



# 2025 Global Landscape Review of Fishery Improvement Projects

## About the Authors

Dr. Marah Hardt, Erica Cunningham, Tanya Mahadwar, and Aaron Saliman of CEA Consulting (CEA) served as the principal investigators for this project.

Max Levine (CEA) served as an advisor on the project. CEA was supported by a panel of three experts: Jesse Marsh (Scaling Blue), Renato Gozzer Wuest (Innovations for Ocean Action Foundation), and Sam Grimley (SeaPact).

The investigation and report were commissioned by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, and the Walton Family Foundation. Questions or comments about this report can be directed to [fips@ceaconsulting.com](mailto:fips@ceaconsulting.com).

### Access summary findings:

**2025 Global Landscape Review of Fishery Improvement Projects**, available in English, Spanish, French, Japanese, Chinese, and Bahasa Indonesia.  
<https://oursharedseas.com/FIPReview>

**2020 Global Landscape Review of Fishery Improvement Projects**, available in English, Spanish, Japanese, Chinese, and Bahasa Indonesia.  
<https://oursharedseas.com/FIPReview-2020>

**2015 Global Landscape Review of Fishery Improvement Projects**, available in English and Spanish.  
<https://oursharedseas.com/FIPReview-2015>

#### Disclaimer

The findings and conclusions in this report represent the interpretations of CEA Consulting and do not necessarily reflect the view of the study funders or experts.

## Glossary of terms referenced in this report

Term	Description
AIP	Aquaculture improvement project
AENOR	Spanish Association for Standardization and Certification
AP2HI	Asosiasi Perikanan Pole & Line dan Handline Indonesia
ASC	Aquaculture Stewardship Council
BSC	Blue swimming crab
BINGO	Big international non-governmental organization
BMSY	Biomass at maximum sustainable yield
C-FIP	Community FIP
CAB	Conformity assessment body
CALAMASUR	Committee for the Sustainable Management of the Southern Pacific Jumbo Flying Squid
CASS	Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions
CEA	CEA Consulting (formerly California Environmental Associates)
CI	Conservation International
COBI	Comunidad Biodiversidad A.C.
COREMAHI	Comité Regional del Mahi Communicatee
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DCF	Developing country fisheries
EBFM	Ecosystem based fishery management
ECIP	Ethical charter implementation program
EEZ	Economic exclusive zone
ENGO	Environmental non-governmental organization
EM	Electronic monitoring
ETP	Endangered, threatened, protected
EU	European Union
FAD	Fishing aggregation device
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFSAPI	Fresh Frozen Seafood Association of the Philippines, Inc.
FIP	Fishery improvement project
FIP DB	Fisheries Improvement Projects Database
FIP CoP	FIP Community of Practice
FMI	Fisheries Management Index
FMSY	Fishing mortality at maximum sustainable yield
GEF (also UN GEF)	Global Environment Facility
GFAST	Global FIP Alliance for Sustainable Tuna
GiZ	German Society for International Cooperation
HCR	Harvest control rule
HRSRP	Human rights and social responsibility policy
HS	Harvest strategy
IATTC	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
IFCA	Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities
ISSF	International Seafood Sustainability Foundation
IUU	Illegal, unregulated, unreported
ILO	International Labor Organization

Term	Description
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IMARPE	Instituto del Mar del Peru
INP	Instituto Nacional de Pesca (Ecuador)
INPESCA	Instituto Nicaraguense De La Pesca Y Acuicultura
IPNLF	International Pole and Line Foundation
IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated
NGO	Non-governmental organization
MDPI	Yayasan Masyarakat dan Perikanan Indonesia
MMAF	Ministry of Marine Affairs, Indonesia
MPA	Marine protected area
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OECM	Other effective conservation measures
OPAGAC	Organización de Productores de Atún Congelado
PACPI	Philippine Association of Crab Processors, Inc.
PI	Performance indicator (MSC)
PNG FIA	Papua New Guinea Fishing Industry Association
PRODUCE	Ministerio de la Producción (Peru)
PUFKI	Project United Kingdom Fisheries Improvements
QDAS	Qualitative data analysis software
RFMO	Regional fisheries management organization
RLF	Resources Legacy Fund
ROP	Fishery management regulation, Peru
SAC	Scientific advisory committee
SEDER	Secretaría de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural (Mexico)
SFP	Sustainable Fisheries Partnership
SFW	Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch
SNP	Sociedad Nacional de Pesquería (Peru)
SPRFMO	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization
SR	Supply chain roundtable
SRA	Social risk assessment
SRP	Subsecretaría de Recursos Pesqueros (Ecuador)
TAC	Total allowable catch
TOC	Theory of Change
TED	Turtle excluder device
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TUNACONS	Tuna Conservation Group
T75	Target 75 Initiative
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WCPO	Western and Central Pacific Ocean
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

