



MEXICO

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Why SSF?

Mexico is among the 20th most productive countries trading seafood in Latin America and among those with a higher contribution in Latin American and the Caribbean. The fisheries on the Pacific coast (contributes with 70% of catches) and in the Gulf and Caribbean areas (28% of catches), provide employment, food, foreign exchange, and livelihood to many coastal communities. Close to 80,000 boats make up the small-scale fleet; from 300,000 fishers registered in fisheries, 90% belong to the small-scale fisheries (SSF) sector. A diversity of gears and fishing methods are used and SSF target a high diversity of species (above 200 species). Nonetheless, the main targets comprise close to 22 species (because of its value), which makes the sector and resources highly dependent and vulnerable.

Fisheries and aquaculture policies in Mexico are top-down- and resource based. Different policies that concern fisheries apply both to SSF and industrial fisheries. There are no specific policies for the former and there are several instruments that apply to the sector that are aligned in the general Political Constitution of the Mexican United States (CPEUM). Some instruments, such as fisheries ordinance programs and fisheries management plans of some species are also considered within the National Policies of the seas and coasts, which take a broader approach in terms of species, geographical areas, or even ecosystems.

What are SSF?

Small-scale fisheries (SSF) are legally binding through Regulation/Decree/ Ordinance & National Fisheries Policy.

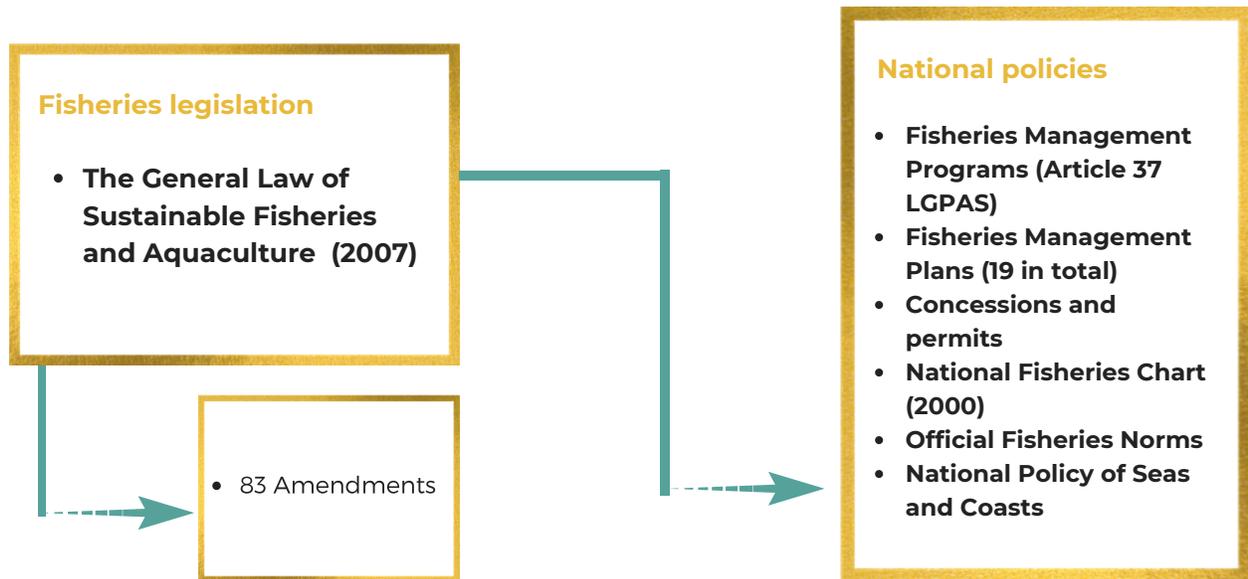
"Small-scale fishing & aquaculture producers"

Operation Rules of the Program to Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development for fiscal year of 2020.

Small-scale fishing & aquaculture producer:

an individual who carries out fishing and aquaculture activities on a micro or small-scale and who operates by means of smaller fishing vessel or medium-high fishing vessels smaller than 12 meters in length with production of up to 10 tonnes per year.

How are SSF governed?



Who governs SSF?

National authorities in charge of fisheries governance:

- **Ministry of Rural Development federal agency (SADER)**
- **National Aquaculture and Fisheries Commission (CONAPESCA)**
- **The Federal Environmental Protection Attorney's Office (PROFEPA)**

Responsibilities:

The main purpose is formulation and implementation of the National Fishing and Aquaculture Policies:

- Granting of fishing permits and fishing; spatial/resource concession, and implementation of management measures;
- Coastal planning comprises all activities developed by the coast, including fisheries [requires joint efforts by Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) and CONAPESCA];
- Surveillance and enforcement activities.

What principles govern fisheries?

Legislation: **Yellow** **Blue:** Policy

Yes  

No  

Not clear  

Not specific to fisheries  

Human rights & dignity			
Respect of cultures			
Non-discrimination			
Gender equality & equity			
Equity & equality			
Consultation & participation			
Rule of law			
Transparency			
Accountability			
Economic, social & environmental sustainability			
Ecosystem approach to fisheries			
Social responsibility			
Other SSF relevant principles			

What legal and policy instruments are SSF specific?

