Proyecto Manejo Integrado "De la Cuenca al Arrecife" de la Ecorregión del Arrecife Mesoamericano -MAR2R-

# REPORT OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING "FIP REVIEW OF THE SPINY LOBSTER (*Panulirus argus*) TRAP FROM HONDURAS"

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## Resume

Every three years, the Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs), which are comprehensive, must develop an independent audit to accredit the results of the actions contained in the Action Plan and simultaneously measure the performance of the project with respect to the MSC standard[1].

As part of this audit, a documentary review was carried out in order to be able to prove the existence of progress in the tasks committed in the FIP and report the existence of changes in the qualifications of the performance indicators of the default assessment tree of the MSC Fisheries Certification Requirements v2.01. At the same time, sectoral meetings were held in order to complement the revised documentary information.

Finally, a virtual meeting was held with the stakeholders where the actions and tasks of the FIP were reprogrammed, and others were readjusted according to the current reality of the spiny lobster trap fishery in Honduras. With all the information collected, this document was prepared considering the guidelines and formats recommended by fisheryprogress.org for carrying out this type of reports. The document is divided into 4 sections:

- **General FIP information:** information aimed at defining the area of action, the target species, the gear used, the size of the fishery and the management body in charge.
- **Stakeholder consultation & meetings:** this is a summary of the meetings held, including the dates they were held, the name of the attendees and the main topics discussed.
- **Summary of MSC performance indicator scores:** this is a rating analysis of each of the indicators of the MSC standard, based on the information collected during the audit.
- **Workplan results:** This is a breakdown of the key results that have been achieved during the last three years (or since the last audit was carried out) as a result of the FIP work plan.

[1] FisheryProgress Three-Year Audit Guidelines. In: https://fisheryprogress.org/sites/default/files/document_files/FisheryProgress%20Three-Year%20Audit%20Guidelines.pdf

## FIP General Information

*Information aimed at defining the area of action, the target species, the gear used, the size of the fishery and the management body in charge.*

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| Scientific and common name of the target species | *Panulirus argus* – Spiny lobster |
| Fishing location | Honduras – Nicaragua Platform |
| Fishing gear | Trap |
| Catch quantity (weight) | 1803 tons |
| Boat type and size | 75 to 90 feet in length, with freezing systems on board |
| Number of vessels | 90 |
| Management authority | DIGEPESCA |

## Stakeholder consultation & meetings

*Summary of the meetings held, including the dates they were held, the name of the people who attended and the main topics discussed.*

| Name | Affiliation | Date and Subjects Discussed |
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| Nathaly Cardona | DIGEPESCA (research department) | April 26, 2021<br>• Landing forms (systematization of bycatch).<br>• Landing registration system for total lobster catch and size structures.<br>• Identification of bottlenecks in the transfer of information from process plants to DIGEPESCA and Database.<br>• On-board observer program. |
| Lidia Hernández | DIGEPESCA (statistics unit) | April 26, 2021<br>• Landing forms (systematization of bycatch).<br>• Landing registration system for total lobster catch and size structures. |

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| | | • Identification of bottlenecks in the transfer of information from process plants to DIGEPESCA and Database.<br>• On-board observer program. |
| Leslie Espinoza<br>Miguel Suazo | DIGEPESCA (Control y surveillance)<br>DIGEPESCA (Sea Fishing) | April 27, 2021<br>• Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Mechanisms.<br>• Mechanisms for consultation and participation. |
| Cesar Fortin | Director DIGEPESCA | May 27, 2021<br>• Re-scheduling tasks in progress or delayed in the FIP.<br>• Adequacy of FIP actions.<br>• Validation of the Workplan. |
| Austacil Tome | Captain Naval Force | |
| Alexander Carbajal | Captain of the Naval Force frigate | |
| Carlos Ríos | Naval Force Lieutenant | |
| Tasha Mcnab | Caribean, S. of R.L. | |
| Pablo Rico | FAO | |
| Pilar Velásquez | WWF | |
| Wendy Goyert | WWF | |
| Gabriela Pineda | SER OCEANO | |
| Ester López | UNAH | |
| Jimmy Andino | CEM | |
| Nathaly Cardona | DIGEPESCA | |
| Joe Weitzer | Arista Industries | |
| Giselle Guillén | DIGEPESCA | |
| Dayana Cruz | | |
| Andre Brugger | Netuno USA | |
| Gonzalo Olea | Centro de Investigación Ecos | |
| Miguel Espíndola | Centro de Investigación Ecos | |

