

## The seas in Mexico, between the least healthy seas in the world

Thousands of Mexicans depend on the economic activities developed in the seas and coastlines in the country, however, the resources are not exploited or protected in the way they should be

The strategies developed by Congregación Mariana Trinitaria are aimed at promoting social welfare for millions of people, including those who make a living from activities in the sea. Through its Welfare Ecosystem, and using the Network of Environment and Energy, it promotes actions to take care and restore the ecosystems.



Mexico is ranked in the 122th position in the list of countries due to the poor health detected in the sea areas, which caused scores notably low because the resources are not used wisely, and besides, the levels of pollution there are really high.

Ocean Health Index performs invaluable, complete and quantitative tests to evaluate progress made to promote healthy and sustainable oceans. That index evaluates the global conditions of the oceans in the world, and it is analyzed in the framework of the International Day of the Seafarer, observed on June 25.

It is important to mention that Mexico owns 11 thousand 122 kilometers of coastlines, and more than 10 million people live there. More than 200 thousands of them work directly on fishing activities, and more than 35 million people visit the touristic centers located in the beaches every year.

### Waters are not so clean

The objective related to clean waters in Mexico got a score of 70 out of 100. This component evaluates the pollution caused by chemical substances, excess of nutrients (eutrophication), human pathogens, and garbage. Pollution in the water affects human health, livelihoods and recreation, as well as health of people and sea habitats.

The index details that the result shows the evidence that there are still opportunities to improve. In order to reduce chemical products, nutrients, human and animal wastes, and garbage; it is necessary to implement corrective actions between all the levels in the society, and make changes on the individual behavior of people.

#### In numbers

35 million people visit the touristic centers located in the beaches

10 million Mexicans live in coastal zones

11 thousand 122 kilometers of coastlines are located in Mexico

200 thousand Mexicans work in the fishing sector

#### Objective

#### Score in Mexico

Natural products

12

Food provision

31

Clean waters

64

Opportunities on artisan fishing

71

Livelihoods and economy in the coast

73

Carbon storage

76

Coastal protection

81

Sense of place

82

Biodiversity

87

Tourism and recreation

91

Overall score

67

### Improvement is necessary to harvest resources

Harvesting non-food resources from the ocean using sustainable ways is the category where Mexico got the lowest score according to Ocean Health Index, who assigned 51 out of 100. This objective evaluates if people harvest non-food products from the sea using sustainable ways. Those products may be sea shells, sponges, or aquarium fish; that is to say, any kind of natural product that contributes to local economies and international trade.

The score shows that many regions have the potential to sustainably exploit the harvest of natural resources, either by eradicating over exploitation, increasing the levels of low harvests, or reducing the constraints that decrease the levels of potential harvests.

### Providing sustainable food

Another component evaluated by Ocean Health Index refers to the amount of sustainable food provided. This objective evaluates the quantity of sea products taken from the sea using sustainable ways, and Mexico got its second lowest score on this item, as it got a score of 52 out of 100, being 71 the average score globally.

The provision of food is divided in two sub-objectives: wild caught fisheries and mariculture, which means seafood cultivated in the ocean. Seafood allows that more than half of the population in the world fulfill their needs of proteins.

### CMT, actions that cause positive changes

Through the creation of programs, collaborations, strategies, studies and training; Congregación Mariana Trinitaria, A.C. (CMT) promotes the protection of the environment. These actions directly or indirectly benefit the sea areas.

“Almost half of the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) produced by human activities over the last 200 years was led to the oceans”, National Geographic affirms. That is the reason why water masses in the planet work similarly to a temperature regulator in the planet.

As a consequence of the previous data, CMT promotes the use of solar heaters, which contribute to save energy and to avoid the production of millions of tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. Last week in the municipality of Hidalgo, in Durango; the promotion of this initiative was consolidated, and that is also happening all over the country every day.

Last year, the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development, through the Sub Secretariat of Food Self-Sufficiency; signed an agreement with Congregación Mariana CMT to promote actions to encourage “Strategies to promote Financing”, which are part of the program Production for Welfare, to assist the producers who are the beneficiaries of that program.

This agreement promotes the use of technologies and it also increases productivity on the beneficiaries through sustainable ways. It uses natural resources and protects the environment and biodiversity. This system can be replicated in all kinds of ecosystems, including coastlines.

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