

Mexico La Encrucijada Biosphere Reserve artisanal white shrimp - cast-nets

Overview

FIP Description

Mexico's Pacific Coast shrimp fishery is one of the country's most important fisheries. It is first in terms of the commercial value of the harvest from the industrial and small-scale fleets and generates the most jobs directly and indirectly (approximately 37,000) (SAGARPA, 2013). La Encrucijada Biosphere Reserve (REBIEN, for its acronym in Spanish) is a 144,868-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). White shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) is the most important commercial species due to its price and average annual production (~2,800 tons) (SAGARPA 2006).

This FIP will begin with the participation of three cooperatives, however, the incorporation of other cooperatives is expected as the benefits from engaging in the FIP become evident. The participating cooperatives -SCPP Topón, SCPP El Carrizal, and SCPP El Castaño- include over 200 members and land approximately 150 tons of white shrimp annually. Each of these cooperatives has a concession with multiple fishing areas where the fishers use cast nets as their main fishing gear. The cooperatives harvest shrimp three or four times during the year, and the rainy season (May-September) is the most important in terms of production (CONAPESCA 2015). The cooperatives have established well-enforced internal measures to manage the shrimp fishing efforts, including voluntary seasonal closures that the cooperatives determined by monitoring the size and weight of the shrimp and a limited time window for harvests (4 or 5 hours per day). Due to these measures, the three cooperatives have observed stability in the annual average of their white shrimp catch for the last five years (~35 tons), however, they recognize the need for better management and harvest practices.

There are no specific policies or management measures for the white shrimp fishery in the REBIEN. In addition, the pre-assessment has identified other challenges such as data collection, harvest strategy, specific objectives, and bycatch rates. 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.

How is this FIP Doing?

Current Status:

100%

% 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.

0%

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%	0%	0%	0%

FIP Progress Rating

B - Good Progress

FIP Objective(s)

By December 2027, this FIP will work towards completing the following objectives:

1. Implement a Monitoring Program for artisanal white shrimp fishing.
2. Define a comprehensive management strategy aligned with the indicators of Principle 1 of the MSC standard.
3. Strengthen the governance framework of the fishery.
4. Identify the impacts of the fishery on species, habitats, and ecosystems.

FIP Type

Basic

FIP Stage

Stage 4: Improvements in Fishing Practices or Fishery Management

Start and Projected End Dates

January, 2023 -
December, 2027

Species

Common Name

White Shrimp

Scientific Name

Litopenaeus vannamei

[Buying Guide Link Image](#)



[White Shrimp](#)
[Buying Guide](#)

Gear Type

[Cast Net](#)

Location

FAO Major Fishing Area

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

Exclusive Economic Zones

Country

Mexico

Geographic Scope

La Encrucijada Biosphere Reserve

Country Flag of Vessel

Mexico

Estimated Total FIP Landings

100 metric tons

FIP Leads

Organization Name

SMARTFISH RESCATE DE VALOR, AC

Organization Type

NGO

Primary Contact

Yuliesky Garcés Rodríguez

Email

yuliesky@smartfishac.org

Phone

+526121488553

Website Name

Organization Name

Conservation International México A.C (CIMEX)

Organization Type

NGO

Primary Contact

Ramón Alberto Flores Moreno

Email

rflores@conservation.org

Website Name

[Conservation International México AC](#)