

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Fishery Name:	<i>[e.g., Western Channel Lobster Trap Fishery]</i>
Species Covered:	<i>[Common and scientific name(s)]</i>
Fishery Location:	<i>[Geographic area; include a map if possible]</i>
Fishing Method(s):	<i>[Gear type(s) and relevant details]</i>
Term of Plan:	<i>[e.g., 5 years, open-ended]</i>
Date / Version:	<i>[Month Year / Version 1.0]</i>
Author(s):	<i>[Name(s) and affiliation]</i>

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How to Use This Template (DELETE THIS)

Instructions:

- *This template is one of many potential iterations of a fisheries management plan, and serves as a guide that may be tailored to each unique context.*
- *Blue guidance boxes (like this one) explain what to include. Delete them from your final version.*
- *Grey input boxes are placeholders. Replace them with your content.*
- *Adapt freely: reorder, combine, add, or remove sections to fit your fishery.*
- *This is a living document, designed to evolve as new information becomes available.*
- *Include maps, tables, and figures where they strengthen the narrative.*

1. Introduction

Provide a high-level summary of the context and intention of the plan.

1.1 Problem Statement

Why is this FMP needed? Briefly describe the fishery, its importance, and the challenges it faces.

[Insert text here]

1.2 Policy Context

Describe the legal, regulatory, or institutional frameworks the FMP falls within.

[Insert text here]

1.3 Plan Development and Stakeholder Engagement

How was this plan developed and who was involved? Identify key stakeholders (fishers, government, NGOs, communities, scientists) and describe how they were or will be engaged. Were there any stakeholder consultation workshops?

[Insert text here]

2. Fishery Description

Provide a thorough description of the fishery to give readers the foundational understanding needed to evaluate the management measures that follow. Use the case study provided, desk research, and add plausible but hypothetical/creative information if needed.

2.1 Historical Overview

Brief history: catch and effort trends, key events, prior management efforts, traditional or customary practices.

[Insert text here]

2.2 Biology of the Target Stock(s)

For each species/stock: distribution, life history, reproduction, growth, critical habitats, and inter-species dependencies. Consider FishBase.

[Insert text here]

2.3 Ecosystem and Habitat

Physical and biological environment: substrate, habitat types, ecological features, threats, and vulnerable marine ecosystems.

[Insert text here]

2.4 Economic and Social Characteristics

Landing locations, catch volumes, seasonality, number of fishers, value chain, socioeconomic dependencies, and cultural significance.

[Insert text here]

2.5 Key Uncertainties and Data Gaps

Identify sources of uncertainty and key data needs that should be addressed.

[Insert text here]

3. Available Data and Data Collection Program

Describe existing information on the fishery and the ongoing or planned data collection programs that will support adaptive management.

3.1 Existing Data, Data Collection Programs, and Research

Describe available data sources, monitoring programs, and relevant research (e.g., landing statistics, surveys, tagging, observer programs). Specify data types, collection frequency, responsible parties, and how results will feed into stock assessment and then management decisions.

[Insert text here]

4. Stock Assessment and Stock Health Insights

Summarize what is known about the status of the target stock(s) and the methods used to evaluate them.

4.1 Assessment Methodology

Describe the stock assessment methods used (or planned), key assumptions, and how the assessment process will be improved over time.

[Insert text here]

4.2 Current Stock Status

Describe what is known about stock health, including historical trends. Use FishKit Stock Health Tracker to visualize key indicators from length data (e.g., percent size above maturity over time; average length over time). Consider any qualitative assessments or interview-based assessments.

[Insert text here]

5. Management Goals and Objectives

Define what the FMP is trying to achieve. Consider tradeoffs between conservation and fishing.

5.1 Long-term Goals

Broad aspirations for the fishery (e.g., sustainable harvest, ecosystem health, livelihood security). Link to higher-level policy where appropriate.

[Insert text here]

5.2 Short-term Objectives

Specific, time-bound objectives to be achieved within the plan period. May address stock rebuilding, data collection, governance improvements, or other urgent priorities.

[Insert text here]

6. Management Measures

The operational core of the FMP. Link each objective to specific management measures.

6.1 Existing Regulations

Briefly describe management measures or regulations already in place. Do some creative research and use Google.

[Insert text here]

6.2 Proposed Management Measures

Describe specific measures proposed to achieve each objective (e.g., size limits, seasonal closures, gear restrictions, area closures, effort controls, catch limits).

For each measure: which objective(s) it addresses, projected effects, and justification.

*Use the **FishKit Tools** (e.g., **Size Limit Builder**, **Spatial Module**, or other tools) to design measure.*

[Insert text here]

6.3 Harvest Strategy and Control Rules

***If applicable**, describe the harvest strategy: monitoring, stock assessment, harvest control rules (HCRs), reference points, trigger points, and decision rules.*

For data-limited fisheries, describe the precautionary approach and plans to develop HCRs as data improves.

[Insert text here]

7. Compliance and Enforcement

Describe how compliance with the FMP will be ensured. Include the monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) approach tailored to a small-scale fishery level; roles and responsibilities for enforcement; sanctions for non-compliance; and measures to address IUU fishing.

[Insert text here]

8. Evaluation and Adaptive Management

Describe how the FMP will be evaluated, reviewed, and adapted over time. Include performance indicators, the review schedule and process, stakeholder participation in reviews, and mechanisms for adjusting management measures in response to new information or changing conditions.

[Insert text here]

9. Communication and Outreach

Describe plans for communicating management decisions, engaging stakeholders on an ongoing basis, and promoting understanding and support for the FMP.

[Insert text here]

References

[List all references cited in the FMP]