# Introduction to the Global Landscape Review of FIPs

## Purpose of the Review

In 2025, CEA conducted the third Global Landscape Review of Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs). As with the previous reviews in 2015 and 2020, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation (“Packard”), Walton Family Foundation (“Walton”), and Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation (“Moore”) asked CEA to help them to understand and assess the current state of FIPs worldwide, especially in a post-COVID-19 pandemic world. In addition, this review assesses longitudinal change over the past decade in the FIP landscape. As the primary philanthropic funders of FIPs and the seafood markets movement more broadly, these foundations are using this process to reflect on the progress that has been made to guide future strategies and investments. This synthesis provides a contemporary review to help inform those strategic processes and provide insight on the FIP movement.

The review is also meant to provide insights for the wider FIP field.

## Audience for the 2025 Review

The audience for our research is the FIP community, including implementers, buyers, funders, academics, practitioners, and other participants in the sustainable seafood movement. CEA hopes that these findings will support future strategy development across the growing community.

### Box 1.1 Research Questions for the 2025 Review

The 2025 research builds upon questions from the 2015 and 2020 reviews and tackles new questions that address the movement’s evolution. CEA’s research was guided by five core questions with over a dozen sub-questions:

1. How is the fishery improvement landscape evolving?
2. What kind of impacts are FIPs generating and how are these measured?
3. What factors contribute to FIP progress and success?
4. What is the current landscape and impact of social responsibility work in FIPs?
5. What are the current finance landscape and associated challenges and opportunities for sustainable financing of FIPs?

# Executive Summary



The FIP landscape has continued to evolve since CEA's 2020 FIP Review. FIPs have diversified in end goals, geographies, commodities, and the political contexts in which they operate.

- **The landscape of FIP implementers has expanded dramatically.**

In 2016, there were 122 unique FIP leads; today that number is over 300. This increase is driven largely by more industry leadership, and to a lesser extent, the expanding role of consultants in implementing FIPs. A greater percentage of FIPs are led by multiple types of implementers. The number of FIPs listing multiple organization types as leads more than tripled between 2018 and 2023, from 28 to 90. The number of FIPs listing at least one industry lead grew until 2021, but growth has since slowed.

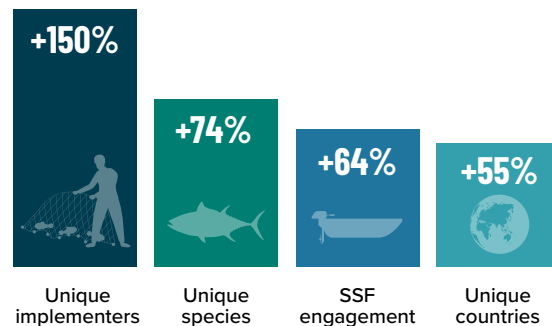
- **FIPs have grown their presence across geographies and commodities.**

FIPs remain a globally relevant mechanism, with regional hotspots in Southeast Asia and Latin America. Mexican FIPs grew in number for about a decade but have leveled off since 2020. Growth in Indonesian and Taiwanese FIPs has driven Asia to become the region with the most FIPs. As they did in 2020, tuna FIPs still dominate, but their growth has leveled off. Multi-species, lobster, and squid/octopus FIPs have increased.

- **The number of active and completed FIPs has plateaued and may be declining.**

From 2015 to 2025, the percentage of global landings within FIPs has remained at 11%. Over the same time period, the global proportion of catch certified by MSC has not increased significantly, suggesting that FIP volumes are not consistently moving to certification. The number of inactive FIPs has been increasing steadily for the past three years. In 2024, the number of new FIPs was not enough to fully account for the substantial increase in inactive FIPs and thus, the number of active and completed FIPs may have declined for the first time in two decades. COVID-19, lack of resources to implement the FisheryProgress Human Rights and Social Responsibility Policy (HRSRP), and funding were cited as causes for inactive FIPs.

