

Summary

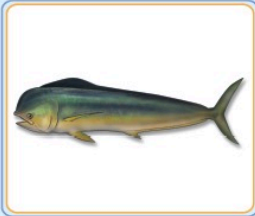


Guatemala Mahi-Mahi FIP

A fishery improvement project (FIP) is a multistakeholder effort to address environmental challenges in a fishery.

Summary

Sea Delight's financial contributions to improve the mahi-mahi fishery in Guatemala are an important source of revenue to maintain on-the-ground Action Plan activity implementation. A national scope mahi-mahi FIP coordinated by CeDePesca was established in 2013 with the goal of MSC certification for the manually operated pelagic longline and mechanized pelagic longline fisheries.



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| Species | Mahi-mahi (<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>) |
| Location | Territorial waters of Guatemala and international waters |
| Gear | 1. Manually operated pelagic longlines 2. Mechanized pelagic longlines |
| Stakeholders | Directorate of Fisheries & Aquaculture, National Federation of Artisanal Fishers in Guatemala, Industry, CeDePesca, Fishing Cooperatives, and others |
| Start Date | February 2014 |

- ✓ Active supply chain participation?
- ✓ Public commitment?
- ✓ Timebound objectives defined?
- ✓ Published work plan?
- ✓ System for progress tracking & reporting?

Highlights

Collaborative data collection program continued with fishing associations and DIPESCA staff in July 2015



Guatemala delegation attends the 2nd IATTC International Scientific Workshop on mahi-mahi in October 2015



DIPESCA and CeDePesca produce 1st report on mahi-mahi stock status for Guatemala in December 2015



Timeline

Prepared on 06.01.16 in collaboration with **FISH WISE**



2015-2016 FIP Highlights

1. In July 2015, FIP participants sent a letter to Mar de Cristal to announce that buying would cease until they honored their commitment to the FIP.
2. Between July and September 2015, DIPESCA and CeDePesca continued information collection activities outlined in the FIP Action Plan.
3. In October 2015, the IATTC's second technical meeting on mahi-mahi took place in Lima, Peru and included participants from DIPESCA and CeDePesca, whose participation was ensured by the FIP.



4. At the 2nd IATTC technical meeting, Eduardo Juarez, Research Director at DIPESCA presented advances in data collection made by the Guatemala mahi-mahi FIP with financial assistance provided by the FIP.
5. In November 2015 talks were initiated with the national government to draft a management plan proposal for the Guatemala mahi-mahi fishery.
6. In December 2015, DIPESCA and CeDePesca produced the first draft report on the Guatemala mahi-mahi fishery using statistical data that has been obtained to date by the FIP.

Sea Delight’s FIP Membership and Contribution – In February of 2014 Sea Delight was invited by CeDePesca to attend the first FIP stakeholder meeting in Guatemala City, Guatemala. Later that same year Sea Delight formally committed to supporting the FIP by signing the “Framework Collaboration Agreement”. Sea Delight, Tasty Seafood, and Incredible Fish agreed to encourage their Guatemalan suppliers to participate in the FIP and to also provide funding for the FIP’s implementation.

Mahi-mahi from Guatemala typically represents only a minor percentage of Sea Delight’s mahi-mahi purchases with the last order dating back to August 2014. Over the past two years there has been a general lack of Guatemala mahi-mahi inventory, mainly due to negative environmental conditions created by the latest El Niño event. In addition, high fuel costs have contributed to an overall lack of fishing effort for mahi-mahi in Guatemalan waters. Sea Delight’s principal contributions to the FIP are as one of the project’s financiers and as a participant in discussions regarding the FIP’s progress and Action Plan. Sea Delight is seeking to diversify its mahi-mahi suppliers and this strategy could increase purchasing from Guatemala in the future, likely leading to additional involvement in FIP activities.

It is important to note that this FIP has been underway in the middle of a profound national political crisis where both the President and Vice-president were compelled to resign. New elections took place in September 2015 without a clear winner but a candidate was elected in a second round of the elections in October 2015. The existing political uncertainty has made it increasingly difficult for CeDePesca to work with national government officials.

2015-2016 Sea Delight FIP Activities

1. **Financial support of the FIP** – Sea Delight supports the FIP through annual financial contributions to assist with the implementation of on-the-ground FIP activities.
 - a. **FIP Activity Supported** – While not an official Action Plan activity, funding is needed to complete the list of improvement activities outlined in the FIP Action Plan.
 - b. **Importance** – A long-term and sustainable funding is needed to carry out the FIP’s scheduled set of activities and not allow the rate of progress to fall behind.



2. **Motivate new companies to join FIP** – Sea Delight continues to leverage its business relationships with both Guatemala and U.S. based companies to gain additional support for the FIP.
 - a. **FIP Activity Supported** – While not an official Action Plan activity, Sea Delight is working to increase industry support for and participation in FIP Action Plan activities.
 - b. **Importance** – Financial support generated from new FIP participants is needed to carry out the FIP’s scheduled activities and to demonstrate industry support for fisheries improvement.
3. **Quarterly check-in with CeDePesca** – Sea Delight stays in regular contact with CeDePesca to remain up-to-date with FIP progress and to become aware of any issues that may have arisen.
 - a. **FIP Activity Supported** – While not an official Action Plan activity, regular contact with the FIP implementation team is necessary to understand how the FIP is progressing and what current obstacles need to be addressed.
 - b. **Importance** – A thorough understanding of how Sea Delight financial contributions are being used for FIP implementation is necessary for continued support.

Sea Delight Next Steps – Although Sea Delight does not implement company-specific FIP activities as part of the Guatemala mahi-mahi FIP Action Plan, next steps for the company include:

1. Sea Delight will continue to provide annual financial support for the FIP;
2. Sea Delight Ocean Fund will work towards creating an advocacy angle to increase FIP participation from other businesses and stakeholders;
3. Conduct a scoping exercise to investigate the feasibility of increasing the company’s participation in the FIP once product becomes available.

