

# **ANNUAL REPORT TO THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION**

## **PART 1: INFORMATION ON FISHERIES, RESEARCH AND STATISTICS**

**1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2016**

**APRIL, 2017**

Scientific data was provided to the Commission in accordance with the decision relating to the provision of scientific data to the Commission by 30 April 2017	Not Applicable
If no, please indicate the reason(s) and intended actions: Mexican vessels didn't fish in the WCPFC Convention Area.	

## **1. SUMMARY**

Mexico is a federal constitutional republic in North America. It is bordered on the north by the United States; on the south and west by the Pacific Ocean; on the southeast by Guatemala, Belize, and the Caribbean Sea; and on the east by the Gulf of Mexico.

Currently, Mexico has a Cooperating Non Member status within the WCPFC and has been complying with all the conservation and management measures adopted in the Commission.

In Mexico, the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector is considered a strategic priority for the country's development. This industry not only provides the food that the Mexican families consume, but also supplies the raw materials for manufacturing and processing industries. Additionally, by maintaining high export dynamism, it acts as an important generator of foreign exchange.

The Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA); through the National Commission for Aquaculture and Fisheries (CONAPESCA), a deconcentrated administrative body; it's responsible for the management of the fisheries and aquaculture resources of the country. This responsibility is shared as well with state governments and municipalities.

Mexico has 11,592 kilometers of coastline:

- 8,475 km correspond to the Pacific Coast.
- 3,117 km belong to the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, including islands.
- 3 million square kilometers of Exclusive Economic Zone.

## 2. TABULAR ANNUAL FISHERIES INFORMATION

Although, Mexican purse seiner vessels didn't fish in the WCPFC Convention Area in 2015, there are historical fisheries in 1983 and 1984 (Table 1).

MEXICO HISTORICAL FISHERIES IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC COMMISSION AREA																	
Year	Type of Vessel	Vessels Active	Fishing Effort: Days Fished	Fishing Area	SPECIES												
					SKIPJACK			YELLOWFIN			BIGEYE			OTHER		TOTAL	
					Catch	CPUE	%	Catch	CPUE	%	Catch	CPUE	%	Catch	Catch	CPUE	
1983	Purse Seiner	1	14	SouthWest	388	27.71	83	69	4.93	15	11	0.79	2	0	468	33.43	
1984	Purse Seiner	5	282	SouthWest	4,262	15.11	65	2,036	7.22	31	302	1.07	5	0	6,600	23.4	
	SouthWest																
	SouthWest																
	SouthWest																
	SouthWest																

Table 1. Historical Catches in the WCPFC area by Mexico purse seiner vessels.

## 3. BACKGROUND

The Mexican Government has included in its fisheries and aquaculture public policy, a long term vision in order to encourage the national development, competitiveness and the strategic planning that it's incorporated in the National Development Plan (2013-2018) the Sectorial Program of Farming and Fishing of the SAGARPA, and the National Sector Program of Fisheries and Aquaculture. The Mexican fishing industry plays a vital role from the economic growth perspective.

Under this framework the country is governed by five strategic areas: Fisheries and Aquaculture Management integrally and sustainably, Policy Compliance and Enforcement, Strategic Development of Aquaculture, Fostering the Capitalization of Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Promoting the consumption of fishery and aquaculture products.

It is important to highlight that Mexico gives a very special attention and confers a high priority to the tuna resources of the pacific, and is much concerned that fisheries in the Pacific Ocean be managed and conserved for sustainable use.

Consequently, Mexico is an active member of the following organizations: Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP), The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the Ocean and Fisheries Working Group of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation mechanism (APEC), the Latin American Fisheries Development Organization (OLDEPESCA), the Fisheries Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

(OECD), Consultant and information Services Center for Fishery Products Marketing in Latin America and the Caribbean (INFOPECSA), among others.

#### 4. FLAG STATE REPORTING

Although, Mexican pole-and-line vessels didn't fish in the WCPFC Convention Area in 2015, there are historical fisheries in 1978-2005. (Table 2)

MEXICO								
HISTORICAL FISHERIES IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC COMMISSION AREA								
Year	Type of Vessel	Units and catch effort	SPECIES					
			SKIPJACK	YELLOWFIN	BIGEYE	ALBACORE	BLUE MARLIN	OTHER SPECIES
			Catch	Catch	Catch	Catch	Catch	Catch
1978	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	31	33	0	0	0	0
1979	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	41	41	0	0	0	0
1981	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	31	21	0	0	0	0
1982	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	70	58	0	0	0	0
1983	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	50	42	0	0	0	0
1983	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	49	54	0	0	0	0
1984	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	42	53	0	0	0	0
1985	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	27	42	0	0	0	0
1986	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	28	42	0	0	0	0
1987	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	47	61	0	0	0	0
1988	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	40	46	0	0	0	0
1989	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	61	59	0	0	0	0
1990	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	33	56	0	0	0	0
1991	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	32	42	0	0	0	0
1992	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	41	60	0	0	0	0
1993	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	44	58	0	0	0	0
1994	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	56	65	0	0	0	0
1995	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	74	57	0	0	0	0
1996	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	58	63	0	0	0	0
1997	Pole-and-line i	Number of days fished	70	80	0	0	0	0
1998	Pole-and-line i	Number of days fished	50	73	0	0	0	0
1999	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	5	0	0	0	0	0
2000	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	18	60	0	0	0	0
2001	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	27	69	0	0	0	0
2002	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	22	29	0	0	0	0
2003	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	20	20	0	0	0	0
2004	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	31	27	0	0	0	0
2005	Pole-and-line	Number of days fished	24	23	0	0	0	0

Table 2. Historical Catches in the WCPFC area by Mexico pole-and-line vessels.

## **5. SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS**

In 2015, the fisheries and aquaculture industry in Mexico employ around 294,840 people, which are distributed: 238,590 people is dedicated to catching (81%) and the rest, is dedicated to aquaculture equivalent of 56,250 people (19%).

## **6. FUTURE PROSPECTS OF THE FISHERY**

Mexico reiterates its intention to become in the near future, a Contracting Party to the Commission consistent with Article 35 of the WCPFC Convention.