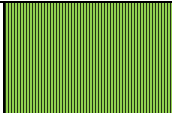
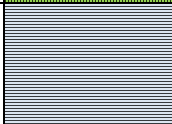
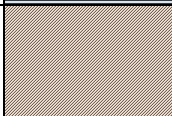


OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE SECRETARIAT
REGARDING THE REPORTING RECEIVED FROM MEXICO AND
PROGRESS MADE BY MEXICO WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF
ITS COMPLIANCE ACTION PLAN ON TOTOABA

The compliance action plan of Mexico submitted to the Secretariat on 7 April 2023 and assessed as adequate, comprises seven strategic lines of action to be implemented:

- *Monitoring effective compliance with regard to authorized departure and landing sites, in accordance with the regulatory agreement*
- *Preventing the entry of vessels to the Zero Tolerance Area (Zo) and keeping it free of gillnets together with the Refuge Area for the Protection of the Vaquita (VRA)*
- *Strengthening intelligence actions to combat transnational organized crime involved in illegal trade of totoaba*
- *Implementing a programme for alternative fishing gear and the marking and fishing equipment programme for minor vessels*
- *Monitoring the vaquita population*
- *Raising awareness of illegal trade in totoaba and its consequences for conservation*
- *Operationalizing the Trilateral Enforcement Contact Group.*

The present Annex contains the detailed observations and conclusions of the Secretariat regarding the reporting received from Mexico on progress with implementation of its compliance action plan, using a colour coded table reflecting categories of progress on the targets and associated milestones of the compliance action plan:

Targets with associated milestones that have been achieved.	
Targets with associated milestones that have been well progressed but not yet completed and therefore justify further reporting to SC78.	
Targets with associated milestones that are not yet implemented, or their implementation dates are in the future and will require further reporting to SC78.	

The recommendations of the Secretariat prepared for consideration by the Committee can be found in paragraph 46 of document SC77 Doc. 33.13.2 on Totoaba (*Totoaba macdonaldi*), prepared for the present meeting.

Line of action 1: Monitor effective compliance with regard to authorized departure and landing sites, in accordance with the regulatory agreement.

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
<p>1.1 Verify all vessels departing from and arriving in authorized sites to conduct fishing activities.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): An additional inspection and verification point to those already defined has been established in the boardwalk or <i>Malecón</i> of San Felipe.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that the additional inspection point has been established and that this activity is completed. Mexico further reports that in the the period from 18 April to 15 July, 1,631 vessels were checked at authorized sites.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the establishment of this new inspection and verification point, noting that Mexico reports that the majority of inspections were carried out at the San Felipe Pier and the San Felipe Boardwalk. Having this additional inspection and verification point therefore seems to greatly contribute to all vessels departing and arriving being checked.</p> <p>Mexico further reports that during inspection and verification activities, 99% of the fishers and vessels inspected (1,623 vessels), complied with legislation. It is reported that in the eight cases where irregularities were detected, authorities took action in accordance with the procedures established, initiating the prescribed administrative process. Mexico in its reporting briefly explains the stages of the administrative process, to assessing fishing and aquaculture violations and reports that of the eight cases identified, after legal analysis, five were found to constitute a violation of legislation and appropriate proceedings were initiated. The report from Mexico includes a table providing information about the status of the five cases, showing the penalties that could be imposed upon conclusion of the process if offenders are found guilty. This includes amongst others, the confiscation of vessels, gillnets and other fishing gear, diving equipment and specimens of species found.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the information on activities undertaken where irregularities were detected, which fully aligns with the provisions in Decision 18.293 (Rev. CoP19).</p> <p>Mexico is encouraged to build upon the positive progress made and to continue ensuring that inspection and verification of all vessels is done daily, and that appropriate action is taken when irregularities are detected. The need for such continued action is enshrined in paragraph b) of Decision 18.293 (Rev. CoP19).</p>	<p>Mexico states that with the additional inspection point established, M1 has been achieved. The Secretariat agrees that the milestone was achieved within the timeline stated in the compliance action plan.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 1.1.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): The monthly report of verified vessels and corresponding penalties in all the inspection points, including the additional point of the <i>Malecón de San Felipe</i>, has been produced.</p>	<p>Lastly, the Secretariat notes the detailed additional information provided by Mexico in the Annex to its report.</p> <p>In its compliance action plan Mexico commits to daily information gathering and information analysis to prepare monthly reports on vessels verified and any corresponding penalties imposed at all the inspection points. Mexico in its report to SC77 states that M2 has been achieved. In the Annex to its report, Mexico includes the July 2023 monthly report and information regarding activities conducted.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the preparation of these monthly reports and believes that they will serve as a valuable monitoring tool for Mexico to draw upon in verifying the activities conducted and, through analyses of their contents, determine the effectiveness of activities and if adjustments need to be made based on any shifting, newly identified or recurrent trends. These reports also clearly show the areas where fishers are more active and could provide important information on where resources should be further scaled up or reduced based on the number of vessels inspected and verified at each authorized site so that resources are effectively deployed.</p>	<p>Mexico states that M2 has been achieved. The Secretariat agrees that the milestone was achieved within the timeline stated in the compliance action plan and welcomes the preparation of the monthly reports.</p> <p>Inspection and verification of all vessels departing from and arriving at authorized sites in accordance with target 1.1, as well as producing monthly reports of verified vessels and corresponding penalties in accordance with M2 of target 1.1, are regularly occurring activities. The Secretariat encourages Mexico to provide information at future meetings on further activities conducted in this regard, to inform deliberations on matters concerning totoaba. Mexico is also encouraged to include relevant information when submitting its Implementation report.</p>
<p>1.2 Determine the functionality of departure and landing sites in the UGC.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): A diagnosis of the departure and landing sites has been made.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that the functionality analyses regarding departure and landing sites has been completed. Mexico elaborates on activities conducted and presents the findings of the analyses.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes that the process was implemented taking into account insights from the fishing sector, in addition to information from desk-based research and operational sources.</p> <p>The Secretariat considers that the functionality analyses delivered important results, based upon which the most active landing sites that must be maintained were identified, as well as some redundant sites not viable to further use. In addition, the need to establish additional sites was identified.</p>	<p>Mexico states that M1 has been achieved. With the diagnosis of the departure and landing sites completed, the Secretariat concurs with Mexico. The Secretariat welcomes the swift and full achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the compliance action plan, as well as the insightful results the activity delivered.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 1.2.</p>
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): The proposal for the modification of departure and landing sites has been made.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that the outcomes of the diagnosis conducted in accordance with M1 of target 1.2, will be jointly analysed with the fishing sector and local authorities from Baja California and Sonora.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes Mexico's reporting stating that the goal is to modify the 2020 Regulatory Agreement to establish the authorized departure and landing sites in</p>	<p>Mexico states that M2 has been achieved.</p> <p>However, the Secretariat concludes that M2 will only be fully achieved once the 2020 Regulatory Agreement has been amended and the amended Agreement is being implemented.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>accordance with the diagnosis outcomes and findings. Mexico reports that the process of modifying the Agreement is set to commence in August 2023, under the coordination of the Intergovernmental Group for Sustainability in the Upper Gulf of California (GIS). It is further reported that throughout this process, participation of the fishing sector, academia, and civil society will be of utmost importance and that, consequently, the relevant consultation will be conducted to incorporate their perspectives.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that Mexico in its compliance action plan mentioned that if a modification of embarkation and disembarkation sites is necessary, the 2020 Regulatory Agreement would need to be modified. Therefore, although good progress has been made, important further work needs to be conducted to ensure that the required consultations take place and that the 2020 Regulatory Agreement is amended accordingly soon.</p>	<p>It is therefore recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on the further work to modify the 2020 Regulatory Agreement.</p>
1.3 Install a long-range video surveillance system in strategic sites.	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): The project to install a long-range video surveillance system in strategic sites has been prepared.</p> <p>Milestone 2 (M2): The necessary resources for the installation of a long-range video surveillance system in strategic sites have been secured.</p>	<p>The Secretariat notes that Mexico in the steps outlined in its compliance action plan commits to identify unauthorized arrival and departure sites used by fishers and to strategically identify the key sites to monitor based on the risks they pose.</p> <p>Mexico reports that a commission was formed and that based on the work of this commission it was agreed to establish a Long-Range Video Surveillance System (SIVILA). Three strategic points for surveillance were also identified. Detailed information in this regard is provided in an Annex that was provided by Mexico with its report. This Annex contains confidential and sensitive information and is not made public to protect the integrity of Mexico's enforcement measures.</p> <p>A project proposal was developed accordingly, and the project funding request submitted as per M2 below.</p> <p>Mexico reports that, to implement the SIVILA project, 29 million pesos have been requested from the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that the deadline set in the compliance action plan for achievement of M2 is 31 December 2023.</p>	<p>Mexico states that M1 has been achieved. The Secretariat concurs with this and welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the compliance action plan.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 1.3.</p> <p>Mexico reports that implementation of M2 is in progress. The Secretariat concurs with this and welcome the submission of the funding request as reported upon.</p> <p>Activities regarding M2 are on track, and it is recommended that Mexico be requested to report</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
	Milestone 3 (M3): The long-range video surveillance system has been installed in strategic sites.	The Secretariat notes that the deadline set in the compliance action plan for achievement of M3 is 30 June 2024.	to SC78 on progress. The deadline for achievement of M3 is in the future. It is recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on progress.
	Milestone 4 (M4): The system is consolidated as a source of information and intelligence for competent authorities.	The Secretariat notes that the deadline set in the compliance action plan for achievement of M4 is 31 July 2024.	The deadline for achievement of M4 is in the future. It is recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on progress.
1.4 Implement an awareness raising programme for the fishing sector to change its behaviour and deter illegal fishing, use of illegal nets and their manufacture, trade and transport; and change negative perceptions of the vaquita.	Milestone 1 (M1): The comprehensive awareness-raising programme has been developed.	<p>The Secretariat notes that Mexico in its compliance action plan commits to coordinate authorities to identify the target audience, develop content for the awareness-raising programme and initiate arrangements for activities to be carried out and workshops to be held.</p> <p>Mexico reports that to implement M1, CONAPESCA, INAPESCA, SEMAR, and PROFEPA developed a comprehensive awareness and sensitization programme aimed at the fishing sector with the purpose of discouraging the fishing and the use, production, commercialization, and transportation of prohibited fishing gear. More detailed information on this work can be found in Mexico's report and the Annex to it.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that M1 has been achieved. The Secretariat concurs with this and welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the compliance action plan.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 1.4.</p>
	Milestone 2 (M2): The workshops have been held.	<p>Mexico reports that workshops took place in San Felipe, Baja California, on 7 and 14 July, and in Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, on 21 July. It is reported that 179 fishers and representatives from 197 cooperative societies participated in these workshops.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the compliance action plan. It is further noted by the Secretariat that implementation of the awareness-raising programme for the fishing sector to change behaviours and deter illegal activities is an ongoing activity.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that with the three workshops conducted, M2 has been achieved. The Secretariat agrees that the milestone was achieved within the timeline stated in the compliance action plan.</p> <p>Awareness-raising activities for the fishing sector should be regularly occurring. The Secretariat encourage that Mexico at future meetings provide information on further activities conducted in this regard, to inform deliberations on matters concerning totoaba. Mexico is also encouraged to when submitting its Implementation report include relevant information.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
	Milestone 3 (M3): Quarterly reports of results of the programme implementation are prepared.	<p>The Secretariat notes that the deadline set in the compliance action plan for achievement of M3 is 31 August 2023, and that the report from Mexico was submitted prior to this deadline.</p> <p>The Secretariat further notes that implementation of the awareness-raising programme for the fishing sector to change behaviours and deter illegal activities is an ongoing activity. Mexico is encouraged to build upon the positive progress made and to continue delivering activities to facilitate lasting impact and change, closely analysing quarterly reports on programme implementation to monitor impact and determine if any adjustments need to be made.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that implementation of M3 is in progress. The Secretariat concurs with this and concludes that the activity is on track.</p> <p>It is recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on progress and further activities conducted.</p>
1.5 Increase terrestrial inspection and surveillance activities	Milestone 1 (M1): A programme of extraordinary inspections of cooperatives, regulated artisanal and small-scale fishing camps, natural or legal persons, facilities and establishments dealing with fisheries products and their derivatives has been established.	<p>Mexico reports that, with the aim of increasing land inspection and surveillance activities, an Extraordinary Inspections Program was developed targeting cooperatives, fishing fields, individuals, legal entities, facilities, and establishments related to fish products and their derivatives.</p> <p>Mexico reports that the programme outlines a monthly schedule of joint actions among CONAPESCA, PROFEPA, and SEMAR.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that M1 has been achieved. The Secretariat concurs with this and welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the compliance action plan.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 1.5.</p>
	Milestone 2 (M2): Extraordinary fishery and/or environmental inspections have been conducted.	<p>Mexico reports that from 18 April to 31 July, authorities carried out 47 extraordinary inspections. Detailed information on the inspections conducted is provided in the Annex to Mexico's report.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the inspections undertaken and reiterates the importance of taking strict action where irregularities are detected.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that M2 has been achieved. The Secretariat agrees that the milestone was achieved.</p> <p>Extraordinary fishery and/or environmental inspections in accordance with M2 of target 1.5 are regularly occurring activities. The Secretariat encourages that Mexico at future meetings provide information on further activities conducted in this regard, to inform deliberations on matters concerning totoaba. Mexico is also encouraged to when submitting its Implementation report include relevant information.</p>
	Milestone 3 (M3): Random terrestrial fishery and/or environmental inspection and verification points have been established.	<p>Mexico reports that a total of 223 random inspection points for land-based inspection and verification in fishing and environmental matters were established, 128 in San Felipe and 95 in the Gulf of Santa Clara.</p> <p>Detailed information on the activities conducted is provided in the Annex to Mexico's report.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that M3 has been achieved. The Secretariat agrees that the milestone was achieved.</p> <p>Establishing random terrestrial fishery and/or environmental inspection and verification points in accordance with M3 of target 1.5 are regularly occurring activities. The Secretariat encourages that Mexico at future meetings provide information on</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		The Secretariat welcomes work undertaken and reiterates the importance of taking strict action where irregularities are detected.	Further activities conducted in this regard, to inform deliberations on matters concerning totoaba. Mexico is also encouraged to when submitting its Implementation report include relevant information.

