

Global Trust Certification

Mexico Gulf of California swimming crab (*Callinectes bellicosus*, *Callinectes arcuatus*)

CSI Fishery Announcement

03 June 2026

1. Introduction

This Announcement marks the beginning of an CSI assessment during which the above fishery will be assessed for conformity to the requirements of the Certification Seafood International program and documents outlined in Table 1 and details the information Global Trust Certification must provide when formally announcing this assessment.

Table 1. Relevant CSI program documents, including applicable versions and their usage.

| Relevant CSI program documents | Document title | Version/Issue/Revision | Usage |
|---|----------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Procedure 2: Application to Certification Procedures for the Fisheries Standard for Version 2.2 | | Version 6.3 | Process |
| Certification International Seafood Responsible Fisheries Management Certification Program Fisheries Standard | | Version 2.2 | Standard |
| Certification International Seafood Guidance to Performance Evaluation for the Certification of Wild Capture and Enhanced Fisheries | | Version 2.2 | Guidance to standard |

2. Certification Seafood International (CSI) fishery announcement

Table 2. Fishery announcement.

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 Fishery name | |
| Mexico Gulf of California swimming crab (<i>Callinectes bellicosus</i> , <i>Callinectes arcuatus</i>) | |
| 2 Certification cycle, assessment type and number | |
| Certification cycle | First (5-year) certification cycle |
| Assessment type and number | Initial assessment |
| 3 Statement that the fishery is within scope | |

Table 2. Fishery announcement.

Global Trust confirms that the fishery under assessment (as defined by the Units of Assessment (UoAs) described below) is within scope of the relevant CSI RFM Fisheries Standard v2.2.

4 Unit(s) of Assessment – UoA(s)

Table 3. Units of Assessment details.

Unit of Assessment 1(of 4)

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Species: | Common name: | Cortez swimming crab |
| | Latin name: | Callinectes bellicosus |
| Geographical area: | Stocks within the Gulf of California, Mexico exploited by fishers in coastal waters of the Gulf of California between Puerto Peñasco, Sonora and Ensenada de Pabellones, Sinaloa, Mexico | |
| Stock(s): | Gulf of California | |
| Management system: | CONAPESCA (Comisión Nacional de Acuacultura y Pesca) | |
| Fishing gear/method: | Traps | |
| All eligible fishery participants: | there are no other eligible fishers | |

Unit of Assessment 2 (of 4)

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Species: | Common name: | Cortez swimming crab |
| | Latin name: | Callinectes bellicosus |
| Geographical area: | Stocks within the Gulf of California, Mexico exploited by fishers in coastal waters of the Gulf of California between Puerto Peñasco, Sonora and Ensenada de Pabellones, Sinaloa, Mexico | |
| Stock(s): | Gulf of California | |
| Management system: | CONAPESCA (Comisión Nacional de Acuacultura y Pesca) | |
| Fishing gear/method: | Crab Rings | |
| All eligible fishery participants: | there are no other eligible fishers | |

Unit of Assessment 3 (of 4)

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Species: | Common name: | Arched swimming crab, |
| | Latin name: | Callinectes arcuatus |
| Geographical area: | Stocks within the Gulf of California, Mexico exploited by fishers in coastal waters of the Gulf of California between Puerto Peñasco, Sonora and Ensenada de Pabellones, Sinaloa, Mexico | |
| Stock(s): | Gulf of California | |
| Management system: | CONAPESCA (Comisión Nacional de Acuacultura y Pesca) | |
| Fishing gear/method: | Crab Rings | |
| All eligible fishery participants: | there are no other eligible fishers | |

Unit of Assessment4 (of 4)

| | | |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Species: | Common name: | Arched swimming crab, |
| | Latin name: | Callinectes arcuatus |
| Geographical area: | Stocks within the Gulf of California, Mexico exploited by fishers in coastal waters of the Gulf of California between Puerto Peñasco, Sonora and Ensenada de Pabellones, Sinaloa, Mexico | |

Table 2. Fishery announcement.

