

Upper Gulf of California Gillnet Shrimp Production and Transportation 2020-2021 Harvest Season

Method

1. Requests were presented to CONAPESCA under the Mexican law for access to public information to obtain two sets of documents pertaining to the September 2020 – March 2021 shrimp harvest season:
 - a. All avisos de arribo (landings reports) reporting shrimp harvest with small-scale gear, filed in the four CONAPESCA offices closest to the Upper Gulf of California: San Felipe, Mexicali, Golfo de Santa Clara, and Puerto Peñasco.
 - b. All guías de pesca (waybills, required for transportation of seafood products across state borders) for shrimp that were filed in the CONAPESCA offices in Mexicali and Puerto Peñasco (the two local offices where waybills may be obtained).
2. The results were provided in the form of thousands of individual PDFs of the official documents, which were then entered into excel spreadsheet databases.
3. Waybills include the landing report serial numbers (which allows identification of the harvester) the name and location of the individual or company requesting the waybill, and the name and location of the destination of the product. The names of recipients were censored for privacy reason by CONAPESCA before the information was released. Addresses or general locations were provided, and in some cases allowed identification of the recipient.
4. Waybills were classified into one of three categories based upon the landings report serial number, which contains a two letter prefix that differentiates between the type of vessel: small-scale vessel product (BE), large-scale vessel product (AE), and other (INV, refers to inventories of species in a closed season). A substantial number of waybills initially classified as “other” had abnormal landings reports serial number prefixes (e.g. B, BA) or non-sensical landings report serial numbers (e.g. 2146ED01-8D56-4AFE-9792-D240DC400F07). The filers of these waybills were reviewed to determine if it was likely that the product was truly from small-scale fishers (i.e. the filer also requested waybills that were clearly attributed to the small-scale sector, or the filer was known as an organization that deals with small-scale production). These filers were marked as likely to be transporting small-scale shrimp.
5. Data were tabulated to identify the main producers (from the landings reports), the main transporters (from the waybills), and the main destinations (from the waybills).

Results

Main harvesters

1,144 landing reports were received from CONAPESCA. The landings reports indicate that just over 550,000 kg of shrimp was harvested by small-scale producers in the upper Gulf of California during the 2020-2021 shrimp season (Table 1).

Table 1: 2020-2021 small-scale shrimp harvest registered in upper Gulf of California CONAPESCA offices.

CONAPESCA office	Volume (kg)
Mexicali	78,431
San Felipe	321,407
Puerto Penasco	36,726
Santa Clara	114,687
Total	551,251

According to the landings reports, the top 15 producers in the upper Gulf of California accounted for approximately 88% of the production (Table 2). The remainder of the harvest was captured by 31 other producers, each accounting for <2% of the total harvest.

Table 2: The top 15 producers of upper Gulf of California shrimp during the 2020-2021 season.

Top 15 Producers	Volume (kg)	% of total
SCP RIBEREÑOS PUNTA ESTRELLA SPR DE RL	143,842	26%
EL DESIERTO DE MATOMI SPR DE RL	48,821	9%
SCPP RIB MARELBA LEYMOR SCL	40,716	7%
UNION DE PESCADORES ATENEA DE LOS MARES SPR DE RL	40,336	7%
LA PAMITA SPR DE RL	29,483	5%
SCPP BOCA DEL MAR DE PLATINO SC DE RL DE CV	28,996	5%
SCPP BAJAMAR DE SANTA CLARA SC DE RL DE CV	28,854	5%
PESQUERA CACHANA'S SPR DE RL	25,371	5%
SCPP LA VAQUITA DE LOS ANGULO SC DE RL DE CV	18,000	3%
SCPP RIBEREÑA DEMETRIO SOBERANTES CASTRO SCL	16,399	3%
FARO CARCIA SPR DE RL	15,560	3%
SCPP RIOS VALLES DEL GOLFO SC DE RL DE CV	14,881	3%
PESQUERA BAJAMAR SC DE RL	14,848	3%
SOCIEDAD DE PESCADORES RIBEREÑOS DE SAN FELIPE SPR DE RL	9,893	2%
SCPP MAR Y TIERRA DEL GOLFO DE CORTEZ SC DE RL	8,442	2%
Total	484,442	88%

Main transporters

829 waybills were received from CONAPESCA. The vast majority (672) were filed in Puerto Peñasco. There were 312 waybills associated with small-scale fishery production and these were filed by 34 companies and an unknown number of individuals (22 waybills accounting for 24,500 kg of shrimp were censored to protect names of individuals). These waybills account for the movement of approximately 565,000 kg of shrimp, and 70% of the volume was moved in November and December. The top 15 waybill filers are shown Table 3, and account for transport of over 470,000 kg of shrimp, approximately 84% of the total volume transported. Twelve of the top 15 waybill filers, also appear in Table 2, the top 15 small-scale shrimp producers – these companies are marked with an asterisk in Table 3.

Table 3: The top 15 waybill filers (by volume transported) of upper Gulf of California shrimp during the 2020-2021 season.

