

Mexico Gulf of California swimming crab - pot/trap/ring net

Overview

FIP Description

The Gulf of California swimming crab FIP started in 2009 under the coordination of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP). The FIP coordination and leadership was transferred to the industry in January 2015. All of the activities, improvements, and achievements during that period were reported on SFP's website and a summary can be downloaded [here](#).

Mexico is the main Latin American country exporting swimming crab products to international markets. Between 2006 and 2013, Mexico exported an annual average of 2.6 thousand metric tons of swimming crab products, with an average value of 22.1 million dollars. During that same period of time, Mexico exported an annual average of 1.1 thousand tons of crabmeat with an average value of 19 million dollars to the US market.

Mexico has an annual average production of 23 thousand metric tons with a beach value of US 17 million dollars and during the past ten years, the fishery has presented an annual growth rate of 3.8%. This ranks the fishery tenth on landings and twelfth on economic value.

The Pacific coast of Mexico produces 63% of the national landings - of that percentage the Gulf of California landings makeup 60%. Sinaloa and Sonora states stand out as the main producers in the country

The swimming crab fishery in the Gulf of California is of great importance to small-scale fishers in the months before and after the shrimp fishery's peak (September to November). An estimated total of 2,193 small-scale fishing boats, including 4,400 fishers and 139 fishing permits, are active in the Gulf of California.

The fishery is regulated by the Mexican Official Standard [NOM-039-PESC-2003](#), which includes minimum legal size requirements and restrictions on fishing gear (type and number/vessel), egg bearing females, and type of bait. The Standard also controls the total amount of fishing gear in the main production states (70,800 in Sinaloa, 43,600 in Sonora, and 8,000 in Baja California Sur). For the rest of the states (Baja California, Nayarit, and Jalisco) the restriction on fishing gear depends on the technical opinion of the National Fisheries Institute (INAPESCA).

Since 2013, there has also been a [Fishery Closure](#) which runs from May 1 to July 10 every year to protect

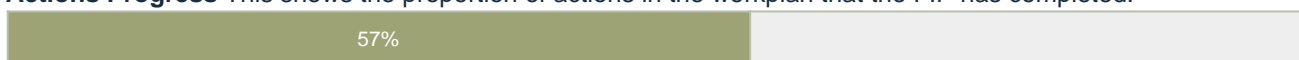
reproduction and recruitment. Finally, in 2014 the fisheries authority published the [Fishery Management Plan](#). INAPESCA states the fishery is as at maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and recommends against any increase in fishing effort in Sinaloa, Sonora and Baja California Sur. There are possibilities of incremental fishing effort for the rest of the Pacific coast states.

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
29%	14%	57%	0%

FIP Progress Rating



FIP Objective(s)

FIP Goal:

The goal of the project is to strengthen the harvest strategy, related harvest control rules and the management system to reach, for the fall of 2025, a minimum score of 80 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 document and evaluate the fishery impacts to biodiversity.
- To develop and publish a robust and comprehensive stock assessment for the target species.
- To develop and implement of a harvest strategy and control rules for the fishery.
- To contribute in the update to the national fishery regulatory to meet the sustainability standards internationally accepted.

FIP Type

Comprehensive

FIP Stage

Stage 4: Improvements in Fishing Practices or Fishery Management

Start and Projected End Dates

August, 2010 -

October, 2025

Species**Common Name**

Cortez Swimming Crab

Scientific Name

Callinectes bellicosus

Common Name

Arched Swimming Crab

Scientific Name

Callinectes arcuatus

Gear Type

[Pot/Trap](#)

[Ring Net](#)

Location**FAO Major Fishing Area**

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

Exclusive Economic Zones**Country**

Mexico

Geographic Scope

Gulf of California on the shores and estuaries Sinaloa and Sonora States

Estimated Total FIP Landings

223000 metric tons

FIP Leads

Organization Name

Direct Source Seafood

Organization Type

Industry

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