the MSC Standard. This allows a fishery to identify any areas that need to be improved.

The pre-assessment result gives an indication of the scoring range for each of the PIs. There are three scoring categories: <60, 60-79, ≥80 as outlined in the table below.

To use the BMT, you need to understand where the gaps are in the fishery's performance against the MSC Fisheries Standard. Once the issues have been identified, an action plan can be developed to address the issues and improve the fishery towards sustainability.

A pre-assessment report outlines the results of the pre-assessment. The **MSC Pre-assessment Reporting Template** should be used as the minimum reporting requirements for this step.

The process for undertaking an MSC pre-assessment is described in the **MSC Fisheries Certification Requirements**.

While MSC pre-assessments provide a good indication of where the fishery sits against the MSC Standard, and is adequate for benchmarking a fishery in a FIP, it does not have the rigour and robustness of an MSC full assessment. Therefore in order to confirm the performance of the fishery against the MSC Standard, at completion of the FIP the fishery would need to undergo a full assessment to achieve MSC certification.

The person undertaking the MSC pre-assessment (or gap analysis) needs to have a good understanding of the MSC Fisheries Standard and Fishery Certification Requirements. The MSC recommends that the pre-assessment be undertaken by independently accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs). There are specified competencies and training requirements that accredited CABs are required to meet which provides a higher level of assurance about the quality of the assessment outcome. However, the decision on the choice of the person undertaking the pre-assessment is up to the fishery client.

MSC scoring categories

Component	Outcome
≥80	Information suggests fishery is likely to exceed 80 level resulting in a pass for this PI.
60-79	Information suggests fishery will reach the 60 level but may not exceed the 80 level, resulting in a condition for this PI.
<60	Information suggests fishery is not likely to reach the 60 level and therefore would fail on this PI.

2.2 Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholders play an essential role in the FIP process and in delivering improvements in the fishery. Stakeholder groups may include fishers, processors, exporters, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), scientists, government representatives, fishery managers etc. The co-ordinator of the FIP should ensure that stakeholders are identified and roles are understood and agreed across the group.

© SMMO

2.3 Fishery improvement action plan

Once the gaps in the fishery have been identified, an action plan should be developed to improve the performance of the fishery to meet the MSC Fisheries Standard.

Actions developed as part of these workplans should be designed to ensure that progress can be made to reach the relevant scoring levels, within a suitable and pre-determined timeframe. The action plan should include an indication of the expected changes in scoring categories for PIs over the period of its implementation.

Along with defining milestones, other components to support the successful undertaking of an action need to be considered within the action plan. This may include assigning clear responsibilities, budget needed etc.

The action plan may be documented using the **MSC Fishery Improvement Action Plan Tool**.

The person developing an Action Plan needs to have a good understanding of the MSC Fisheries Standard and may be someone that is involved with the fishery as a co-ordinator, manager, consultant or champion of the project.

© MSC / Leonard Faüstle

3. Overview of the Benchmarking and Tracking Tool (BMT)

The BMT benchmarks fisheries against the MSC Fisheries Standard at a particular point in time and for the duration of the period that the fishery is in a FIP. This ensures that the fishery status can be clearly linked to the MSC Fisheries Standard throughout the period it is in a FIP.

The BMT can also be used to show when actions are expected to improve the fishery score. As the FIP progresses and actions are undertaken, the actual progress can then also be tracked and reported on using the BMT.

The BMT has been developed in Microsoft Excel and can be downloaded from the **MSC website**. This guidance document should be used when filling in the BMT spreadsheet or when reviewing the results of a BMT.

3.1 Benchmarking

The BMT generates a BMT index for a FIP that reflects how near or far the fishery is from meeting the MSC Fisheries Standard.

The initial BMT index will be based on the MSC pre-assessment or gap analysis.

Each of the scoring categories that are assigned to a PI, will also be assigned a corresponding BMT score:

MSC scoring categories and BMT scores

MSC Score	BMT Score
≥80	1
60-79	0.5
<60	0

The BMT index is simply an average of all of the BMT scores assigned to the PIs. The BMT index will be a number between 0-1. A BMT index of '1' would mean that all PIs of the fishery are at least at the 80 level, whereas a BMT score of '0' would mean that all of the PIs are less than the 60 level. As the BMT index moves closer to '1', it means the fishery is moving towards all of the PIs being at least at the 80 level.

In addition to producing a BMT index, the BMT also reports on the number of PIs that fall into each scoring category. This allows for users of the BMT to see the difference between fisheries which may have the same BMT index, but with differences in the number of PIs in each scoring category.