## Summary of MSC performance indicator scores

*likely scoring category (<60, 60-79, ≥80) for each performance indicator (PI) and provide a rationale for the score. The rationale and scores are based on v2.01 of the MSC Standard's scoring guideposts.*

| Principle | Component | Performance Indicator | | Current Score | Rationale and Justification |
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| 1 | Outcome | 1.1.1 | Stock status | 60-79 | The results of the latest available stock status assessment[2] indicate that fishing mortality is exceeded if MSY is considered as a target for the fishery (F> FMSY). This indicates that the biomass of the stock is not at levels consistent with BMSY. On the other hand, the temporal trends in abundance, recruitment and age structure, although not conclusive, indicate that recruitment is not being impeded. |
| | | 1.1.2 | Stock rebuilding | <60 | Since F> FMSY, a recovery plan should be implemented. This can be part of the Harvest Control Rules and Tools of IC 1.2.2. The goal should be at least to reduce the F to (FMSY) to rebuild biomass levels to levels consistent with BMSY. |
| | Management | 1.2.1 | Harvest strategy | 60-79 | Although there has been progress in the establishment of a management strategy, it has not yet been implemented and there are only general conservation measures such as the ban and the minimum legal size. Although the catches of this fishery show a certain stability, since a strategy based on these measures has not been evaluated, it is not possible to establish the probability of its effectiveness. Therefore, it is not clear that the harvest strategy is robust or precautionary. |

[2] Sosa-Cordero E., Matamoros G., and Giezi Yam P. 2015. Science-based decision making for spiny lobster management in Honduras. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. WWF Sub award agreement from Smithsonian Institution. FINAL PROGRAMMATIC REPORT. August, 2015.

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| | | 1.2.2 | Harvest Control Rules and Tools | <60 | To date, the fishery does not have Harvest Control Rules (HCR), which is why it maintains the original Pre-Assessment score. |
| | | 1.2.3 | Information and monitoring | 60-79 | The stock assessment model proposed in the MarPlesca framework, based on size structure, allows the information to be sufficient to support the probable harvest strategy. However, to enrich the information on the fishery, sufficient information is required to estimate total removals, mainly as a result of informal fishing carried out by artisanal fleet. |
| | | 1.2.4 | Assessment of stock status | 60-79 | The preliminary stock assessment allows the fishery to achieve the minimum qualification required to pass, as noted in the previous audit.<br><br>It should be noted that this assessment model will be replaced by a pseudo-cohort analysis model with catch length data that is currently in the process of peer review[3]. This model has higher assumptions, such as that the observation of the size structures of a particular year reflects that of one cohort throughout its life, for which a series of population parameters are assumed to be constant[4]. However, this has lower information requirements and is consistent with that available for the Unit of Assessment (UoA), and given the uncertainty regarding these assumptions, it should reach the minimum score (SG60). It is expected to contain an estimate of the population status for the Honduras-Nicaragua platform based on Biological Reference Points. |

[3] Gutiérrez G y R. Barnutti. 2020. Guía de procedimientos para la evaluación de stock de Langosta espinosa del caribe Panulirus argus. Plan marplesca, 2018.
[4] Jones, R (1984); Assessing the effects of changes in exploitation pattern using length composition data (Whit notes VPA Cohort analysis). FAO Fish Tech. Pap (256).

