

# The Road from Unassessed to Assessed: Huachinango in the Mexican Pacific

In Mexico, The Nature Conservancy, in collaboration with the Institución Nacional de Pesca y Acuicultura (INAPESCA) and the Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca (CONAPESCA), have been utilizing the FishPath Tool and Process in the Huachinango fishery (*Lutjanus peru*), beginning in late 2017. The Huachinango fishery is part of the finfish fishery (with over 200 species), and it is one of the most important small-scale fisheries in Mexico, not only for its volume, but also its value (ranking 8th place) and social value.

The goal of the FishPath process in the Huachinango fishery is to address systemic barriers that prevent the finfish fishery to transition towards sustainability. These barriers are shared among other small-scale fisheries and therefore, the process can be replicated with other resources.



Technical training for fisheries authorities focused on R-programming, Summer 2019. Photo Credit: TNC

To date, we have identified three main challenges for the Huachinango fishery: 1) lack of information systems (data infrastructure, monitoring protocols, etc.), 2) lack of knowledge about the stock status, and 3) lack of a fully articulated harvest strategy (including the three interlinked components of data collection, stock assessment, and management measures). During the FishPath process we created a technical team with representatives from both fisheries agencies and

members of the FishPath Network and we have been able to tailor several trainings and capacity building courses for data organization, stock assessments, harvest strategy design among others. Some of our results are:

- An integrated, standardized regional database for the Huachinango fishery
- Stock assessments for the fishery (catch, catch-per-unit-effort or CPUE, and length-based methods)
- A data collection protocol for monitoring the fishery
- Data collection, assessment and management recommendations for this fishery's context
- An initial harvest strategy design

*“As part of the National Fisheries Institute, the collaboration with TNC and particularly with the FishPath process has brought great value, strengthening our capacities and knowledge. We are adding efforts to achieve sustainable fisheries management for the Gulf of California and the rest of the country.”*

- Marcela Zúñiga, INAPESCA



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