



## **Mexican Pacific shrimp - bottom trawl 2017-2020 Workplan**

### **Status of the fishery**

The Mexican Pacific shrimp-bottom trawl 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, two thirds 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 resulted in the discard of tens of thousands of tonnes of approximately 600 marine species.

Fortunately, in the last two decades, the Mexican Pacific shrimp-bottom trawl fishery has implemented major improvements toward achieving sustainability. Thanks to the 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 now require mandatory use of bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) and establishes restrictions to gear dimensions.

Fishery administration and enforcement have also improved. All shrimp fishing vessels are now monitored 24/7 by the fisheries agency through a vessel monitoring system (VMS) capable of identifying incursions to restricted areas and fishing activities in prohibited zones.

### **Workplan**

While the fishery has reached major advances towards sustainability, some topics are pendant to improve in order to achieve the management system and environmental performance needed to meet the requirements form the *MSC* standards to certify sustainable fisheries, including:

- a) The need for a robust, updated and publicly available stocks assessment to determine the pertinence of the existing harvest strategy and control rules for the management objectives,



- b) The need for transparency on the research, monitoring and decision-making process for the fishery management,
- c) The need for a robust, updated and publicly available evaluation of the fishery impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem to determine if the existing harvest strategy and control rules does not hinder the ecosystem capacity to dissipate such fishery impacts; and
- d) The need for transparency and accountability among the supply chain against the applicable regulatory framework and markets demands.



### Workplan chart

Topic/Activity	Deliverables	Deadline	Participants	Role
<b>Robust, updated and publicly available Stocks assessment</b>	• Talking points for common speech with fisheries authorities	Dec, 2017	Pesca Responsable	Coordination and development of documents
	• Common agenda for FIP participants negotiations	Mar, 2018	Pesca Responsable	Coordination and development of documents
			Ocean Garden	Meetings participation and implementation
			Meridian Products	
			Mexican Shrimp Paradise	
	• Meetings with fisheries authorities to request the stocks assessments update and disclosure	Jun,2018	Ocean Garden	Meetings organizations and attendance
			Meridian Products	
Mexican Shrimp Paradise				
<b>Transparent research, monitoring and decision-making process</b>	• Meetings with fisheries authorities to review progress on the stock assessment process	Dec, 2020	Ocean Garden	Meetings organizations and attendance
			Meridian Products	
			Mexican Shrimp Paradise	
	• Publication of stocks assessments, technical opinions and annual workplans	Dec, 2018	Ocean Garden	Coordination and negotiation with authorities
			Meridian Products	
			Mexican Shrimp Paradise	
• Monitor and document improvement on transparency	Dec, 2020	Pesca Responsable	Coordination and implementation	

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Topic/Activity	Deliverables	Deadline	Participants	Role
<b>Robust, updated and publicly available evaluation of the fishery impacts</b>	• Onboard observers program with, at least, 5% coverage of the fleet operations	Dec, 2019	Mexican Shrimp Paradise	Coordination and implementation
	• Report on fishery impacts to biodiversity, with emphasis on secondary species and ETP species	Dec, 2019	Pesca Responsable	Coordination
			Mexican Shrimp Paradise	Financing and organization
	• Research program to evaluate fishery accumulative impacts on the habitat	Sep, 2019	Pesca Responsable	Coordination
			Ocean Garden Meridian Products	Financing and implementation
	• Report on fishery impacts on habitats	Mar, 2020	Pesca Responsable	Coordination
	• Evaluation of fishery ecosystemic impacts	Sep, 2020	Ocean Garden	Meetings organization and financing
Meridian Products				
Mexican Shrimp Paradise				
<b>Supply chain accountable and transparent against the regulatory framework and markets requirements</b>	• Updated list of companies and vessels supplying the FIP participants	Sep, 2018	Pesca Responsable	Coordination
			Ocean garden	Information gathering
			Meridian Products	
			Mexican Shrimp Paradise	
	• FIP participants and their suppliers implementing equivalent Procurement policy.	Dec, 2019	Pesca Responsable	Coordination
			Ocean garden	Implementation and financing
			Meridian Products Mexican Shrimp Paradise	
	• FIP Participants traceability systems adjusted to fulfil the U.S. Seafood Import Monitoring Program	Dec, 2018	Ocean Garden	Implementation and financing
			Meridian Products	
			Mexican Shrimp Paradise	
	• VMS data from vessels covered by the FIP procurement policy available for interested parties	May, 2019	Pesca Responsable	Coordination
			Ocean Garden	Implementation and financing
Meridian Products				
Mexican Shrimp Paradise				