ES.1 Growth in FIP landscape since 2018

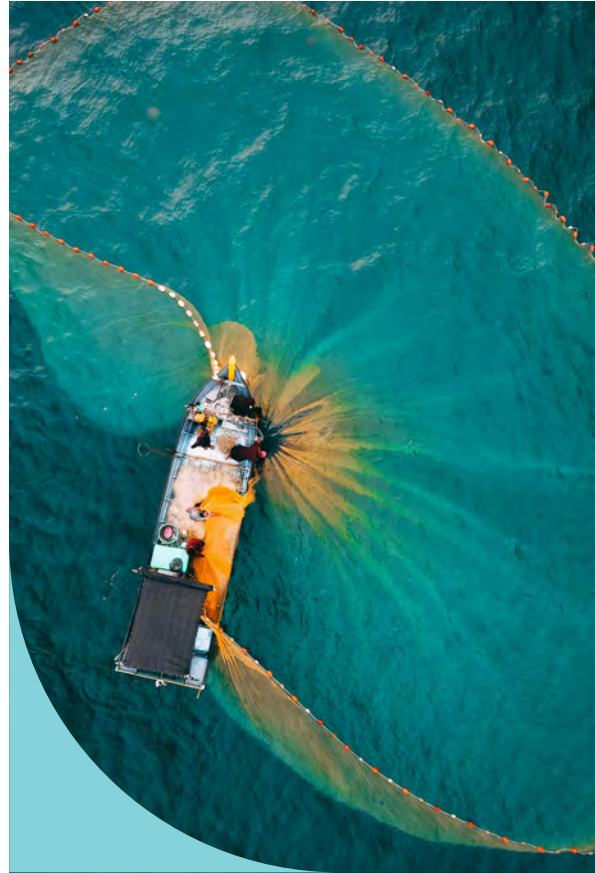


- **Price, not sustainability, remains the primary concern for industry in an era of increased uncertainty.**

Trade barriers and changing geopolitical landscapes were cited as reasons for heightened uncertainty among distributors and importers. Such uncertainty was negatively affecting their ability and willingness to engage in FIPs. Trade dynamics and policies have reduced the competitiveness of some FIP products especially from the Global South to the US and EU. Demand from East Asia, particularly Japan and South Korea, for sustainable seafood is mounting but it is still too soon to assess the strength of these markets.

- **Businesses must now balance sustainability with other priorities.**

The regulatory environment for seafood companies is far more complicated than it was just over a decade ago. Major market states have developed their own import control rules, in addition to requiring compliance with the Port State Measures Agreement. On the human rights side, companies must now navigate mandatory human rights due diligence directives and ILO C188, reflecting new legal mandates to manage human rights risks. At the same time, seafood companies face an increasing list of options to advance their environmental, social, and governance (ESG) priorities, including reducing their climate footprint and improving product circularity. All of these activities demand substantial time, energy, and resources – drawn from the same limited pool that supports FIPs.



- **FIPs today are seeking additional or even alternative end goals as they work toward sustainability.**

Up until about 2015, FIPs – many in industrial salmon or whitefish fisheries – were focused on attaining sustainability (often via reaching maximum sustainable yield (MSY)) of a single target stock. The incentives and standards associated with certification and ratings processes provided a pathway to more lucrative Western markets. In the intervening decade, FIPs have evolved their end goals to focus on fisheries as part of a broader socio-ecological system, in which other factors such as human rights, climate resilience, and marine ecosystem protections also matter.

- **FIPs are now utilizing a continuous improvement approach as opposed to a linear approach with a clear off-ramp.**

The patterns of FIP progress ratings suggest that FIPs achieve regular improvements over their lifespan, with varying degrees of frequency. FIPs often flip between grades A and C for years. FIPs appear to be undergoing infrequent, but regular, improvements over long periods of time. This trend lends credence to the notion that FIPs may be using a continuous improvement approach, rather than a linear progression toward completion.

- **A decade ago, comprehensive FIPs were the gold standard for fisheries seeking to reach certification. New alternative approaches aim to take on that role.**

Certification rates among FIPs have been low, with just 10% of all FIPs achieving certification. Since 2020, 11 of the 14 FIPs that achieved MSC-certification were for tuna fisheries, suggesting that the FIP-to-certification model may only be effective in certain contexts. Many comprehensive FIPs no longer seek certification as an end goal. This, in addition to the high percentage of FIPs certified with conditions, has prompted the community to explore alternative models. Some of these alternatives share characteristics with the FIP model and use different structures to drive improvement (“FIP-adjacent models”). Others differ significantly from FIPs as they operate at larger scales and require more time (“place-based alternatives”). These models may integrate FIPs within their frameworks, demonstrating the continuing interdependencies among fisheries improvement efforts.



