



Clarification on determining primary species in accordance to MSC CR v2.0

Background

An MSC Pre-Assessment (MSC PA) of the Mexican grouper longline fishery that takes place in Campeche Bank in the state of Yucatan in Mexico was hired in March 2014 by Sea Delight Ocean Fund, with financial support from the Resources Legacy Fund's Sustainable Fisheries Fund. Intertek Fisheries Certification conducted the MSC PA using the MSC Certification Requirements (MSC CR) version 1.3 that were in force at the time. The MSC PA final report was received in June 2014, before the MSC CR version 2.0 were released to the public on 1st October 2014 and became effective on 1st April 2015 (see MSC CR v.2.0, page 6).

The MSC CR v2.0 brings the change of assessing non-target species depending on whether they are under management (primary) or not (secondary), instead of on whether they are retained or discarded. Therefore, species classification needs to be updated.

The MSC CR v2.0 considers primary species where all the following criteria are met

- Species in the catch that are not covered under P1 because they are not included in the UoA;
- Species that are within scope of the MSC program defined in FCR 7.4.1.1 (not Amphibians, Reptiles, Birds nor Mammals);
- Species where management tools and measures are in place, intended to achieve stock management objectives reflected in either limit or target reference points.
- In cases where a species would be classified as primary due to the management measures of one jurisdiction but not another that overlaps with the UoA, that species shall still be considered as primary.

The MSC CRv2.0 considers Secondary Species in P2 as species in the catch that are within scope of the MSC program but are not covered under P1 because they are not included in the Unit of Assessment and

Are not considered "primary" as defined previously, or

- Species that are out of the program, but where the definition of ETP species is not applicable.

Considerations

The Official Mexican Standard NOM-065-SAG/PESC-2014 is the official document to regulate the use of grouper and associated species, in water under federal jurisdiction of the Gulf of México and Caribbean Sea. 21 grouper species are considered as target species & 16 snapper species are considered as associated species (Table 1).



The Fisheries National Chart (2018) is the last updated official document that includes information on the fishery. This is a non-bidding document that summarizes the information of the commercial fisheries in Mexico. This update includes as target species only the red grouper (*Epinephelus morio*) and black grouper (*Mycteroperca bonaci*) both evaluated in MSC P1.

The CNP (2018) considers 33 species as associated species including groupers, snappers, rays and sharks. However, no reference points are established for associated species (Table 1).

On the other hand, the same document considers a Snapper Fishery where the target species are *Lutjanus campechanus*, *L. vivanus* and *L. buccanella*. The Snapper Fishery is managed through fishing permits and established fishing gear. However, no reference points are established yet. No minimum catch size, time of closure and/or a catch quota has been determined.

Conclusion

Therefore, considering all the information presented previously since there are no reference points considered for the associated species, nor any of these species are enlisted in Appendix 1 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) they are considered as Secondary Species.

This gives as a result

- PI 2.1.1 GREEN instead of red
- PI 2.1.1 GREEN instead of red
- PI 2.1.1 GREEN instead of yellow

Consequently, The FIP is no longer addressing these Pi's.

References

CITES, 2019. Appendice I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Checklist of Cites Species. <http://checklist.cites.org/#/en> (last review may 2019)

DOF, 2018. Acuerdo por el que se da a conocer la actualización de la Carta Nacional Pesquera. 11/06/2018.

INAPESCA, 2012. Plan de Manejo pesquero de la pesquería de mero en la península de Yucatán, México. 85 pp.

Intertek Fisheries Certification. 2014. Pre-assessment Report for the Campeche Grouper Fishery – Final 62 pp.

MSC, 2014. MSC Fisheries Certification Requirements and Guidance – version 2.0. 540 pp.

Table 1. Associated species of the Grouper Gulf of Mexico fishery and its appearance in the CNP (2018) and the NOM-065-SAG/PESC-2014.