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| | | | | | An approach that considers these uncertainties cautiously would allow for an unconditional pass. |
| 2 | Primary species | 2.1.1 | Outcome | ≥ 80 | The existence of primary species in the fishery is not recognized. |
| | | 2.1.2 | Management strategy | ≥ 80 | The existence of primary species in the fishery is not recognized. |
| | | 2.1.3 | Information | < 60 | Although the existence of primary species is not recognized, there is no information about the composition and abundance of the bycatch to be able to assure it. |
| | secondary species | 2.2.1 | Outcome | < 60 | From key informants, it has been indicated that bycatch amounts in the Honduras spiny lobster fishery are minor[5]. But the lack of information does not allow to ensure the absence of main secondary species in the fishery. Thus, the information is also insufficient to determine the level of probability of finding the main secondary species above biological limits or alternatively to understand the level of risk generated by the fishery for each of these (through RBF). |
| | | 2.2.2 | Management strategy | 60 - 79 | There is a consensus among key informants that the amounts of bycatch in the spiny lobster fishery in Honduras are minor[5].<br><br>If so, the use of trap gear could be considered sufficient to keep non-target species within biological limits and / or to ensure that recovery of any species is not impeded. However, to improve the performance of this indicator, it is important to prove that no main secondary species are found in the fishery. |

[5] Hervás. 2020. Evaluación del riesgo de impacto de la nasa sobre los ecosistemas en Honduras mediante la aplicación del método de Análisis de Escala Intensidad y Consecuencia (SICA) del Marine Stewardship Council (MSC).

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| | | 2.2.3 | Information | < 60 | The composition of the bycatch is not clear, key informants mention the presence of the snapper species (*Rhomboplites airorubens*) and grouper (*Epinephelus striatus* y *Lutjanus spp*)[5], but it is expected that the bycatch is composed of many more species.<br><br>A relevant background is that the bycatch of the spiny lobster trap fishery in Nicaragua consists of 37 species, of which one fluctuates around 5% of the total volume caught (*Mithrax spinosissimus*) and another is in a vulnerable state of according to information from the IUCN (*Lachnolaimus maximus*)[6].<br><br>Therefore, in the case of Honduras, the information is not considered adequate to be able to classify the bycatch into main or minor secondary species, nor to evaluate the impacts of the UoA or alternatively to understand the level of risk that the fishery could generate in the eventual main secondary species. |
| | ETP species | 2.3.1 | Outcome | 60 - 79 | It is highly probable that no interaction with the traps occurs with Endangered, Threatened or Protected (ETP) species based on a history of similar fisheries, but information is required to ensure that the risk posed by the lobster fishery of Honduras for ETP species is negligible. |

[6] Velásquez, L. 2019. Informe sobre la fauna de acompañamiento de langosta Espinosa (*Panulirus argus*) en la pesca con nasas. En el mar caribe de Nicaragua. Instituto Nicaragüense de Pesca y Acuicultura (INPESCA). Dirección de Investigaciones Pesqueras (DIP).

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| | | 2.3.2 | Management strategy | 60 - 79 | International agreements and Honduran regulations have prescriptions for the protection and conservation of ETP species.<br><br>In this audit, the score is lowered since it is considered that the use of trap fishing gear could be considered a sufficient measure to minimize the mortality of ETP species and meet national and international requirements for the conservation of these species, which allows a probable score of between 60-79 to be reached.<br><br>A management based on ETP species information aimed at meeting national and international requirements for the conservation of these species, would allow to improve the performance of this indicator. |
| | | 2.3.3 | Information | 60 - 79 | There is no information on the magnitude and nature of the interactions of the Honduran lobster fishery with ETP species.<br><br>A relevant antecedent is that bycatch studies carried out for the spiny lobster fishery with traps in Nicaragua did not show interactions with ETP[6] species. This coincides with other dependent and independent studies of the fishery where no interaction was observed between the spiny lobster fishery and ETP species[7].<br><br>The generation of information that allows understanding the magnitude and nature of the eventual interactions of the Honduran spiny lobster fishery with ETP species to |

[7] Valle-Esquivel, M. 2011. MSC Pre-Assessment of the Honduras Caribbean Spiny Lobster Trap Fishery. MRAG Americas, Inc.