All of this information is summarised in the BMT dashboard, which is produced automatically once the BMT has been filled in with the information from a pre-assessment report.

© MSC / Nice and Serious

© MSC

3.2 Tracking

The BMT can also be used to track progress as improvements are made in the fishery.

Improvements can be tracked by using the action plan developed to improve the fishery towards meeting the MSC Fisheries Standard. Within the action plan, clear milestones need to be included along with the expected date that the milestone will be reached. There may be a number of milestones for each action, and a number of actions needing to be undertaken to increase the scoring level for a PI. The action plan should clearly identify when PI scores are likely to increase as a result of the completion of activities in the action plan.

By defining clear milestones, and how and when achievement of the milestones will lead to an increase in scoring level for a PI, it will be possible to estimate the expected changes in the BMT index over the course of implementation of the FIP. These expected improvements in the fishery can be captured and reported using the BMT. It can also be used to show when the fishery is expecting to improve to a level consistent with the MSC Fisheries Standard.

As the action plan is implemented and activities completed, the tool can be updated to track whether or not the milestones were reached.

The BMT dashboard provides a snapshot of the actual and expected progress of a FIP, as well as displaying whether or not the FIP is on track according to planned progress.

4. Using the BMT

This section outlines the process of applying the BMT to a fishery. It describes how to determine the BMT scores at PI and principle level, and how to determine the BMT index and produce a BMT report sheet for a FIP. This is a five step process:

Step 1: Enter fishery information

Basic fishery information should be included that defines the unit covered by the FIP (this is usually defined by the species, gear and area of the fishery). It is also important to provide information on the individual / entity that undertook the pre-assessment and led the development of the action plan, as the outcomes are heavily dependent on the credibility of the individual or organisation and will be useful information for interested stakeholders.

© MSC / Juan Fernandez

Fill in the following information into the accompanying BMT dashboard template:

- **a** The name of the fishery
- **b** The name of the FIP provider
- **c** The name of the person applying the BMT
- **d** The name of the individual or organisation that undertook the pre-assessment
- **e** The name of the individual or organisation that led the development of the action plan
- **f** The date of the BMT report
- **g** Information on the Unit of Assessment of the fishery.

Fishery information

Species	Area	Gear type
Black snapper	North east ocean	Handline

© www.ffpeters.de

4. Using the BMT *continued*

Step 2: Determine the initial BMT Index

Using the pre-assessment results, select the scoring category for each PI being considered in the BMT Excel spreadsheet. A corresponding BMT score (0, 0.5 or 1) will be automatically generated for each PI.

BMT template – initial BMT index

Principle	Component	Performance Indicator	Index Year 1
1	Outcome	1.1.1 Stock status	<60
		1.1.2 Stock rebuilding	60-79
	Harvest Strategy (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
		1.2.4 Assessment of stock status	<60
2	Primary species	2.1.1 Outcome status	<60
		2.1.2 Management strategy	60-79
		2.1.3 Information and monitoring	60-79
	Secondary species	2.2.1 Outcome status	<60
		2.2.2 Management strategy	<60
		2.2.3 Information and monitoring	<60
	Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) species	2.3.1 Outcome status	60-79
		2.3.2 Management strategy	≥80
		2.3.3 Information and monitoring	≥80
	Habitats	2.4.1 Outcome status	60-79
		2.4.2 Management strategy	60-79
		2.4.3 Information and monitoring	≥80
	Ecosystem	2.5.1 Outcome status	≥80
		2.5.2 Management strategy	60-79
		2.5.3 Information and monitoring	60-79
3	Governance and policy	3.1.1 Legal and customary framework	<60
		3.1.2 Consultation, roles and responsibilities	<60
		3.1.3 Long term objectives	<60
	Fishery specific management system	3.2.1 Fishery specific objectives	<60
		3.2.2 Decision-making processes	<60
		3.2.3 Compliance and enforcement	<60
		3.2.4 Monitoring and management performance evaluation	<60
Total number of PIs ≥80			**4**
Total number of PIs 60-79			**10**
Total number of PIs <60			**14**
Overall BMT Index			**0.32**

Step 3: Determining expected BMT indices

For those PIs where improvement is required, the year when an expected change in scoring level should be recorded in the BMT Excel spreadsheet. This will show when improvements can be expected, as well as when the fishery will likely be meeting the MSC Standard and be ready for full assessment. The expected change in each principle and the overall BMT index for each year will be automatically determined based on the expected changes to PI scoring categories.

This should be determined using the milestones developed as part of the action plan and identifying when an action will lead to a higher scoring category being achieved for the PI.

