



Fisheries Funding Mechanism Trust Fund



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Investing in rural people



THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP



WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION

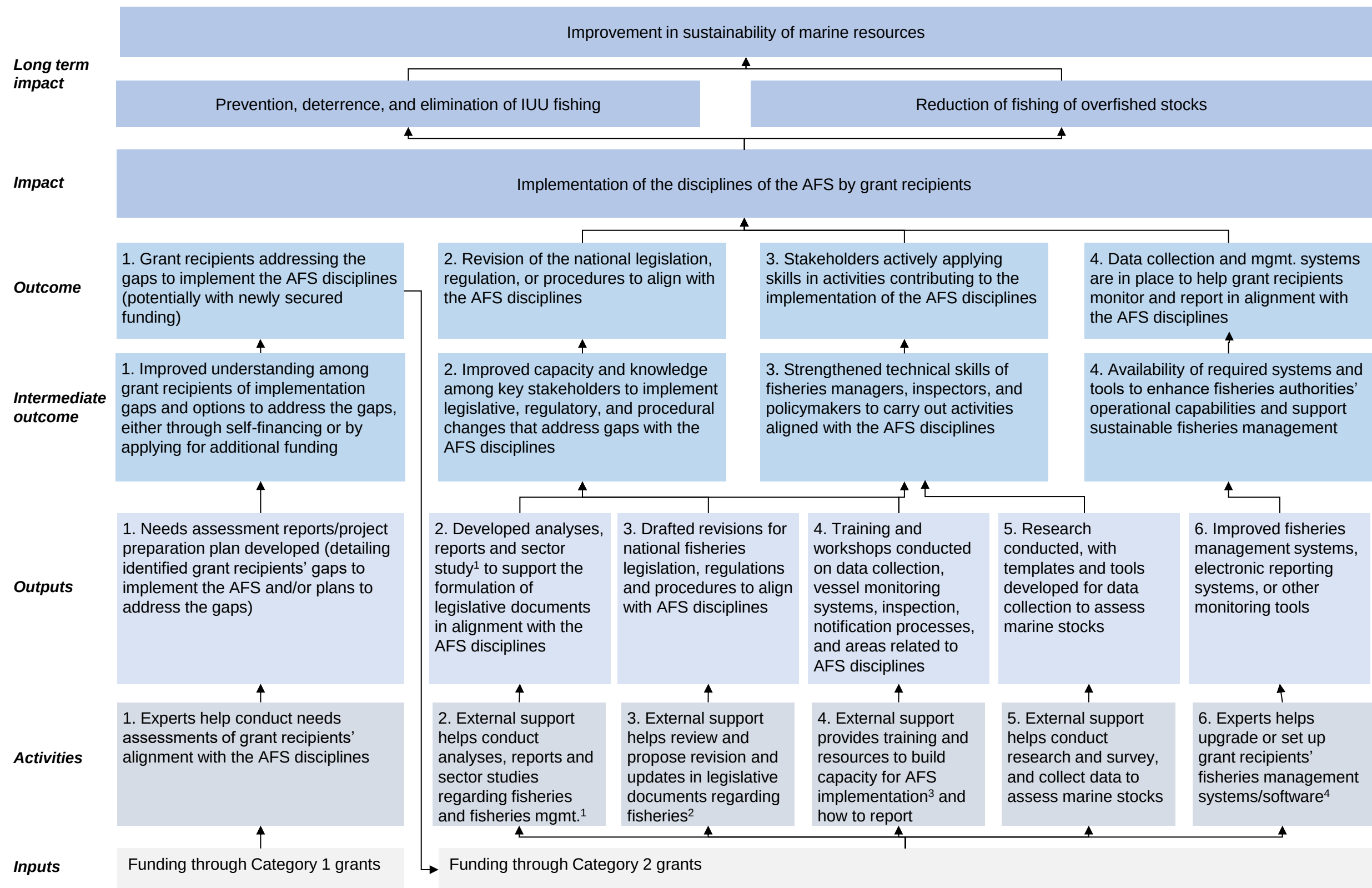
Theory of Change for the Fish Fund MEL System

January 2025

Table of Contents

1. Theory of Change for the Fish Fund
2. Theory of Change Narrative for Category 1 grants
3. Theory of Change Narrative for Category 2 grants
4. Key assumptions used for the Theory of Change
5. Annex
 - Definition of Category 1 and Category 2 grants
 - Definitions of five types of Category 2 projects

1. Theory of Change for the Fish Fund



(1) These types of projects will focus on formulating national sectoral plans, assessments, and studies related to fisheries and fisheries management, IUU fishing, and other rules of the AFS.
 (2) The main objective of these grants is to ensure that the legal and institutional frameworks governing fisheries are current, effective, and responsive to the requirements of the AFS.
 (3) These are projects with strong capacity development components in areas such as notifications and the usage of data collection systems, vessel monitoring systems, inspections, etc
 (4) Project grants of this type would focus on providing governments with upgrades or for setting up systems that contribute to better and more sustainable fisheries management as needed for implementation of the AFS disciplines

2. Theory of Change narrative for Category 1 grants

Component	Explanation
Inputs	Fish Fund provides funding up to USD 50K per grant...
Activities	...which will support grant recipients in conducting needs assessment, e.g., hiring experts to help them assess their alignment with the disciplines of the AFS and identify implementation gaps...
Outputs	...which will lead to needs assessment reports that outline gaps and mitigation actions...
Intermediate outcomes	 which will provide grant recipients with the knowledge (of gaps and next steps) needed to understand how to implement with the disciplines of the AFS... ...as well as inputs to submit grant applications (to the Fish Fund or other financing mechanisms) to obtain funding to implement next steps to address the implementation gaps....
Outcomes	... which will enable grant recipients to secure funding (from the Fish Fund or other funders)...
Impact	(Cross-cutting across Category 1 and Category 2 grants – please See Category 2 grants)
Long term impact	(Cross-cutting across Category 1 and Category 2 grants – please See Category 2 grants)