| | |
|--|--|
| Stock(s): | Gulf of California |
| Management system: | CONAPESCA (Comisión Nacional de Acuacultura y Pesca) |
| Fishing gear/method: | Crab Rings |
| All eligible fishery participants: | there are no other eligible fishers |
| 5 Use of Data Deficient Framework (DDF) | |
| The Data Deficient Framework (DDF) will not be used at this time | |
| 6 Name of proposed team leader | |
| <p>Dr. Ivan Mateo. Primary Responsibility for stock assessment and fish stock biology/ecology</p> <p>Dr. Mateo meets all general requirements for an CSI Fisheries Team Leader outlined in CSI Procedure 8: Appointment and Control of Assessors; 5.2.1 as he had successfully completed a Lead Assessor training course based on ISO 19011 principles[ISO 19011:2018 for MSC CoC Auditors and Fishery Team leaders] and meets the Fishery Team Member Qualification and Competency Criteria outlined in CSI Procedure 8: Appointment and Control of Assessors; 5.2.1 as he has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A degree in a relevant subject. ▪ +3 years' fisheries experience. ▪ Passed CSI's fishery team assessor training within the last 5 years <p>In addition, Dr. Mateo meets the criteria outlined in CSI Procedure 8: Appointment and Control of Assessors; 5.2.2 related to Fish stock assessment and Fish Stock Biology/Ecology as he has experience in the production or review of stock assessment(s) relevant for the fishery(ies) under assessment and have more than five years of experience in research expertise in biology and ecology of the target or similar species;</p> <p>He has extensive experience working on stock assessments and ecology of a wide variety of crustaceans species including US Caribbean Spiny lobster and red swamp crawfish (10 years). He has extensive experience in marine conservation advice as well as fisheries management advice (15 Years). He has extensive experience in marine ecology, conservation legislation fisheries management, strategic planning/risk management (10 years). CV on file</p> <p>Dr. Mateo does not have conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p> <p>Summary of CV to be provided in Appendix 1.</p> | |
| 7 Name(s) of proposed team members | |
| <p>Dr. Virginia Polonio Primary Responsibility for fishery ecosystem impacts and DDF analysis</p> <p>Dr. Virginia Polonio meets the Fishery Team Member Qualification and Competency Criteria outlined in CSI Procedure 8: Appointment and Control of Assessors; 5.2.1 as she has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A degree in a relevant subject. ▪ +3 years' fisheries experience. ▪ Passed CSI's fishery team assessor training within the last 5 years <p>In addition, Virginia meets the criteria outlined in CSI Procedure 8: Appointment and Control of Assessors; 5.2.2 related to Fishing impacts on aquatic ecosystems as she has:</p> <p>More than 5 years of experience in research, policy analysis and management of fisheries impacts on aquatic ecosystems, and/or marine conservation biology.</p> <p>Dr. Polonio has extensive experience (10 years) in fisheries management and sustainability, including leading projects, conducting technical assessments of fishing practices, and engaging with international stakeholders. Her work involves analysing ecological and fisheries data, evaluating ecosystem impacts, and producing detailed technical reports. She also has a strong scientific background, with research focused on bycatch, deep-sea biodiversity, and identifying vulnerable marine ecosystems to support conservation and spatial planning.</p> | |

Table 2. Fishery announcement.

Dr. Virginia Polonio does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment; a summary of her CV is provided in Appendix 1.

Mrs. Edith Saa, Primary Responsibility for fisheries management

Mrs. Edith Saa meets the Fishery Team Member Qualification and Competency Criteria outlined in CSI Procedure 8: Appointment and Control of Assessors; 5.2.1 as she has:

- A degree in a relevant subject.
- +3 years' fisheries experience.
- Passed CSI's fishery team assessor training within the last 5 years

In addition, Edith Saa meets the criteria outlined in CSI Procedure 8: Appointment and Control of Assessors; 5.2.2 related to Fishery management and operations as she has:

More than 10 years of experience as a practicing fishery/aquatic natural resource manager and/or fishery/aquatic natural resource management analyst. She also has a good understanding of the management system(s) used in the fishery under assessment.

She has extensive experience (30 years) in fisheries governance and public administration, holding senior leadership roles within Chile's fisheries authorities over several decades. His work has focused on fisheries policy development, regulatory frameworks, and the management of industry-related programs, including leading the Fisheries Development Division for many years. He has also contributed to legislative processes, particularly in aquaculture regulation, and provided technical advice to government institutions. Currently, he works as an independent consultant, advising on fisheries management and regulatory matters.

Edith does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment; a summary of her CV is provided in Appendix 1.

8 Site visit

The site visit (which may take place remotely) will take on the proposed date(s) and at the following location(s):

- Site visit dates: 3 July 2026 to 8 August 2026.
- Site visit location(s): the site visit portion of this assessment will take place remotely.

Stakeholders wishing to consult directly with the assessment team during this period may contact Global Trust as outlined below requesting to do so:

1. Contact Global Trust Client Services: fisheries@nsf.org
2. The deadline for doing so is **17:00 UTC on Thursday 2 July 2026.**
3. Provide at least the following details when doing so:
 - Your name and contact details.
 - Your association with the fishery.
 - Your interest in the fishery/the issues you would like to discuss.