## FIPs can drive progress by improving participant coordination and data quality, leading to policy change.

- **FIPs are an effective tool to engage diverse participants and generate insights into fisheries.**

FIPs create structured platforms that break down silos to foster direct relationships and participation among industry, government, and civil society organizations. Through these collaborative efforts, FIPs reduce duplication of effort and generate or uncover valuable data to improve understanding of stock status and ecosystem health. This enhanced data – often produced through industry partnerships and technological advancements – supports evidence-based decision-making and policy reform.

- **FIPs generate information and systems that provide long-term management benefits.**

FIPs introduce technology, research collaborations, and trainings that help improve management capacity and provide momentum for ongoing sustainable management. Increased amount and frequency of data collection helps industry and governments respond to changing conditions; trainings and support for industry-led data collection and sharing increases buy-in, builds trust in the data, and supports ongoing management objectives, including creation of management plans.

## FIPs demonstrate improvements in reporting, but challenges with assessing (and demonstrating) change on the water continue.

- **FIP volumes and timelines for achieving Stage 4 events are more realistic than in 2020, suggesting some progress in data quality.**

Today, no active FIPs list landings that exceed those of the fisheries in which they operate. FIPs also report a greater proportion of Stage 4 events in years 1-3, compared with year one in 2020. This timeline is more realistic for achieving a Stage 4 event and indicates that quality of data may be improving.

- **Few FIPs demonstrate clear evidence of increased abundance or other change on the water.**

Although more FIPs report Stage 5 changes in 2025 compared with 2020, manual review reveals that much of the progress is due to better data, rather than measurable stock recovery or other on-the-water improvements in the fishery. In addition, rating and reporting methods continue to present challenges for discerning FIP impacts. The majority of reported Stage 5 event changes were determined to be unlikely or clearly not a result of actions by the FIP. Only for a handful of cases, such as the Ecuador small pelagics FIP, could manual review directly link stock recovery to FIP actions.

- **Centralized reporting has supported a growing body of literature on FIPs; these works reinforce FIP success with policy wins and mixed evidence for environmental or social improvement.**

Peer-reviewed publications doubled from four to eight in the last five years, with an additional two dozen research reports and articles on FIPs. Despite the training and tools on proper handling and release of ETP, a study of 27 FIPs with high likelihood of ETP interactions showed the majority lack the monitoring or mitigation processes needed to reduce impacts effectively (Morgan et al., 2022). García-Rodríguez (2023) found no evidence that being in a FIP guarantees that a fishery will be more sustainable than a non-engaged fishery, a finding in contrast to Travaille's 2020 study that found FIPs contributed to significant environmental improvements leading to certification. Several case studies on social work in FIPs have found strong evidence of improvement, while other academic articles, such as Williams and Sparks (2023) strongly critique human rights work in FIPs.

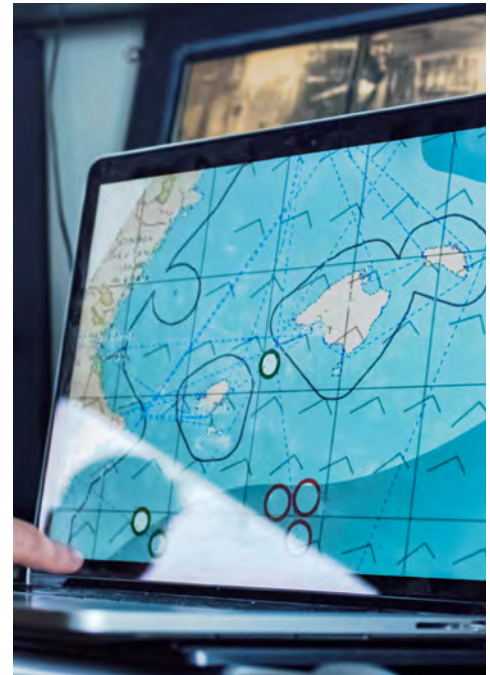
**Infrastructure for FIP reporting and implementation has grown substantially since 2015. However, gaps prevent effective impact measurement.**

▪ **FIP reporting platforms overlook social improvements.**

FIP implementers increasingly integrate social components into their workplans to promote fisher well-being, incentivize engagement, and meet requirements set by FisheryProgress' Human Rights and Social Responsibility Policy (HRSRP). However, existing reporting frameworks fail to capture FIP reporting against these milestones; FIPs that prioritize social work thus appear to have stalled progress on the platform. This gap contributes to frustration and burnout among FIP participants and reducing transparency for buyers looking for socially responsible seafood sourcing options.

