

Title: **Inland fisheries and Livelihoods of the Mayan Zone in Quintana Roo, Mexico**

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Abstract: This paper reports on the first comprehensive study of economic and livelihood considerations relating to inland fisheries in common property lands (ejidos) of the Mayan Zone in Quintana Roo, Mexico. Given the □data-sparse□ nature of these fisheries, a fishery assessment approach was used which linked methods from both the natural and social sciences, and which combined the local knowledge of community residents with scientific knowledge. The results, from 48 fishing sites in 9 ejidos, showed that the fisheries involve both indigenous (Mayan) and non-indigenous fishers, and is mainly male oriented, although with some women involved in the majority of ejidos studied. A comparison with other sources of livelihood showed that for most involved in fishing, the major occupation was slash-and-burn agriculture. The fisheries are highly artisanal (small-scale) with very basic technology (notably hand-lines) utilized primarily through barefoot fishing along the shores, or with the aid of rafts and canoes, and taking place seasonally, primarily during the dry season. While the key motivation of those in the fishery was subsistence, the study found, for the first time in this form of fishery, that recreation was also a significant goal of many participants.