



*Implications of Mexico's  
Rural Development  
Strategy for aquaculture  
and wild fisheries*

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## *General aspects of Mexico*



- ◆ *Total population: 103 million. 76% in urban areas and 24% in rural ones.*
- ◆ *Employment distribution: 15% primary sector (more technology since 1990s), 26% secondary and 69% services.*
- ◆ *Formal employment 65%, self-employed 23%, informal workers 9%.*
- ◆ *Rural illiteracy 23%.*
- ◆ *Poverty: moderate 52% and extreme 23% (61% rural).*
- ◆ *Peasant options against poverty: non-agricultural activities, migration and relatives transfers.*

## *Mexican states of major poverty*



## *Fishing and aquaculture in Mexico*



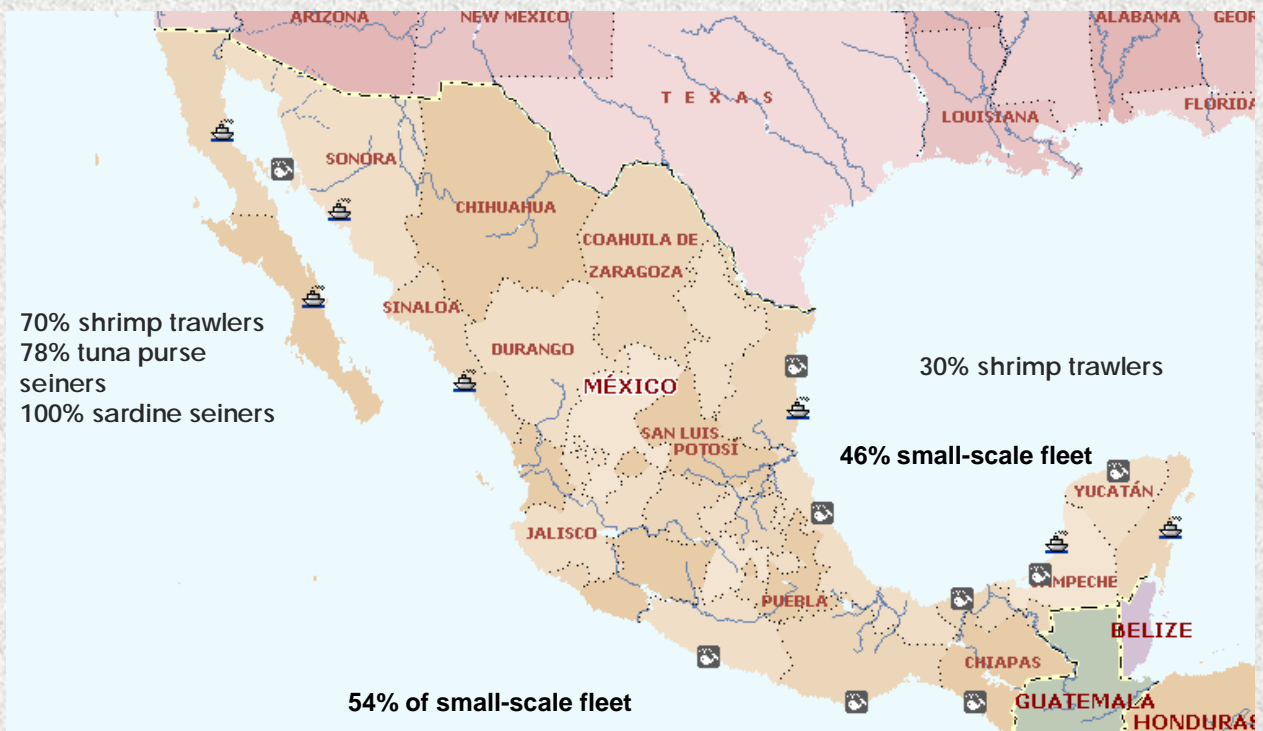
- ◆ *Average production per year since the 1990s: 1.2 million mt, despite natural endowment (fish 96%, aquaculture 4%).*
- ◆ *Exports 81%, imports 19%.*
- ◆ *World position in 2004: 16<sup>th</sup> in fishing; 28<sup>th</sup> in aquaculture.*
- ◆ *Coastal lagoons (1,5 million ha.), most of them available for fishing and aquaculture, providing 50% of oysters (Gulf of Mexico) and 60% of shrimp (Pacific).*
- ◆ *Since the 1980s: gradual reduction of important resources, bigger number of artisanal fishers (open access), management weaknesses in institutional frameworks.*