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| | | | | | support a management strategy, if necessary, would allow to improve the performance of this indicator. |
| | Habitats | 2.4.1 | Outcome | 60 - 79 | A Consequence Spatial Analysis (CSA) was conducted in March 2017[8]. The main results allowed determining that the risk of impact of traps on coral reefs associated with biomes of coastal zones (<25m depth) can be considered as low (MSC score ≥ 80). The same conclusion is reached regarding the risk of impact of trap on seagrasses (MSC score ≥ 80). However, for the biomes associated with depths of the interior continental shelf (> 25-100m), an impact of medium level was determined (MSC 60-79 Rating), because these habitats are subject to less natural disturbance and although the passive nature of the trap and the operation of the fleet allows that the risk of contact of the trap with coral reefs is not high, when taking into account the fishing effort of the Honduran fleet (90 vessels) it was concluded that the impact space is not low. |
| | | 2.4.2 | Management strategy | < 60 | There are no management measures aimed at achieving a score of ≥ 80 in the result indicator (2.4.1). |
| | | 2.4.3 | Information | ≥ 80 | Information is available and is adequate to estimate the types and distribution of the main habitats. There is also adequate information to estimate the consequences and the spatial attributes of the main habitats. |
| | Ecosystem | 2.5.1 | Outcome | 60 - 79 | The Scale Intensity Consequence Analysis (SICA) applied to the lobster fishery with trap on ecosystems in Honduras, developed in December 2020[5], concluded that the fishery achieves a risk consequence score of 3 |

[8] Hervás, A. 2017. Evaluación del riesgo de impacto de la nasa sobre los hábitats en Honduras mediante la aplicación del método Consequence Scale Analysis (CSA) del Marine Stewardship Council (MSC).

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| | | | | | (equivalent to an MSC score of 60 ), which is based on the fact that the activity causing the greatest impact (fishing) could be affecting the trophic structure, due to overfishing, expressed in an excessive number of traps and in the fishing of pre-recruits or females carrying eggs.<br><br>This work indicates that the score is precautionary, and that the status of the stock should be considered to determine how significant the risk of impact is on the food chain. |
| | | 2.5.2 | Management strategy | 60 - 79 | There are some measures to control the potential risk of UoA in key elements of the ecosystem. For example, limited access to the fishery, the existence of MPAs that prohibit fishing within their limits, and regulations that limit the number and characteristics of traps. However, this is not enough to achieve a performance level of ≥ 80 on the ecosystem outcome indicator.<br><br>The SICA analysis indicates that overfishing is the activity with the highest risk, since it could be affecting the trophic chain linked to the target specie. Other activities are also considered of concern, such as the disposal of disused traps, pollution caused by poor waste management (mainly hydrocarbons) and the use of toxic inputs used to preserve the traps. All of this could be impacting the sub-components of the distribution of species and composition of functional groups due to the indirect impact that both lobster fishing, the management of fishing gear and the sources of contamination could have on them.<br><br>To improve the rating of this indicator, it is necessary to implement a management strategy that allows avoiding |

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| | | | | | overfishing of the target resource and improving waste management practices on board. |
| | | 2.5.3 | Information | **60 - 79** | The results of the SICA show that the information is adequate to identify the key elements of the ecosystem and that the main impacts of the UoA on these key elements can be inferred from the existing information, but they have not been investigated in detail.<br><br>Research that allows understanding the effect of fishing on the food chain, in addition to the effects of management measures, will help to fully understand the key elements of the ecosystem and the main impacts of UoA on these elements. |
| 3 | Governance and Policy | 3.1.1 | Legal and customary framework | 60 - 79 | There is cooperation with other parties at the regional level, such as OSPESCA, which has proven to be organized and effective in harmonizing management among countries. Proof of this is the "Declaration of Managua", where Honduras and Nicaragua agreed to apply a set of regulations (seasonal closure, minimum sizes, number of traps, etc.) and the subsequent promulgation of OSP-02-09 "Regulation for Regional Management of the Caribbean Spiny Lobster (*Panulirus argus*) Fishery", implemented on July 1, 2009. This document is legally binding for all the nations of the Central American Isthmus.<br><br>At the national level, the General Law on Fisheries and Aquaculture (GLFA) enacted on August 5, 2017, details the organizational structure for management and is considered to provide the necessary guidelines to deliver management results consistent with principles 1 and 2 of the MSC standard. |