The information should be entered by selecting the relevant scoring category in the particular year that the change is expected to occur (see the next page for an example).

For any PIs where there is an expected change in a scoring category, the corresponding BMT score will be assigned within the BMT Excel spreadsheet. A new expected BMT index for the fishery will then be automatically generated for each year.

It should be noted that a number of actions may need to be completed before the scoring levels change.

BMT template – expected BMT indices

Principle	Component	Performance Indicator	Year 1	Expected Scoring Categories			
				Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
1	Outcome	1.1.1 Stock status	<60	<60	<60	60-79	60-79
		1.1.2 Stock rebuilding	60-79	60-79	60-79	≥80	≥80
	Harvest Strategy (management)	1.2.1 Harvest strategy	60-79	60-79	≥80	≥80	≥80
		1.2.2 Harvest control rules and tools	60-79	≥80	≥80	≥80	≥80
		1.2.3 Information and monitoring	<60	60-79	60-79	60-79	≥80
		1.2.4 Assessment of stock status	<60	<60	<60	60-79	60-79
2	Primary species	2.1.1 Outcome status	<60	60-79	60-79	60-79	60-79
		2.1.2 Management strategy	60-79	≥80	≥80	≥80	≥80
		2.1.3 Information and monitoring	60-79	60-79	≥80	≥80	≥80
	Secondary species	2.2.1 Outcome status	<60	<60	<60	60-79	60-79
		2.2.2 Management strategy	<60	60-79	≥80	≥80	≥80
		2.2.3 Information and monitoring	<60	60-79	60-79	≥80	≥80
	Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) species	2.3.1 Outcome status	60-79	≥80	≥80	≥80	≥80
		2.3.2 Management strategy	≥80	≥80	≥80	≥80	≥80
		2.3.3 Information and monitoring	≥80	≥80	≥80	≥80	≥80
	Habitats	2.4.1 Outcome status	60-79	60-79	60-79	60-79	60-79
		2.4.2 Management strategy	60-79	≥80	≥80	≥80	≥80
		2.4.3 Information and monitoring	≥80	≥80	≥80	≥80	≥80
	Ecosystem	2.5.1 Outcome status	≥80	≥80	≥80	≥80	≥80
		2.5.2 Management strategy	60-79	≥80	≥80	≥80	≥80
		2.5.3 Information and monitoring	60-79	60-79	≥80	≥80	≥80
3	Governance and policy	3.1.1 Legal and customary framework	<60	60-79	60-79	60-79	≥80
		3.1.2 Consultation, roles and responsibilities	<60	<60	60-79	60-79	≥80
		3.1.3 Long term objectives	<60	≥80	≥80	≥80	≥80
	Fishery specific management system	3.2.1 Fishery specific objectives	<60	60-79	60-79	60-79	60-79
		3.2.2 Decision-making processes	<60	60-79	60-79	60-79	≥80
		3.2.3 Compliance and enforcement	<60	<60	<60	<60	60-79
		3.2.4 Monitoring and management performance evaluation	<60	60-79	60-79	60-79	60-79
Total number of PIs ≥80			4	10	14	16	20
Total number of PIs 60-79			10	13	10	11	8
Total number of PIs <60			14	5	4	1	0
Overall BMT Index			0.32	0.59	0.68	0.77	0.86

4. Using the BMT *continued*

Step 4: Determine actual BMT indices

The improvements and progress of the FIP should be evaluated and updated regularly to establish whether or not the project is on track.

In order to calculate actual changes to the BMT index of the FIP on an ongoing basis, the improvements being made in the fishery need to be monitored and the information used to evaluate whether or not the planned milestones have been reached within the expected timeframe and it may be documented using the **MSC Fishery Improvement Action Plan Tool**.

If achieving a milestone is likely to increase the scoring level for one or more PIs, this should be entered in the BMT Excel spreadsheet for the year (or quarter) being updated.

If no change has occurred, the scoring category from the previous year (or quarter) should be entered. For any PIs where there has been a change in the scoring category, the corresponding BMT score will be assigned within the BMT Excel spreadsheet. A new BMT index for the fishery will then be automatically generated.

There may also be PIs that do not need to be improved. In those cases there would be no need to enter any new scoring levels, however checks still need to be made to confirm there is no change to the status of the PI over time.

As the BMT is updated, the tool will compare the actual progress being made with the progress that was expected. For each PI a progress status will be automatically assigned according to whether or not the scoring category has been achieved for the year as planned:

On track – For PIs that have reached their expected scoring category;

Behind track – For those PIs that have not achieved their expected scoring category;

Ahead – For those PIs that have achieved a higher scoring category ahead of time.

