

PROSPECTIVE Mexico Oaxaca artisanal skipjack and blackfin tuna - handline

Overview

FIP Description

The artisanal skipjacks - handline FIP has been established by an alliance that includes the Punta Sacrificio cooperative, SmartFish Rescate de Valor AC, and Fondo Oaxaqueño for the Conservation of Nature (FOCN) with the participation of Comercializadora HealthyFish (buyer), Comité Oaxaqueño de Sanidad e Inocuidad Acuícola (COSIA), federal fisheries authorities [Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura and Pesca (CONAPESCA), the Regional Center for Fisheries Research (CRIP) of Salina Cruz and the Servicio Nacional de Sanidad, Inocuidad and Calidad Agroalimentaria, (SENASICA), the state of Oaxaca agriculture and fisheries ministry (Secretaría de Desarrollo Agropecuario, Pesca and Acuicultura, (SEDAPA)], and the Municipality of San Pedro; and the academic institution, Technological Institutes of Salina Cruz and of Pochutla.

Tuna is one of Mexico's, most important fisheries in terms of commercial value and volume, together with the shrimp and sardine fisheries (Hall *et al.*, 1992). Tuna fisheries in Mexico are consolidated as one fishery denominated 'túnidos', whose management is driven mainly by the yellowfin and bigeye tunas (*Thunnus albacares*, *Thunnus obesus*) which are targeted by the industrial purse seiner fleet (CONAPESCA 2018). Skipjack tuna and black skipjack (*Euthynnus lineatus* and *Katsuwonus pelamis*) are considered associated species of this tuna fishery. Although Mexican legislation includes some long-term goals for *K. pelamis*, the skipjack fisheries lack a management strategy. The current status of the skipjack populations and the impact of the fishery on the habitat and associated species are unknown due to the lack of reliable data. The fishery does not have a harvest strategy or specific objectives.

For coastal communities in the southwestern state of Oaxaca, fishing is a very important source of income and of protein. Coastal Oaxaca has a regionally important small-scale handline tuna fishery which is centered in the municipality of San Pedro Pochutla (Ortega-García *et al.*, 1996; DOF 2012; CIAT 2015). This fleet harvests skipjacks throughout the year. *E. lineatus* is probably the most abundant Scombridae species on the Oaxacan coast (Ramos-Carrillo *et al.*, 2011) and Pochutla is the most important small-scale producer of skipjack at the national level (DOF 2012). Very limited value is added to harvests locally and as part of the FIP activities, the cooperatives will receive support to improve quality, add value, and transition to more formal market segments that compensate for their fishery management efforts. The goals of the FIP are to (i) generate information about the Oaxacan skipjacks fishery and its interactions with the ecosystem, in order to inform sustainable

management measures and (ii) increase the benefits of the fishery to the local community.

The project aims to deliver the following by 2027:

1. Strengthen harvest reporting and monitoring systems to improve the availability and accuracy of data on landings, and on retained, and bycatch species.
2. Collaborate with Mexican government fisheries institutions (SEDAPA, INAPESCA, CONAPESCA), to develop and implement policies for the sustainable management of skipjack fisheries in Puerto Angel, for example, through Catch Control Rules and specific objectives.
3. Ensure the traceability of the harvest from producers participating in the FIP.
4. Improve governance and decision-making process for the management of the fishery.
5. Improve the visibility of the role women play in the fishery and increase their opportunities to benefit from post-harvest activities.
6. Set the groundwork for the Puerto Angel cooperatives to obtain the Fair Trade Certification.

How is this FIP Doing?

Current Status:

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

0%

FIP Type

Prospective

FIP Stage

Stage 1: FIP Development

Start and Projected End Dates

Species

Common Name

Skipjack Tuna

Scientific Name

Katsuwonus pelamis

[Buying Guide Link Image](#)



[Skipjack Tuna](#)

[Buying Guide](#)

Common Name

Blackfin Tuna

Scientific Name

Euthynnus lineatus

Gear Type

[Handline](#)

Location

FAO Major Fishing Area

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

Exclusive Economic Zones

Country

Mexico

Geographic Scope

Coastal waters of Oaxaca in front of Puerto Angel in the Mexican Pacific

Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO)

IATTC

High Seas Name

Pacific Ocean

FIP Leads

Organization Name

SmartFish Rescate de Valor, AC

Organization Type

NGO

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