Line of Action 2. Prevent the entry of vessels to the Zero Tolerance Area (Zo) and keep it free of gillnets together with the Refuge Area for the Protection of the Vaquita (VRA).

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
2.1 Keep the boundaries of the Zo clearly indicated and inform the maritime and fishing community about them.	Milestone 1 (M1): A programme of monthly maritime itineraries to monitor the position and operation of the buoys delimiting the Zo has been established.	Mexico reports that the Zo is delimited by 12 buoys and provides an image in its report to show their positioning. It is reported that buoys are monitored by SEMAR monthly according to the Maritime Patrol Program established, and that from 15 May to 15 July, three supervisory patrols have been conducted.	Mexico reports that M1 has been achieved and that a programme for the monthly monitoring of buoy positions and operation has been established. The Secretariat concurs with this and welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the compliance action plan. The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 2.1.
	Milestone 2 (M2): The operation of malfunctioning or lost buoys has been re-established.	Mexico reports that in January 2023 12 buoys were operational, but that by July 2023 only seven buoys were operational. These are the four main buoys located at the vertices of the Zo and three auxiliary buoys (as shown in the image provided by Mexico in its report). The Annex to Mexico's report includes a March 2023 report regarding supervisory visits to inspect the buoys, that provides detailed information. Mexico reports that regarding the five inoperative buoys, PROFEPA carried out the necessary administrative procedures for them to be replaced, as well as to install temporary buoys while the main ones are being repaired. Undertaking this work is still pending but in process. The March 2023 report regarding supervisory visits to inspect the buoys available in the Annex to Mexico's report shows that vandalism damage to buoys continues to occur. Therefore, monthly monitoring of all buoys in accordance with the Maritime Patrol Program established as mentioned	Mexico reports that implementation of M2 is in progress and that the administrative procedures for buoy restoration have been undertaken. The Secretariat concurs with this and encourages Mexico to implement the work still pending as a matter of priority. It is recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on implementation of the pending work.

