

# Maldives Diamondback Squid Fishery Management Plan

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**UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION**

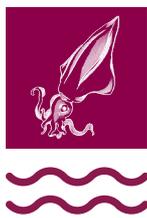
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Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources & Agriculture

Malé, Maldives





# **Maldives Diamondback Squid Fishery Management Plan**

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December 2020

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## Foreword



Praise be to Allah, the Creator of the oceans, marine life and other blessings upon the earth. Prayers and peace be upon our Prophet, Muhammad, who taught us the righteous way to make use of these blessings.

The oceans, lagoons and reefs are national heritages that are inextricably linked to our culture, tradition, and the Maldivian identity. The Maldives fisheries are heavily dependent on this heritage. Hence it is our utmost responsibility to ensure that they are faithfully passed down to our future generations. The Ministry is committed to working towards achieving this goal, and to implement the government's policies on the expansion of the blue economy agenda. To this end, we have compiled this plan to steer our efforts towards maximising long-term benefits of marine resources to Maldivians.

Since the time of our forefathers, the fishery sector has been a major pillar of our economy, upon which our incomes, our livelihoods and our sustenance are dependent. Therefore, the measures included in these fisheries management plans are geared towards the sustainable development and management of these fisheries resources. These legally recognised fisheries management plans mark a watershed moment in the history of marine resource management in the Maldives.

Fisheries resources are common goods, of which all Maldivians hold a share. These plans have been developed based on principles of

the Precautionary Approach, Ecosystem-Based Management, Sustainable Development and Equity, with due regard to the various and variety of interactions within an ecosystem and to ensuring timely and cost-effective measures are taken to safeguard ecosystems and prevent irreparable damage to them. This process has been informed by meaningful suggestions and constructive feedback from various stakeholders including fishers, others engaged directly and indirectly within the fisheries sector as well as civil society organisations working towards natural resource management, conservation, and protection.

The fisheries management plans will be the primary basis for guiding the authorities as well as stakeholders in the sustainable management of the fisheries sector in the Maldives. These plans comprise of developmental goals and objectives for each fishery, measures and actions to achieve them, the roles and responsibilities of stakeholder agencies in the implementation of these measures and an implementation timeline for the measures. It is my sincere hope that these plans contribute towards realising the vision set forth by the Fisheries Act of the Maldives.

—

**Zaha Waheed**

Minister of Fisheries, Marine Resources  
and Agriculture

## Abbreviations



<b>DBS</b>	Diamondback Squid
<b>FIS</b>	Fisheries Information System
<b>IGO</b>	Intergovernmental Organisation
<b>LGA</b>	Local Government Authority
<b>MCS</b>	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
<b>MCS*</b>	Maldives Customs Service
<b>ME</b>	Ministry of Environment
<b>MFDA</b>	Maldives Food and Drug Authority
<b>MIRA</b>	Maldives Inland Revenue Authority
<b>MMRI</b>	Maldives Marine Research Institute
<b>MNDF - CG</b>	Maldives National Defence Force – Coast Guard
<b>MoED</b>	Ministry of Economic Development
<b>MoFMRA</b>	Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture
<b>MPS</b>	Maldives Police Services
<b>NBS</b>	National Bureau of Statistics
<b>RFBs</b>	Regional Fisheries Bodies
<b>SDFC</b>	SME Development Finance Corporation
<b>SWIOFC</b>	Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission
<b>UCSB</b>	University of California, Santa Barbara

## Chapter 1



# Preamble

### 1.1 Introduction and Title

This Plan is made pursuant to Article 18 of the Act No. 2019/14 (Fisheries Act of the Maldives) and provides for the management of the fishery stated in Section 17 (a) (9) of the Act. The plan will be the primary basis for guiding the authorities as well as stakeholders in the sustainable development of the diamondback squid fishery and trade in the Maldives. This Management Plan shall be cited as “Maldives Diamondback Squid Fishery Management Plan”.

### 1.2 Overall purpose

The overall purpose of the management plan is to:

- (a) Establish an effective management and monitoring structure for the diamondback squid fishery and ensure long-term benefits to the people of Maldives through the responsible management of the fishery;
- (b) Guide the authorities as well as stakeholders in the sustainable development of the DBS fishery and trade.

