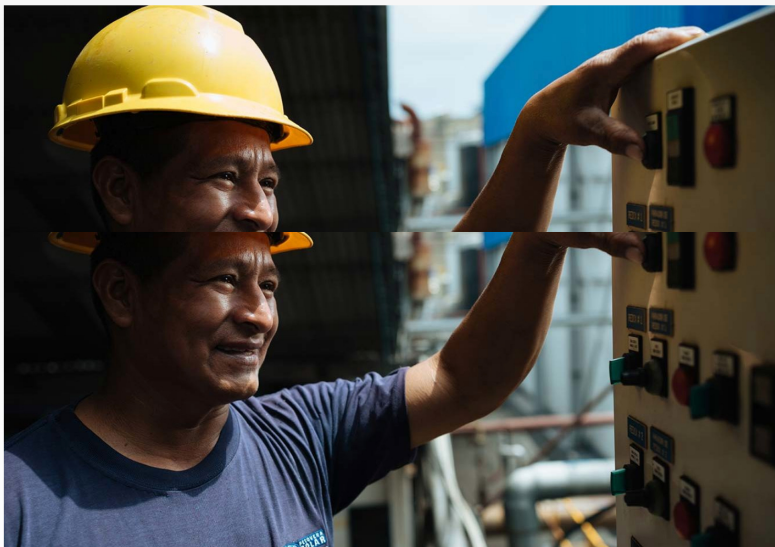


Ecuador launches first national-level plan for small pelagics

Sustainable Fisheries Partnership said it recognized the move as an important milestone in national fisheries management in Ecuador

By [Undercurrent News](#) | March 31, 2021 09:53 BST



Worker at Empresa Pesquera Polar pelagic plant in Ecuador. Credit: Empresa Pesquera Polar

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Ecuador's Undersecretariat of Fisheries Resources has launched a new management plan for the country's multi-species small pelagics fishery.

Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) said it recognized the plan as an important milestone in national fisheries management in Ecuador. It is the first national-level fishery management plan with established objectives, goals and management measures that have been agreed upon by relevant stakeholders through a participatory and inclusive decision-making process, it said.



Ecuador's small pelagics FIP makes strides

"The management plan for small pelagics is the result of collective action between the government authority and different stakeholders involved in the fishery's supply chain," said Ecuador's undersecretary of fisheries resources, Ricardo Perdomo.

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"We were able to demonstrate that we can set goals and objectives that allow us to conserve our fishing resources, maintain the ocean's health, and ensure sources of work and livelihoods for our fishermen through transparent dialogue and scientific evidence. Building this management plan collectively helped us agree on quantitative management rules that we can meet and monitor, to assess progress and compliance."

The plan will enable more sustainable exploitation of the small pelagics fishery, ensuring greater social and economic returns in the long run, the organizers said.

The new management plan is the first to be approved under a stipulation in Ecuador's new national fishing and aquaculture law that requires management plans to be developed for fisheries that are not regulated by regional fisheries management organizations.

Carlos Cacao, executive director of Empresa Pesquera Polar and president of the Small Pelagic Commission of the National Fishery Chamber, said he was pleased to see the government establishing an official management plan.

"Many of the actions in this management plan complement and are derived from the small pelagics sustainability fishery improvement project. This fishery could not continue to be handled without a clear plan. We needed targets and goals to guarantee effective fishing management. There is still a need to allocate more resources to research and management for small pelagics, and our vision is to work collectively with the government and other stakeholders to respond to the challenges of global food security for present and future generations."

The small pelagic fishery is one of the most important fisheries in Ecuador, alongside purse-seine tuna. It includes species such as chub mackerel, thread herring and frigate tuna that are mostly used for fish feed.



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