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
	<p>Milestone 3 (M3): Navigational warnings are shared twice a year with the maritime community of the region.</p>	<p>in M1 above is essential to ensure that all buoys are always fully operational.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that, as also stated by the recommendations in the March 2023 report regarding supervisory visits to inspect the buoys, it is important that PROFEPA implement a work plan for the maintenance of buoys and lanterns to ensure they are always fully operational and replaced by temporary buoys when needed.</p> <p>Mexico reports that the first notice was distributed on 23 June 2023. An example of such a notice, dated March 2022, is provided in the annex to Mexico's report.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that continued sensitization of the fisher community about the boundaries of the Zo and the consequences of not respecting these is essential. This will also ensure that that the excuse used by fishers in the past that they did not know they were in the Zo is no longer valid.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that M3 has been achieved and that the first notice was distributed on 23 June 2023. The Secretariat agrees that the milestone was achieved in accordance with the timeline stated in the compliance action plan.</p> <p>Continued sensitization of the fisher community in accordance with M3 of target 2.1. is a regularly occurring activity. The Secretariat encourage that Mexico at future meetings provide information on further activities conducted in this regard, to inform deliberations on matters concerning totoaba. Mexico is also encouraged to when submitting its Implementation report include relevant information.</p>
<p>2.2 Keep monitoring the Zo continuously through the maritime radar system of the assigned ocean patrol.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): 24/7 radar monitoring in the Zo is ensured.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that as part of its operations in the Upper Gulf of California, the Mexican Navy (SEMAR) maintains a permanent presence of an oceanic patrol vessel, which carries out various functions, including 24/7 monitoring of the area with its surface radar.</p> <p>Mexico reports that a total of 86 vessels were detected during the period from 15 April to 15 July 2023, representing a 38% decrease compared to the same quarter in 2022. The Secretariat welcomes this, noting that these persistent efforts seem to be delivering positive results.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that M1 has been achieved with SEMAR maintaining the permanent presence of a patrol vessel that undertake 24/7 monitoring of the area by surface radar. The Secretariat agrees that the milestone was achieved, noting the positive decreasing trend in vessels detected.</p> <p>24/7 radar monitoring in the Zo in accordance with M1 of target 2.2 is a regularly occurring activity. The Secretariat encourage that Mexico at future meetings provide information on further activities conducted in this regard, to inform deliberations on matters concerning totoaba. Mexico is also encouraged to when submitting its Implementation report include relevant information.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): Information on vessel detection has been used to activate the response protocol of SEMAR.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that, upon detecting any suspected unauthorized activity, the information is relayed to the Naval Sector of San Felipe, Baja California. They then deploy an interceptor patrol or a defender-type vessel along with an inspection and verification team comprised of Coast Guard personnel, Federal Maritime Security (Port Captaincy), a Federal Fisheries Inspector from SEMAR, and a Federal Fisheries Officer from CONAPESCA. It is reported that this team's primary function is deterrence and, in case of interception within the Zo, enforcement of relevant penalties for fisheries and navigation violations.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes this response protocol which should be continued and constantly evaluated to ensure that it is adjusted if needed, based on any lessons learned.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that M2 has been achieved. The Secretariat concurs with this, noting the positive decreasing trend in vessels detected mentioned against M1.</p> <p>Implementing the response protocol in accordance with M2 of target 2.2 is a regularly occurring activity. The Secretariat encourage that Mexico at future meetings provide information on further activities conducted in this regard, to inform deliberations on matters concerning totoaba. Mexico is also encouraged to when submitting its Implementation report include relevant information.</p>
	<p>Milestone 3 (M3): A monthly record of detections has been drawn up to assess the relevance of activating the so-called <i>factores detonantes</i> or 'triggering factors' (i.e., situations that can lead to prohibitions or closures if certain limits are exceeded)</p>	<p>Mexico reports that at the time of submission of its report to SC77, three monthly reports concerning vessel detections have been compiled, covering the period from 15 April to 15 July. As noted at M1 above, it is reported that over this period 86 vessels in total were detected within the Zo, which is 38% less than the previous year during the same period (139 vessels). Mexico further highlights in its report that it is noteworthy that the highest number of vessels detected within the Zo on a single day was 12, on 28 April 2023.</p> <p>Based on daily records, resources were deployed by Mexico in accordance with the Agreement that sets the indicators, trigger factors, and predetermined actions. The Annex to the report from Mexico provides detailed information on the number of vessels detected and associated resources deployed.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the detailed monthly reports concerning vessel detections that are compiled, which provides a valuable source of data for Mexico to draw upon in determining the need to activate the so-called <i>factores detonantes</i> or 'triggering factors'. As noted at M1 above, the Secretariat also welcome the positive decreasing trend in vessels detected. .</p>	<p>Mexico reports that M3 has been achieved. The Secretariat concurs with this, noting that the detailed monthly reports concerning vessel detections provides a valuable source of data for Mexico to draw upon.</p> <p>Preparation of monthly reports in accordance with M3 of target 2.2 is a regularly occurring activity. The Secretariat encourage that Mexico at future meetings provide information on further activities conducted in this regard, to inform deliberations on matters concerning totoaba. Mexico is also encouraged to when submitting its Implementation report include relevant information.</p>
<p>2.3 Continue to monitor the VRA through the terrestrial radar system.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): 24/7 radar monitoring in the VRA is ensured.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that SEMAR, through the Naval Sector of San Felipe in Baja California, in coordination with the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society (SSCS), maintains constant monitoring of the VRA using surface radars of the SEMAR vessel and the SSCS vessel "Seahorse".</p>	<p>Mexico reports that M1 has been achieved with the fulltime coordinated monitoring activities of SEMAR and SSCS in the VRA. The Secretariat concurs with this, noting the significant decreasing trend in vessels detected.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>It is reported that land-based radars are currently undergoing maintenance, but no further information in this regard is provided.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes these fulltime coordinated and collaborative monitoring activities in the VRA, and the significant decline in vessels detected in in the VRA in 2023, compared to the same period in 2022, as elaborated upon in more detail against M3 below.</p>	<p>24/7 radar monitoring in the VRA in accordance with M1 of target 2.3 is a regularly occurring activity. The Secretariat encourage that Mexico at future meetings provide information on further activities conducted in this regard, to inform deliberations on matters concerning totoaba. Mexico is also encouraged to when submitting its Implementation report include relevant information.</p>
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): Information on vessel detection has been used to activate the response protocol of SEMAR.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that analysis is conducted regarding the presence of vessels in the VRA, to consider the need for increasing inspection and surveillance patrols in the VRA. It further reports that the response protocol of SEMAR in collaboration of other relevant authorities is activated accordingly.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes this, noting that the significant decline in vessels detected in the VRA suggests that efforts are increasingly effective and delivering positive results. Information on vessel detections should continue to be used to inform responses, to ensure that they remain effective and, if needed, are adapted in a timely manner to respond to and address any newly identified trends that may emerge, ensuring that the positive downward trends observed continues, that irregular activities are restricted to these levels and that they are eventually eradicated.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that M2 has been achieved. The Secretariat concurs with this, noting the significant decreasing trend in vessels detected, as mentioned against M3 below.</p> <p>Using information to activate the VRA response protocol of SEMAR in accordance with M2 of target 2.3 is a regularly occurring activity. The Secretariat encourage that Mexico at future meetings provide information on further activities conducted in this regard, to inform deliberations on matters concerning totoaba. Mexico is also encouraged to when submitting its Implementation report include relevant information.</p>
	<p>Milestone 3 (M3). A monthly record of detections has been drawn up to assess the intensification of patrols aimed at inspecting and penalizing any unauthorized activities.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that monthly records of vessel detections are maintained and as also noted against M2 above, analysis is conducted to consider the need for increasing inspection and surveillance patrols in the VRA.</p> <p>The report from Mexico highlights monthly records compiled by SEMAR shows the following vessel detections: April (70), May (33), June (2), and July (32). The report from Mexico also highlights that CONAPESCA reported the number of inspections conducted regarding smaller vessels at authorized sites as follows: April (240), May (262), June (116), and July (173). Mexico notes in its report that from this data, it can be deduced that the number of vessel inspections remained consistent whilst there was a substantial decrease in the number of vessels detected within the VRA.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that M3 has been achieved. The Secretariat concurs with this, noting the significant decreasing trend in vessels detected.</p> <p>The preparation of monthly records in accordance with M3 of target 2.3 is a regularly occurring activity. The Secretariat encourage that Mexico at future meetings provide information on further activities conducted in this regard, to inform deliberations on matters concerning totoaba. Mexico is also encouraged to when submitting its Implementation report include relevant information.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>Mexico emphasizes in its report, that from April to July 2022, a total of 2,268 vessels were detected in the VRA. During the same period in 2023, only 137 vessels were detected in the VRA, which is 94% less than in 2022.</p> <p>As also noted by the Secretariat against M2 above, the significant decline in vessels detected in the VRA suggest that efforts are increasingly effective and delivering positive results. Maintaining monthly records of vessel detections is an ongoing activity, and the Secretariat believes that analyses of the data collected in this manner will continue to provide the information required to inform decision making regarding the need for maintaining or increasing inspection and surveillance patrols in the VRA.</p>	
<p>2.4. Intensify maritime, terrestrial and aerial patrols with manned and unmanned vehicles during authorized fishing seasons, ensuring permanent surveillance and law enforcement in the Zo and VRA.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): A programme has been established to strengthen maritime, terrestrial and aerial patrols with manned and unmanned vehicles during authorized fishing seasons.</p>	<p>Mexico in its compliance action plan notes that the authorized fishing seasons are colloquially known as the “high fishing seasons”. These are the three periods each year when there are increased fishing activities, namely the Curvina Golfina fishing season (February to April), the start of the shrimp fishing season (September-October) and the totoaba migration period (November-December).</p> <p>Mexico’s report indicates that during authorized fishing seasons, operational reinforcements are deployed as needed in accordance with an established reinforcement program.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that from the information provided in the Annex to Mexico’s report, it seems that the current Directive EMGA 028/21 - DIROPS 024/21, in accordance with which operational reinforcements are deployed in the Upper Gulf of California (UGC), would only be in place until May 2024 after which it needs to be renewed. Should the understanding of the Secretariat be correct, Mexico is encouraged to in a timely manner initiate the process to put a new directive in place. This is essential to ensure that operational reinforcements can continue to be deployed when needed, in accordance with an established reinforcement program.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that an established reinforcement programme is in place to temporarily increase inspection and surveillance actions as may be needed, and that M1 has been achieved. The Secretariat concurs with this, noting that if the understanding of the Secretariat is correct, the current Directive in accordance with which operational reinforcements are deployed in the UGC would be in place until May 2024, after which it needs to be renewed.</p> <p>Mexico is encouraged to provide an oral clarification regarding the above and, if the Secretariat is correct, report to SC78 on the renewal of the Directive.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): Maritime and terrestrial surveillance routes have been intensified during the gulf corvina fishing season, associated with illegal fishing of totoaba.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that during the Curvina Golfina fishing season, compared to 2022, maritime and land surveillance patrols were increased by 19% in 2023. It is further reported that personnel assigned to maritime and land patrols were increased by 50% in 2023, while the personnel dedicated to aerial patrols with manned and unmanned units remained unchanged. The report from Mexico includes a table that provides information on the material resources deployed in 2023 during the Curvina Golfina fishing season, compared to those deployed in 2022.</p> <p>Mexico in its report notes that the program for reinforcement of maritime, terrestrial, and aerial patrols is in place, and considers the authorized shrimp fishing season (September and October 2023) and the Curvina Golfina fishing season (February to April 2024), but mention is not made of the totoaba migration period (November-December 2023). Noting that this might just be a reporting oversight, the Secretariat nevertheless reiterate the importance that measures are in place to facilitate the deployment of operational reinforcements as needed, during all authorized fishing seasons.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that M2 has been achieved. The Secretariat agrees that the milestone was achieved.</p> <p>Intensified maritime and terrestrial surveillance during authorized fishing seasons in accordance with M2 of target 2.4 are regularly occurring activities. The Secretariat encourage that Mexico at future meetings provide information on further activities conducted in this regard, to inform deliberations on matters concerning totoaba. Mexico is also encouraged to when submitting its Implementation report include relevant information.</p>