Family name	Scientific name	Common name	CNP 2018	NOM 065
Sparidae	<i>Calamus bajonado</i>	Mojarron	***	***
Sparidae	<i>Calamus campechanus</i>	Cachipluma		***
Sparidae	<i>Calamus nodosus</i>	Mojarra, pluma, cachipluma	***	
Carcharhidae	<i>Carcharhinus acronotus</i>	Cazón	***	
Serranidae	<i>Cephalopholis cruentata</i>	Cabrilla o cherna enjambre	***	***
Serranidae	<i>Cephalopholis fulva</i>	Cabrilla roja	***	***
Dasyatidae	<i>Dasyatis americana</i>	Raya grande	***	
Serranidae	<i>Dematolepis inermis</i>	Mero mármol		***
Serranidae	<i>Epinephelus adscensionis</i>	Cabrilla, payaso verde	***	***
Serranidae	<i>Epinephelus drummondhayi</i>	Lenteja abadejo	***	***
Serranidae	<i>Epinephelus guttatus</i>	Payaso rojo, cabrilla roja	***	***
Serranidae	<i>Epinephelus itajara</i>	Cherna	***	***
Serranidae	<i>Epinephelus mystacinus</i>	Mero listado		***
Serranidae	<i>Epinephelus striatus</i>	Mero del caribe, cherna	***	***
Serranidae	<i>Gonioplectrus hispanus</i>	Bandera española o biajaiba		***
Haemulidae	<i>Haemulon plumieri</i>	Chac-chi, boquilla	***	***
Serranidae	<i>Hyporthodus flavolimbatus</i> (antes E.)	Mero negro, fiat	***	***

Family name	Scientific name	Common name	CNP 2018	NOM 065
Serranidae	<i>Hyporthodus nigritus (antes E.)</i>	Cherna pintada	***	***
Serranidae	<i>Hyporthodus niveatus (antes E.)</i>	Corvinato	***	***
Labridae	<i>Lachnolaimus maximus</i>	Boquinete		***
Malacanthidae	<i>Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps</i>	Corvinato	***	
Lutjanidae	<i>Lutjanus analis</i>	Pargo criollo, pargo lunarejo		***
Lutjanidae	<i>Lutjanus buccanella</i>	Huachinango aleta negra		***
Lutjanidae	<i>Lutjanus campechanus</i>	Huachinango de castilla	***	***
Lutjanidae	<i>Lutjanus griseus</i>	Pargo mulato, pargo gris	***	***
Lutjanidae	<i>Lutjanus jocu</i>	Pargo perro, cabellera	***	***
Lutjanidae	<i>Lutjanus synagris</i>	Rubia, villajaiba	***	***
Lutjanidae	<i>Lutjanus vivanus</i>	Huachinango ojo amarillo		***
Serranidae	<i>Mycteroperca interstitialis</i>	Gallina, mero boca amarilla	***	***
Serranidae	<i>Mycteroperca microlepis</i>	Abadejo, Gag	***	***
Serranidae	<i>Mycteroperca phenax</i>	Cabrilla , negrillo, abadejo	***	***
Serranidae	<i>Mycteroperca tigris</i>	Cuna gata o vampiro		***
Serranidae	<i>Mycteroperca venenosa</i>	Guacamayo, arigua	***	***
Lutjanidae	<i>Ocyurus chrysurus</i>	Rubia, canane	***	***
Serranidae	<i>Paranthias furcifer</i>	Cuna lucero o diablito		***

Family name	Scientific name	Common name	CNP 2018	NOM 065
Rachycentridae	<i>Rachycentrum canadum</i>	Cobia	***	***
Carcharhinidae	<i>Rhizoprionodon terranovae</i>	Cazón tripa o cazón de ley	***	
Lutjanidae	<i>Rhomboplites aurorubens</i>	Besugo	***	***
Carangidae	<i>Seriola dumerilli</i>	Esmedregal	***	
Carangidae	<i>Seriola rivoliana</i>	Esmedregal	***	
Carangidae	<i>Seriola zonata</i>	medregal rayado, coronado	***	***
Sphyrnidae	<i>Sphyrna tiburo</i>	Cornuda cabeza pata	***	