▪ **Discrepancies between FIP DB and FisheryProgress create inefficiencies for impact measurement.**

FisheryProgress tracks FIPs that report on its platform; FIP DB has data on all FIPs that report progress publicly, including all FIPs on FisheryProgress. The majority of the data on FIP DB is thus sourced from FisheryProgress. The FisheryProgress website also contains more detailed information on each FIP than FIP DB. Overall, Fishery Progress is considered the "source of truth" by the FIP community. Informants noted that if a FIP is not listed on FisheryProgress, only those engaging in the work will be aware of its existence. FIPs not publicly reporting limits engagement with downstream partners and unknowingly may bias public understanding towards FIPs with the capacity to report publicly.



### ES Box 1. Key Developments Since 2020

- FisheryProgress' HRSRP required all active FIPs to demonstrate compliance to maintain their listing status, starting in 2022.

---

- The updated Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions' FIP guidelines were launched in 2023, providing additional guidance on economic responsibility, financial viability, and social improvements.

---

- SFP's updated Ratings methodology aimed to provide clarity to implementers, address the need for improved accountability, and identify connections between FIP actions and fishery improvements.

---

- Peer-reviewed research continued to provide empirical evidence that supports and challenges FIPs (e.g., Kall et al., 2022; Morgan et al., 2022; Samy-Kamal, 2021; Sparks et al., 2025; Finkbeiner et al., 2024).

---

- Philanthropic funding for FIPs has declined 25-30% since 2020, due to shifting priorities.

---

- A more complex regulatory environment has pushed the global seafood industry to address illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing as well as forced labor.

## **FIP success depends on both strong design and implementation, and external factors that shape progress beyond the FIP's control.**

- **As FIPs engage more community voices, aligned objectives and participatory processes contribute to FIP success.**

Setting clear and aligned objectives across FIP participants leads to greater progress. Insights from site visits and informant interviews highlighted that workplans crafted in consultation with all FIP participants helped to identify shared values and anticipate potential conflicts. Diverse inputs from participants can be crucial to ensuring that workplans reflect the local contexts. Certification standards may help simplify and align expectations, as comprehensive FIPs constitute 81% of all completed FIPs. For example, participants noted that the expansion of the Indonesia pole-and-line and handline tuna FIPs was made easier because everyone knew what was required for a comprehensive FIP workplan.

To that end, active participation is central to building trust in FIP processes and data. When fishers and industry actors are engaged, management decisions based on that data gain legitimacy; in contrast, lack of trust among stakeholders can stall progress. Participatory approaches and ongoing engagement help raise fisher awareness of best practices, reinforcing sustainable behaviors. Vertically integrated companies, such as those in the Peruvian eel trap FIP, demonstrate how close coordination across the supply chain can strengthen participation and accelerate certification progress.

- **Dependable resources, responsive implementers, and skilled leadership form the backbone of sustained progress within FIPs.**

Dependable human and financial resources allow participants to maintain momentum across timelines that often exceed five years. Predictable funding flows are especially important for long-term planning, ensuring that activities are not delayed and participant engagement remains strong. Responsive FIP implementers keep participants motivated and projects on track. Durable financing is equally essential, as both the amount and reliability of funds determine whether workplans can be fully executed. Drafting robust budgets and ensuring continuity in team members contribute to trust and efficiency. Strong leadership further amplifies these strengths; effective leaders bring technical expertise, know how to build relationships with government and market actors, and foster inclusive dialogue among stakeholders.

- **Technology can help create the enabling conditions for change on the water and long-term sustainability.**

New technologies are helping to increase efficiencies and reduce the environmental impacts of fishing practices. Electronic monitoring and reporting help record catch data. Electronic logbooks are also common across FIPs and help support improved catch documentation. Fishing gear improvements can increase environmentally friendly practices and help create economic incentives for engagement. Some FIPs are even starting to use more advanced ocean observation technologies to monitor ocean conditions and build climate-resilient fisheries management plans.