If delays occur, the reasons for delay can be documented in the Fisheries Improvement Action Plan Tool.

© Karel Donk

Step 5: Reporting

The BMT can be used to report on progress that is being made in the FIP. The results of the benchmarking and tracking exercise will be presented in the BMT dashboard. The dashboard provides an overview of the following:

a. Actual BMT index summary table

The table below shows the actual BMT indices from the most recent year. Where only the pre-assessment results are filled in, the table will show corresponding summary. The table contains information on the principle level BMT index, the overall BMT index and the number of PIs that fall into each of the scoring categories.

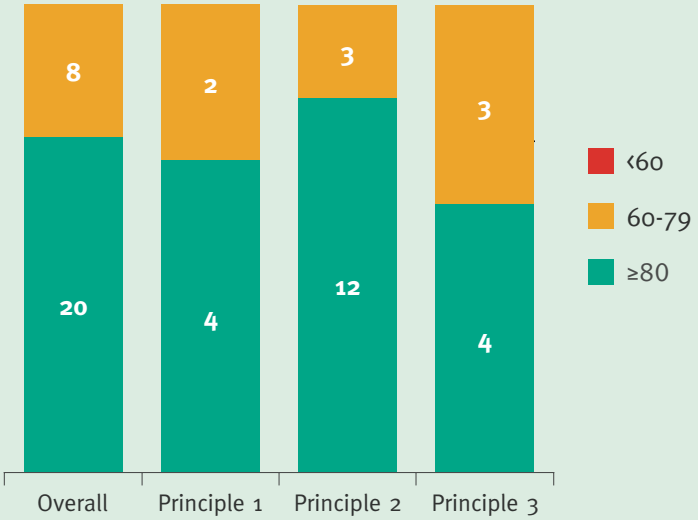
Actual BMT index summary table (Year 5)

Scoring level	All PIs	Principle 1 Number of PIs	Principle 2 Number of PIs	Principle 3 Number of PIs
≥80	20	4	12	4
60-79	8	2	3	3
<60	0	0	0	0
BMT index	**0.86**	**0.83**	**0.90**	**0.79**

b. Scoring category overview

This overview shows the proportion of PIs that fall into each scoring category for the actual scores of the most recent year. The results are based on the proportion of PIs overall, as well as the number of PIs in each Principle.

Scoring category overview



4. Using the BMT *continued*

c. Actual vs. Expected BMT index table

This table provides a summary of the actual and expected changes in BMT index over time. The table contains information on the principle level BMT index and the overall BMT index.