No specific provisions for SSF

- Tenure and related rights for SSF
- Exclusive fishing area or priority access to fishery resources for SSF
- Registration requirements for SSF
- Capacity building program for SSF

- LGPAS; <https://www.gob.mx/conapesca/documentos/ley-general-de-pesca-y-acuacultura-sustentables>

No specific provisions for SSF

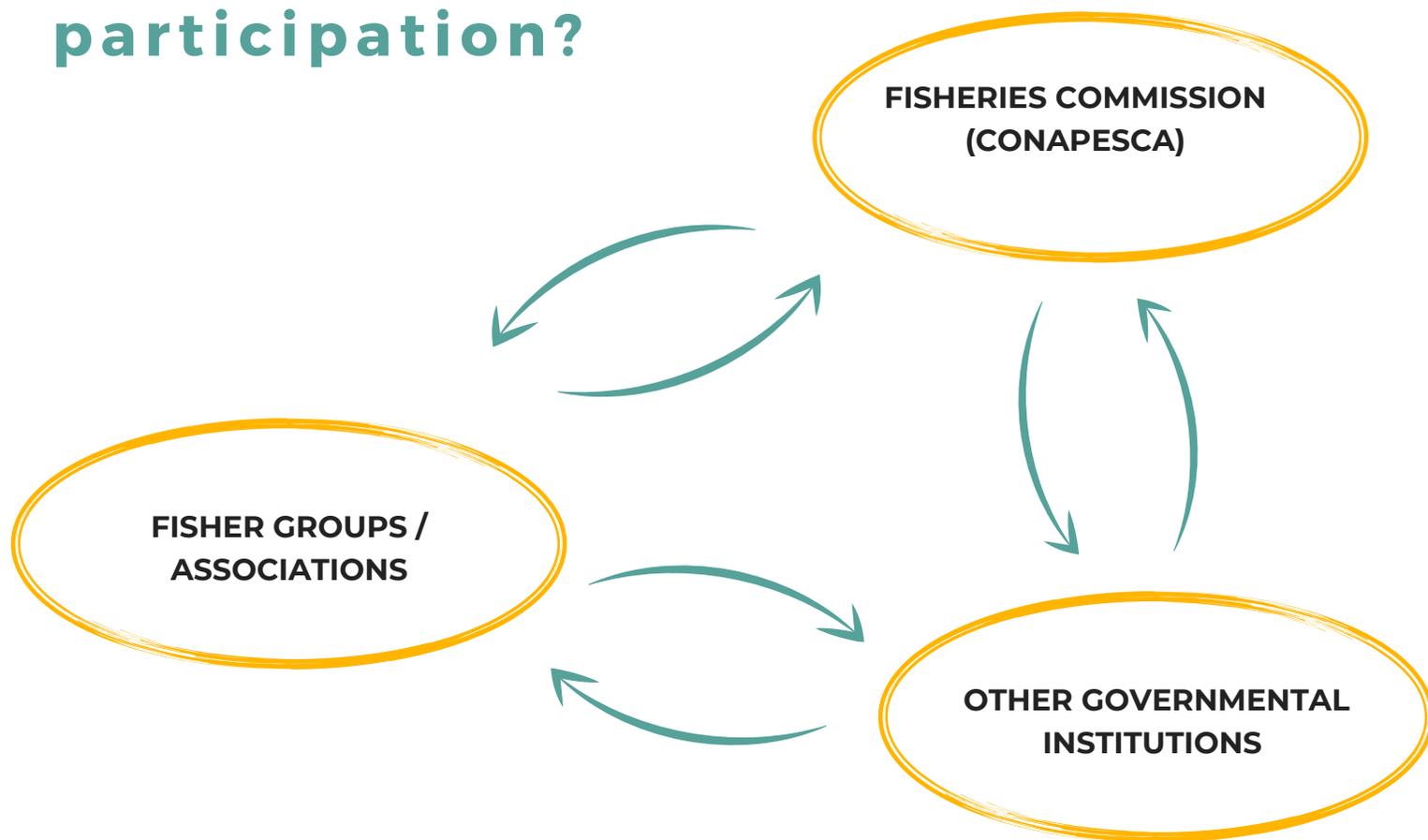
- MCS measures and others aimed to deter, prevent and eliminate IUU applying to SSF
- Social development, employment and decent work for SSF along the value chain
- Recognition of SSF as professional workers, along the value chain
- Responsible trade in fish and certification of fishery products from SSF
- Legal protection of women in SSF, along the value chain
- Special treatment to women in SSF
- Protection of SSF from disaster risks/ climate change, and/or recognition of SSF vulnerability in disaster risk/climate change policies and strategies

- CPEUM; <http://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/ref/cpeum.htm>

Not clear

- Labour rights or social benefits for SSF along the value chain

What are opportunities for interaction & participation?



Representation of SSF in governance

Fishers participation occurs mainly at the consultation level at the stage of developing management plans of any provision in the governance system. This is not specific for SSF.

Fishers' participation in management, including co-management or decentralised fisheries management schemes

Co-management as a concept or arrangement is not mentioned in any law. There are not many cases where co-management system applies but some fisheries operate under such management scheme, for example in the Pacific (Bahia Tortugas) and in the Caribbean sea (Punta Allen and Punta Herrero).

Holistic form of governance or reform

Currently, no Mexican policy or program states that a holistic form of governance will be pursued in SSF. Nonetheless, the ecosystem approach to fisheries has been promoted by FAO within the assessment of the Large Marine Ecosystems and sometimes is supported by the Ministry of Environment (SEMARNAT). However, there is not always coordination among the ministry of environment and the Fisheries commission and the INAPESCA .