- **Lack of accountability across the supply chain undermines FIP progress.**

Weak accountability and transparency systems undermine industry trust and participation in FIPs, slowing overall progress. Despite public commitments to source sustainably, some buyers prioritize price and avoid FIP participation to escape scrutiny, while others purchase FIP-sourced products without contributing resources, which disincentivizes other companies to engage. Opaque sourcing practices and “free rider” behavior discourages suppliers and investors from remaining committed to FIPs. In some cases, mislabeling or “FIP-washing” further erodes credibility by allowing companies to market non-FIP products as sustainable. Strengthening purchasing agreements, enforcing pay-to-play models, and ensuring full-chain traceability and verification would enforce accountability and instill greater confidence in the FIP model.

- **Climate change disrupts FIP progress.**

Climate change is increasingly disrupting FIP progress, exposing the need for more adaptive and resilient approaches. While the MSC standard embeds some adaptive management principles, many basic FIPs lack the flexibility or resources to adjust workplans in real time. Budget and capacity constraints limit the ability to monitor changing stock conditions or implement timely responses. Small-scale FIPs are particularly vulnerable, as they depend heavily on specific species and have fewer financial buffers against shocks. Strengthening climate adaptation and factoring in the socioeconomic realities of fishing communities are essential to ensure equity and resilience within the FIP model.



▪ **As was the case in 2020, government engagement remains critical for FIP success but varies widely.**

Governance capacity remains one of the strongest predictors of FIP success, yet the ways FIPs interact with government structures are complex and difficult to measure. Political turnover and shifting priorities frequently disrupt progress, forcing implementers to reinvest time and resources in re-engaging new officials, especially in long-running projects. Over time, however, government engagement often increases as FIPs demonstrate value through improved management and data collection. Support also varies by fishery type: export-oriented fisheries like tuna tend to attract stronger national involvement, while smaller or domestic-oriented fisheries rely more on proactive local partnerships. These variations, along with differing priorities across jurisdictions, create uneven progress and demonstrate the need for adaptive engagement strategies tailored to political and institutional contexts.



**Success factors internal to the FIP**

- Clear and aligned objectives

---

- Effort

---

- Leadership

---

- Participant engagement

---

- Technology uptake and capacity

---

- Accountability of participants

---




**Success factors external to the FIP**

- Government capacity for management

---

- Climate change and/or other environmental risk factors

---

- Initial health of fishery

---

- Socioeconomic conditions of fishing communities

---

**FIPs have expanded to address broader social responsibility concerns; while they have made meaningful strides towards advancing social equity, FIPs remain ill-equipped to uphold human rights.**

- **FIPs have broadened their scopes to include human rights and social equity work, two complementary but distinct pillars of social responsibility.**

Efforts focus on compliance, accountability, and due diligence aligned with international and national laws to ensure all value chain participants can exercise their fundamental rights. Frameworks such as FisheryProgress' Human Rights and Social Responsibility Policy (HRSRP) establish mandatory minimums and mechanisms to identify and address violations, reflecting non-negotiable legal obligations.

Practitioners are pushing for FIPs to move beyond demonstrating compliance to address broader social equity challenges facing fishers and coastal communities. Broadly, social equity is concerned with “fairness and justice in how people are treated or public policies are formed and implemented.”<sup>1</sup> While not a legally binding concept, social equity remains essential for fair and sustainable outcomes by addressing disparities in access, opportunity, and benefit-sharing among fishers and communities.

These social improvement efforts aim to ensure that FIPs not only meet legal standards but also build fairer and more just seafood supply chains.



- **FIPs are valuable mechanisms for reporting social data; they are less effective at addressing human rights concerns.**

FIPs demonstrate strong performance against HRSRP components that require them to report on existing information. For example, 76% of FIPs have published a social policy statement while 92% of FIPs report their vessel lists. Nevertheless, FIPs are less effective at addressing human rights concerns. CEA observes that just 40% of FIPs required to conduct a social risk assessment have done so, and just 35% have published a social workplan. FIP practitioners lack the expertise to develop social workplans, and the HRSRP does not reflect the diverse contexts in which FIPs operate.\* Furthermore, a series of research studies, many led by J. Sparks and C. Williams, suggest that a voluntary improvement model is inappropriate to advance human rights, as FIPs cannot demonstrate improvements against human rights laws – “they are either compliant or they’re not.”<sup>2</sup> As a result, FIPs could be – and have been – used to “fair wash” labor exploitation and human rights abuses.<sup>3,4</sup>

- **There are opportunities for FIPs to elevate social equity.**

CEA observed several social inequities in FIPs, from fishers who are unaware of their FIP, to numerous first-mile participants noting that they did not feel the distribution of costs and benefits was fair. Nevertheless, initiatives by FIP implementers (e.g., SmartFish, ABALOBI, Blue Ventures, etc.) and other entities such as Fair Trade, demonstrate the potential of intentionally designed FIPs to strengthen fisher livelihoods and deliver tangible returns to fishing communities.

