

SFP NEWS



Sustainable Fisheries
PARTNERSHIP

July 2024

Welcome to the current edition of SFP News. We're pleased to share with you some exciting updates and the latest news on how SFP and our partners and collaborators are making the world's seafood sustainable and responsible.

Read on for more on sector sustainability, interesting new science, recent SFP events, and the latest from the Bycatch Solutions Hub.

*Best regards,
Jim Cannon*



Target 75 reports highlight progress and trends in seafood sector sustainability



REDUCTION FISHERIES PART 2



SFP TARGET 75

2023 Reduction Fisheries Report: The 14th edition of our [Reduction Fisheries Management and Stock Status Sustainability Overview](#) shows declines in performance of key fisheries for the sixth year in a row, highlighting the need for more active and long-term industry engagement to ensure good fisheries management. While most fisheries assessed in the reports continue to be reasonably well-managed or better, performance in key fisheries has been steadily dropping, due largely to persistent management issues. You can read Parts 1 and 2 of the report at the [Reduction Fisheries Reports page on our website](#).

2023 Target 75 Sectors Report: The newest version of our [T75 Sectors Status Update](#) finds that, while there is a general upward trend in production from sustainable or improving sources across most seafood sectors, some sectors and regions still face challenges that hinder sustainability. The annual report highlights progress toward the goals of SFP's Target 75 (T75) initiative, which aims to ensure that 75% of seafood production by volume in 13 key sectors is sustainable or making regular, verifiable improvements. For more details on this and other related reports, please visit the [Sector Sustainability Updates page on our website](#).

SFP's Science Team helps further global understanding of effective sustainable fisheries management



Updated Fishery Improvement Project Database: SFP and the Hilborn Lab at the University of Washington released an updated version of our [Fishery Improvement Projects Database \(FIP-DB\)](#). This 6th edition of the database is the most comprehensive of its kind, with historical time series data on more than 320 FIPs. While mainly intended for use by fisheries management researchers, the database is also an important tool for industry and non-profit stakeholders to understand how internal and external factors affect FIP performance and success, ultimately leading to better management decisions and better FIP design and implementation.

A better understanding of mahi-mahi: A study in *Frontiers in Marine Science* has identified [three genetically different populations of mahi-mahi in the tropical Eastern Pacific Ocean](#), pointing to the need for specific tailored fisheries management plans for the different mahi-mahi populations in the region. The study, which was conducted by scientists from research institutes in Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, and Peru, was organized by SFP and funded by the Walton Family Foundation and the Global Sustainable Supply Chains for Marine Commodities (GMC) project.

A new definition of Destructive Fishing: SFP's Ocean Wildlife Manager Alexia Morgan co-authored "[Destructive fishing: An expert-driven definition and exploration of this quasi-concept](#)," published in *Conservation Letters*. The paper represents the results of a collaborative effort by more than 80 fisheries experts from 32 nations. It establishes an accepted definition of "destructive fishing," to inform and guide national and international policies and frameworks, including the UN Sustainable Development Goals, that recognize the need to end destructive fishing practices.

The future of seafood sustainability on the agenda at The Farmers Club



(L-R) SFP Global Markets Director Ian Rolmanis, Blaine Grimes, Pedro Moura Costa, SFP Chief Executive Officer Jim Cannon, Roland Bonney

SFP hosted a [dialogue on innovative financing approaches to achieve large-scale environmental, economic, and social outcomes and impacts](#) at The Farmers Club in London. Presenters included Pedro Moura, founder and CEO of Sustainable Investment Management (SIM); Roland Bonney, executive

chairman of AGROLO and co-founder of Benchmark Holdings plc; and Blaine Grimes, chief ventures officer of the Gulf of Maine Research Institute.

SFP's Bycatch Solutions Hub celebrates a successful first year

With generous support from founding sponsor Purina Europe, the [Bycatch Solutions Hub](#) connects seafood companies and innovative fisheries around the world to reverse the decline of ocean wildlife. Since its launch just over a year ago, we've raised over \$300,000 from the seafood industry to support projects to reduce bycatch of marine wildlife.



Check out the [active projects](#) on the Hub and current [projects that need funding](#), see [who else is involved](#), and [stay up to date on efforts to reduce bycatch](#) in commercial fisheries – from smart buoys in swordfish fisheries to electronic monitoring in tuna fisheries.



Solutions for North American crab and lobster harvesters: In late May, SFP Biodiversity and Nature Director Kathryn Novak (third from right, above) visited the [CanFISH Gear Lending Library in Halifax, Canada](#), to see some of the solutions being implemented to allow snow crab and lobster harvesters to continue fishing when critically endangered whales are spotted in fishing areas.

The library was buzzing with activity since a lobster fishing area had just closed due to the sighting of a whale. The only way harvesters can resume fishing in a closed area is to use ropeless, or on-demand, gear. The CanFISH team was able to lend on-demand gear to 18 lobster harvesters in Northern New Brunswick in one week to help keep them on the water.

The [Northeast Fishery Science Center in Massachusetts](#) also just wrapped up its second year of testing on-demand gear with 30 participating vessels. The [Maine Innovative Gear Library](#), a similar lending library, recently opened in Maine and is currently seeking harvesters to test out gear in the Maine lobster fishery.

Blue Food panelists discuss seafood transparency and traceability



SFP Chief Executive Officer Jim Cannon moderated a panel at the [2024 Blue Food Innovation Summit](#) on how to meet traceability and transparency commitments across the seafood sector. The panel, “Beyond Blue Horizons: Forging Transparent and Traceable Paths for the Future of Sustainable Food,” focused on the potential impacts of the High Seas Treaty. Discussion topics included the treaty’s requirement for evidence-based traceability, the need for additional guidelines and approaches to support the industry’s data-collection needs, the role of certifications in setting standards for action, and ways to establish climate-smart and resilient practices for smallholder fisheries and aquaculture.

Panelists included (L-R above) Liz Karan, director, ocean governance at the Pew Charitable Trusts; Ben Coniff, co-founder and CIO at Luke's Lobster; Erin Priddle, North Europe regional director of the MSC; Mark Kaplan, partner at Wholechain; and Cannon.

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