

Fishery Improvement Projects

“Efforts to create a socially responsible seafood movement have rapidly developed: there are more than 40 organizations addressing human rights and labor conditions in fisheries. Many of these efforts exclusively focus on social gains.”

– 2020 Global Landscape Review of FIPs, CEA Consulting.

Learn about:

- [What are fishery improvement projects \(FIPs\)?](#)
- [FIPs and social responsibility](#)
- [How to support FIPs](#)

What are fishery improvement projects (FIPs)?

A fishery improvement project (FIP) is a multi-stakeholder effort to address environmental or social challenges in a fishery. These projects harness the power of the private sector to incentivize positive changes toward sustainability. Suppliers, retailers, and food service companies may support these efforts by participating in or buying products from FIPs.

Learn more about FIPs:

- Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions: [Fishery Improvement Project Resources](#).
- See how FIPs report publicly on social and environmental progress through [FisheryProgress.org](#).
- Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP): [FIP Toolkit](#).
- FishSource [Improvement Projects database](#).

FIPs and Social Responsibility

FIPs, like many other seafood initiatives, have [begun to integrate elements of social responsibility](#) into existing improvement efforts in response to the growing importance of social responsibility in the seafood sector. Acknowledging this movement, [FisheryProgress.org recently launched a Human Rights and Social Responsibility Policy](#) that applies to all FIPs reporting on its site. Additionally, FIP implementers such as Conservation International and Ocean Outcomes are embedding social metrics into their FIPs.

Measuring Social Performance in FIPs

Co-produced by various seafood and human rights organizations, the [Social Responsibility Assessment Tool for the Seafood Sector \(SRA Tool\)](#) is a diagnostic or rapid assessment tool—to assess the risk of social issues, identify areas in need of improvement, and inform the development of a FIP workplan that includes a social element. While the SRA Tool is not a certification, it [link Elevate Equivalency Mapping of SRA and SR Standards/Certifications](#) enumerates existing resources and approaches relevant to achieving social responsibility certification [link Elevate Equivalency Mapping of SRA and SR Standards/Certifications](#).

Capacity-Building for FIP Implementers on Social Responsibility

In addition to integrating social considerations into FIP objectives, trainings and templates are also available to FIP implementers in need of additional background and guidance regarding human and labor rights. Some of these include:

- Conservation International (CI)'s [\[CI TRAIN THE TRAINER SOCIAL MODULES FOR FIP IMPLEMENTERS\]](#) includes information on the following:
 1. Conducting Social Science Research.
 2. Applying a Human Rights Framework.
 3. Using A Rights Based Approach.
 4. Free Prior & Informed Consent.
 5. Gender Integration.
 6. Fisher/Worker Driven Approach.
- CI and Verité's [\[CI AND VERITE HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING FOR FIP IMPLEMENTERS\]](#)
 - Offers online training and PDF modules that include skill-building for social assessors, gathering and validating data in social assessments, root cause analysis, and facilitating corrective actions and remediation plans.
- [\[CI, FISHCHOICE, AND ELEVATE TRAINING ON EMPOWERING FISHERS\]](#) includes information on the following:
 - A Trusted Voice for Workers on Fishing Vessels: Accessing Effective Grievance Mechanisms.
 - Understanding and Accessing Rights: Respecting Human Rights in Fishery Value Chains.

Practical Tools for FIP implementers (*also referenced above*) from Conservation International:

- [Actioning the Monterey Framework](#): Includes more information on the full SRA Toolkit, including template assessment forms, field survey instruments, and vessel assessment guides.
- [\[CI TRAIN THE TRAINER SOCIAL MODULES FOR FIP IMPLEMENTERS\]](#).
- [\[CI AND VERITE HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING FOR FIP IMPLEMENTERS\]](#).

Additional background, references, and resources:

- ELEVATE: [\[Elevate Equivalency Mapping of SRA and SR Standards/Certifications\]](#).
- FisheryProgress: Human Rights and Social Responsibility Policy.

- FisheryProgress: Resources for Social Responsibility.
- [International Seafood Sustainability Foundation: FIP Resources](#).
- SFP: [Embedding Social Issues in Fishery Improvement Projects: SFP Guidance to Retailers and Suppliers report](#) and [Annex](#) illustrate methods for embedding social issues in FIPs.
- SFP: [A Method for Measuring Social and Economic Performance of Fisheries: Stakeholder Consultation Document](#).
- Ocean Outcomes, Smartfish AC, CI, Wilderness Market: [Triple Impact Fisheries Evaluation Framework: Integrating Environmental, Social and Business Performance](#).

How to support FIPs

“End buyers are growing concerned about labor abuses in their supply chains but are unsure how to proceed (if at all) in the near future.” – 2020 Global Landscape Review of FIPs, CEA Consulting.

FIPs help drive environmental, traceability, and social responsibility improvements in seafood supply chains that are not yet considered to be sustainably managed. Companies may support FIPs in a range of ways, including:

- Sourcing from a company engaged in a verifiable FIP
- Contributing financially or in-kind to a FIP’s improvement efforts
- Becoming involved in FIP work plan activities
- Asking your supply chain to establish or participate in a FIP
- Asking if there are additional engagement opportunities to help advance FIP progress

See these recommendations and other information about FIPs in the Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions’ [Guidelines for Supporting Fishery Improvement Projects](#).

See how FIPs report publicly on social and environmental progress through [FisheryProgress.org](#). To learn more about social and environmental assessments of FIPs, see the [SFP FIP Toolkit](#), [FishSource database](#), and [Buyers Guide to FIP Profiles](#) (FisheryProgress). To learn more about FIPs, see CEA Consulting’s [2020 Global Landscape Review of Fishery Improvement Projects](#).