

INACTIVE Mexico La Encrucijada Biosphere Reserve artisanal snook and snapper - handline

Overview

FIP Description

La Encrucijada Biosphere Reserve (REBIEN, for its acronym in Spanish) is a 115,652-hectare coastal protected area that includes environmental lakes, coastal lagoons, and mangrove ecosystems. It is located in the Gulf of Tehuantepec the southern state of Chiapas, close to the border with Guatemala. Fishing activities are the main sources of protein and livelihood for the local communities and approximately 18 small-scale cooperatives (600 fishermen) hold permits and/or concessions for shrimp, and finfish, in the REBIEN (SEMARNAT-CONANP 2009, Rodríguez-Perafán, 2014, Armengol et al., 2021). Coastal Chiapas has a regionally important small-scale handline marine finfish fishery, where snook and snapper species are the most important species in terms of commercial quality and market value, together with white shrimp (Rodríguez-Perafán 2014). During 2020 year, the average annual production of snook (*Centropomus* spp) and snapper (*Lutjanus peru*) was 376 and ~94 tons for the state of Chiapas and the cooperatives in the REBIEN respectively. However, according to the logbooks of fishing production for the last five years, the cooperatives in the REBIEN have registered significant decreases in their total catches of marine finfish (~30%).

The Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) will launch with the participation of one cooperative, with the intention of including more groups as the benefits of participating in the FIP become apparent. The SSCP El Castaño cooperative includes over 36 members with 30 vessels and during the last five years, it has caught an annual average of 10 tons of finfish per year. This cooperative has a concession with multiple fishing areas, where the main fishing gear for finfish is the handline (line and hook). The cooperative shows two main harvest seasons (i) a high season that includes from May to September and (ii) a low season that corresponds to the months of October to April. The cooperative also sets time windows for daily fishing activities based on the tidal cycle: (i) high tide in the morning (~3 hours) and (ii) low tide in the afternoon (~3 hours). Due to the significant decreases in their total catches, this cooperative recognizes the need for better management and harvest practices, as well as, established no-fishing and refuge areas as a strategy for the protection of fishing resources. Currently, due to the lack of a capture strategy and specific objectives of the snook and snapper fishery, the status of the population and its impact on the habitat and associated species are unknown.

How is this FIP Doing?

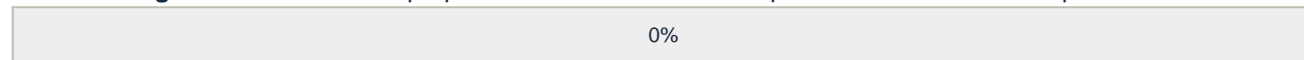
Current Status:



% 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.



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
20%	80%	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 Objective(s)

The project aims to deliver the following by 2028:

1. Reinforce the technical, social, and financial capacities of the cooperatives participating in the FIP.
2. Improve data collection for the snook & snapper fishery in the La Encrucijada Biosphere Reserve, including information on by-catch.
3. Improve the management and policy of snook & snapper fishing in REBIEN through collaboration with Mexican government institutions (CONANP, SEDAPA, INAPESCA, and CONAPESCA).

FIP Type

Basic

FIP Stage

Stage 2: FIP Launch

Start and Projected End Dates

December, 2022 -
December, 2027

Species

Common Name

Pacific Snapper

Scientific Name

Lutjanus peru

Common Name

White Snook

Scientific Name

Centropomus spp.

Gear Type

[Handline](#)

Location

FAO Major Fishing Area

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

Exclusive Economic Zones**Country**

Mexico

Geographic Scope

La Encrucijada Biosphere Reserve, Chiapas

Country Flag of Vessel

Mexico

Estimated Total FIP Landings

10 metric tons

FIP Leads

Organization Name

SmartFish Rescate de Valor, AC

Organization Type

NGO

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