### 1.3 Scope and Application

This Plan applies to the species *Thysanoteuthis rhombus*, commonly known as the diamondback squid (DBS). The Plan shall apply to all activities carried out in the Maldives that may impact diamondback squid resources, including but not limited to harvesting, processing, storage, trading, and exporting of DBS products from the Maldives. The Plan also applies to all parties, vessels, processing and export facilities or places engaged in or otherwise connected with any activity within the scope of this Plan.

### 1.4 Guiding Principles

**1.4.1 Precautionary Approach:** Timely and cost-effective measures shall be taken to safeguard ecosystems and prevent irreparable damage to them despite the lack of full scientific certainty.

**1.4.2 Ecosystem-based management:** The various and variety of interactions within an ecosystem, including anthropogenic elements, shall be recognised as opposed to accounting for matters, species, or ecosystem services in isolation.

**1.4.3 Universal Responsibility:** Local policies governing marine resource management shall be in harmony with global efforts to protect, conserve and manage biodiversity.

**1.4.4 Sustainable Development:** In developing the fishery, the needs of the present shall be met without compromising the ability of the future generations to benefit from the resource.

**1.4.5 Equity:** Resources shall be acknowledged as shared common good, and benefits obtained from the utilisation of resources shall be shared in a fair and just manner among all through the application of transparency, legitimacy, accountability and decentralisation.

**1.4.6 Participatory Approach:** All stakeholders, particularly those who are directly affected by a policy or a measure, shall be engaged in the decision-making process to ensure inclusivity and consensus-oriented outcomes.

**1.5**  
**Interpretation**

Unless stated otherwise, words or expressions used in this Plan have been given the meaning specified in Annex 1: Glossary.

**1.6**  
**Entry into  
Force**

This Plan shall come into force upon its publication on the Government Gazette.

## Chapter 2



# Biology, Habitat and Behaviour

## 2.1 Biology

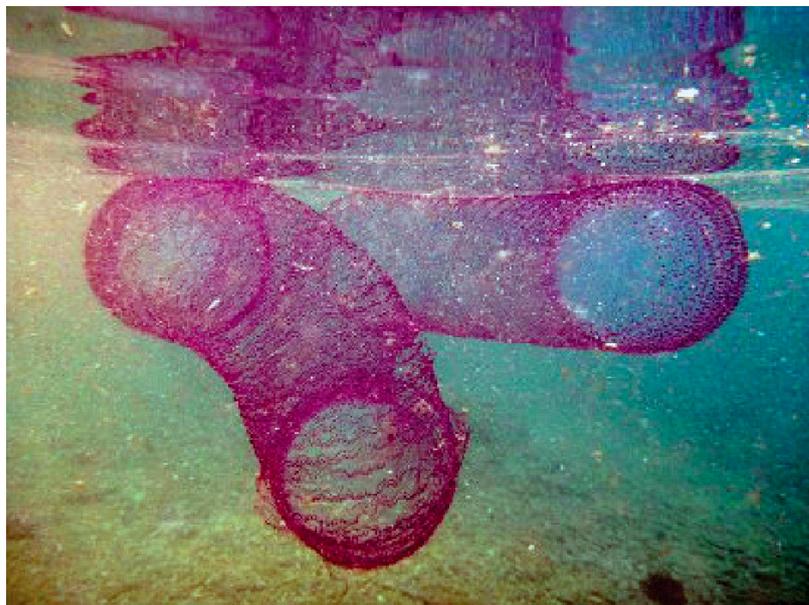
The diamondback squid, *Thysanoteuthis rhombus* (Troschel, 1857), *Thuthi boavadhilamas* in Dhivehi language, is the only species in the family Thysanoteuthidae. The common name for this species is derived from its large, distinctive diamond-shaped fin which occupies the whole length of the mantle. They can grow up to 100 cm (dorsal mantle length), reaching a body weight of 30 kg (Roper and Jereb 2010).

The average mantle lengths of diamondback squids caught in a resource survey conducted in the Maldives in 2016 varied between 82 – 35 cm (weight range: 16.8 – 1.60 kg) (Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture et al. 2017). A total of 59 diamondback squids were caught in this survey.