9 Stakeholder comment opportunities

As part of this assessment, previously registered stakeholders will be afforded an opportunity to provide input on a public draft of the assessment report which will be provided for comment when the defined 30-day period in which registered stakeholders may comment is reached.

Table 2. Fishery announcement.

As this stakeholder input opportunity is limited to previously registered stakeholders, interested stakeholders should ensure they register as outlined below.

1. Contact Global Trust Client Services as outlined above requesting to be registered as a stakeholder for this fishery.
 - The above deadline for requesting to consult with the assessment team and the details stakeholder shall apply when requesting to be registered as a stakeholder shall additionally apply here.

3. Appendices

3.1 Appendix 1: Summaries of CVs of team leader and team members

The assessment team for this assessment consists of:

- Dr. Ivan Mateo (Lead Assessor and primary responsibility for stock assessment and fish stock biology/ecology)
- Dr. Virginia Polonio (Assessor and primary responsibility for ecosystem impacts/Data Deficient Framework (DDF))
- Mrs. Edith Saa, (Assessor and primary responsibility for fisheries management).

A brief bio for each assessment team member is presented below.

Team Leader: Dr. Ivan Mateo, Primary Responsibility for stock assessment and fish stock biology/ecology.

Dr. Ivan Mateo has over 25 years' experience working with natural resources population dynamic modelling. His specialization is in fish and crustacean population dynamics, stock assessment, evaluation of management strategies for exploited populations, bioenergetics, ecosystem-based assessment, and ecological statistical analysis. Dr. Mateo received a Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences with Fisheries specialization from the University of Rhode Island. He has studied population dynamics of economically important species as well as candidate species for endangered species listing from many different regions of the world such as the Caribbean, the Northeast US Coast, Gulf of California, and Alaska. He has done research with NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center Ecosystem Based Fishery Management on bioenergetics modelling for Atlantic cod. Dr. Mateo also worked as an environmental consultant in the Caribbean doing field work and looking at the effects of industrialization on essential fish habitats and for the Environmental Defense Fund developing population dynamics models for data poor stocks in the Gulf of California. Dr. Mateo worked as National Research Council post-doctoral research associate at the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Services Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute on population dynamic modeling of Alaska sablefish and as a fisheries research associate on early life history/recruitment dynamics of Pacific Ocean perch.

Team Member: Dr. Virginia Polonio, Primary Responsibility for ecosystem impacts/Data Deficient Framework (DDF)

Dr. Virginia Polonio has a degree in Environmental Sciences (B.S.c. University of Cádiz). She has a master's degree (M.Sc. University of Cádiz) in Fisheries Management and Aquaculture and obtained her PhD in Biodiversity and Natural resources at the University of Oviedo, gaining experience in the field of research of fisheries and how protect the Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) as coral reefs versus fishing activities. She wrote several articles describing new species of corals under her thesis, and she developed skills in the fields of benthic ecology and management of ecosystems. Before Virginia's PhD, she was contracted as technician in the Spanish Oceanographic Institute where she realized work at sea and gained field experience to assessment fisheries stocks. Dr. Polonio participated in the Spanish National Basic Plan of Data to collect and evaluate the fishing in the ICES and CECAF areas where Spanish fleets realize their activities. During this period, she carried out feeding habit and age/size

studies of Pagellus Bogaraveo and others commercial species (hake, anchovy, sharks, mackerel, squid, etc.) to know how the trophic level and predation could affect the ecosystems and the distribution of the species in the Gulf of Cadiz and the Strait of Gibraltar. Dr. Polonio has extensive experience working on MSC assessments both as a team member and leader.

Team Member: Mrs. Edith Saa, Primary Responsibility for fisheries management

Mrs. Saa is a fisheries engineer. She obtained her degree at the Universidad Católica de Valparaíso. She worked between 1976- 1991 at Servicio Nacional de Pesca. After that from 1993 to 2006, she developed her work at Subsecretaría de Pesca. First as manager of the Departamento de Estudios. After that, Mrs. Saa worked as manager of División de Desarrollo Pesquero. She has participated in the elaboration of several laws regarding fisheries activities which were set between 1991 and 2014. She worked as consultant for the Ministerio de Economía throughout 2008 to 2010 with her participation on the Salmon workshop. There, she collaborated to modify the fishery law and the normative regarding fishing, aquaculture and impacts on the environment. Nowadays, Mrs. Saa is working as an independent assessor of fisheries activities.