

Ecuador South Eastern Pacific swordfish - longline

Overview

FIP Description

FRIGOLAB SANMATEO, PROPEMAR and TRANSMARINA will work together to achieve Marine Stewardship Council certification for the fishery.

This Fishery Improvement Project is based on the results of the MSC Pre-Assessment of the swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) longline fishery conducted by independent consultant Cynthia Fernandez in March 2019.

Two Units of Certification (UoC) were identified in this pre-assessment:

UoC1: Ecuadorian artisanal longline fleet (Nodrizas).

Gear: Longline

Target species: Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*)

Value: Southeast Pacific (EPO)

Fishing zone: FAO zone 87/ Ecuadorian EEZ

RFMO: IATTC

UoC2: Ecuadorian industrial longline fleet

Gear: Longline

Target Species: Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*)

Value: Southeast Pacific (EPO)

Fishing zone: FAO zone 87

RFMO: IATTC

The fishing grounds of the Ecuadorian artisanal large pelagic fishery are located between 05°00'N and 15°00'S, and up to the 100°00'W meridian of the Galapagos archipelago. Ecuadorian artisanal fisheries are multi-species fisheries that operate year-round and are defined by two main seasons related to the targeted large pelagic fish species. One is mainly oriented towards Mahi Mahi and the other includes tuna, billfish and sharks.

This fishery started gradually in the mid-1970s, but experienced a major expansion during the 1990s and 2000s. The traditional fishing areas, which were initially less than 40 m from the coast, have been extended over the years up to 1,400 m from the mainland coast, passing through the Galapagos archipelago, establishing what is now known as the "oceanic-artisanal fishery" in Ecuador.

The artisanal fleet is made up of a mother ship, which is defined as a fishing vessel that tows a series of artisanal longliners (made of fibreglass) to distant fishing grounds, and whose purpose is to fish, supply water, fuel, nurseries, bait and other fishing inputs and in turn store the catches obtained by the artisanal fishing vessels in their farms (Agreement 407. Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries. 12 October 2011- Art. 1). In the billfish fishery (including swordfish and other larger pelagics) up to a maximum of six small fibreglass trawlers shall be allowed (Agreement 407. Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries. 12 October 2011- Art. 3). In 2019 the number of mother ships was 106 according to data from the Undersecretariat of Fisheries Resources. It is estimated that mothership operations produce up to 80% of the total catch of the artisanal fishery.

High seas fishing is not regulated by any management measures except the prohibition of fishing in Galapagos waters.

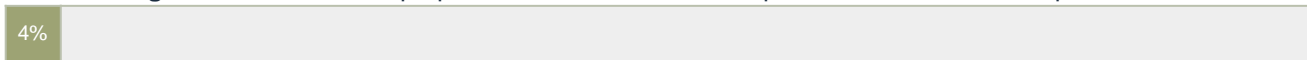
The industrial longline fleet is composed of vessels up to 50 m in length, with motorised medium-depth longline gear targeting a variety of large pelagic species, including tuna and billfish. In 2019, the fleet would be composed of 93 vessels, according to information provided by the Undersecretariat of Fisheries Resources.

How is this FIP Doing?

Current Status:



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



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

Behind	On Track	Complete	Future
96%	0%	4%	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
100%	0%	0%	0%

FIP Progress Rating

C - Some Recent Progress

FIP Objective(s)

This FIP is being developed to achieve MSC certification for the Eastern South Pacific swordfish longline fishery and is expected to commence full assessment in December 2024.

FIP Type

Comprehensive

FIP Stage

Stage 4: Improvements in Fishing Practices or Fishery Management

Start and Projected End Dates

June, 2021 -
December, 2024

Species**Common Name**

Swordfish

Scientific Name

Xiphias gladius

[Buying Guide Link Image](#)[Swordfish](#)[Buying Guide](#)**Gear Type**[Longline](#)**Location**[FAO Major Fishing Area](#)

[Area 87 \(Pacific, Southeast\)](#)

Exclusive Economic Zones

Country

Ecuador

Geographic Scope

the entire country

Country Flag of Vessel

Ecuador

Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO)

IATTC

Estimated Total FIP Landings

1200 metric tons

FIP Leads

Organization Name

FIP for Swordfish - Independent Consultant

Organization Type

Consultant

Primary Contact

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