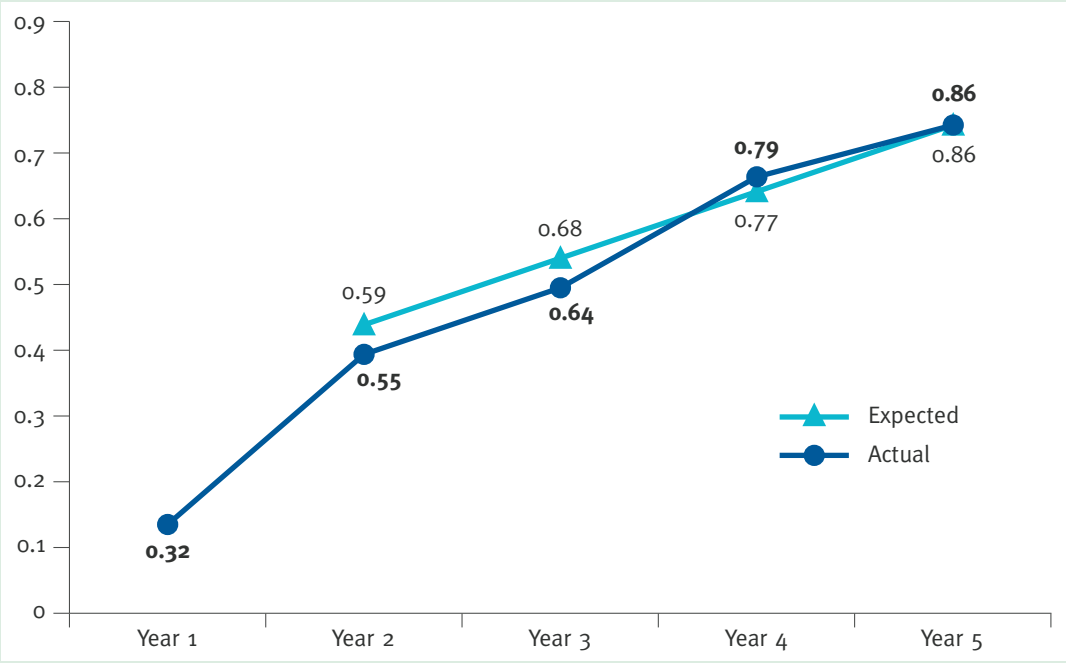
Actual vs. Expected BMT index table

Principle		BMT Index				
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
1	Actual	0.25	0.42	0.50	0.67	0.83
	Expected		0.42	0.50	0.75	0.83
2	Actual	0.50	0.70	0.80	0.90	0.90
	Expected		0.73	0.83	0.90	0.90
3	Actual	0.00	0.36	0.43	0.64	0.79
	Expected		0.43	0.50	0.50	0.79
Overall	Actual	0.32	0.55	0.64	0.79	0.86
	Expected		0.59	0.68	0.77	0.86

d. BMT progress tracker

This graph displays the actual change in BMT index against the expected change in BMT index over time. Initially, it will show the actual BMT index for year 1, and the expected increases in BMT scores over time. Following progress updates, the chart will be updated to compare the scores over time.

BMT progress tracker



e. BMT report sheet

This table shows a summary of the most recent year's actual scores against the expected scores. It also shows the number of PIs in each scoring category and the BMT indices, along with the progress status.

BMT report sheet

Principle	Component	Performance Indicator	Expected scoring category: Year 5	Actual scoring category: Year 5	Status
1	Outcome	1.1.1 Stock status	60-79	60-79	On target
		1.1.2 Stock rebuilding	≥80	≥80	On target
	Harvest Strategy (management)	1.2.1 Harvest strategy	≥80	60-79	Behind
		1.2.2 Harvest control rules and tools	≥80	≥80	On target
		1.2.3 Information and monitoring	≥80	≥80	On target
		1.2.4 Assessment of stock status	60-79	≥80	Ahead
2	Primary species	2.1.1 Outcome status	60-79	60-79	On target
		2.1.2 Management strategy	≥80	≥80	On target
		2.1.3 Information and monitoring	≥80	≥80	On target
	Secondary species	2.2.1 Outcome status	60-79	60-79	On target
		2.2.2 Management strategy	≥80	≥80	On target
		2.2.3 Information and monitoring	≥80	≥80	On target
	Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) species	2.3.1 Outcome status	≥80	≥80	On target
		2.3.2 Management strategy	≥80	≥80	On target
		2.3.3 Information and monitoring	≥80	≥80	On target
	Habitats	2.4.1 Outcome status	60-79	60-79	On target
		2.4.2 Management strategy	≥80	≥80	On target
		2.4.3 Information and monitoring	≥80	≥80	On target
	Ecosystem	2.5.1 Outcome status	≥80	≥80	On target
		2.5.2 Management strategy	≥80	≥80	On target
		2.5.3 Information and monitoring	≥80	≥80	On target
3	Governance and policy	3.1.1 Legal and customary framework	≥80	≥80	On target
		3.1.2 Consultation, roles and responsibilities	≥80	≥80	On target
		3.1.3 Long term objectives	≥80	≥80	On target
	Fishery specific management system	3.2.1 Fishery specific objectives	60-79	60-79	On target
		3.2.2 Decision-making processes	≥80	≥80	On target
		3.2.3 Compliance and enforcement	60-79	60-79	On target
		3.2.4 Monitoring and management performance evaluation	60-79	60-79	On target
Total number of PIs ≥80			**20**	**20**	
Total number of PIs 60-79			**8**	**8**	
Total number of PIs <60			**0**	**0**	
Overall BMT Index			**0.86**	**0.86**	

