

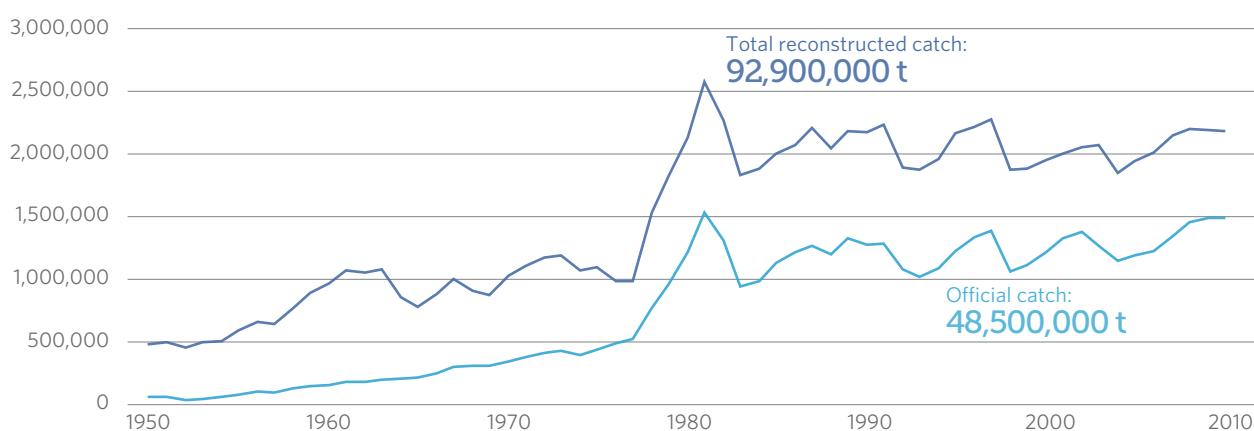
# Mexico Catch Reconstruction

## Overview

Marine fisheries in Mexico are a key source of jobs and economic activity in most coastal regions, but the overall catch often is not fully recorded. "Catch reconstruction" is an approach that supplements official data with information from a broad range of sources. This fact sheet presents a catch reconstruction for Mexico based on peer-reviewed publications, reports, expert consultation, and other sources. From 1950 to 2010, the reconstruction showed that actual total catch in Mexico was nearly twice the official estimate.



## Reconstructed Fisheries Catch of Mexico, in Metric Tons (t) 1950-2010



## Reconstructed Catch by Category, in Metric Tons (t) 1950-2010



\*Note: Discards include catch of any fishing type (i.e., industrial, artisanal, etc.).

Source: The Sea Around Us project  
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## Data Sources for Reconstructed Catch by Category, in Thousands of Metric Tons, 1950-2010

| Type of fishing | Catch  | Data sources   |
|-----------------|--------|--|
| Artisanal       | 35,000 | Researchers started with U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization data and filled in unexplained missing data by drawing a straight line across the data gaps. Based on an extensive survey of Mexican fishery experts, when no other data were available for a fishery, researchers added unreported catch of 37 to 50 percent, depending on the year and fishery.  |
| Industrial      | 33,000 | Data and methods were the same as for artisanal fishing.   |
| Discards        | 25,000 | A major portion of discards comes from domestic shrimp trawlers. Researchers started with artisanal and industrial shrimp catch data and, based on published studies, estimated discards using these ratios of catch to discards: for industrial fishing, 1:10 in the Pacific Ocean and 1:3 in the Atlantic Ocean; for artisanal, 1:3 for legal gears and 1:10.5 for illegal. (Legal and illegal catch rates were based on a survey of experts.) |
| Subsistence     | 809    | Experts estimated the average amount kept for home consumption per fisher per year and total yearly fisher population based on data from the FAO and the Mexican government.   |
| Recreational    | 49     | Researchers used the number of sport fishers (domestic and foreign tourists) and their catch rates as reported in published literature and government data.  |

References: Cisneros-Montemayor, A. M., Cisneros-Mata, M. A., Harper, S., & Pauly, D. (2013). "Extent and implications of IUU catch in Mexico's marine fisheries." *Marine Policy*, 39, 283-288.

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