	<p>Milestone 3 (M3): Aerial inspections using manned and unmanned vehicles have been intensified during the authorized gulf corvina fishing season.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that aerial surveillance patrols remained consistent with the activities carried out in 2022, considering that SEMAR's operations were increased in other areas.</p> <p>In light of the fact that positive decreasing trends in vessels detected were observed, as reported upon against Targets 2.2 and 2.3 of the compliance action plan, the deployment of such additional resources, which is usually limited in availability and expensive to deploy, was likely not needed. Mexico is however encouraged to monitor trends during authorized fishing seasons closely, and to ensure that such additional resources are deployed should circumstances require it.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that M3 has been achieved. The Secretariat agrees that the milestone was achieved.</p> <p>Intensified aerial inspections using manned and unmanned vehicles when needed during authorized fishing seasons, in accordance with M3 of target 2.4, are regularly occurring activities. The Secretariat encourage that Mexico at future meetings provide information on further activities conducted in this regard, to inform deliberations on matters concerning totoaba. Mexico is also encouraged to when submitting its Implementation report include relevant information.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
	<p>Milestone 4 (M4): Based on the 'Agreement on triggering factors', protocols have been applied to reduce or increase resources and staff according to the prevailing circumstances and the number of fishers detected in the Zo.</p>	<p>As demonstrated by reporting against M3 of Target 2.2 in the compliance action plan, it was not necessary for Mexico to activate the triggering factors provided for in the relevant Agreement. Numbers of vessels detected remained at the lower levels specified in the Agreement, and activities were therefore maintained with at least 60% of available human and material resources allocated, as reported by Mexico.</p> <p>As noted in its observations concerning Targets 2.2 and 2.3 of the compliance action plan, the Secretariat welcomes the positive decreasing trends in vessels detected, both within the Zo and the VRA. Mexico is encouraged to continue monitoring trends during authorized fishing seasons closely. Should circumstances arise that meets the triggering criteria established in the 'Agreement on triggering factors', the relevant protocols should be applied accordingly.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that M4 has been achieved. The Secretariat agrees that the milestone was achieved in accordance with the timeline stated in the compliance action plan.</p> <p>Applying protocols in accordance with the 'Agreement on triggering factors' as set out in M4 of target 2.4, are regularly occurring activities. The Secretariat encourage that Mexico at future meetings provide information on further activities conducted in this regard, to inform deliberations on matters concerning totoaba. Mexico is also encouraged to when submitting its Implementation report include relevant information.</p>
<p>2.5 Keep the Zo free of all types of nets and of the presence of vessels through the project of deploying concrete blocks.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): A programme for the removal and management of trapped nets has been implemented.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that the "Program for Removal and Management of Trapped Nets in the Zero Tolerance Zone" is in pace and ongoing. This entails a project through which 193 concrete blocks with hooks attached to it were placed to facilitate the Zo becoming a gillnet free area.</p> <p>Mexico states in its report that it's important to note that only a preliminary analysis regarding the project has been conducted and that a broader set of data is needed for meaningful conclusions regarding the project's feasibility and effectiveness to be made. It is reported that in this regard, information will continue to be collected and that a further review is planned for October.</p> <p>The Annexes to the report from Mexico include the first semi-annual report regarding the project.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that although it is too soon to determine the deterrent effect and impact that the project will have, the progress made is welcomed.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that M1 has been achieved.</p> <p>However, the Secretariat notes Mexico's observations that further data collection is needed to determine the project's feasibility and effectiveness. It is therefore recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on results of a further review to obtain meaningful conclusions.</p>
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): A monthly record of the number of nets removed has been drawn up.</p>	<p>Monthly records regarding the number of nets removed have been drawn up in accordance with M2 and are presented in the Annexes to Mexico's report. It is reported that from April to July, a total of 14 nets with a length of 6,070 meters were removed.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the preparation of the monthly</p>	<p>Mexico reports that M2 has been achieved and its report shows that monthly records of the number of nets removed are compiled. The Secretariat agrees that the milestone was achieved in accordance with the timeline stated in the compliance action plan.</p> <p>The preparation of monthly records in accordance</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>reports and notes that this is an ongoing activity. The 14 nets removed demonstrate the importance that all possible efforts to keep the Zo free of nets should continue.</p> <p>Mexico is encouraged to fully draw upon current and future monthly reports, thoroughly analysing them to assist in determining the effectiveness of activities, the need for adjustments and to ensure that resources are effectively deployed.</p>	<p>with M2 of target 2.5 is a regularly occurring activity. The Secretariat encourage that Mexico at future meetings provide information on further activities conducted in this regard, to inform deliberations on matters concerning totoaba. Mexico is also encouraged to when submitting its Implementation report include relevant information.</p>
	<p>Milestone 3 (M3): A monthly record has been drawn up of the number of vessels present to analyse the correlation between the deployment of blocks and the decrease of vessels in the Zo.</p>	<p>Mexico notes in its report that as reported against Target 2.2 of the compliance action plan, compared to the same period in 2022, there was a 38% decrease in vessels detected in the Zo during the period from 15 April to 15 July 2023.</p> <p>As also noted against Target 2.2, the Secretariat welcomes this declining trend. The Secretariat notes that drawing up monthly records regarding the number of vessels present in the Zo to analyse the correlation between the deployment of blocks and the decrease of vessels is a regularly occurring activity. This activity will also assist to provide the broader set of data needed to make meaningful conclusions regarding the project's feasibility and effectiveness, as noted against M1 of Target 2.5.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that M3 has been achieved. The Secretariat agrees that the milestone was achieved.</p> <p>The preparation of monthly records in accordance with M3 of target 2.5 is a regularly occurring activity. The Secretariat encourage that Mexico at future meetings provide information on further activities conducted in this regard, to inform deliberations on matters concerning totoaba. Mexico is also encouraged to when submitting its Implementation report include relevant information.</p>
<p>2.6 Systematically apply procedures and penalties against any-body entering the Zo for any unauthorized activity.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): An information document has been completed and will be made available to fishers on the penalties incurred for operating illegally in the Zo.</p>	<p>An information document was developed as anticipated by M1. The Secretariat confirms that the information note is included in the Annexes to Mexico's report and provides information about the procedures and sanctions that will be applied to those who illegally operate in the Zo.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that with the information document developed, M1 has been achieved. The Secretariat concurs with this and welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the compliance action plan.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 2. 6..</p>
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): At least three information sessions have been organized to inform fishers of the penalties incurred for operating illegally in the Zo.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that CONAPESCA in June conducted nine information sessions, to inform fishermen and the public about the penalties that will be imposed for unauthorized navigation or activities within the Zo. It is reported that a total of 185 fishers and representatives from cooperative societies participated in these information sessions.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the compliance action plan, noting that the nine sessions organized and delivered significantly exceeds the minimum</p>	<p>Mexico reports that M2 has been achieved. The Secretariat concurs with this and commends Mexico for exceeding the minimum target set in the compliance action plan.</p> <p>Informing fishermen and the public about the penalties that will be imposed for unauthorized activity within the Zo in accordance with M2 of target 2.6 should be repeated from time to time. The Secretariat encourage that Mexico at future meetings provide information on any further</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
	<p>Milestone 3 (M3): Administrative penalties have been imposed on all fishers detected operating illegally in the Zo.</p>	<p>target of three set in the compliance action plan. The Secretariat notes that informing fishermen and the public about the penalties that will be imposed for unauthorized activity within the Zo should be repeated from time to time to ensure continued awareness. Mexico is encouraged to undertake such activities regularly.</p> <p>Mexico in its report states that regarding the implementation of administrative sanctions, CONAPESCA reported that from April to July 2023 no infringement procedures related to fishing and aquaculture were processed against anyone who entered the Zo.</p> <p>It is reported against Target 2.2 of the compliance action plan, that a total of 86 vessels were detected in the Zo during the period from 15 April to 15 July 2023. Although implementation of administrative sanctions might not have been warranted in some of these cases, the Secretariat is of the view that it is unlikely that this would have been the case for all 86 of them.</p> <p>It could significantly undermine progress if authorities inform fishermen and the public about the procedures and sanctions that will be applied to those who illegally operate in the Zo, and then do not strictly apply these procedures and sanctions accordingly. In the absence of strict implementation and zero tolerance, the information shared will only be a short-term deterrent. If fishers realize that a zero-tolerance policy is not consistently applied, they will likely be tempted to challenge the system by taking chances and hoping that steps will not be taken. This would likely create a situation similar to what was observed in previous years, with offenders operating in impunity.</p> <p>Mexico is therefore encouraged to closely scrutinize the reasons why administrative sanctions have not been implemented in any of the cases detected, to determine the effectiveness of activities and if adjustments need to be made.</p>	<p>activities conducted in this regard.</p> <p>Mexico reports that M3 has been achieved. The Secretariat is not able to concur with this and notes that the absence of administrative sanctions despite a large number of vessels being detected in the Zo gives reason for concern.</p> <p>Mexico is therefore encouraged to closely scrutinize the reasons why administrative sanctions have not been implemented in any of the cases detected, to determine the effectiveness of activities and if adjustments need to be made.</p> <p>Mexico may wish to provide an oral update on the above at the present meeting, and it is recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on this milestone.</p>
2.7 Destroy all the nets found in the Zo.	Milestone 1 (M1): Generate a monthly report.	Mexico reports that CONAPESCA from April to June 2023, prepared three monthly reports on fishing nets found in the Zo, reporting a total of 14 incidents that led to the confiscation of 6,070 meters of abandoned nets. Detailed information is provided in the Annexes to Mexico's report.	<p>Mexico reports that M1 has been achieved. The Secretariat agrees that the milestone was achieved.</p> <p>The preparation of monthly reports in accordance with M1 of target 2.7 is a regularly occurring activity. The Secretariat encourage that Mexico at future</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>Mexico notes that the 14 incidents documented exclusively involved abandoned nets. In other words, there were no individuals that could be associated with these and therefore no sanctions could be imposed regarding the violation of fishing regulations. However, because the nets were found abandoned, they could immediately be legally confiscated by CONAPESCA and can be destroyed.</p> <p>Mexico further clarifies in its report that when nets are found and individuals are associated with them, due procedure and administrative process must be followed. Confiscation and destruction can only take place once the administrative process was duly finalized, and a penalty issued that orders the confiscation and destruction of the fishing gear concerned. In these cases, the nets are seized when the incident is detected and transported to a collection centre or held by a custodian, awaiting outcome of the administrative process. If the administrative process is finalized and a penalty issued as described, destruction is coordinated by SEMAR and CONAPESCA and carried out at the location where the fishing gear was deposited.</p> <p>Mexico reports that procedures are underway for destruction of the nets confiscated and that as of April 2023, 3 nets (with a combined length of 3,400 meters) have been destroyed, compared to the destruction of 4 nets (4,000 meters) in 2022.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that the process described by Mexico regarding due administrative process, seizure and confiscation, is common practice in many countries. The immediate confiscation of abandoned nets for destruction is welcomed. From previous reporting it is the understanding of the Secretariat that seized and confiscated nets are collected and stored at secure SEMAR facilities. Mexico is encouraged to continue this practice and to ensure that strict protocol is followed regarding destruction. The Secretariat believes that the monthly reports compiled in accordance with M1 will assist to facilitate this.</p>	<p>meetings provide information on further activities conducted in this regard, to inform deliberations on matters concerning totoaba. Mexico is also encouraged to when submitting its Implementation report include relevant information.</p>
2.8 VRA free of ghost nets.	Milestone 1 (M1): The working programme for the detection, removal and destruction of ghost nets has been launched.	Mexico reports that SEMAR in coordination with other relevant agencies, developed a "Work Program for Detection, Removal, and Destruction of Ghost Nets in the Refuge Area for the Protection of the Vaquita" (available in the Annexes to the report from Mexico). Mexico report that the aim of the program is to identify ghost fishing nets and remove them, as	Mexico reports that the working programme is in place and that M1 has been achieved. The Secretariat concurs with this and welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the compliance action plan.