Appendix 1 – MSC Fisheries Standard

Principle	Component	Performance Indicator	Description of PI
1	Outcome	1.1.1 Stock status	The stock is at a level which maintains high productivity and has a low probability of recruitment overfishing.
		1.1.2 Stock rebuilding	Where the stock is reduced, there is evidence of stock rebuilding within a specified timeframe.
	Harvest strategy (management)	1.2.1 Harvest strategy	There is a robust and precautionary harvest strategy in place.
		1.2.2 Harvest control rules and tools	There are well defined and effective harvest control rules in place.
		1.2.3 Information and monitoring	Relevant information is collected to support the harvest strategy.
		1.2.4 Assessment of stock status	There is an adequate assessment of the stock status.
2	Primary species	2.1.1 Outcome status	The UoA aims to maintain primary species above the PRI and does not hinder recovery of primary species if they are below the PRI.
		2.1.2 Management strategy	There is a strategy in place that is designed to maintain or to not hinder rebuilding of primary species, and the UoA regularly reviews and implements measures, as appropriate, to minimise the mortality of unwanted catch.
		2.1.3 Information and monitoring	Information on the nature and extent of primary species is adequate to determine the risk posed by the UoA and the effectiveness of the strategy to manage primary species.
	Secondary species	2.2.1 Outcome status	The UoA aims to maintain secondary species above a biological based limit and does not hinder recovery of secondary species if they are below a biological based limit.
		2.2.2 Management strategy	There is a strategy in place for managing secondary species that is designed to maintain or to not hinder rebuilding of secondary species and the UoA regularly reviews and implements measures, as appropriate, to minimise the mortality of unwanted catch.
		2.2.3 Information and monitoring	Information on the nature and amount of secondary species taken is adequate to determine the risk posed by the UoA and the effectiveness of the strategy to manage secondary species.
	Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) species	2.3.1 Outcome status	The UoA meets national and international requirements for the protection of ETP species. The UoA does not hinder recovery of ETP species.
		2.3.2 Management strategy	The UoA has in place precautionary management strategies designed to: • meet national and international requirements; • ensure the UoA does not hinder recovery of ETP species. Also, the UoA regularly reviews and implements measures, as appropriate, to minimise the mortality of ETP species.
		2.3.3 Information and monitoring	Relevant information is collected to support the management of UoA impacts on ETP species, including: Information for the development of the management strategy; Information to assess the effectiveness of the management strategy; and Information to determine the outcome status of ETP species.

Principle	Component	Performance Indicator	Description of PI
2	Habitats	2.4.1 Outcome status	The UoA does not cause serious or irreversible harm to habitat structure and function, considered on the basis of the area(s) covered by the governance body(s) responsible for fisheries management.
		2.4.2 Management strategy	There is a strategy in place that is designed to ensure the UoA does not pose a risk of serious or irreversible harm to the habitats.
		2.4.3 Information and monitoring	Information is adequate to determine the risk posed to the habitat by the UoA and the effectiveness of the strategy to manage impacts on the habitat.
	Ecosystem	2.5.1 Outcome status	The UoA does not cause serious or irreversible harm to the key elements of ecosystem structure and function.
		2.5.2 Management strategy	There are measures in place to ensure the UoA does not pose a risk of serious or irreversible harm to ecosystem structure and function.
		2.5.3 Information and monitoring	There is adequate knowledge of the impacts of the UoA on the ecosystem.
3	Governance and policy	3.1.1 Legal and customary framework	The management system exists within an appropriate and effective legal and/or customary framework which ensures that it: • Is capable of delivering sustainable fisheries in accordance with MSC Principles 1 and 2 and • Observes the legal rights created explicitly or established by custom of people dependent on fishing for food or livelihood; and • Incorporates an appropriate dispute resolution framework.
		3.1.2 Consultation, roles and responsibilities	The management system has effective consultation processes that are open to interested and affected parties. The roles and responsibilities of organisations and individuals who are involved in the management process are clear and understood by all relevant parties.
		3.1.3 Long term objectives	The management policy has clear long-term objectives to guide decision-making that are consistent with MSC Principles and Criteria, and incorporates the precautionary approach.
	Fishery specific management system	3.2.1 Fishery specific objectives	The fishery has clear, specific objectives designed to achieve the outcomes expressed by MSC's Principles 1 and 2.
		3.2.2 Decision-making processes	The fishery-specific management system includes effective decision-making processes that result in measures and strategies to achieve the objectives, and has an appropriate approach to actual disputes in the fishery.
		3.2.3 Compliance and enforcement	Monitoring, control and surveillance mechanisms ensure the management measures in the fishery are enforced and complied with.
		3.2.4 Monitoring and management performance evaluation	There is a system for monitoring and evaluating the performance of the fishery-specific management system against its objectives. There is effective and timely review of the fishery-specific management system.

