



Submission from the Global Roundtable on Marine Ingredients to the Government of Mauritania

Re: Plan d'aménagement de pêche – petits pélagiques (PAP PP): consultation janvier-mars 2022

To the Mauritanian Government, Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy, including:

Lamine Camara, Director of Direction de l'Aménagement des Ressources et des Etudes (DARE)

Azza Jiddou, Advisor at the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy, Chair of the FIP's Steering Committee

Hamady Diop, Team Leader for the Plan d'aménagement de pêche – petits pélagiques (PAP-PP)

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Introduction

The Global Roundtable on Marine Ingredients was established in 2021 as a pre-competitive platform to help companies and other stakeholders in the marine ingredients value chain improve the sustainability of marine ingredients and drive needed environmental and social improvements in key fisheries globally. Members of the Global Roundtable on Marine Ingredients are: Olvea, MarinTrust, IFFO – The Marine Ingredients Organisation, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership, Global Seafood Alliance, Nestlé, Federation of European Aquaculture Producers, Biomar, Cargill, Skretting, and Aquaculture Stewardship Council. It is an initiative led by IFFO – The Marine Ingredients Organisation - and Sustainable Fisheries Partnership. The Roundtable is chaired by Árni M. Mathiesen, Senior Advisor at the Icelandic Ocean Cluster and former Assistant Director-General of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department at the FAO.

Purpose of this document

The members of the Global Roundtable would firstly like to congratulate the Government of Mauritania for initiating the development of a management plan for the small pelagics fishery, which is essential for its ongoing sustainable development. We note also a number of environmental and social concerns about some regional fisheries. In this document, we would like to express our support for the management plan process and put forward our suggestions for how the management plan might look, in the hope that the international perspective we bring is relevant and helpful. Many members of the Global Roundtable are sourcing marine ingredients from Mauritania, and are participating in and supporting the Mauritania small pelagics fishery improvement project (FIP), and the Global Roundtable is keen to continue supporting vital improvements so that all fish harvested in Mauritania will be sustainable.

Management plan objectives

The Global Roundtable members understand that fisheries management has two different elements:

1. The human and land-based side of the fishery: This includes people directly involved in the fishery and supply chain (rights and responsibilities of workers across the fishery and in processing and commercialisation), as well as society more broadly, particularly in relation to socioeconomic benefits and food security for the most disadvantaged, including women and youth.
2. The fish and sea-based side of the fishery: This includes the sustainable management of stocks and the ecosystem, in Mauritania and across the whole region.

We would like to encourage the plan d'aménagement to establish a framework to address both these aspects of management, noting that they are tightly interconnected.

We note with appreciation that this framework conforms largely with the objectives already agreed for the plan d'aménagement. We offer the following suggestions, in alignment with the work of the FIP, for your consideration, arranged by those objectives:

- Specific objective 1: to give preference to the (managed) development of the artisanal and coastal fisheries
 - Ensure that small-scale fishing communities have a recognized and meaningful role in co-management of coastal ecosystems and fishery resources, including an active role in finalizing the fishery management plan.
 - Ensure that small-scale fishers from Mauritania and neighboring countries are able to maintain customary access to small pelagic fisheries resources, including granting of preferential access and restoring prior access where necessary.
 - Establish data collection systems to better understand the contribution of small-scale and coastal fisheries to total harvest
- Specific objective 2: to increase the value of the fishery within Mauritania, and provide more sustained support to food security
 - Work with stakeholders to develop a time-bound recovery plan for species that are currently overfished.
 - Assess and monitor national fish consumption, affordability and importance for food security and nutrition.

- Promote better fish harvesting and post-harvesting methods to reduce bycatches and losses to maximize human consumption while ensuring maximum use of byproducts.
- Aim for 100% utilisation of the catch.
- Specific objective 3: to provide an overarching structure for implementing management measures in the fishery
 - Direct regulatory efforts towards effective regional cooperation and national fishery management.
 - Ensure regular assessment of key small pelagic fish stocks based on improved data resolution/quality as well as effective monitoring of harvest and post-harvest activities.
 - In addition to stock and ecosystem targets, establish community welfare (e.g. food security, safety) and economic targets that protect artisanal and coastal fishing communities.
 - As part of the new management plan, establish long-term fishery objectives and a precautionary management approach based on reference points and harvest control rules. Ensure this approach recognizes the important role of small pelagics in regional marine ecosystems and food webs.
 - Estimate the scale of illegal fishing and under-reporting, and implement effective reporting, monitoring, control, and surveillance measures.

Regional challenges and next steps:

Global Roundtable members fully recognize that important small pelagic fish stocks are shared across multiple countries in the region, and that the sustainability of these fisheries depends ultimately on regional cooperation. The Global Roundtable on Marine Ingredients is committed to working with stakeholders in Mauritania and throughout the region to support improvements. We are prepared to work collaboratively to engage regional and international stakeholders such as FAO, Global Environmental Facility, European Union, United Nations Development Program, Commission Sous-Régionale des Pêches, COMHAFAT, COPACE and others to help support improved regional collaboration, as well as build national and regional capacity to implement the above suggestions and help Mauritania achieve its environmental, social and economic objectives for this new fishery management plan.