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>well as to contribute to the protection of biodiversity, the preservation of marine ecosystems and landscapes, and combatting pollution from marine debris and plastics.</p> <p>Mexico states in its report that the methodology employed in this program involves monitoring and maritime inspection patrols, along with statistical data analysis. In accordance with the work programme methodology, SEMAR receives recovered ghost nets for destruction.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the compliance action plan.</p>	<p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 2.8.</p>
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): A quarterly report of activities and results of the working programme has been prepared.</p>	<p>The work program established in accordance with M1 above determines that recovery efforts must be documented using an agreed standardized report format and this must be submitted to the Naval Sector of San Felipe to record and maintain statistical control.</p> <p>Mexico notes that reports compiled regarding activities conducted in the VRA to remove ghost nets are in the data collection and analysis stage and that preparation of the quarterly report is in progress. The Party indicates that preliminary data up to 15 July 2023 shows that a total of 28 gillnets were recovered in the VRA.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that the deadline set in the compliance action plan for achievement of M2 is 31 August 2023, and welcomes the progress made by Mexico up to the date of submitting its report to the present meeting. The Secretariat notes that the preparation of quarterly reports represents a regularly occurring activity. Mexico is encouraged to fully draw upon these reports assist in determining the effectiveness of activities, the need for adjustments and to ensure that resources are effectively deployed.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that implementation of M2 is in progress. The Secretariat concurs, noting that the reporting provided sufficiently shows that work in this regard is on track.</p> <p>It is recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on the preparation of the quarterly report and achievement of this milestone.</p>
<p>2.9 Apply procedures and penalties against anybody entering the VRA for any unauthorized activity.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): A quarterly report of activities and results of the working programme has been prepared.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that regarding applying procedures and penalties against persons entering the VRA for any unauthorized activity, CONAPESCA reported that from April to July 2023 no administrative procedures were instituted. It is reported that therefore no quarterly report was prepared as anticipated by M1.</p> <p>The observations provided by the Secretariat in the present</p>	<p>Mexico reports that implementation of M1 is in progress. The Secretariat is not able to concur and based on reporting provided concludes that work regarding M1 has not yet commenced. The Secretariat notes that M1 has not been achieved by the 30 June 2023 deadline set by Mexico in its compliance action plan.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>document at milestone 3 of Target 2.6, are also relevant for milestone 1 of Target 2.9.</p> <p>The quarterly report being prepared in accordance with milestone 2 of Target 2.8 will provide important information about the number of illegal net detections in the VRA. The Secretariat notes that as reported against milestone 2 of Target 2.8, preliminary data up to 15 July 2023 shows that a total of 28 gillnets were recovered in the VRA. This shows that, although at lower levels than observed in previous years, unauthorized activities in the VRA continues. The lack of action by relevant authorities therefore remains of concern, taking into consideration that despite constant surveillance and other activities, not a single person placing nets illegally in the VRA seems to have been detected and addressed by mobilizing established procedures and pursuing appropriate penalties. As also noted at milestone 3 of Target 2.6, if a strict zero tolerance policy is not applied against unauthorized activities, it could significantly undermine and even undo the progress made.</p> <p>Mexico is therefore encouraged to closely scrutinize available data and reports to determine the reasons why no administrative sanctions have been implemented, evaluate the effectiveness of activities being undertaken by CONAPESCA and determine if adjustments need to be made.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that M1 has not been achieved by the 30 June 2023 deadline set by Mexico in its compliance action plan.</p>	<p>Mexico is encouraged to evaluate the effectiveness of activities being undertaken by CONAPESCA and to determine if any adjustments need to be made.</p> <p>It is recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on preparation of the quarterly report expected for this milestone.</p>
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): At least three information sessions have been organized to inform fishers of the standard incremental penalties incurred for unauthorized or illegal operation in the VRA.</p>	<p>The reporting received from Mexico shows that implementation of milestone 2 in Target 2.9 was combined with implementation of milestone 2 in Target 2.6. Both these were addressed during the nine information sessions conducted by CONAPESCA in June 2023, as reported upon in the present document at milestone 2 of Target 2.6. The Secretariat considers that combining the implementation of these two milestones as was done by Mexico presented a logical approach. Convening fishers on different occasions to address these matters separately would likely not have been well received and might even have been less effective.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the</p>	<p>Mexico reports that M2 has been achieved. The Secretariat concurs with this and commends Mexico for exceeding the minimum target set in the compliance action plan.</p> <p>Informing fishermen about the penalties that will be imposed for unauthorized activity within the VRA in accordance with M2 of target 2.9 should be repeated from time to time. The Secretariat encourage that Mexico at future meetings provide information on any further activities conducted in this regard.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>compliance action plan. The observations of the Secretariat at milestone 2 of Target 2.6 in the present document are also applicable to the present milestone.</p>	
	<p>Milestone 3 (M3): Administrative penalties have been imposed on all fishers detected operating unauthorized in the VRA.</p>	<p>The observations provided by the Secretariat in the present document at milestone 1 of Target 2.9, are also relevant for milestone 3 of Target 2.9.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that M3 has not been achieved by the 30 April 2023 deadline set by Mexico in its compliance action plan.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that implementation of M3 is in progress. The Secretariat is not able to concur and based on reporting provided concludes that work regarding M3 has not yet commenced. The Secretariat notes that M3 has not been achieved by the 30 April 2023 deadline set by Mexico in its compliance action plan.</p> <p>Mexico is encouraged to evaluate the effectiveness of activities being undertaken by CONAPESCA and to determine if any adjustments need to be made.</p> <p>It is recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on the achievement of this milestone.</p>
<p>2.10 Establish a protocol for consistent interpretation and joint action aimed at the enforcement of laws, regulations and rules relating to fisheries, environmental issues, maritime and coast guard authorities.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): The draft protocol has been prepared and circulated for its review by competent authorities.</p>	<p>In September 2020 the "Agreement regulating gears, systems, methods, techniques and schedules for the performance of fishing activities with smaller and larger vessels in Mexican Marine Zones in the Northern Gulf of California and establishing landing sites, as well as the use of monitoring systems for such vessels" (Regulatory Agreement 2020) was published in the Official Gazette of Mexico. Inconsistent implementation of this Agreement gave reason for concern, and as a result target 2.10 was included in the compliance action plan to establish a protocol that will facilitate consistent interpretation and implementation of the 2020 Regulatory Agreement.</p> <p>Mexico reports that "Protocols of Action in the Upper Gulf of California to Combat the Illegal Fishing of Totoaba (<i>Totoaba macdonaldi</i>) and thereby Conserve the Vaquita Marina Population (<i>Phocoena sinus</i>)" were developed. The final approved and adopted protocols are included in the relevant Annex to the report received from Mexico, showing that this milestone was achieved.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that M1 has been achieved. The Secretariat concurs with this and welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the compliance action plan.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 2.10.</p>
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): The observations of relevant authorities have been compiled.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that the draft version of the protocols was reviewed by the legal departments of SEMAR, CONAPESCA and PROFEPA, and that inputs provided were incorporated accordingly in accordance with M2, after which the final version was sent to the Intergovernmental Group on</p>	<p>Mexico reports that M2 has been achieved. The Secretariat concurs with this and welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the compliance action plan.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		Sustainability in the Upper Gulf of California (GIS) for adoption. The final approved and adopted protocols are included in the relevant Annex to the report received from Mexico, showing that this milestone was achieved.	The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M2 of target 2.10.
	Milestone 3 (M3): The final protocol has been adopted in the framework of the GIS and is ready to be implemented.	<p>Mexico reports that the final version of the protocols was approved and adopted during the 2nd Ordinary Session of GIS held on 23 June 2023 in Mexicali, Baja California. It states in its report that these protocols will facilitate the actions and decision-making of operational personnel who, in the course of their duties, identify potential violations of maritime, fisheries, and environmental legislation.</p> <p>The final approved and adopted protocols are included in the relevant Annex to the report received from Mexico. It contains several flowcharts designed to assist operational personnel in identifying the actions to be taken and to make swift decisions.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the compliance action plan. It trusts that the newly developed protocols will greatly assist in facilitating consistent implementation of the 2020 Regulatory Agreement and associated activities. The Secretariat notes however that it is too soon to at present determine the impact and effectiveness of the "Protocols of Action in the Upper Gulf of California to Combat the Illegal Fishing of Totoaba (<i>Totoaba macdonaldi</i>) and thereby Conserve the Vaquita Marina Population (<i>Phocoena sinus</i>)". Mexico is therefore encouraged to as time goes by, regularly assess this and to adjust the protocols if required, based on its findings.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that with the protocols developed and approved, M3 has been achieved. The Secretariat concurs.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M3 of target 2.10.</p>
2.11 Build the capacity of the staff of competent authorities operating in the UGC on the Protocol and monitor activities to ensure its effective implementation.	Milestone 1(M1): The protocol has been shared with all the competent staff.	Mexico reports that PROFEPA on 30 June 2023 shared with SEMAR and CONAPESCA, the final version of the approved and adopted "Protocols of Action in the Upper Gulf of California to Combat the Illegal Fishing of Totoaba (<i>Totoaba macdonaldi</i>) and thereby Conserve the Vaquita Marina Population (<i>Phocoena sinus</i>)", for it to be disseminated to all relevant staff. Additional information provided in the Annexes to Mexico's report also indicate that the final version of the approved protocols was shared with the office of the Sub-Prosecutor for Natural Resources, and that the Head of this office at PROFEPA shared the protocols with inspectors participating in inspection and oversight activities in the Upper Gulf of California through circular PFPA/4/8C.17.5/1407-	<p>Mexico reports that M1 has been achieved. The Secretariat concurs with this and welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the compliance action plan.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 2.11.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): At least 50% of the total number of officials operating in the UGC have received training.</p>	<p>2023.</p> <p>Mexico reports that a training schedule was developed and that training sessions are delivered accordingly. The schedule makes provision for officials from SEMAR, CONAPESCA and PROFEPA responsible for inspection and oversight in terms of security, fishing, and environment, to participate in the trainings. It is further reported that implementation of this schedule is ongoing and that a virtual session was conducted on 25 July, in which 150 officials participated. It is also reported that on 21 and 23 August training will take place in-person in the municipalities of San Felipe and Puerto Peñasco, respectively.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the training delivered. Considering the observations of the Secretariat at milestone 3 of Target 2.6 and milestones 1 and 3 of Target 2.9, it seems vital that training be progressed swiftly. Mexico is encouraged to take these observations into consideration in the implementation of its training schedule.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes Mexico's reporting that 150 officials participated in the virtual training provided. It is however not indicated in the report if the 50% target set for M2 was reached. Nevertheless, the training provided, and further trainings envisaged is an indicator that activities are progressing and that plans are likely on track.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that implementation of M2 is in progress. The Secretariat concurs with this and welcomes the training delivered.</p> <p>Mexico is encouraged to take the observations of the Secretariat at milestone 3 of Target 2.6 and milestones 1 and 3 of Target 2.9 into consideration in the implementation of its training schedule.</p> <p>It is not clear from the reporting of Mexico, if the 50% target set for M2 was reached and the Party may wish to provide an oral update in this regard at the present meeting.</p> <p>It is recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on progress in achievement of this milestone.</p>
	<p>Milestone 3(M3): 100% of the officials operating in the UGC have received training.</p>	<p>The Secretariat notes that the deadline set in the compliance action plan for achievement of M3 is 1 September 2023.</p>	<p>The deadline for achievement of M3 was after the reporting deadline but would have passed by the time of SC77. Mexico may therefore wish to provide an oral update on progress at the present meeting. If there has been no progress by SC77, it is recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on progress in the achievement of this milestone.</p>
	<p>Milestone 4 (M4): Ongoing training has been given to all recently hired officials, and officials recently deployed in the UGC have received refresher training to ensure that they work according to the Protocol.</p>	<p>Mexico confirms in its report that after the targets set in M2 and M3 of Target 2.11 have been reached, training sessions are expected to be an ongoing exercise, primarily focused on newly appointed officials.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that this milestone will be achieved in the future after achievement of M2 and M3.</p> <p>It is recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on progress in achievement of this milestone.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
	<p>Milestone 5 (M5): The training delivered has been assessed to identify any aspects that can be improved.</p>	<p>Mexico in its report prepared for the present meeting states that it is important to note that since the sessions held in July 2023, questions and comments received from personnel trained are being compiled to assess areas of improvement for the upcoming sessions.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that the deadline set in the compliance action plan for achievement of M5 is 31 May 2024, and welcomes that Mexico already at this early stage is assessing feedback to identify opportunities for further improving training. This practice should be applied to all future sessions.</p> <p>Mexico is encouraged to also take the observations of the Secretariat at milestone 3 of Target 2.6 and milestones 1 and 3 of Target 2.9 into consideration.</p> <p>The Secretariat trusts that the newly developed protocols will greatly assist in facilitating consistent implementation of the 2020 Regulatory Agreement and associated activities. The Secretariat notes however that it is too soon to at present determine the impact and effectiveness of the "Protocols of Action in the Upper Gulf of California to Combat the Illegal Fishing of Totoaba (Totoaba macdonaldi) and thereby Conserve the Vaquita Marina Population (Phocoena sinus)". Mexico is therefore encouraged to as time goes by, regularly assess this and to adjust the protocols if required, based on its findings.</p>	<p>The deadline for achievement of M5 is in the future.</p> <p>It is recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on progress in achievement of this milestone.</p>
<p>2.12 Put in operation a system to locate minor vessels.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): The project to install a system to locate smaller vessels has been developed.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that SEMAR developed the technical proposal for the "Smaller Vessel Localization System" project. It is reported that the proposed system will enable identifying the geographical positions of smaller vessels engaged in fishing activities within the Gulf of California. The report from Mexico outlines the anticipated outcomes from the operation of the "Smaller Vessel Localization System". The Secretariat confirms that detailed information on the project proposal, including the development timeline, scope and associated costs is in an Annex that was provided by Mexico with its report. This Annex contains confidential and sensitive information and is not made public to protect the integrity of Mexico's enforcement measures.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the compliance action plan and trust that with such a system in</p>	<p>Mexico reports that M1 has been achieved. The Secretariat concurs with this and welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the compliance action plan.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 2.12.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		place monitoring and the regulation of activities of fishers will be significantly improved.	
	Milestone 2 (M2): The necessary resources for the installation of the system have been secured.	Mexico reports the estimated project cost to be 149 million pesos (approximately nine million USD) and that its General Inspection Service requested a budget increase from the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit. It is further reported that authorization is expected in accordance with the timelines outlined in the compliance action plan. The Secretariat notes that the deadline set in the compliance action plan for achievement of M2 is 1 October 2023.	The deadline for achievement of M2 is set after the deadline for this report. The Secretariat welcomes the progress made and it is recommended that Mexico give an oral update at SC77. If there is no update, then Mexico should be requested to report to SC78 on progress in achievement of this milestone.
	Milestone 3 (M3): The operation of the tracking and location system has been integrated through the Command-and-Control Centre of SEMAR.	The Secretariat notes that the deadline set in the compliance action plan for achievement of M3 is 1 February 2024.	Mexico reports that with the technical proposal developed, M3 has been achieved. The Secretariat is not able to concur and based on reporting provided concludes that work regarding M3 is on track but has not been achieved. It is recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on progress in the achievement of this milestone.
	Milestone 4 (M4): The system to track minor smaller vessels is consolidated as a source of information and intelligence for competent authorities.	The Secretariat notes that the deadline set in the compliance action plan for achievement of M4 is 30 May 2024.	The deadline for achievement of M4 is in the future. It is recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on progress in the achievement of this milestone.