Appendix 2 – BMT dashboard

FIP information

Fishery Name	North East Ocean Black Snapper
Provider	Blue waters Inc.
Pre-assessment by:	Joe Bloggs (Marine Saviours Ltd)
Action plan developed by:	Joe Bloggs (Marine Saviours Ltd)
BMT undertaken by:	Joe Bloggs (Marine Saviours Ltd)
Date of BMT	09/12/2014

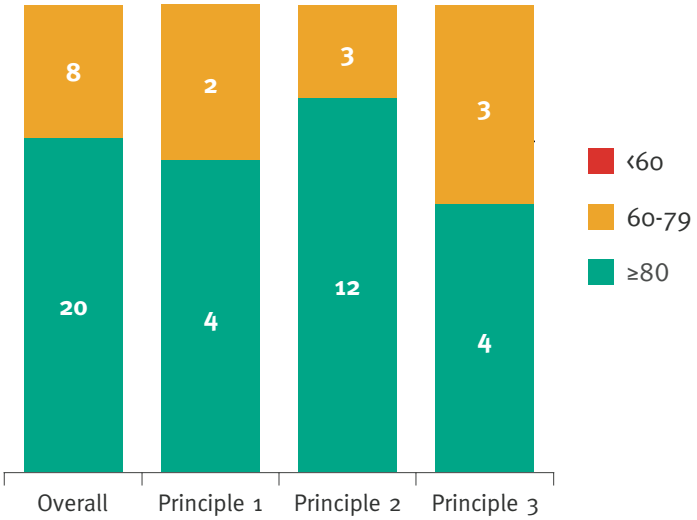
Fishery information

Species	Area	Gear type
Black snapper	North east ocean	Handline

Actual BMT index summary table (Last updated year 5)

Scoring level	All PIs	Principle 1 Number of PIs	Principle 2 Number of PIs	Principle 3 Number of PIs
≥80	20	4	12	4
60-79	8	2	3	3
<60	0	0	0	0
BMT index	**0.86**	**0.83**	**0.90**	**0.79**

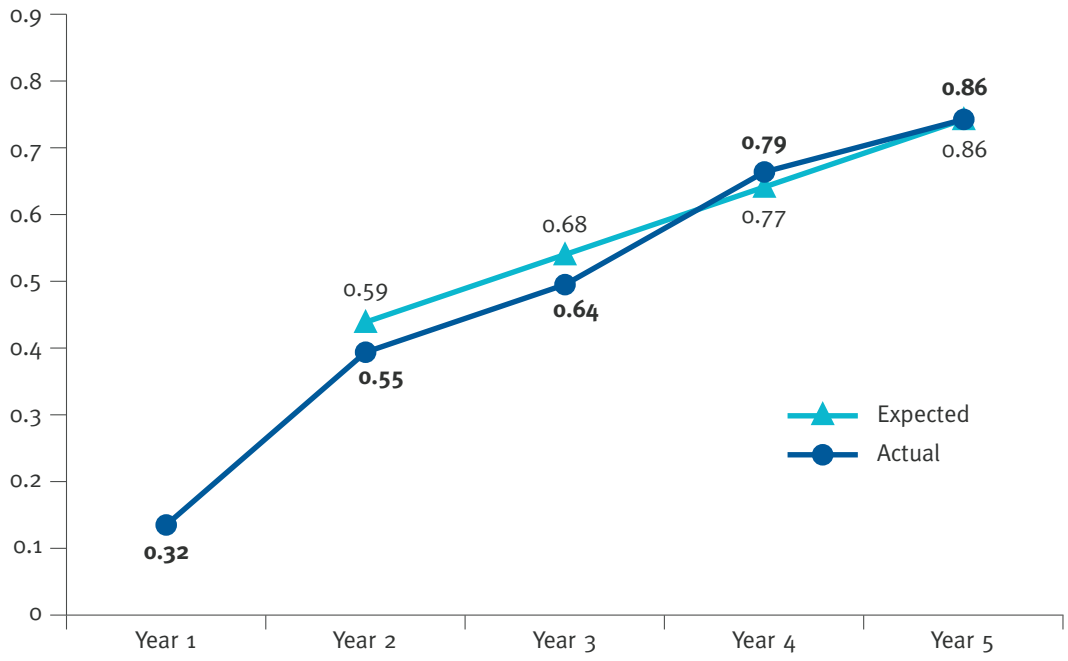
Scoring category overview



Actual vs. Expected BMT index table

Principle		BMT Index				
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
1	Actual	0.25	0.42	0.50	0.67	0.83
	Expected		0.42	0.50	0.75	0.83
2	Actual	0.50	0.70	0.80	0.90	0.90
	Expected		0.73	0.83	0.90	0.90
3	Actual	0.00	0.36	0.43	0.64	0.79
	Expected		0.43	0.50	0.50	0.79
Overall	Actual	0.32	0.55	0.64	0.79	0.86
	Expected		0.59	0.68	0.77	0.86