Sexes can be distinguished visually from specific features such as the structure of oviducts in females and size of the Needham sac, gonad, and penis in males (Nigmatullin et al. 1991). They have a short life-span of one year and they begin to mature at the age of 8 – 6 months, when the male reaches 500 – 450 mm (1.5 – 1 feet) and the female reaches 600 – 500 mm (approx. 2 feet) in mantle length (Nigmatullin et al. 1995). Gonads of females are comparatively heavier than of males. For instance, in the Maldives, the gonads of males

caught in November 2016 weighed 20.8g on average, while the female gonads weighed 270g on average (Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture et al. 2017). *T. rhombus* is one of the fastest growing squid species, and their growth rate is accelerated by increases in temperature (Forsythe 2004; Miyahara et al. 2006). Age and growth information for *T. rhombus* are reported in Nigmatullin et al. (1995) and Sajikumar et al. (2020).

Diamondback squid have a high potential fecundity, and is an intermittent spawner, spawning throughout the year in tropical waters (Nigmatullin et al. 1995). They spawn gelatinous, planktonic, cylindrical shaped egg masses with pink-violet embryos that are distributed in a double spiral in the outer surface of the formation (Figure 1) (Nigmatullin and Arkhipkin 1998). *T. rhombus* is one of the few species in which planktonic egg masses are observed. The spawning period may last up to 2 to 3 months (Nigmatullin et al. 1995).



• **Figure 1:** An egg mass of diamondback squid (Nimoho et al. 2014)

## 2.2 Habitat and Behavioural Traits

Diamondback squids inhabit tropical and subtropical oceanic waters around the world, where water temperature is typically above °20C (Nigmatullin and Arkhipkin 1998). They occur at around 800 – 600 meters during the day and ascend to near surface water at night for feeding and reproductive purposes (Nigmatullin et al. 1995). Their distribution and migration depend

on the oceanic currents and surface circulation. *T. rhombus* does not usually swim actively, but undulates slowly using its long, broad, diamond-shaped fins; they are considered passive migrants (Nigmatullin and Arkhipkin, 1998; Miyahara et al. 2008). However, when threatened, the squid is capable of exhibiting quick bursts of speed and releasing black ink (Roper and Jereb 2010). They have a unique social organisation, where throughout their life cycle, they occur in pairs constituting a male and a female of the same size.

Juveniles feed on crustaceans, while adults prey on squids (Sajikumar et al. 2020), planktivorous fish and pelagic octopuses (Nigmatullin and Arkhipkin 1998). Predators include different species of ommastrephid squids, dolphin fish, lancet fish, various species of tuna (e.g. *Thunnus albacares* and *Thunnus obesus*), sharks and cetaceans (Roper and Jereb 2010).



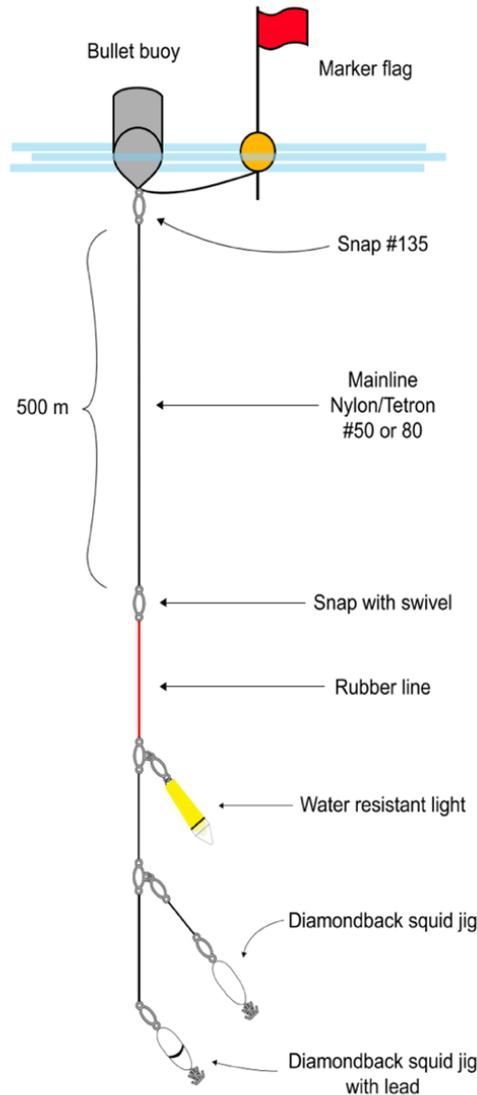
# Overview of the Diamondback Squid Fishery