## *Fishing and aquaculture in Mexico*



- ◆ *Aquaculture can be further developed (tilapia, marine shrimp). Rural producers can cultivate new species in fresh and marine waters.*
- ◆ *High national demand: fresh, frozen and canned products (tuna, sardine). Prices dominates purchase decisions.*
- ◆ *Institutional framework is not strong: It changed in 2001 from Semarnap to Sagarpa (Conapesca and INP).*
- ◆ *Fishing policy is integrated to agricultural policy (Alianza Contigo, Pronar, Fira-Fopesca).*

# *Areas of fishing vocation*



**About 106.400 units in the small-scale fleet (97% fiberglass)**

## *Main issues in Mexican fishing and aquaculture*



- ◆ *Open access + illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing + weaknesses of inspections, surveillance = Over-exploitation.*
- ◆ *Non-authorized gear and fishing equipment; increase of free-riders in coastal areas; displaced farmers move toward fishing as “employment alternative of last resort.”*
- ◆ *Bigger small-scale fleet and smaller industrial fleet but with better technology.*
- ◆ *Natural phenomena of difficult control with strong socio-economic and productive impacts.*

## *Policies for fisheries and aquaculture*



- ◆ *Alianza Contigo, Pronar, Fira-Fopesca: Construction, training, projects formulation, consultancies. Except: gear, land, engines, boats, vehicles, seed, concentrated food.*
- ◆ *Priority to poor producers, but so far they have been the smallest beneficiaries. 2003 – 2005: 569 projects for rural and commercial producers in 26 states, worth USD 59.2 million.*
- ◆ *Agricultural policies; similar objectives and weaknesses: Profemor, Prodesca, Papir.*
- ◆ *Rural development is not achieved with more resources but with training to use them efficiently, to choose appropriate technologies, to apply them correctly and to be autonomous.*