\*CEA conducted this analysis prior to FisheryProgress' launch of the Human Rights and Social Responsibility Version 2.0 in July 2025.

<sup>1</sup>Bennett et al., 2021; <sup>2</sup>Williams et al., 2023. <sup>3</sup>Sparks et al., 2025. <sup>4</sup>Greenpeace 2025.

Philanthropic funding for FIPs has declined as FIPs have continued to expand, with costs likely picked up by industry. However, grant funds remain critical to the movement's success.

- **Since 2019, philanthropic funding for FIPs has decreased nearly 40% as funders have reduced investment into seafood markets work.**

Continuing the trend of funder divestment from direct FIP implementation noted in 2020, the majority of philanthropic investment over the past five years has focused on infrastructure, such as FisheryProgress, SFP ratings, and cross-cutting support such as FIP Community of Practice and CASS. As the number of active FIPs continued to grow through 2024, philanthropic investment per active FIP declined by over 50% since 2016.

- **Industry funding is estimated to be at nearly the same level as philanthropic funding in 2024.**

Qualitative and quantitative evidence suggest that industry is the most likely candidate for filling the funding gap, with many FIPs supported partially or entirely by industry. This support has allowed FIPs to continue to achieve progress, but industry support tends to focus on implementation for comprehensive, industrial FIPs, with less funding directed toward basic, small-scale FIPs or reporting infrastructure. Thus, some grant funding is still likely necessary to support the continued growth and progress of FIPs.

- **Novel financing mechanisms that blend capital from philanthropic and private sources remain nascent but on the rise.**

Several new mechanisms for crowding in additional capital to directly or indirectly support fisheries improvement work have been launched in the last few years. These include the new Fishery Improvement Fund (FIF) and a loan guarantee facility. Currently, these innovations only engage a small fraction (<10%) of FIPs, but they are actively piloting and seeking to expand their reach.

- **FIPs continue to build enabling conditions for sustainable fisheries in more diverse contexts at a reduced cost to philanthropy; continued success will require support to address challenges in accountability, long-term financing, and capacity building at regional levels and support for collective impact approaches.**

FIPs alone are unlikely to drive change on the water; however, FIPs can bring industry engagement and participatory processes to advance management. Philanthropic funding is necessary to support research to test collaborative models, identify sustainable financing mechanisms, and build system-wide traceability and verification systems that reduce FIP-washing and build the evidence base for responsible market-driven fisheries management approaches. Developing local social and environmental expertise can reduce costs and improve likelihood of progress.



## Photo credits



Cover: Top row, first, © Getty Images / Unsplash; second, © Andromeda / Pexels; third, © jorrynmorais / Pexels; fourth, © myphotomotion-crab-pot / Pixaby  
 Second row, first, © shulawaining / Pixaby; second, © shulawaining / Pixaby; third, © Tom Fisk / Pexels; fourth, © Curated Lifestyle / Unsplash  
 Page 2: © Nonthat Towanabut / Unsplash  
 Page 6: © Sasint / AdobeStock  
 Page 7: © pok-rie / Pexels  
 Page 8: © Quang Nguyen Vinh / Pexels  
 Page 9: © Gorodenkoff / Shutterstock  
 Page 11: © Uladzimir / AdobeStock  
 Page 12: © Renjith Tomy Pkm / Pexels  
 Page 13: © Jorge Luis Lopez / Pexels  
 Back Cover: Top row, first, © Getty Images / Unsplash; second, © Andromeda / Pexels; third, © jorrynmorais / Pexels; fourth, © myphotomotion-crab-pot / Pixaby  
 Second row, first, © shulawaining / Pixaby; second, © shulawaining / Pixaby; third, © Tom Fisk / Pexels; fourth, © Curated Lifestyle / Unsplash



**CEA** CONSULTING