

Mexico Pacific swordfish - longline

Overview

FIP Description

Swordfish is a highly migratory species of fish found throughout most of the world's oceans. Adults are typically found between 15 degrees North and 35 degrees South, while juveniles are more common within tropical and subtropical waters. In the north Pacific Ocean, there are two stocks of swordfish. The populations are separated by a diagonal boundary that runs from Baja California to the Equator. There are two stocks of swordfish within the eastern Pacific Ocean: the northeastern Pacific Ocean stock and the southeastern Pacific Ocean stock.

A recent stock assessment noted that the biomass of swordfish in the northeastern Pacific Ocean is healthy and fishing mortality rates are stable. The biomass is not expected to decline at current fishing levels. However, the fisheries that target the species have some barriers to remove, like the fact that there are no formally adopted target reference points or harvest control rules in place. Also, there might be issues with bycatch of sea turtles, sea birds, sharks, and other fish species in longline fisheries.

The Mexican Pacific swordfish fishery targets the Northeastern Pacific Ocean stock averaging annual landings of 760 metric tons and registers 52 vessels with commercial fishing licenses for longline of which, an average of 25 vessels operates in the season. 30 are registered in Baja California State and the 22 remaining vessels are registered in Sinaloa State. 95% of the landings are exported to the United States of America subject to the NOAA Seafood Import Monitoring Program requirements for the importation of certain priority fish and fish products that have been identified as being particularly vulnerable to IUU fishing and/or seafood fraud.

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.

96%

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

0%

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

Behind	On Track	Complete	Future
0%	100%	0%	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%	100%	0%	0%

FIP Progress Rating

C - Some Recent Progress

FIP Objective(s)

The goal of the Mexican Pacific longline swordfish fishery improvement project is, for the fall of 2025, to strengthen the harvest strategy, related harvest control rules and the management system to reach a minimum score of 60-79 for all the principles performance indicators for the MSC Standard.

Project outcomes for 2025 are:

- To establish a fishery monitoring and data collection program to maintain updated the stocks assessment and to document and evaluate the fishery impacts to biodiversity.
- To develop a management strategy to mitigate the fishery impacts on secondary and PET species.
- To Promote, the development and implementation of a harvest strategy and control rules for the fishery.
- To promote updates to the national fishery regulatory to meet the sustainability standards internationally accepted.

FIP Type

Basic

FIP Stage

Stage 5: Improvements on the Water

Start and Projected End Dates

December, 2020 -
September, 2025

Species

Common Name

Swordfish

Scientific Name

Xiphias gladius

[Buying Guide Link Image](#)

[Swordfish](#)

[Buying Guide](#)

Gear Type

[Longline](#)

Location

FAO Major Fishing Area

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

Exclusive Economic Zones**Country**

Mexico

Geographic Scope

Mexican Pacific Ocean

Country Flag of Vessel

Mexico

Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO)

IATTC

Estimated Total FIP Landings

685 metric tons

FIP Leads**Organization Name**

CÁMARA NACIONAL DE LA INDUSTRIA PESQUERA Y ACUÍCOLA

Organization Type

Industry

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