Line of action 3. Strengthen intelligence actions to combat transnational organized crime involved in illegal trade of totoaba.

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
3.1 Submit complaints, opinions and/or expert reports in a timely manner to the Public Prosecutor's Office.	Milestone 1 (M1): Complaints, opinions, and/or expert reports have been submitted in accordance with legal formalities and in a timely manner, resulting in proper action being taken by the judicial authority.	Mexico reports that in the period from 1 April to 30 June 2023, no environmental offenses related to the illegal trafficking of totoaba that required filing a complaint with the Federal Public Ministry (MPF) was detected in the Upper Gulf of California. It is further reported that on 27 June 2023, the Attorney General's Office requested PROFEPA to issue a reparation of damage assessment report in relation to the seizure of two totoaba swim bladders that were made in Baja	Mexico reports that M1 has been achieved. The Secretariat agrees that the milestone was achieved. Submitting complaints, opinions, and/or expert reports in accordance with M1 of target 3.1 is a regularly occurring activity. The Secretariat encourage that Mexico at future meetings provide information on further activities conducted in this

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>California Sur, Mexico. The assessment amounts to \$5,202,844 Mexican pesos and was incorporated in the investigative file of the MPF. In addition, it is reported that PROFEPA officials testified in eight totoaba related court cases during this period.</p> <p>Mexico highlights in its report that in the absence of an international cooperation instrument like the Terms of Reference of the Trilateral Contact Group between Mexico, the United States of America (USA) and China, it monitors news reports to check for information regarding any totoaba swim bladder seizures abroad, in order to file complaints accordingly. Mexico notes that as a result of these monitoring efforts, PROFEPA on 30 June filed a complaint with the MPF after learning through unofficial channels about totoaba specimen seizures in the USA. This concerns the seizure of totoaba swim bladders in Nogales, Arizona, USA, on 13 April 2023, and in Memphis, Tennessee, USA, on 24 May 2023.</p> <p>Mexico concludes in its report, that in the period from 1 April to 30 June 2023, PROFEPA filed 100% of the complaints it was required to submit.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that, as highlighted in the document on Totoaba (<i>Totoaba macdonaldi</i>) prepared for the present meeting, the USA in its response to Notification to the Parties No. 2023/069 reported that the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) regularly share seizure information with Mexico's National Customs Agency (ANAM). In this regard, the Secretariat notes that the 13 April 2023 seizure at the Area Port of Nogales mentioned by Mexico in its report, was made by CBP officers. It is possible that CBP did not share this information with ANAM, or that it was shared but due to confidentiality measures in place or for other reasons did not come to the attention of all relevant authorities in Mexico. In this regard, the Secretariat considers that formally operationalizing the Trilateral Enforcement Contact Group could to a large extent assist to resolve such issues. The Secretariat further addresses this matter in the document on Totoaba (<i>Totoaba macdonaldi</i>) prepared for the present meeting.</p>	<p>In regard, to inform deliberations on matters concerning totoaba. Mexico is also encouraged to when submitting its Implementation report include relevant information.</p>
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): The quarterly report will have been submitted.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that in the period from 1 April to 30 June 2023, complaints, reports, and/or expert opinions were submitted in a timely manner. The Secretariat confirms that the quarterly report was compiled and submitted as required by M2 and is</p>	<p>Mexico reports that with the quarterly report compiled and submitted, M2 has been achieved. The Secretariat agrees that the milestone was achieved within the timeline stated in the</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>available in the Annexes to the report Mexico prepared for the present meeting.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the compliance action plan.</p>	<p>compliance action plan.</p> <p>Submitting quarterly report in accordance with M2 of target 3.1 is a regularly occurring activity. The Secretariat encourages that Mexico at future meetings provide information on further activities conducted in this regard, to inform deliberations on matters concerning totoaba. Mexico is also encouraged to when submitting its Implementation report include relevant information.</p>
<p>3.2 Train the authorities involved in cross-border movements so that they are able to identify <i>Totoaba macdonaldi</i> and its parts and derivatives.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): A training programme and the necessary materials will have been developed.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that the training program envisaged by M1 was developed and that it covers the identification of totoaba swim bladders (fresh, dried), concealment methods and the protocol to follow in case of identification. It is further reported that in accordance with this program training will be provided to officials from PROFEPA involved in environmental verifications and inspections at ports, airports, and borders, as well as the National Customs Agency of Mexico.</p> <p>Mexico also reports on the materials developed. This entails a quick reference guide for identifying totoaba swim bladders and containing information on common concealment methods. Further, a brochure for identification of totoaba swim bladders was developed, which includes information about the penalties to be imposed for illegal exploitation, possession, transportation and commercialization of such swim bladders.</p> <p>Examples of the materials developed are included in the report from Mexico.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that M1 has been achieved. The Secretariat concurs with this and welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the compliance action plan.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 3.2.</p>
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): 100% of PROFEPA authorities involved in cross-border movements will have been trained.</p>	<p>Mexico reports on training conducted in December 2021, during which amongst other authorities, 23% of PROFEPA personnel involved in cross-border movements were trained.</p> <p>It is further reported that in June 2023, 60 PROFEPA inspectors working at ports, airports and land borders throughout the country were trained, along with 18 officials from the General Directorate of Environmental Verification and Inspection at Ports, Airports, and Borders, to reinforce their knowledge regarding the identification of totoaba swim bladders. Mexico reports that with this, 100% of PROFEPA personnel involved in cross-border movements are trained in the identification of</p>	<p>Mexico reports that 100% of the PROFEPA authorities involved in cross-border movements were trained and that M2 was achieved. The Secretariat concurs with this and welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the compliance action plan.</p> <p>Due to staff rotation, training should be a regularly occurring activity. The Secretariat encourage that Mexico at future meetings provide information on further activities conducted in this regard, to inform</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>totoaba swim bladders.</p> <p>Mexico in its report also included information on additional training that took place, involving other authorities and in the Annex to its report provide further detailed information.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the compliance action plan. It further notes that due to staff rotation, training will likely need to be done on a regular basis, regarding new staff deployed.</p>	<p>deliberations on matters concerning totoaba. Mexico is also encouraged to when submitting its Implementation report include relevant information.</p>
	<p>Milestone 3 (M3): 100% of customs authorities involved in these movements will have been trained.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that training for approximately 450 officials from its National Guard and National Customs Agency, was at the time of submitting its report planned to take place from 11 August and until late October 2023.</p> <p>Detailed information in this regard is also included in the Annex to Mexico's report.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that the deadline set in the compliance action plan for achievement of M3 is 15 August 2024. Based on information provided, the Secretariat concludes that activities in this regard are well on track.</p>	<p>The deadline for achievement of M3 is in the future.</p> <p>It is recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on progress in achievement of this milestone.</p>
<p>3.3 Strengthen collaboration with INTERPOL regarding information on Totoaba-related crimes.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): The quarterly report will have been submitted.</p>	<p>Mexico in its report provides information regarding its engagement with INTERPOL. The Party notes that through its INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB), five Red Notices, three Purple Notices and one Blue Notice was published. It is further reported that Mexico's INTERPOL NCB has issued seven Ecomessages and two diffusion alerts during the period from 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2023. Of the seven Ecomessages reported, three were issued in the first quarter of 2023. Additional information is provided in the Annex to Mexico's report.</p> <p>Although most activities reported upon took place before Mexico's compliance action plan was put in place, the Secretariat welcomes Mexico's continued engagement with and through INTERPOL. The use of important tools such as INTERPOL Notices and Ecomessages to engage at international level is encouraged and fully in line with the outcomes of the online <i>Meeting of range, transit and consumer States of totoaba</i>.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that engagement through and</p>	<p>Mexico reports that M1 was achieved. The Secretariat is not able to concur and concludes that activities regarding M1 is on track. The Secretariat welcomes Mexico's continued engagement through INTERPOL but note that most activities reported upon took place before Mexico's compliance action plan was put in place</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that engagement through and collaboration with INTERPOL remains a priority, and it is recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on further activities conducted in this regard.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		collaboration with INTERPOL remains a priority and that this work is of an ongoing nature.	
