

Mexico Gulf of California Sinaloa chocolate clam and chirla clam - diving & hand gathered

Overview

FIP Description

In mid-2018, Environmental Defense Fund of Mexico (EDF) and Pronatura Noroeste (PNO) established a FIP for chocolate clams (*Megapitaria squalida*), in the Lagoon System of Altata-Ensenada del Pabellón, Sinaloa, Mexico. Since 2014, EDF and PNO, in coordination with the federal, state and municipal authorities, academia and fishing sector, have been developing a Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) for this Lagoon System, which recommends gathering data on the state of the fishery's health with a focus on defining management tools that help improve the conditions of the bivalve resource. This FIP defines the actions that should be taken to make these improvements and can define better market conditions as well. On November 6, 2018, the FIP held its first workshop, in which 69 people participated, representing the different sectors that are involved with the fishery. A working group was created, whose task was to design a FIP work plan, with actions, specific tasks and responsibilities. The a Minute of Agreements with the working group was signed, which constituted the first step to ensure the commitment of the members of this group and their participation in the FIP.

In 2022, the chirla clam was incorporated into the FIP with the purpose of carrying out the improvements that are being made in the FIP to this species of environmental and economic importance, for which a new assessment and work plan was made.

The main needs of this fishery involves the development of an adequate harvest strategy and the design of harvest control tools that respond to the state of the resource, in addition to formalizing the decision-making processes. The stakeholders of this FIP are actively working towards the fulfillment of these objectives.

How is this FIP Doing?

Current Status:



% of Indicators Tracked Basic FIPs may focus their workplans on a subset of the indicators. This shows the proportion of total indicators the FIP is working on.

89%

Actions Progress This shows the proportion of actions in the workplan that the FIP has completed.

33%

Actions Overview This shows the proportion of actions that are behind schedule, on track, completed, or not yet started.

Behind	On Track	Complete	Future
6%	61%	33%	0%

Red Indicator Progress This shows the proportion of actions specifically addressing red indicators that are behind schedule, on track, completed, or not yet started. This helps users understand the progress the FIP is making on the biggest challenges in the fishery.

Behind	On Track	Complete	Future
0%	25%	75%	0%

FIP Progress Rating

B - Good Progress

FIP Objective(s)

The overall objective of this FIP is to improve all aspects of the fishery consistent with the MSC standard by 2025.

By the project's target end date, the FIP hopes to achieve the following:

- Improve the performance of the Cocolata clam and Chirla clam fishery moving towards sustainability by December 2025
- Protect biomass and recruitment while optimizing yield at sustainable levels, having a Harvest Strategy in place with HCR, Information and Monitoring efficient system and periodically Assessment of stock status by December 2025
- Improve the regulatory framework and its application for a better fishery management, through the publication and implementation of the Cocolata clam and Chirla clam fishery management plan by December 2025
- Promote capacity building through the organization, training and linkage between cooperatives, organizations and institutions, through the establishment of a consultative committee for the Cocolata clam and Chirla clam by December 2025
- Strengthen good processing practices within the productive chain, seeking market tools and incentives such as certification of vessels for good practices, fair trade business model, buyers committed to sustainable fishing by December 2025

FIP Type

Basic

FIP Stage

Stage 5: Improvements on the Water

Start and Projected End Dates

January, 2019 -
December, 2025

Species**Common Name**

Chocolate Clams

Scientific Name

Megapitaria squalida

Common Name

California Venus Clams

Scientific Name

Chione californiensis

Gear Type

[Diver-Caught](#)

[Hand Gathered](#)

Location**FAO Major Fishing Area**

[Area 77 \(Pacific, Eastern Central\)](#)

Exclusive Economic Zones**Country**

Mexico

Geographic Scope

Gulf of California, Sinaloa

Estimated Total FIP Landings

300 metric tons

FIP Leads

Organization Name

Pronatura Noroeste

Organization Type

NGO

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