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| | | | | | It is understood that the GLFA respects the legal rights expressly created or acquired from the uses of people who depend on fishing for food or as a livelihood, since in the first article, fourth paragraph of the objective of "Guarantee access for indigenous peoples and ethnic communities, as well as rural communities, in the sustainable use of fishing hydrobiological resources located in their territories, in compliance with international conventions".<br><br>On the other hand, the Pre-assessment indicates that there are no reports that suggest that there is a fair or appropriate conflict resolution framework; rather, all decisions appear to be one-sided and based on particular interest groups. In this audit, there is no change regarding this scoring aspect. However, it is expected that the promulgation of the regulation that constitutes the advisory committee (M44) will improve this aspect of scoring. |
| | | 3.1.2 | Consultation, roles and responsibilities | 60 - 79 | In the GLFA, the institutions involved in the management process have been established. Roles and responsibilities are explicitly defined and well understood for the key areas of responsibility and interaction.<br><br>However, the management system does not include consultation processes that regularly seek and accept relevant information, including local knowledge, and there are no consultation processes that provide the opportunity of participation to all interested and affected parties. |
| | | 3.1.3 | Long term objectives | ≥ 80 | In the pre-evaluation, it is indicated that since 2009, the general management policy for spiny lobster in Honduras is the "Regulation OSP-02-09 for the Regional |

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| | | | | | Management of the Caribbean Spiny Lobster (*Panulirus argus*) Fishery" (SICA / OSPESCA 2009), whose main objective is to provide management regulations for the Central American nations that share this common and emblematic resource. The objective of this regional policy is to achieve sustainable fishing through the protection of juvenile lobsters, gravid females and seasonal closures to allow the recovery of the resource.<br><br>In addition, the current GLFA establishes in its second objective "To ensure respect for the environment in the different fishing and aquaculture activities, the protection, conservation and implementation of responsible fishing to maintain the fishing balance and sustainability of the resource". In addition, it establishes as guiding principles: The strategic, responsible and sustainable management of the hydrobiological resources of the country; respect for the environment, its conservation and protection with an ecosystem approach and under the precautionary principle, accompanied by fishing actions responsible and sustainable use and International Treaties and Conventions ratified by the State of Honduras that retain their validity in the matter of this Law or its related subjects.<br><br>Based on the above, clear long-term objectives that guide decision-making, in line with the MSC fishing standard and precautionary approach, are considered to be explicit within the management policy. |
| | Fisheries specific | 3.2.1 | Fishery specific objectives | 60 - 79 | The GLFA contemplates objectives that, in a general way, aim to achieve the results expressed by Principles 1 and 2 of the MSC. However, it is not considered that there are |

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| | management system | | | | specific short-term objectives consistent with achieving these results.<br><br>It is expected that, with the promulgation of the Management Plan, well defined and quantifiable objectives will be explicitly established for MSC Principles 1 and 2 within the fishery management system. |
| | | 3.2.2 | Decision making processes | < 60 | In the pre-assessment it was indicated that there is no information that demonstrates that the decision-making process leads to effective management strategies. In Honduras, research, monitoring or evaluation of fishery resources are limited, so that management decisions are not based on a solid knowledge of the state of the resources nor on serious problems identified. In the pre-assessment it is also mentioned that the decision-making process is not transparent. In the current audit, no changes were evidenced with respect to this situation, so it remains with a rating <60.<br><br>However, in the meeting with the stakeholders, it was considered relevant to include in the Management Plan a mechanism for the creation of a specific Consultative Committee for the fishery, where all interested parties are considered. This would allow to improve the performance of this indicator. |
| | | 3.2.3 | Compliance and enforcement | 60 - 79 | Monitoring, control and surveillance mechanisms exist and are implemented in the fishery. This is due to the existence of a Department of Control and Inspection in the DIGEPESCA that monitors MCS issues, in addition to the existence of a de facto Inter-institutional Committee of MCS, controls in ports by the DGMM, the use of VMS in the industrial fleet and a Ship GIS and Monitoring Unit (SIGMEPH). However, the institutional capacity of SAG- |

