

Aru, Arafura and Timor Seas, Indonesia Snapper - Grouper Workplan (1 January – 31 December 2017)

Status of the fishery

- Three species - *Lutjanus malabaricus* (Malabar snapper), *L. erythropterus* (crimson or scarlet snapper), and *Pristipomoides multidens* (goldband snapper) - are the most economically important fish for export from Indonesia. Total landing of snapper in Indonesia was 118,608 tonnes in 2011, with Eastern Timor Sea, Aru Bay, and the Arafura Sea being the major fishing grounds for this species, contributing to more than 30 percent of the total catch, with 46,236 tonnes landed (MMAF 2011).
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- Three main grouper species – *Epinephelus bleekeri* (Duskytail grouper), *Epinephelus tauvina* (Greasy grouper) and *Epinephelus poecilonotus* (Dot-dash grouper) are among the catch of bottom longline vessels beside snapper. These three grouper species are also important fish for export. However, surprisingly grouper data is not yet available from the Government catch statistic for Arafura, Aru and Timor Seas Fishery Management Area. This situation can be interpreted that data on grouper catch has not been reported.
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- Information on the National status of the stock for both for snapper and grouper is not available. The only comprehensive stock assessment at the regional scale is the Indonesia and Australia shared stock of red snappers in the Arafura and Timor Seas that was conducted between 1999 and 2003.
- There are no set biological reference points, therefore the status of the Indonesian snapper and grouper populations cannot be accurately determined.
- There are no specific management objectives set and no national fishery management plans have yet been developed. As with all other fisheries in Indonesia, the management strategy so far has only been to try to control the fishing efforts by limiting the number of fishing licenses issued, and trying to limit the types of fishing gear used i.e. bottom trawl ban 2016.
- Effectively there has been an effort reduction in these fisheries areas as a result of the national IUU policy. So far only anecdotal evidence is available concerning increased catch rates or CPUE.

- There is also anecdotal information describing the catch composition in these fishing areas. The popular Snapper and Grouper species are a lower percentage of the catch composition while other species have offset or increased the total weight of the catch.
- Other challenges in this fishery include:
 - Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing has been reduced but remains an issue in the Timor and Arafura Seas.
 - Catch data for 2015 and 2016 was impacted by the fishing license review program that took longer than anticipated to complete. The impact was reduced effort from the Indonesian fleet as well as the reduction in effort of the IUU fleet.
- The main improvement need identified in this fishery is the development of a management plan for snapper-grouper fisheries in Aru, Arafura and Timor Seas. The FIP can contribute to this effort by improving the availability of accurate data on catch for stock assessment, improving location monitoring and corresponding catch locations. Promoting traceability by engaging supply chains back to the fishing location will ensure that the origin and status of snapper products are well-known and all products are sourced from legal fisheries. This information is necessary to insure the market access to the US export market post US traceability legislation.

Workplan

This FIP supports and contributes to the improvement, traceability, and sustainability of snapper-grouper in Indonesia, through FIP development in Arafura and Timor Sea. The FIP steps are to continue with some improvement measures, which will be further developed as time progresses:

- Support improvement of catch data collection.
- Support the collection and analysis of fishery dependent data for stock assessment
- Support the national program on eliminating IUU
- Support the national program for workplace safety and worker protection
- Support the development of snapper-grouper fishery management plan in Arafura and Timor Sea
- Test passive vessel tracking system for accuracy of location data
- Test scalability of inshore passive vessel tracking as first step in small vessel traceability.

TOPIC	DELIVERABLES	TASK	RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	STATUS
1. Improve catch data reporting Better logbook formatting	1.1 Archive improved catch data for future use in national stock assessment	Archive Excelsheet quarterly. Pls use i.e. 2017_1_SnapperGroup_per_CatchData	Geerry	March 2017	on going till December
	1.2. Investigate most usable format for KKP data analysis	Please contact KKP and find out about the format. We need the information to define the columns in the excel sheet. Goal to use the same format for both FIP.	Geerry in coordination with Adi	May 2017	on going till December
	1.3. Landing data in most useable format organized by calendar quarter	<u>Landing data in the format defined from KKP.</u>	Geerry	May 2017	on going till December
2. Improve Ecological Related Species (ERS), retained and bycatch (discard) data reporting	2.1. Input bycatch data monthly	Add the bycatch data to the landing data excel. Fishbycatch are all the species not targeted in the FIP.	Geerry	Starting March 2017 must be in quarterly basis	on going till December
	2.2. Archive ERS, retained and bycatch data	Please use naming format and start with the year_quarter ie.: 2017_1_Landingdata_Intan	Geerry	Starting March 2017	The recording of retained and bycatch (discard)species has been done but still needs to be improved

3. Onboard observer program (collect scientific data e.g. size measurement, species caught, (bycatch – discard and retained)	3.1. Implement observers onboard the vessels.	1. Define how many and when the observers will be onboard.			There is no observer program available at this time. I tried to contact Aris Budiarto from KKP SDI, still no reply.
4. Improve Traceability on <30GT (large vessel) fishing offshore Indo waters	4.1. Have 5 passive vessel (tracking units) VTS units on 5 large vessels running.	Install the units and test them	Geerry	March 2017	On going
	4.2. Upload VTS data to the stakeholders. Survey KKP transshipment locations for cell access	Work with Pak Dobo from KKP to map cell access at transshipment locations.	Mas Huda BSI	July 2017	On going
	4.3. Aplay Fishery analytics to VTS data.	Analyze VTS locational data and fishing signature data after transshipment data upload	VTS Supplier Pelagic Data Systems	September 2017	Preparation
	4.4 Design catch storage system to integrate with locational data	Coordinate colored bagging systems with date of catch.	Geerry	October 2017	In process
	4.5 Tracking species to catch location.	Test the catch storage system design for	Geerry Pelagic Data Systems	December 2017	Preparation

		accuracy of location catch. Tie individual fishes back to catch location.			
5. Improve Traceability on <30GT small vessels fishing inshore Indo waters	5.1. Track the activities of 10 small fishing vessels.	Install passive VTS systems on 10 vessels >30GT small vessels	Geerry	Completed	Completed
	5.2. Archive fishing data on 10 > 30 GT vessels	Import a storage system from PDS. And deliver the data to the stakeholders Global Fish Watch and BSI and Intan Seafood	Geerry	Starting May 2017	On going
	5.3. Determine scalability of using VTS for small boat fisheries in remote locations	Capture traceability data from small boats in remote locations.	Geerry PDS	December 2017	Preparation
6. FIP meetings	6.1. Attend FIP meeting to	Discuss the implementation of improvement activities and review 2017 work plan and budget.	All	March 2017	Preparation

	6.2. Attend snapper-Grouper roundtable/WPP 712 FIP planning meeting hosted by SFP attendee by Industry players	Develop a wider base for snapper-grouper companies to be involved.	Geerry & Lenny	Feb 2017	Completed
	6.3. Inform KKP of FIP activities	Review the FIP progress with KKP	Dessy SFP	December 2017	