## 3.1 Fishery

The diamondback squid (DBS) fishery is a new and emerging fishery in the Maldives and was first introduced in 2018. There are approximately 15-13 commercial vessels engaged in the fishery. In 2015, the Government of Maldives in collaboration with the Japanese Government, a research was conducted to explore the potential of commercial exploitation of deep-sea resources in the Maldives (Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture et al. 2017). This study confirmed the occurrence of DBS in the country, collected information on its spawning season, and mapped the distribution of the resource within the coastal areas of the Maldives. During the resource survey, a total of 59 individuals of DBS (500.5 kg) was caught at around 15-5 nautical miles from the atoll rim, where the water depth varied between 2000 – 1500 meters (Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture et al. 2017). The catch was highest near Raa Atoll and Lhaviyani Atoll.

Following this, the Ministry launched a pilot project in 2019 to introduce the commercial fishing of DBS and announced the availability of ten sets of

specialised fishing gear for sale. The Ministry also carried out educational programmes on the fishery and usage of gear for the ten parties who purchased the equipment.



• **Figure 2:** Free-floating dropline

The typical method of fishing involves the use of a free-floating dropline gear - a 500 meter dropline with two large squid jigs attached at the bottom end and a pressure float with a flagpole at the top end (Figure 2). Squids are attracted to the water-resistant light that is attached to the main line.

### 3.2 Processing & Export

Once the DBS is harvested, it is gutted, packed in polythene bags and chilled in ice. The suggested ratio of ice to squid is 1:1 (kg). The product can be retained on vessel in ice for a maximum period of five days. After chilling the meat, the product is stored at a temperature of °5-C. The meat of DBS is consumed in Japan as a premium delicacy priced at 30-20 USD per kg compared to 10-8 USD per kg elsewhere. However, to date, DBS has not yet been exported from the Maldives and is only sold to local markets and restaurants. Currently, there is only one commercial party that is involved in DBS processing in the country.

## Chapter 4



# Purpose, Objectives and Strategies of this Plan

This management plan comprises of objectives, strategies, and actions that would contribute towards achieving the overall purpose.

The five specific objectives are;

- (1) Ensure that the harvesting, processing and trading of diamondback squid is carried out through the application of principles of sustainability, ecosystem-based management and the Precautionary Approach;
- (2) Prioritise evidence-based policymaking through the collection of biological and socio-economic data on diamondback squid fishery and associated resources;
- (3) Implement Monitoring, Control and Surveillance and strengthen data collection and data reporting mechanisms for the diamondback squid fishery and trade;
- (4) Ensure equitable benefits to all Maldivians and improve their livelihoods through improvement of commercial operations of DBS fishery and trade;
- (5) Increase education and awareness amongst stakeholders and the general public.

Strategies and actions developed to achieve these objectives are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Breakdown of each objective by strategies, actions, timeframe and responsible parties

Objective 1   Ensure that the harvesting, processing and trading of diamondback squid is carried out through the application of principles of sustainability, ecosystem-based management and the Precautionary Approach			
Strategy	Action	Time frame	Responsible parties
1.1 Adopt precautionary approach for the management of the fishery in the absence of reliable data or full scientific certainty	1.1.1 Cap fishing effort by limiting number of fishing licenses	Within one year of implementation of this Plan	o Ministry
1.2 Promote the use of environmentally friendly gears and techniques in the diamondback squid fishery	1.2.1 Implement and enforce the restriction on the use of fishing methods or gears prohibited in the Act No.2019/14 (Fisheries Act of the Maldives) and its pursuant regulations	Immediate	o Ministry o MNDF-CG o MPS
1.3 Maintain a leading role in Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) and relevant Intergovernmental Organisations (IGOs) in management and conservation of diamondback squids	1.3.1 Actively participate in the scientific and management processes of SWIOFC and other relevant regional and international bodies	Immediate	o Ministry o MMRI
Objective 2   Prioritise evidence-based policymaking through the collection of biological and socio-economic data on diamondback squid fishery and associated resources			
Strategy	Action	Time frame	Responsible parties
2.1 Strengthen data collection on biological and socio-economic aspects of diamondback squid fishery to support evidence-based policymaking	2.1.1 Implement nationwide size sampling or monitoring programmes for diamondback squids	Long term (5 – 10 years)	o MMRI
	2.1.2 Gather geographical information on fishing grounds using fishery data and field surveys in order to study the spatio-temporal exploitation patterns in diamondback squid fishery	Short-term (1 – 3 years)	o Ministry o MMRI

