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# SHARED ACTION



## BUILDING MOMENTUM AND COLLABORATION IN SUSTAINABLE TUNA FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN INDONESIA

### BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries' (MMAF) commitment to a collaborative approach in developing the Harvest Strategy for Tropical Tuna Fisheries in Indonesia Archipelagic Waters (IAW) has marked a great stride toward sustainable tuna fisheries management. Developed over a nine-year consultative process from 2014 to 2023, the 'Tuna IAW Harvest Strategy' applies to three adjacent geographical fisheries management areas in eastern Indonesia (FMAs 713, 714, and 715). Developing the Tuna IAW Harvest Strategy involved close cooperation among Indonesian fisheries managers, government agencies, national and international scientists, industry, fishing associations, small-scale fisher communities, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

### THE TUNA CONSORTIUM

In 2019, the Indonesia Tuna Consortium (Consortium) was formed to support the MMAF in coordinating its collaborative approach. The Consortium includes five members, Masyarakat dan Perikanan Indonesia (MDPI), Yayasan Konservasi Alam Nusantara (YKAN), Marine Change, Fair Trade USA, and Yayasan IPNLF

Indonesia (YII), and is coordinated by Resonance. The Consortium is dedicated to ensuring healthy, sustainable tuna fisheries and supporting fishing communities across Indonesia.

### HARVEST STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

By June 2023, the Consortium supported the launch of the Tuna IAW Harvest Strategy and laid the groundwork for its successful implementation. Three core management actions are at the heart of the strategy to ensure the sustainability of yellow-fin, bigeye, and skipjack tunas in IAW:

1. Restrictions on the use of fish aggregating devices (FADs)
2. Spatial closure (of important spawning or nursery areas) and temporary closure (during key periods such as spawning)
3. Total allowable catch limit (TAC) per fisheries management area (FMA).

To date, the Consortium has operated in two phases. This report is based on the second phase of work, which took place from 2021 to 2023, covering four themes.

## Theme 1. Harvest strategy development: advancing the governance and policy framework

The Consortium worked diligently to support the MMAF in refining and finalising the Tuna IAW Harvest Strategy, strengthening data collection and analysis, and laying the groundwork for implementing priority management measures.

The Consortium supported the MMAF's commitment to stakeholder engagement, knowledge development, capacity-building, and a collaborative approach to fisheries management and best practice decision-making.

### THEME 1 HIGHLIGHTS

- Strengthened the evidence base on the fishery and critical management issues in IAW to develop a responsive Tuna IAW Harvest Strategy. Research and consultations focused on fisheries data collection, vessel frame surveys, and fish aggregating devices (FADs).
- Elevated socio-economic considerations in the Tuna IAW Harvest Strategy through the formation of a socio-economic working group and the finalisation of 12 key indicators to track the impact of its implementation.
- Assisted the MMAF in finalising the Tuna IAW Harvest Strategy, with three priority management measures and a precautionary catch reduction of 10 percent over three years.
- Facilitated technical and stakeholder input, including from fishers and industry, to refine the harvest strategy and support the socialisation of management actions and decisions.

## Theme 2. Stakeholder involvement: inclusive co-management and supply chain engagement

A collaborative approach to developing the Tuna IAW Harvest Strategy ensured a two-way flow of information between industry actors, fishers, governments, fisheries managers, and NGOs at the regional level and national-level stakeholders.

The Consortium supported the MMAF in collaboratively collating and developing knowledge, and setting goals for the tuna fisheries, which increased stakeholder buy-in and ensured transparency in the process.

