



Sustainable Fisheries Partnership

SFP White Paper Guidance/Template

Purpose of a white paper: A white paper is a tool to engage buyers, their suppliers, and other potential participants or supporters in improving a fishery. It is developed in the early stages of a fishery improvement project (FIP). The paper states problems in the fishery as related to sustainability and proposes solutions to address the problems identified.

Content of a white paper: White papers are up to 4 pages, and include an overview of the stock/fishery, a problem statement about environmental sustainability issues in the fishery, recommended solutions, and a description of roles for your company or organization and other entities, including Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP), that can help improve the fishery.

Sources of information for a white paper: fishery sustainability evaluation, market and supply chain analysis, government reports, international body reports (e.g., FAO, ICES), export/import statistics, peer-reviewed journals. Provide citations/references to support statements in the paper.

Below is an outline of a white paper with suggested content to include in each section.

Overview

The Overview section provides general information of the fishery/stock, fishery production, and market. The content could include, but not limited to:

- Identification of the fishery:
 - Fish species (common and Latin name)
 - Fish stock range (i.e., science-based description of the distribution of the stock)
 - Fishery location – from where the fish is harvested (e.g., country EEZ; if from beyond EEZs, name water body and vessel country flags)
 - Jurisdiction/management area (if different from ‘fish stock range’)
 - Gear type(s) used to harvest the fish
- Current and historical catch/landings numbers over time (e.g., bar/line chart)
- Current and historical stock status
- Description of management system and regulations
- Use(s) of the harvested product
- Market information
 - Export markets, volumes, and value
 - Domestic use and value
 - Fishery’s contribution to local and national economy

Problem Statement

Describe why the fishery is not sustainable. This section highlights areas where improvements are needed. Issues in the fishery can be related to stock status, management quality (objectives, data collection/monitoring, enforcement, IUU), and biodiversity and environmental impact (e.g., significant negative effect on bycatch species, habitat, and protected, endangered and threatened species).

Recommended Solutions

Describe what needs to happen to address the sustainability problems. Possible actions could include the following, but not limited to:

- Conduct further fishery evaluation to better understand problems (e.g., initiate a MSC pre-assessment)
- If problems and solutions are clear, list specific actions needed to fix the problems (e.g., develop a management plan, eliminate IUU fishing, change fishing practices to reduce impact on a protected species)
- Identify participants to formally join the FIP
- Hold a FIP meeting
- Maintain communication with buyers on progress

Roles for *[insert company or organization name here]* and Others

Describe the role of your company or organization in working on improvements in the fishery. Will your company/organization serve as the lead in running the FIP? Will it serve as a convener to bring groups together to run a FIP jointly. FIPs often need a Secretariat, or someone handles the day-to-day operations (e.g., meeting logistics, note/record keeping, reporting). Who might this be?

What other types of participants are needed to help with the necessary improvements? Is a local non-governmental organization needed to help facilitate on-the-ground activities? SFP is also available to fulfil several roles, including providing general guidance/templates (like this one) for developing and implementing FIPs, providing specific strategic advice where we have technical expertise and local knowledge, and advising our corporate partners on status of fisheries and progress of FIPs.