	2.1.3 Conduct series of surveys to identify and understand socio-economic aspects of diamondback squid fishery in the Maldives	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Ministry</li> <li>o NBS</li> <li>o Local councils</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 3</b>   Implement Monitoring, Control and Surveillance and strengthen data collection and data reporting mechanisms for diamondback squid fishery and trade			
Strategy	Action	Time frame	Responsible parties
3.1 Establish an effectively controlled and monitored trade flow	3.1.1 Establish licensing arrangements for commercial DBS fishing vessels	Within one year of implementation of this plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Ministry</li> <li>o Local Councils</li> </ul>
	3.1.2 Establish licensing arrangements for DBS processing facilities	Within one year of implementation of this plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Ministry</li> <li>o MFDA</li> <li>o Local Councils</li> </ul>
	3.1.3 Establish registration arrangements in "Fisheries Information System - <i>Keyolhu</i> " for those engaged in DBS fishery and trade	Within one year of implementation of this plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Ministry</li> <li>o Maldives Customs Service</li> </ul>
3.1 Establish an efficient documentation scheme for the diamondback squid fishery and trade	3.2.1 Establish mechanisms to collect catch and effort data from harvesters through fishery logbooks, and conduct awareness programmes to improve accuracy of data submitted by fishers	Within one year of implementation of this plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Ministry</li> <li>o Local Councils</li> </ul>
	3.2.2 Require any facilities processing diamondback squids to submit purchase records to the Ministry	Within one year of implementation of this plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Ministry</li> </ul>
	3.2.3 Require exporters to maintain and submit purchase records to the Ministry	Short-term (1 - 3 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Ministry</li> </ul>
	3.2.4 Require export companies to maintain and submit purchase records to the Ministry	Short-term (1 - 3 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Ministry</li> <li>o Maldives Customs Service</li> </ul>



3.3 Establish an effective monitoring, control and enforcement system to ensure effective compliance to regulations related to DBS fishery and trade	3.3.1 Work with other government agencies to monitor exports	Short-term (1 - 3 years)	o Ministry o Maldives Customs Service o MFDA o MIRA
	3.3.2 Ensure compliance to regulations related to DBS fishery and trade through fisheries rangers established in different regions of the country	Short-term (1 - 3 years)	o Ministry o Local councils
	3.3.3 Establish mechanisms to inspect fishing vessels, processing facilities, landing sites and airports to ensure compliance	Medium-term (3 – 5 years)	o Ministry o MMRI o Maldives Customs Service

**Objective 4** | Ensure equitable benefits to all Maldivians and improve their livelihoods through improvement of commercial operations of DBS fishery and trade

Strategy	Action	Time frame	Responsible parties
4.1 Diversify the commercial DBS fishery sector	4.2.1 Incentivise private investment for oceanic fisheries or deep-sea fishery, particularly for longline fishery targeting diamondback squid	Long term (5 – 10 years)	o Ministry
4.2 Identify and engage stakeholders to ensure that policy decisions are made through a Participatory Approach	4.2.1 Establish, maintain, and update a fishers' registry, Masveringe Dhaftharu, to understand fishing community dependence on DBS resources	Immediate	o MoFMRA o Local councils
	4.2.2 Engage with stakeholders and take their views and feedback into account in the implementation of management measures	Immediate	o Ministry
	4.2.3 Work in close liaison with key DBS fishing communities, traders and other stakeholders	Immediate	o Ministry o Local councils



Objective 5   Increase education and awareness amongst stakeholders and the general public			
Strategy	Action	Time frame	Responsible parties
5.1 Promote awareness and understanding of the diamondback squid fishery and management interventions	5.1.1 Based on data availability, compile and disseminate information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Status of fishery;</li><li>• Trade and exports; and</li><li>• revenue to Maldives</li></ul>	Short-term (1 – 3 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o MMRI</li><li>o MoFMRA</li><li>o MoED</li><li>o MIRA</li><li>o Maldives Customs Service</li><li>o NBS</li></ul>
	5.1.2 Educate fishers, traders, processors, exporters and enforcement officers about new and existing regulations via workshops, trainings and awareness campaigns	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Ministry</li><li>o MMRI</li><li>o Maldives Customs Service</li><li>o MPS</li><li>o MNDF – CG</li></ul>



## Management measures

In the best interest of fishing communities and industry, it is critical that timely management measures are introduced so that this resource is sustainably managed to the benefit of stakeholders and future generations. Measures that will be implemented to achieve the objectives and strategies of this Plan are summarised below.