## THEME 2 HIGHLIGHTS

- Organised provincial and regional Fishery Co-Management Committees as crucial platforms for subnational consultation, problem-solving and capacity building on tuna fisheries management with government, industry, fishers, academia, and NGOs.
- Engaged industry to establish the Purse Seine Association of Indonesia (APSI) to provide a collective voice for purse seine fishers to improve the industry's practices, increase engagement with the government, and advocate for sustainable management.
- Strengthened small-scale fisher engagement in sustainable tuna fisheries management by promoting catch reporting using the MMAF's electronic logbook.
- Advanced the adoption of electronic catch and documentation traceability (eCDT) systems, by fostering stakeholder collaboration and improving the interoperability between traceability systems (the MMAF's STELINA, and the private sector's TraceTales).
- Co-organized the 1st Indonesia Tuna Conference (ITC) and 7th International Coastal Tuna Business Forum (ICTBF), as well as two 'Tuna Talks' events with the government.

## Theme 3. Community empowerment: enhancing fisher capacity, benefits and resilience

Small-scale fishers and communities play a key role in tuna fisheries management in the IAW. Still, they often need more knowledge, capacity, and incentives to comply with regulations and adopt sustainable practices.

The Consortium developed the capacity of fishers, communities, and cooperatives to champion sustainable fishing practices, increase acceptance and compliance with regulations, improve catch quality, and build community resilience.

### THEME 3 HIGHLIGHTS

- Delivered capacity-building programs to professionalise small-scale fisher operations and enhance fishers' ability to comply with regulations, access markets, and succeed in business.
- Mentored fisher 'champions' in sustainable fishing practices to catalyse positive change in their communities and the tuna fisheries sector.

- Supported training for fishers and suppliers on cold chain and fish handling to improve catch quality, reduce post-harvest loss, and fulfill the demands of the export market.
- Designed and delivered a customised and innovative financial literacy framework to build the resilience of small-scale fisher household livelihoods.

#### Theme 4. Collective action: building an effective Tuna Consortium

The Consortium united five organizations with shared goals, objectives, and approaches to speed up collaborative efforts, assist the MMAF in finalising the Tuna IAW Harvest Strategy, and promote sustainable tuna fisheries management.

The Consortium collaborated closely with the MMAF, offering technical support and engaging various stakeholders to ensure that diverse perspectives were considered and integrated into the Tuna IAW Harvest Strategy.

#### THEME 4 HIGHLIGHTS

- Provided critical coordination and technical support to the MMAF and other stakeholders to accelerate collaborative efforts to refine and launch the Tuna IAW Harvest Strategy.
- Deepened engagement and collaboration with the MMAF and the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) to advance sustainable tuna fisheries policies and programs.
- Ensured that multiple stakeholders, including small-scale fishers, industry actors, and provincial governments, contributed perspectives to the harvest strategy development and fisheries management decision-making processes at the national level.

## PHASE THREE: SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TUNA IAW HARVEST STRATEGY

The Consortium will continue working with the MMAF, industry, communities, and other fisheries stakeholders over the next phase of work to support the implementation of the Tuna IAW Harvest Strategy and its core management measures. The Consortium will enhance its support for communities and fishers to participate in sustainable co-management, improve access to markets, and develop resilient livelihoods. Additionally, it will continue its efforts to promote sustainable tuna practices in Indonesia and enhance market access for the industry and fishing communities. Lastly, the Consortium will evaluate climate and socio-economic risks in communities and the supply chain and communicate these risks and resilience actions to industry, government, and community stakeholders.

The operationalisation of the Tuna IAW Harvest Strategy as a responsive fisheries management tool is expected to positively impact tuna fish stocks and the overall health of the marine environment in IAW. A key factor in its success will be gaining support for the management measures among provincial and local governments, as well as fisheries stakeholders in IAW. Equally important is the need to institutionalise fisheries data collection and its application to support the Tuna IAW Harvest Strategy. It is also crucial to identify the financial and human resources needed to carry out this important work in the future.

The Consortium's experiences supporting the development of the Tuna IAW Harvest Strategy demonstrate significant advances in achieving inclusive and effective engagement and collaboration for best-practice fisheries management in Indonesia. We encourage fisheries managers, government agencies, industry actors, and other stakeholders to maintain the momentum and work together through the Consortium's third phase and beyond to realise the Tuna IAW Harvest Strategy's objective and broader sustainable tuna fisheries management in Indonesia.