BMT progress tracker



Appendix 2 – BMT dashboard *continued*

BMT report sheet

Principle	Component	Performance Indicator	Expected scoring category: Year 5	Actual scoring category: Year 5	Status
1	Outcome	1.1.1 Stock status	60-79	60-79	On target
		1.1.2 Stock rebuilding	≥80	≥80	On target
	Harvest Strategy (management)	1.2.1 Harvest strategy	≥80	60-79	Behind
		1.2.2 Harvest control rules and tools	≥80	≥80	On target
		1.2.3 Information and monitoring	≥80	≥80	On target
		1.2.4 Assessment of stock status	60-79	≥80	Ahead
2	Primary species	2.1.1 Outcome status	60-79	60-79	On target
		2.1.2 Management strategy	≥80	≥80	On target
		2.1.3 Information and monitoring	≥80	≥80	On target
	Secondary species	2.2.1 Outcome status	60-79	60-79	On target
		2.2.2 Management strategy	≥80	≥80	On target
		2.2.3 Information and monitoring	≥80	≥80	On target
	Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) species	2.3.1 Outcome status	≥80	≥80	On target
		2.3.2 Management strategy	≥80	≥80	On target
		2.3.3 Information and monitoring	≥80	≥80	On target
	Habitats	2.4.1 Outcome status	60-79	60-79	On target
		2.4.2 Management strategy	≥80	≥80	On target
		2.4.3 Information and monitoring	≥80	≥80	On target
	Ecosystem	2.5.1 Outcome status	≥80	≥80	On target
		2.5.2 Management strategy	≥80	≥80	On target
		2.5.3 Information and monitoring	≥80	≥80	On target
3	Governance and policy	3.1.1 Legal and customary framework	≥80	≥80	On target
		3.1.2 Consultation, roles and responsibilities	≥80	≥80	On target
		3.1.3 Long term objectives	≥80	≥80	On target
	Fishery specific management system	3.2.1 Fishery specific objectives	60-79	60-79	On target
		3.2.2 Decision-making processes	≥80	≥80	On target
		3.2.3 Compliance and enforcement	60-79	60-79	On target
		3.2.4 Monitoring and management performance evaluation	60-79	60-79	On target
Total number of PIs ≥80			**20**	**20**	
Total number of PIs 60-79			**8**	**8**	
Total number of PIs <60			**0**	**0**	
Overall BMT Index			**0.86**	**0.86**	

Appendix 3 – Sources and further guidance

Marine Stewardship Council website

www.msc.org

Tools

Fishery Improvement Action Plan tool
www.msc.org/go/fip-action-plan-tool

Partnering for sustainable fisheries
www.msc.org/go/partnering-tool

Benchmarking and Tracking tool
www.msc.org/go/bmt

More information

Get Certified! Fisheries

Find out more about the fishery certification process
www.msc.org/go/get-certified-fisheries

Technical consultants

Find consultants who can provide support
www.msc.org/go/technical-consultants

MSC scheme documents

Find out more about the requirements and guidance documents used during MSC fishery assessments
www.msc.org/go/msc-scheme-requirements

Risk based framework

This set of assessment methods can be used when assessing fisheries that lack extensive quantitative data.
www.msc.org/go/rbf

MSC Global Headquarters and Regional Office – Europe, Middle East and Africa

Marine House
1 Snow Hill
London
EC1A 2DH

info@msc.org

Tel: + 44 (0) 20 7246 8900
Fax + 44 (0) 20 7246 8901

Registered Charity number: 1066806
Registered Company number: 3322023

MSC Regional Office – Americas

2110 N. Pacific Street
Suite 102
Seattle, WA 98103
USA

americasinfo@msc.org

Tel: + 1 206 691 0188
Fax: +1 206 691 0190

Non profit status: 501 (C) (3)
Employer Identification number: 91-2018427

MSC Regional Office – Asia Pacific

352 Tanglin Road
Strathmore Block #02-07/8/9
Singapore 247671

APinfo@msc.org

Tel: +65 64723280

Non profit status: application pending
Registered Company number: 201215612M

Area Offices:

Beijing – China
Berlin – Germany, Switzerland, Austria
Cape Town – Southern Africa
Copenhagen – Denmark
Glasgow – Scotland
The Hague – Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg
Halifax – Canada
Madrid – Spain, Portugal
Moscow – Russia
Paris – France
Reykjavik – Iceland
Santiago – Chile
Salvador – Brazil
Stockholm – Baltic Sea Region
Sydney – Australia, New Zealand
Tokyo – Japan
Warsaw – Poland

www.msc.org
developingworld@msc.org

@MSCecolabel
/MSCecolabel
/marine-stewardship-council

Designed by Forster Communications.

Participation in MSC's certification program changes over time; all details within this document are accurate at the time of publication.