3. Theory of Change narrative for Category 2 grants

Component	Explanation
Inputs	Fish Fund provides funding up to USD 300K per grant...
Activities	which will support a defined set of activities, including but not limited to (i) analysis, reports, and sector studies, (ii) updates of legislative frameworks and institutional support, (iii) capacity building and technical assistance, (iv) data collection, (v) improvements or setup of fisheries management systems...
Outputs	which will result in direct outputs in line with these categories, e.g., sector studies, proposed updates to national fisheries legislation, developed research and templates for data collection, and fisheries mgmt. system improvements...
Intermediate outcomes	which will equip grant recipients with the tools, systems, and capacity to revise existing legislation, regulations or procedures, while strengthening stakeholders' skills to implement activities aligned with the disciplines of the AFS...
Outcomes	which will lead to (i) the development and revision of national legislation, regulations, and procedures aligned with the disciplines of the AFS, (ii) stakeholders applying their strengthened skills to implement these frameworks, and (iii) the effective use of tools and systems to monitor, report, and manage fisheries activities in accordance with the disciplines of the AFS...
Impact	which will enable grant recipients to fully implement the disciplines of the AFS....
Long term impact	which will enable the Fish Fund to contribute to the goal of AFS: Improving the sustainability of marine resources through the prevention, deterrence, and elimination of IUU fishing, as well as the reduction of fishing on overfished stocks

4. Key assumptions used for the Theory of Change

The key assumptions underlying the ToC for the Fish Fund are as follows:

- The Fish Fund Secretariat will have sufficient capacity (staff, resources, and systems) to manage grants, monitor progress, and provide timely support to grant recipients
- Grant recipients will effectively use Fish Fund's funding and manage projects to ensure project implementers deliver timely and high-quality output
- Fish Fund projects will align with not only the AFS disciplines but also regional or national priorities, ensuring political and operational support from stakeholders
- Grant recipients will be willing to implement the disciplines of the AFS once the necessary legislation, regulations, procedures, skills, and tools are established
- Grant recipients will secure funding, resources or institutional commitment beyond the project period to maintain and build on systems, policies, and skills developed through the Fish Fund
- Unexpected external factors such as climate shocks, pandemics, or geopolitical conflicts will not significantly disrupt project implementation or outcomes.
- Improved policies, systems, and skills will directly contribute to reductions in IUU fishing and overfishing, promoting sustainable marine resource management.

5. Annex

Definitions of Category 1 and Category 2 grants

- **Fish Fund's funding includes two categories:**
- **Category I:** Funding up to a maximum of US\$ 50,000 aimed at providing quick, lower-cost support for studies and initial assessments of compliance with the disciplines contained in the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (AFS). This category of funding can also be used to prepare a proposal for Category II funding support.
- **Category II:** Funding aimed at supporting more complex, programmatic interventions. Category II projects may be integrated into existing larger programs from other development organizations contributing to the implementation of the AFS or funded as standalone projects responding to a specific discipline of the AFS. These projects are based on prior assessments of national needs for implementing the AFS disciplines and address the identified gaps, up to a maximum of US\$ 300,000.

Definitions of five types of Category 2 projects (1/2)

- **The project categories listed on the slide are not exhaustive; other types of support may emerge that have yet to be contemplated.** Applicants may blend different types of support so that a specific project can serve several aspects in the implementation of the AFS.
- **Analysis, Reports, and Sector Studies:** These types of projects will focus on formulating national sectoral plans, assessments, and studies related to fisheries and fisheries management, IUU fishing, and other rules of the AFS. They will assist WTO Members to formulate domestic policy and planning needed for alignment with the AFS.
- **Capacity Building and Technical Assistance:** These types of project grants are aimed at enhancing skills and capabilities, through training and development, of those involved in front-line fisheries management as far as required by the AFS. These are projects with strong capacity development components in areas such as notifications and the usage of data collection systems, vessel monitoring systems, inspections, etc.
 - It is expected that these initiatives will provide training and supporting resources targeted at ensuring effective training for activities identified as priorities in implementing the AFS.

Definitions of five types of Category 2 projects (2/2)

- **Update of Legislative Frameworks and Institutional Support:** This category of project grants would support WTO Members in revising and updating key legislation and legislative documents in line with the AFS. The main objective of these grants is to ensure that the legal and institutional frameworks governing fisheries are current, effective, and responsive to the requirements of the AFS.
- **Data Collection:** This category encompasses project grants that will be destined towards research and data collection for assessing marine stocks and surveys, as needed to implement AFS requirements. These assessments are vital for understanding the current state of fish populations and enabling WTO Members to fulfill specific reporting requirements adequately
- **Improvements or Setup of Fisheries Management Systems:** Project grants of this type would focus on providing governments with upgrades or for setting up systems that contribute to better and more sustainable fisheries management as needed for implementation of the AFS disciplines.
 - Such projects would aim to enhance the operational capabilities and efficiency of fisheries authorities. These types of upgrades would be essential for maintaining effective fisheries management and supporting compliance with regulations of the AFS.
 - The Fish Fund Secretariat and core partners of the Fund can support WTO Members that require additional assistance in establishing management systems by facilitating resource mobilization and capacity building efforts.