

INACTIVE Mexico Pacific Ocean shrimp - bottom trawl

Overview

FIP Description

The Pacific Ocean is the most productive fishing area for Mexico, providing approximately 75 percent of seafood catch by volume, and accounting for most of the country's seafood exports by value. The Mexican Pacific Ocean industrial shrimp fishery is the most important fishery for the country; having the greatest economic value. It is also the highest-ranked fishery in terms of number of vessels and directly-connected jobs. The fishery is also the country's third largest by volume with annual landings of approximately 42,000 tonnes, 70% of which is produced by the bottom-trawl Fleet.

At the same time, the industrial shrimp fishery has some ecologically damaging effects on the habitats where it harvests. For decades, the use of antiquated gear and an increase in the number and the size of vessels have exacted a heavy toll on the environment. Prior to the fleet reduction ten years ago, it was estimated that high levels of bycatch had resulted in the wasteful discard of tens of thousands of tonnes of approximately 600 marine species. Fortunately, in the last two decades, the Mexican Pacific Ocean bottom-trawl shrimp fishery has implemented major improvements toward achieving sustainability - the fleet reduction is by far the biggest change implemented. Thanks to the federal government's buyout program which began in 2006, the fleet was reduced by 50 percent and today has the same number of vessels that it had in the 1970s. The shrimp fishing gear has also evolved significantly. All vessels in the fleet now use low-weight materials that have reduced their drag weight by 90 percent. Furthermore, besides the mandatory use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs), the fishery regulations require mandatory use of bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) and establishes a maximum net size. The fishery also requires the use of bigger mesh sizes to foster selective harvesting.

Fishery administration and enforcement have also improved. All shrimp fishing vessels are now monitored 24/7 by the fisheries agency CONAPESCA through a vessel monitoring system (VMS) capable of identifying incursions to restricted areas and fishing activities in prohibited zones. Producers compliance has also strengthened as a result of the implementation of procurement policies subject to third independent party audits based upon the control document approach designed by Sustainable Fisheries Partnership.

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
31%	0%	69%	0%

FIP Objective(s)

By the summer of 2020, the FIP aims to achieve a management performance in accordance with the MSC standard indicators for sustainable fisheries. To achieve that goal, the FIP is working towards completing the following objectives:

- Initiating continuous assessments of all shrimp stocks targeted by the fishery
- Improving transparency in monitoring, research, and decision-making processes for fishery management
- Evaluating means to reduce the fishery environmental impacts
- Maintaining the fishery full compliance with the regulatory framework while improving transparency and accountability

FIP Type

Basic

FIP Stage

Stage 5: Improvements on the Water

Start and Projected End Dates

August, 2013 -

August, 2020

Species

Common Name

Blue Shrimp

Scientific Name

Litopenaeus stylirostris

Common Name

Brown Shrimp

Scientific Name

Farfantepenaeus californiensis

Common Name

White Shrimp

Scientific Name

Litopenaeus vannamei

[Buying Guide Link Image](#)



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

Gear Type

[Bottom Trawl](#)

Location

FAO Major Fishing Area

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

Exclusive Economic Zones

Country

Mexico

Geographic Scope

The fishery occurs in the Gulf of California, the West coast of Baja California and the Gulf of Tehuantepec

Estimated Total FIP Landings

23000 metric tons

FIP Leads

Organization Name

Meridian Products

Organization Type

Industry

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Organization Name

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Organization Type

Industry

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Organization Name

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Organization Type

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