

Project Update September 2024

On January 31st, we conducted a workshop in San Quintin. Fishers from Molino Viejo, San Quintin and Camalu, who carry out fishing activities in San Matin Island, were invited, along with representatives from governmental institution –the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP), the National Commission on Aquaculture and Fisheries (CONAPESCA), the Baja California Secretary of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SEPESCA) and the Mexican Institute for Research in Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture (IMIPAS)– and research centres –the Ensenada Center for Scientific Research and Higher Education (CICESE) and the Autonomous University of Baja California (UABC)–. A total of 17 people (8 women and 9 men) attended the workshop to share their perceptions on the integration of Fishery Refuge Zones (FRZ) in the Baja California Pacific Island Biosphere Reserve (RBIPPBC). The participants were divided into two group of fishers and one group of researchers and government representatives. During the workshop, two working group sessions and two interactive presentations were held. The first working group session focused on perceptions and knowledge of marine protected areas (MPAs) and FRZs, including what activities are allowed within them and whether they offer any benefits. The second session explored what the participants' ideal FRZ would look like. Between the working group sessions, the presentations were given, one on the reserve and another on the FRZ, to fill knowledge gaps and exchange information about ongoing activities on the island polygon. The participants were highly engaged during the presentations, leading to an interesting debate and exchange of information and questions, particularly regarding the advisory council of the reserve (Figure 1).

As part of the project, we continue to strengthen relationships with the communities and organizations involved on the reserve. We collaborated with the LENFEST Ocean Program Project project in organizing the second workshop with local fishers, aimed at identify climate refugia within the marine protected areas of the Pacific Islands.

Additionally, we conducted further interviews with fishers from Punta Banda, Ensenada and El Sauzal regarding their activities on Todos Santos Island. Prior to the Todos Santos Island workshop, we also held a group session with one of the main fishing associations in the area (Figure 2).

On June 18th we conduct a similar workshop in Ensenada. Fishers engaged in fishing activities in Todos Santos Island from Punta Banda, Ensenada and El Sauzal, along with representatives from governmental institutions and research centres, were invited. A total of 13 people (9 women y 4 men) attended the workshop to share their perceptions on the integration of fishery refuge zones in the RBIPPBC. In this case, participants were divided into three mixt groups, comprinsing fishers, government representatives, researchers and students. The same two working group sessions and two interactive

presentations as in San Quintin workshop were conducted. All participants contributed to the discussion, though there were some differences of opinion (Figure 3).

We created a visual report for each workshop to share with the attendees. These reports included information from the interviews, workshop details, additional insights on the RBIPPBC and the FRZ, and the infographic developed for this project. The reports were also shared with invitees who could not attend the workshop but were involved during the earlier steps of the project. Moreover, we reached out the participant to gather their feedback on the workshop, the project and any limitations they may consider.

Currently, presentations of the results are being organized. The report and the PhD thesis chapter related to this project are also in progress.



Figure 1. Picture of the workshop in San Quintin



Figure 2. Pictures of the interviews with fisher of the Todos Santos Island



Figure 3. Pictures of the workshop in Ensenada