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| | | | | | DIGEPESCA as the competent body in matters of verification of compliance with fishing regulations has been considered weak to limit the overcapacity of the lobster fleet, the extraction and illegal commercialization of under-sized lobsters. allowed and lack of protocols for port supervision of lobster fishing vessels upon their return from fishing areas. Due to this, it is not considered that there is a reasonable expectation that MCS mechanisms will be completely effective.<br><br>Regarding sanctions, Title VII of the GLFA defines "Infractions and administrative sanctions" to deal with non-compliance and there is some evidence that they are in fact applied.<br><br>There is some evidence to demonstrate that fishers comply with the management system under assessment, including, where necessary, providing information of importance for the effective management of the fishery. For example, important information for management is provided through the landings record that is delivered monthly to the DIGEPESCA statistics unit by the shipowners.<br><br>The existence of a certain level of illegal fishing is recognized, for example, unauthorized agents and the capture of lobsters below the legal minimum size, whose destination is trade at the national level, although its magnitude is unknown. Based on this, it could not be assured that there is no evidence of systematic non-compliance. |

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| | | | | | Based on all of the above, the current condition of this indicator reaches a conditional pass. |
| | | 3.2.4 | Management performance evaluation | 60 - 79 | The pre-assessment concluded the absence of a system to monitor and evaluate the performance of the management system. However, in one of the sectoral meetings it was reported that DIGEPESCA maintains regular internal audits to evaluate parts of the specific management system of the fishery. Detailed information on the audits was not available. To determine if this system considers an evaluation of the key parts of the management system and if it is carried out periodically, it is recommended to review the audited components and the audit history.<br><br>Based on the information provided by the key informants, it is considered that this indicator could achieve, at least, a qualification of a conditional pass. |

## Results of the Workplan

*Summary of key results that have been achieved over the past three years (or since the last audit was conducted) as a result of the FIP work plan. An explanation of the steps taken by FIP participants to support and achieve each outcome is provided.*

| Result | Related Action on FisheryProgress | Related MSC Performance Indicator | Explanation |
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| Stock assessment for the UoA | 1.2 Development of monitoring procedures for lobster biology and fishing activity.<br><br>1.3 Lobster stock assessment | 1.2.3<br>1.2.4 | An important advance of the FIP has been to harmonize the methodologies for the collection of information that makes possible the assessment of spiny lobster stocks for the Honduras-Nicaragua platform. This activity was carried out within the framework of the Regional Management Plan for the Caribbean Spiny Lobster Fishery (Marplesca) through the "Ecolangosta +" project, which aims to achieve an ecosystem approach for the Caribbean spiny lobster fishery.<br><br>This has led to the establishment of a protocol for data collection and processing embodied in the document "Guide of procedures for the evaluation of the Caribbean spiny lobster *Panulirus argus* Plan Marplesca, 2018". In this sense, the processing to establish the size structure of the catches, as an input to the stock assessment, has special relevance.<br><br>Regarding the stock assessment model, it is worth mentioning that at the beginning of the FIP, in 2015, a comprehensive assessment was made using a Stock Synthesis model, however, this has information requirements that so far it is not possible to collect for Honduras (see audit Gozzer and Hernandez, 2019). Therefore, it was recently decided to use an assessment based on a pseudo-cohort analysis model with catch size data. The use of this data-poor model is consistent with the information available for the UoA. It is currently under peer review and is expected to contain a stock status estimate for the Honduras- |

