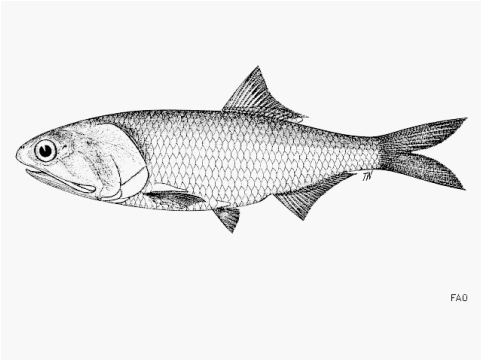


# Pacific anchoveta Ecuador

 Fishery:  Ecuador  Ecuador  Purse seines

## IDENTIFICATION



### SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Cetengraulis mysticetus*

### SPECIES NAME(S)

Pacific anchoveta, Sardina bocona

### COMMON NAMES

Chuhueco

### STOCK IDENTIFICATION

The Pacific anchoveta (*Cetengraulis mysticetus*) is endemic to the Eastern Pacific region, from southern California to northern Peru, being locally abundant in Panama and Nicaragua (*Cotto et al. 2010*). No information regarding stock structure of Pacific anchoveta in Ecuadorian waters is available. The Pacific anchoveta (locally named "chuhueco") is one of the main species captured in the multispecies small pelagic fishery and it is mainly used for reduction purposes (*Prado España 2009*).



### RELATED LINKS:

- [Ecuador Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries \(MALAF\)](#)

## ASSESSMENT

### Strengths

- Catches are above the long-term average.
- A six-months fishing ban is established every year to protect the reproduction of the species.
- There is a regulation on mesh size and some spatial protection measures have been adopted to protect reproductive phases, as advised.
- The first mile from coast is closed to fishing to protect the reproduction of aquatic species
- Marine habitats and bottom types have been identified and mapped.
- There is a national plan for the conservation of sea turtles and a national plan for the conservation of sharks and rays.

### Weaknesses

- The stock structure is unknown hindering a proper assessment at a relevant spatial scale.
- No stock assessment has been conducted; the stock status is therefore unknown and no reference points have been set.
- Fishery statistics, particularly catch data, seems to be underestimated based on the amount of fish meal production and exports of canned fish.
- The impact on bottom habitats and the whole ecosystem, as well as on ETP species, is unknown.
- There is no current information on the degree of compliance and enforcement of existing regulation measures.
- Ecosystem impact of this fishery and the role of Pacific anchoveta in the ecosystem of the area where this fishery operates have not been evaluated

## SCORES

### Management Quality:

Management Strategy	Managers Compliance	Fishers Compliance
< 6	≥ 6	DATA DEFICIENT

### Stock Health:

Current Health	Future Health
DATA DEFICIENT	DATA DEFICIENT

## FIPS

No related FIPs

## MSC

No related MSC fisheries

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN

- Support current improvement efforts and encourage development of a formal, national, Ecuador small pelagic fishery improvement project (FIP) that includes the following activities:
  - Work with scientists to develop a research programme to determine the stock structure and its distribution, then implement stock assessment models that take into consideration environmental variables.
  - Encourage regulators to develop a management plan, based on the best scientific advice, including biological reference points, a harvest strategy, and harvest control rule.
  - Ask managers to implement measures to reduce catches of immature fish and establish appropriate limits for catch and/or effort.
  - Work with regulators to implement a consistent system for the regular collection and publication of fisheries and observer data from all fleet segments and gear types.
  - Develop formal decision-making frameworks, which should establish:
    - a) sources of information and scientific research for decision making,
    - b) consultation and inclusion of relevant stakeholders, institutions, and organizations in decision making,
    - c) transparent reporting of research outcomes and consultation processes, and
    - d) a public strategy to implement decisions.
  - Encourage regulators to improve monitoring, control and surveillance to ensure compliance with regulations.