### 5.1 Establishment of an advisory committee

An advisory committee will be established to advise the Ministry on management of DBS stocks, fishery and trade. The committee will also give recommendations to the Ministry on research and sustainable development of this fishery. The meetings of the committee will be convened at least once per year.

The committee will comprise of the following members:

- (a) A Chairperson (representative of the Fisheries Department)
- (b) A scientist from MMRI
- (c) 1 representative of DBS harvesters
- (d) 1 representative of DBS processor
- (e) A representative from the Ministry of Environment
- (f) A representative from the Ministry of Economic Development

- (g) A representative from Local Government Authority
- (h) A relevant locally registered NGO

A public announcement will be made by the Ministry, calling for Expressions of Interest for the following Committee positions:

- (a) Representatives of DBS harvesters;
- (b) Representative of DBS processor
- (c) Representative from the NGO

The responsibilities of the Committee will include:

- (a) Monitoring the implementation of this Plan and briefing the Minister on its progress on an annual basis;
- (b) Reviewing technical and other reports pertaining to the DBS fishery;
- (c) Advising on management measures in response to the outcomes and recommendations from the technical reports and stakeholder workshops and consultations;
- (d) Advising the Ministry on implementation of relevant regional and international management measures on a national scale; and
- (e) Advising the Ministry on the implementation, monitoring and review of this Plan.

## 5.2 Licensing

One of the overarching aims of establishing a licensing mechanism is to identify parties that are engaged in the fishery and those who are economically dependent on the fishery resources. Such a mechanism also supports the collection and management of fisheries data. Furthermore, the licensing mechanism plays a crucial role in providing the Ministry with information that contributes towards the development of the fisheries sector and the extension of essential services to fishers.

In addition, a licensing mechanism also allows for the formal recognition of stakeholders engaged in the fishery and trade, which in turn facilitates

the Ministry to safeguard their rights and ensure their social and economic security. Maintaining records of the fishing fleet and crew members, as well as information on fish processing facilities, through a licensing system assures the international community that the Maldivian fisheries are effectively and responsibly managed. Such records also serve as an important basis for planning and implementing fishery development projects.

In light of these considerations, the following parties operating within the DBS fishery and trade will be required to acquire a license:

- (a) All commercial fishing vessels;
- (b) All commercial parties that perform any form of processing of DBS.

The general process of application for and issuance of licenses, their renewal and revocation as well as conditions of the licenses will be set forth in the relevant regulations. Fishing licenses for diamondback squid will be capped at 30 vessels. The Ministry will establish, maintain and update a database of licensed parties.

### 5.3 Data collection and Management

Collection and management of comprehensive catch and effort data and maintenance of fisheries statistics is an important measure that contributes towards assessing changes in the abundance of fish stocks in response to fishing. It also plays a critical role in ensuring that stocks are fished at sustainable levels and that future generations continue to benefit from these resources. The fundamental tool used for this purpose is the fishery logbooks, in which catch composition, fuel usage, fishing grounds and other trip details, for each fishing trip, are recorded and submitted by the licensed vessels. Other vital information collected on the fisheries sector include details on processing and trade of fish and fishery products.

In consideration of the aforementioned factors, an integrated data collection system will be established and used to collect the following information:

- Logbook / fishery data from licensed fishing vessels;
- Purchase reports from licensed DBS processors / processing facilities;
- Purchase reports from parties exporting DBS and DBS products.

## 5.4 Catch certification

Catch certification is an essential instrument that helps prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. Through such a scheme, the catch is certified to have been made in accordance with applicable laws, regulations and international conservation and management measures, fully assuring consumers that the fish traded in the Maldives are sourced from a sustainably and responsibly managed fishery.

The catch certification scheme established by the Ministry will be expanded to include DBS exports, and all exporters will be required to submit an approved catch certificate with all consignments of DBS products. Details of the fishing vessel, date of catch as well as information on the processing facility will also be collected through the scheme. This will help to track the flow of the product through the supply chain, ensuring product traceability at all stages, from 'hook to plate'.