<p>3.4. Obtain detailed information about unusual operations related to the illegal capture and trafficking of totoaba and its parts or derivatives.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): A quarterly financial intelligence report will have been prepared to identify individuals related to totoaba fishing activities and the trafficking of swim bladders.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that, through its Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), a methodology was developed that allows for the monitoring of suspicious transactions associated with totoaba trafficking. A "totoaba" indicator developed as part of a set of indicators for the prevention of money laundering is continuously monitored by the FIU to identify such transactions.</p> <p>Mexico reports that to prepare the quarterly financial intelligence report anticipated by M1, its FIU using the "totoaba" indicator analysed over 3.6 million reports of suspicious transactions received from 2004 up to 30 June 2023, to identify transactions possibly related to the illegal fishing and trafficking of totoaba. It is further reported that because of this work, 53 suspicious transaction reports related to totoaba trafficking have been identified as of 30 June 2023.</p> <p>The Secretariat confirms that further information is contained in an Annex that was provided by Mexico with its report. This Annex contains confidential and sensitive information and is not made public to protect the integrity of Mexico's enforcement measures.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the work undertaken and the achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the compliance action plan. Thorough investigation regarding the 53 suspicious transactions identified could assist to facilitate activities targeting those at the top level of the illegal trade chain managing and organizing the trafficking operations at international level. Mexico is encouraged to fully draw upon the results of this work to initiate such activities.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that the preparation of quarterly financial intelligence reports represents an ongoing activity.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that implementation of M1 is achieved. The Secretariat agrees that the milestone was achieved.</p> <p>The preparation of quarterly financial intelligence reports in accordance with M1 of target 3.4 is a regularly occurring activity. The Secretariat encourage that Mexico at future meetings provide information on further activities conducted in this regard, to inform deliberations on matters concerning totoaba. Mexico is also encouraged to when submitting its Implementation report include relevant information.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
<p>3.5 Ensure that criminal proceedings are conducted in accordance with the law and result in favourable resolutions for the environmental sector.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): Information about investigations initiated by the Federal Public Ministry and judicial processes related to totoaba and the vaquita marina, as well as their outcomes, will have been collected, systematized, and monitored.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that the Office of the Federal Attorney General (FGR) collected and systematized information regarding investigation files on totoaba trafficking, with the aim of ensuring that criminal proceedings associated with totoaba trafficking are conducted appropriately.</p> <p>It is reported that based on this systematization process, the first quarterly report as anticipated by M2 below was prepared.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that M1 has been achieved. The Secretariat concurs with this and welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the compliance action plan.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 3.5.</p>
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): A quarterly report on the investigation files and judicial cases at various procedural stages will have been prepared.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that as anticipated in M2, a first quarterly report was prepared. This report covers the period from 2018 to 30 June 2023 and contains information on cases opened and investigated, cases put in trial and cases finalized.</p> <p>It is reported that 88 case files were opened and investigated (two of which were filed in the second quarter of 2023). Of these, 32 cases were put in trial and nine cases were conditionally suspended. Regarding the cases put in trial, eight convictions were secured through normal procedure and three through expedited procedure. It is reported that 16 individuals were convicted and sentenced to penalties ranging from one to four years and four months of imprisonment, in addition restitution of damage sentences were imposed, ranging from \$1,465,700 to \$3,277,977 Mexican pesos (USD 84 000 to 188 000). Regarding the nine conditional suspensions, Mexico reports that these were granted to 12 accused individuals. It is not clear from the reporting what the status of the remaining 47 cases not put in trial or conditionally suspended are, but it is assumed that these currently remains under investigation.</p> <p>Mexico in its report highlights that from 2019 to June 2023, a total of 1,360 totoaba swim bladders, 4 complete totoaba specimens and 65 derived products from totoaba have been confiscated.</p> <p>Further information is contained in an Annex provided by Mexico with its report. This Annex contains confidential information and is not made public to protect the integrity of Mexico's enforcement measures.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the preparation of the quarterly report. It notes however that it is not clear from the reporting what the status of the 47 cases not put in trial or conditionally</p>	<p>Mexico reports that a quarterly report was prepared and that M2 is achieved. The Secretariat concurs and welcomes the preparation of the quarterly report.</p> <p>Further clarification from Mexico on the status of the 47 cases as noted by the Secretariat would be welcome.</p> <p>The preparation of quarterly reports in accordance with M2 of target 3.5 is a regularly occurring activity. The Secretariat encourage that Mexico at future meetings provide information on further activities conducted in this regard, to inform deliberations on matters concerning totoaba. Mexico is also encouraged to when submitting its Implementation report include relevant information.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>suspended are. Further clarification from Mexico in this regard would be welcome.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that the preparation of quarterly reports on investigation files and judicial cases is a regularly occurring activity.</p>	
<p>3.6 Monitor compliance with agreements reached during the online Meeting of Range, Transit and Consumer States of Totoaba (Oct/21).</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): Contact will have been made with the countries that are part of the group through the CITES Secretary-General.</p>	<p>Mexico included an activity in its compliance action plan, to request the Secretary-General of CITES to contact the Parties that participated in the online <i>Meeting of Range, Transit and Consumer States of Totoaba</i> and seek information on their implementation of the measures and activities as contained in the agreed meeting outcomes document.</p> <p>Mexico in its report prepared for the present meeting highlights the activities undertaken by Mexico in this regard. The Annex to the report from Mexico provides detailed information about Mexico's formal reach out to the Parties and organizations concerned through diplomatic channels. This includes reach out to Canada, China including Hong Kong SAR, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United States of America and Viet Nam, as well as to INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization.</p> <p>Regarding the request from Mexico to the Secretary-General of CITES about contacting the Parties that participated in the online <i>Meeting of Range, Transit and Consumer States of Totoaba</i>, the Secretariat notes that it issued Notification to the Parties No. 2023/069 of 16 June 2023. With this Notification the Secretariat invited reporting from Parties on their implementation of the Decisions on Totoaba (<i>Totoaba macdonaldi</i>) adopted at CoP19, including Decision 18.292 (Rev. CoP19), paragraph a), on the implementation of the measures and activities outlined in the online <i>Meeting of Range, Transit and Consumer States of Totoaba</i> agreed outcomes document. The Secretariat in the Notification in particular encouraged Parties that participated in the online meeting to report. Reporting on responses to the Notification is provided in the document on Totoaba (<i>Totoaba macdonaldi</i>) prepared by the Secretariat for the present meeting.</p> <p>Mexico also included an activity in its compliance action plan, requesting the CITES Secretariat to submit a proposal to the Standing Committee that a second <i>Meeting of Range, Transit and Consumer States of Totoaba</i> be convened.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that M1 has been achieved. The Secretariat concurs with this and welcomes the work that Mexico has undertaken to engage with Parties and organizations that participated in the online <i>Meeting of Range, Transit and Consumer States of totoaba</i>.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 3.6.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>The request from Mexico submitted to the Secretariat and proposing this second meeting to be convened is addressed by the Secretariat in the document on Totoaba (<i>Totoaba macdonaldi</i>) prepared for the present meeting.</p>	
<p>3.7 Improve the exchange of information regarding organized crime groups involved in the illegal trafficking of totoaba, its parts and derivatives.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): The inter-institutional intelligence work related to organized crime groups linked to the illegal trafficking of totoaba, its parts and derivatives will have been coordinated.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that, to enhance information exchange regarding organized crime groups involved in the trafficking of totoaba specimens, a working group comprising relevant national agencies was established in Mexico on 26 June 2023. It is reported that in relation to this working group, SEMAR will lead the inter-institutional work through the Naval Intelligence Unit. Through this interagency efforts will be coordinated with the aim of identifying primary or high-value targets and secondary objectives; analyses will be conducted to facilitate mapping out different links related to the trafficking of totoaba; exchange of information with international agencies will be undertaken, and recommendations will be provided to Mexican authorities regarding extraordinary inspections to be undertaken at specific establishments, warehouses, cooperatives, and, in general, any facility where fishery products are stored and/or processed.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that the objectives of the work to be led by SEMAR through the Naval Intelligence Unit is in line with the steps included by Mexico in its compliance action plan, for achievement of M1.</p> <p>The deadline set in the compliance action plan for achievement of this milestone was 30 May 2023. Although this deadline was not met the Secretariat welcomes the progress made and the mechanism established to collate information from different agencies and support intelligence driven interventions through analyses of data and sharing the results. Mexico reports that this work is in progress and based on the reporting provided the Secretariat concludes that satisfactory progress has been made.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that implementation of M1 is in progress. The Secretariat concurs with this and notes that the deadline set in the compliance action plan for achievement of M1 was 30 May 2023. Although there is a delay in achievement of the milestone, the Secretariat welcomes the progress made and, based on the reporting provided, concludes that satisfactory progress has been made.</p> <p>It is recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on progress in achievement of this milestone.</p>
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): Quarterly intelligence reports will have been integrated.</p>	<p>The Secretariat notes that the deadline set in the compliance action plan for achievement of M2 is 31 August 2023, and that the report from Mexico was submitted prior to this deadline.</p>	<p>Mexico notes that this activity was at the time of reporting to be completed in the future.</p> <p>It is recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on progress in achievement of this milestone if no oral update is provided at SC77.</p>

