

Mexico Bahía de Kino penshell - hookah

Overview

FIP Description

The penshell fishery in Sonora began to develop in the 1950s. The interest in this marine resource has been increasing during the last few decades because penshells are considered a seafood delicacy, its price during 2021 on the beach was 29 to 35 USD

Excessive fishing since the 1970s led to a drastic reduction in catch volumes. The local extinction of specific banks hampered the natural recovery of the species. Overexploitation of penshells has occurred mainly due to poor regulation, open access and over-capitalization of fishing effort. To ensure sustainable management of this resource, producers needed to look for alternatives to reverse the crisis that is happening in the fishery. Since 2014, the cooperative Ecopescadores in Bahía de Kino has implemented a “Integrated Management Zone” project for the penshell (*Atrina tuberculosa*). This project includes tenure through an aquaculture development concession, encompassing an area of 25.91 ha in Kino Bay, Sonora. In addition, the producers defined three fishing management tools that are used within the concession area. The tools are: 1) refuge areas (no-fishing areas) accounting for 30.5% of total area, 2) fishing zone (managed by quotas-MCC) with 32%, and 3) the area of restoration (marine culture) with 37.5%, where larvae will be captured from the environment and penshell growth will occur through farming on the seabed.

The producers wish to implement a Fishery Improvement Project with an enhanced catch and grow fishery (CAG) system that reinforces this management zone, brings access to better markets, and improves both fishermen's lifestyle and scallop stock.

This FIP is going to comprehensive (2022-2026)

How is this FIP Doing?

Current Status:



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

10%

Actions Overview This shows the proportion of actions that are behind schedule, on track, completed, or not yet started.

Behind	On Track	Complete	Future
40%	50%	10%	0%

FIP Progress Rating

A - Advanced Progress

FIP Objective(s)

General Objective

Implement the farming and enhanced fishery approach of penshell *Atrina tuberculosa* through management strategies of the artisanal penshell fishery with hookah in Bahía de Kino, Sonora, to have a healthy fishery through the implementation of 22 indicators of the sustainable fishing standard MSC, keeping them above 80 by August 2026.

Specific FIP objectives:

Identify if there are effects on the natural substrate by penshell extraction with hookah diving equipment within the UoA. By December 2023, a report will deliver the results of the analysis of videos and fishing logbooks.
COMPLETED

Determine if the penshell farming within the UoA could generate a negative effect on the sediment through the increase in biodeposition of organic matter. Systematic sediment samples, it will be evaluated if there is accumulation of organic matter in the UoA. By October 2025, there will be a baseline of the conditions of the UoA, subsequently, every two years it will be evaluated to identify if there are significant changes that could modify the community structure of the ecosystem.

To avoid competition for food within the UoA, the FIP will determine the availability of food through an annual cycle to determine if there is enough availability to avoid competition between the penshell and other filtering organisms found in the UoA. By October 2025, final results will be obtained in a technical report. Continuous monitoring will also be carried out on the physical-chemical parameters of the water in the sea at the UoA during the growing cycles.

Develop a strategic management plan for farming sustainable and approach for penshell, incorporating the fishing management tools, current fishing regulations. This management instrument will be prepared in conjunction with the fishers and will be applied as of May 2024. COMPLETED In addition, work will be done to promote with fishing authorities the design of a specific management plan for the species in the commercial fishing area for penshell in Bahía de Kino.

Generate an effective route for decision-making within the FIP participants, this route will be generated by June 2024. COMPLETED

Achieve an unconditional pass to the MSC standard by August 2026.

Additional objectives

? That the Fishers have a demonstrative model for the sustainable farming and management of the penshell resource.

?Decreases fishing effort on natural populations of penshell *A. tuberculosa* Fishing effort on natural populations decreases

? Protect and preserve the habitat of the target species.

FIP Type

Comprehensive

FIP Stage

Stage 4: Improvements in Fishing Practices or Fishery Management

Start and Projected End Dates

April, 2020 -
August, 2026

Species

Common Name

Tuberculate Pen Shell

Scientific Name

Atrina tuberculosa

Gear Type

[Diver-Harvest](#)

Location

FAO Major Fishing Area

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

Exclusive Economic Zones**Country**

Mexico

Geographic Scope

Bahía de Kino (Gulf of California)

Country Flag of Vessel

Mexico

Estimated Total FIP Landings

2 metric tons

FIP Leads**Organization Name**

Comunidad y Biodiversidad, A.C.

Organization Type

NGO

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