Filer of the waybill	No. of waybills	Volume transported (kg)	% total vol.
SCP RIBEREÑOS PUNTA ESTRELLA SPR DE RL*	24	193,935	34%
EL DESIERTO DE MATOMI SPR DE RL*	17	46,121	8%
SCPP LA VAQUITA DE LOS ANGULO SC DE RL DE CV*	6	28,940	5%
SCPP MAR Y TIERRA DEL GOLFO DE CORTEZ SC DE RL*	15	23,352	4%
SCP DEL DESIERTO SC DE RL DE CV	18	21,978	4%
LA PAMITA SPR DE RL*	17	20,725	4%
UNION DE PESCADORES ATENEA DE LOS MARES SPR DE RL*	8	20,155	4%
SCPP BAJAMAR DE SANTA CLARA SC DE RL DE CV*	16	18,751	3%
PESQUERA CACHANA'S SPR DE RL*	18	18,642	3%
GOLSOMAX SA DE CV	9	16,300	3%
FARO GARCIA SPR DE RL*	9	16,144	3%
SCPP COSTA DE SANTA CLARA SC DE RL DE CV	13	13,510	2%
SCPP RIB MARELBA LEYMOR SCL*	11	12,277	2%
PESQUERA BAJAMAR SC DE RL*	3	11,423	2%
SCPP BOCA DEL MAR DE PLATINO SC DE RL DE CV*	19	10,412	2%
Total	262	472,666	84%

It is important to note that there were three other waybill filers that have significant amounts of shrimp attributed to the “other category”, but were noted as likely to be transporting small-scale shrimp. These waybill filers are shown in Table 4. If these waybill filers truly were transporting small-scale shrimp production, they would appear in the Top 15 list shown in Table 3 above (and in fact, Costa de Santa Clara already does). It is important to note that these volumes of shrimp cannot be correlated to landings reports obtained from CONAPESCA for this analysis, and if added to the known volume of small-scale shrimp transported, the total

volumes transported would drastically exceed the total volumes reported as small-scale harvest volume in the upper Gulf of California.

Table 4: Top 5 filers of waybills classified as other, but identified likely to be associated with small-scale fishery production.

Filer of the waybill	No. of waybills	Volume transported (kg)
SCPP COSTA DE SANTA CLARA SC DE RL DE CV	48	130,055
SCPP DON CHILO SC DE RL	24	55,250
HUVA DEL NORTE HDN SC DE RL DE CV	37	51,008
SCPP RIOS VALLES DEL GOLFO SC DE RL	4	15,313

Main receivers

Over half of the volume of small-scale shrimp transported from upper Gulf of California ports appears to have been delivered to five locations (Table 5). Significant amounts (nearly 20% of the total volume) were transported to generic locations in Guasave, Hermosillo, and Los Mochis which could not be specifically identified.

Table 5: Destinations of small-scale shrimp transported from the upper Gulf of California and the associated companies that filed waybills to transport that product

Destination	Volume (kg)	Waybill filers
NAVOJOA SON - Col. Congregación Bahuises	151,832	1. SCP RIBEREÑOS PUNTA ESTRELLA SPR DE RL 2. UNION DE PESCADORES ATENEA DE LOS MARES SPR DE RL
GUAYMAS SON - Calle 14, Col. Guaymas Centro	83,020	1. EL DESIERTO DE MATOMI SPR DE RL 2. GOLSOMAX SA DE CV 3. LA PAMITA SPR DE RL 4. PESQUERA CACHANA'S SPR DE RL 5. SCPP BAJAMAR DE SANTA CLARA SC DE RL DE CV 6. UNION DE PESCADORES ATENEA DE LOS MARES SPR DE RL
GUASAVE SIN - Tlatelolco #374, Col. Jardines de San Jose	50,727	1. EL DESIERTO DE MATOMI SPR DE RL 2. FARO GARCIA SPR DE RL 3. PESQUERA BAJAMAR SC DE RL 4. SCPP LA VAQUITA DE LOS ANGULO SC DE RL DE CV
GUAYMAS SON - L8 M33 Avenida #3RA, Col. Las Playitas 1	19,983	1. SCP DEL DESIERTO SC DE RL DE CV
HUATABAMPO SON -Ave Alvaro Obregon #115, Col. Huatabampo Centro	18,166	1. SCPP MAR Y TIERRA DEL GOLFO DE CORTEZ SC DE RL

Conclusions

1. Illegal gillnet harvest of shrimp in the upper Gulf of California occurred near historic levels during the 2020-2021 harvest season. The top 15 producers in the upper Gulf of California accounted for approximately 88% of the production.
2. A similar amount of shrimp was transported out of the upper Gulf of California region for processing and/or sale during the 2020-2021 harvest season. The transportation was facilitated by many of the same organizations that harvested the shrimp.
3. While not all receivers were able to be identified due to information censored by CONAPESCA for privacy purposes, it is clear that over half of the shrimp transported out of the upper Gulf of California region was delivered to just five destinations.