## *Issues and challenges of policy*

*Lack of opportunities*



*“They are fishers because they are poor”*



*Agricultural policies, non-traditional economy, social work*



*To reduce pressure in coastal fishing*

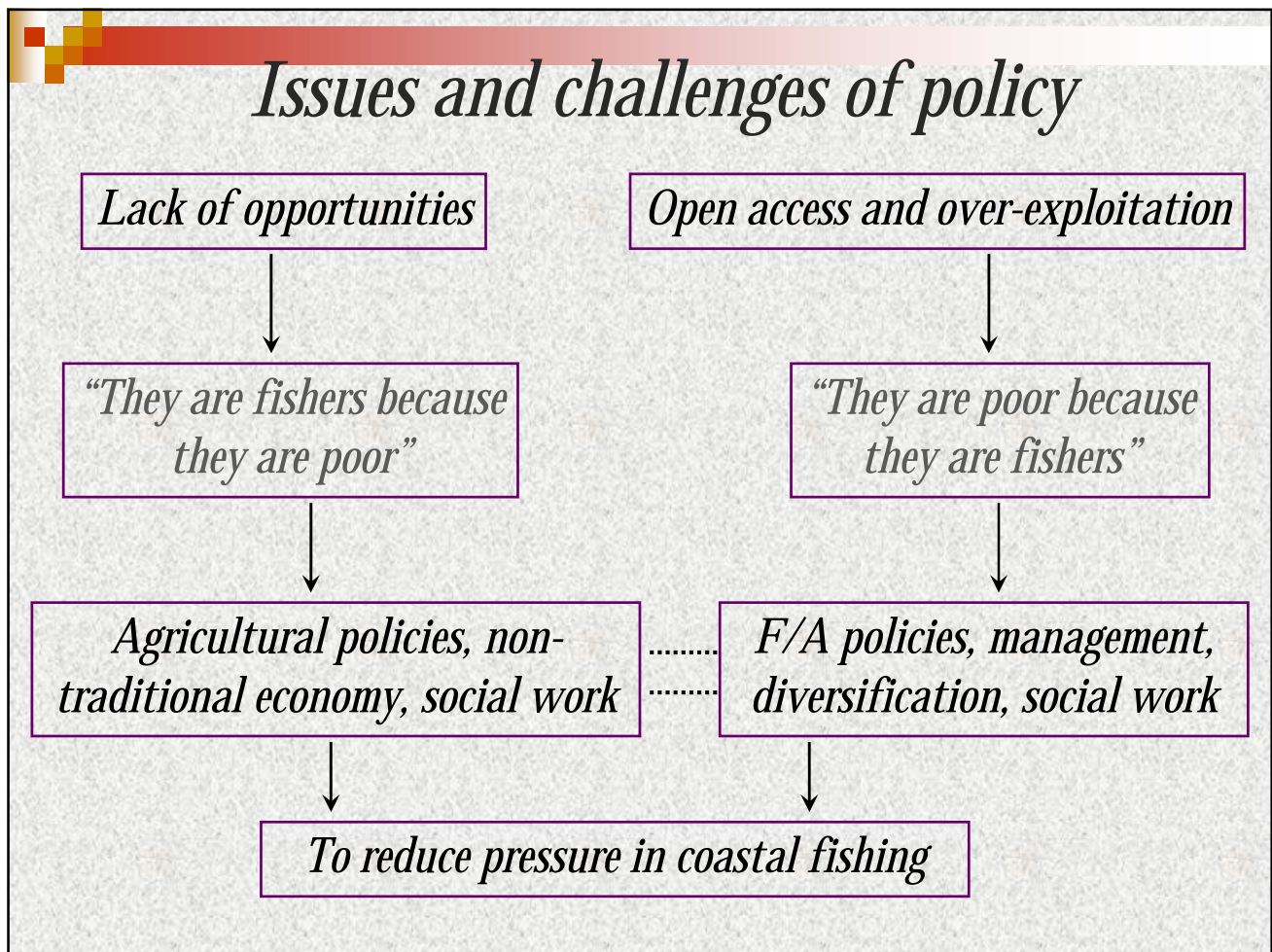
*Open access and over-exploitation*



*“They are poor because they are fishers”*



*F/A policies, management, diversification, social work*



## *Recommendations for communities*



- ◆ *Social work: Direct relationship with communities, to encourage return to the country, to discourage migration.*
- ◆ *Diversification for fishers and farmers (eco-tourism, handicrafts, non-food products)*
- ◆ *Greater inclusion of women in the rural economy. They contribute to avoiding or reducing poverty.*
- ◆ *Training and development of managerial abilities (administration, process, quality, marketing, services to clients).*
- ◆ *To believe in the fight and progress community capacity.*

## *Institutional recommendations*



- ◆ *NGOs, private and academic sectors and international cooperation on agriculture, fish and aquaculture programs.*
- ◆ *To motivate civil participation on the evaluation of government programs.*
- ◆ *Conapesca and INP: To evaluate real needs (quantity, quality) of human, technical and financial resources. More professionals in Economics and Social Work or Anthropology with knowledge of the sector.*
- ◆ *To empower the fishing and aquaculture sectors through agricultural and environmental institutional frameworks.*
- ◆ *To build new relationships and expectations between Government and peasants.*

## *Fishing and Aquaculture recommendations*



- ◆ *To reinforce socio-economic studies on management and research, including impact of measures (also political ones).*
- ◆ *Economically and environmentally sustainable technologies, compatible with resources that the very poor can obtain.*
- ◆ *To identify areas of aquaculture possibilities and to carry out integral SWOT analysis.*
- ◆ *To analyze (dis) advantages to specialize or diversify aquaculture in each region.*
- ◆ *To study and to promote advanced fishing to reduce pressure in coastal fishing.*



*Thanks a lot.*