## 5.5 Precautionary Measures

The Precautionary Approach promotes the application of timely and cost-effective measures to safeguard ecosystems and prevent irreparable damage to them, despite the lack of full scientific certainty. This approach falls within the purview of international best practices for sustainable management of natural resources (UNCED, 1982). In this regard, additional measures that are not stated in this Plan may be taken to protect and manage diamondback squid stocks. These measures may include but are not limited to the following:

- (a) Declaring the closure of a specific area within Maldives and prohibiting the extraction of DBS from the no-take zone;
- (b) Prohibiting the capture, processing or export of DBS;
- (c) Implementing a catch / export quota;
- (d) Impose other restrictions on activities that may affect DBS stocks.

## Chapter 6



# Implementation of this Plan

The Ministry is responsible for the implementation of each objective in this management plan, by strategies and actions, as outlined and in coordination with the relevant agencies. The Ministry shall also formulate a regulation, under the Fisheries Act of the Maldives, to implement and enforce all diamondback squid fishery management measures stated in this Plan. The Maldives Marine Research Institute shall formulate and implement a plan of action to undertake all research activities that the institute is responsible for under this Plan.

## Chapter 7



# Reviewing the Management Plan

This Plan will be reviewed and revised every 6 (six) years. The Ministry will ensure the engagement of DBS fishing communities, licence holders, processors, exporters, civil society and other stakeholders in the review process. Where there is an immediate need to revise any part(s) or measures of this Plan, the Ministry shall carry out such revisions in consultation with the Committee.

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## Annex 1: Glossary



(a) Commercial fishing	Fishing or Harvesting for the purpose of obtaining a financial benefit.
(b) Enforcement officer	Any officer designated pursuant to Section 57 of the Act No. 2019/14 (Fisheries Act of the Maldives) to enforce regulations made under the Act.
(c) Fish / Fishery Resources	All organisms living in fresh waters, salt waters, or the sea (whether animal or plant, or whether having a characteristic of a fish or not) and includes vertebrates, invertebrates, shellfish, turtles, lobsters and crabs; and the juveniles, larvae and eggs of such organisms.
(d) Fisheries Ranger	Persons who are appointed for and by the Ministry under Section 58 of the Act No. 2019/14 (Fisheries Act of the Maldives).
(e) Fishing / Harvesting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) searching for the purpose of catching, taking, killing and harvesting of fish;</li> <li>(2) attempting to search for, catch, take, kill or harvest fish;</li> <li>(3) engaging in any other activity that results in the searching, catching, taking, killing or harvesting of fish;</li> <li>(4) placing or searching or retaking of any fish aggregating device or equipment including “radio beacons”;</li> <li>(5) undertaking any operation at sea or on an island in preparation for any activity mentioned in subsections (3) ,(2) ,(1) or (4).</li> </ol>
(f) Fishing vessels	Any type of vessel, ship or any other thing which is used for fishing, which has been prepared for fishing, or which is usually used for fishing or related activities.



**(g) Logbook**

Any instruments provided by the Ministry to record data on fishing trips, including catch and effort data, submitted electronically or via any other medium determined by the Ministry.

**(h) Management plans**

Plans made with regard to fisheries planning, management and development pursuant to Chapter Three of the Act No. 2019/14 (Fisheries Act of the Maldives).

**(i) Master / Captain**

Person holding the most responsible position at any given time on-board a fishing vessel.

**(j) Minister**

The minister responsible for fisheries, including aquaculture.

**(k) Ministry**

The ministry responsible for fisheries, including aquaculture.

**(l) Precautionary measures**

In the absence of complete information based on scientific research or where a matter has not been proved, measures adopted to manage the natural resources in a sustainable manner considering the possibility of an adverse outcome if such measures are not taken.

**(m) Processing**

Activities undertaken to package, pack or bring any change to fish in order to preserve fish for a long period.

**(n) Processing facilities**

Lands, buildings, or such other places on or in which:

- (1) fish or aquaculture products are cleaned, packaged, dried, salted, chilled, frozen or otherwise processed for sale in and outside the Maldives; or
- (2) fish or aquaculture products are stored for the purposes of packaging, canning, drying, cleaning, salting, chilling, freezing or otherwise for processing for sale in and outside the Maldives.





Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources & Agriculture

Malé, Maldives