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| | | | Nicaragua platform based on Biological Reference Points. With this, a substantial improvement in the indicator 1.2.4 "Assessment of stock status" is presumable. |
| Risk assessment of the impact of traps on ecosystems in Honduras through the application of the SICA method | 4.2 Application of the "Consequence Scale Analysis" (CSA) and Scale Intensity Consequence Analysis (SICA) risk-based analysis methodology to estimate the risk of habitat and ecosystem impacts. | 2.5.1 | An external consultant was hired during 2020 to assess the risk of impact of lobster fishing with traps on ecosystems in Honduras. The report of this assessment was obtained in December 2020.<br><br>The main results identified three risk-causing activities. Fishing, fishing gear (traps) and pollution caused by fishing activities. These would be impacting the trophic structure, community distribution and functional composition of the group.<br><br>A risk consequence score of 3 (equivalent to an MSC score of 60) was given due to overfishing, expressed as excessive numbers of traps or capture of pre-recruits or gravid females, which could be affecting the trophic structure.<br><br>The author of the assessment indicates that the analysis is precautionary and that the state of the lobster stock should be taken into consideration to determine how significant the risk of impact on the food chain is. |
| Management Plan | 2.1 Review of the effectiveness of current management measures<br><br>2.2 Harvest control rules<br><br>4.3 Implementation of measures to mitigate impacts on habitat and ecosystem | 1.2.1<br>1.2.2<br>2.4.2<br>2.5.2<br>3.1.2<br>3.2.1<br>3.2.2 | The management strategy for the fishery is operationalized through the enactment of the Spiny Lobster Management Plan. Given the cross-cutting scope of the Plan, this activity is considered fundamental for improving the management components of both principles.<br><br>Currently there is a proposed management plan that is in the process of revision and contains sections such as Conservation Measures and Catch Control Rules, Biological Reference Points and Stock Assessment. It is worth mentioning that the proposed Plan was not available.<br><br>However, given the above, it is projected that the fishery management strategy will contain control rules. |

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| | 4.4 Implementation of measures to mitigate habitat and ecosystem impacts<br><br>6.1 Adaptation of the OSPESCA Regional Management Plan | | On the other hand, in the meeting with the stakeholders, it was indicated that the Management Plan proposal considers the recommendations made in the CSA and SICA reports, so it is expected that with the promulgation of the Plan, it will contribute to the generation of adequate management measures for habitats and ecosystems.<br><br>The stakeholder meeting indicated that the Management Plan will consider establishing fishery-specific consultation processes that regularly seek and accept relevant information, and that also provide the opportunity for all interested and affected parties to participate. This would improve the performance of indicators 3.1.2 Consultation Roles and Responsibilities and 3.2.2 Decision-making processes.<br><br>Finally, the Management Plan is expected to explicitly set well-defined and measurable targets for MSC Principles 1 and 2 within the fishery management system. |
| Promulgation of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Law | 5.1 Updating of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Law | 3.1.1<br>3.1.2<br>3.1.3<br>3.2.1<br>3.2.3 | The GLFA provided the necessary guidelines to deliver management outcomes consistent with principles 1 and 2 of the MSC standard, a key aspect of indicator 3.1.1 Legal and Customary Framework. In addition, it is understood that the GLFA respects legal rights expressly created or acquired from the uses of people who depend on fishing for food or livelihoods.<br><br>On the other hand, the GLFA has established the institutional framework involved in the management process. The functions, roles and responsibilities are explicitly defined and well understood for key areas of responsibility and interaction. This is an input for indicator 3.1.2 Consultations, Roles and Responsibilities.<br><br>In turn, the GLFA supports the existence of long-term objectives for the fishery and allows establishing that clear long-term objectives guiding |

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| | | | decision making, in line with the MSC fishery standard and the precautionary approach, are explicit within the management policy (indicator 3.1.3). In addition, these point in a general way, to the achievement of the results expressed by MSC Principles 1 and 2 in the lobster fishery, so it also helps the qualification of indicator 3.2.1 Specific objectives of the fishery.<br><br>Finally, the GLFA in its Title VII, defines "Infractions and administrative sanctions" to deal with non-compliance and there is some evidence that they are applied. Therefore, they support the qualification of indicator 3.2.3 Compliance and enforcement in its sanctions aspect. |