Line of action 4. Implement a programme for alternative fishing gear and the marking and fishing equipment programme for minor vessels.

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat	
<p>4.1 Continuously update a programme of registration and licensing of active fishers in the Upper Gulf of California.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): A census of licensed and active fishers in the Upper Gulf of California has been updated.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that the development of a Program for Registration and Accreditation of Fishermen Operating in the Upper Gulf of California is in progress. The report from Mexico includes a table providing information on the activities envisaged to be undertaken to implement the programme. This table shows that activities will involve a combination of fieldwork and deskwork. Mexico notes in its report that achieving Target 4.1 is subject to the allocation and approval of financial resources and that approximately 12 million pesos (approximately USD 700 000) is expected to be required.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that the deadline set in the compliance action plan for achievement of M1 is 31 October 2023.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that implementation of M1 is in progress. The Secretariat concurs and notes that the deadline for achievement of M1 was past the reporting deadline for SC77. Mexico may wish to provide a further oral update on progress at the present meeting. If the milestone has not been achieved by SC77, it is recommended that Mexico be requested to report on progress in the achievement of this milestone at SC78.</p>	
	<p>Milestone 2(M2): The monthly report of licensed fishers has been prepared.</p>	<p>The information provided in the present document at milestone 1 of Target 4.1, is also relevant for M2.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that the deadline set in the compliance action plan for achievement of M2 is 31 October 2023.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that implementation of M2 is in progress. The Secretariat concurs and notes that the deadline for achievement of M2 is past the reporting deadline for SC77. Mexico may wish to provide a further oral update on progress at the present meeting. If the milestone has not been achieved by SC77, it is recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on progress in the achievement of this milestone.</p>	
<p>4.2 Issue all the permits for commercial fisheries with the alternative gear systems.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): The technical opinion of INAPESCA on alternative gear systems has been obtained.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that, to promote alternative fishing gear systems among fishermen in the Upper Gulf of California, INAPESCA has been conducting various projects and studies in close coordination with fishing organizations in San Felipe and the Gulf of Santa Clara, as well as civil society organizations, since 2004. It is reported that based on the results of these studies, alternative fishing gear systems have been developed. Mexico provides additional information in the Annex to its report. It is highlighted in the Annex that permits are only issued for fishing with authorized alternative gear as described in the information provided in the Annex highlights that as part of the processing any fishing permit application, a technical assessment on the fishing gear used is obtained from INAPESCA.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that M1 has been achieved. Based on the information provided the Secretariat concurs.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 4.2.</p>	

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>The Secretariat notes that the compliance action plan of Mexico states that in accordance with M1, applications for fishing permits received by CONAPESCA will be submitted to INAPESCA for a technical opinion regarding fishing gear. Based on the information provided, as also further elaborated upon against M2 below, the Secretariat concludes that this process is taking place.</p>	
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): All timely applications meeting the requirements have led to the granting of a permit.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that from 18 April to 15 July 2023 a total of 45 fishing permit applications were received by its authorities. Of these 23 were processed and finalized and permits for fishing with alternative gear accordingly granted to smaller vessels.</p> <p>Regarding the remaining 22 applications, 19 are pending due to document requirements, two are pending awaiting technical opinion from INAPESCA, and one was finalized and not approved.</p> <p>Additional information on the permits issued is provided in the Annex to Mexico's report. It is stated in the Annex that from September 2020 up to 15 July 2023, a total of 579 fishing permits have been granted, with 556 issued for smaller vessels and 23 for larger vessels.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that it is not clear from Mexico's reporting if the 19 applications that are pending are due to documents required from the processing authorities, or documents required that was not submitted by the fishers applying. It will be helpful to get some clarification from Mexico in this regard, to get a better understanding.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that the timely processing of applications and issuing of permits for fishing with alternative fishing gear is a regularly occurring activity.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that applications for fishing permits were processed in a timely manner and that M2 was achieved. The Secretariat is not able to concur, noting that it is not clear from Mexico's reporting if the 19 applications that are still pending are due to delays with documents required from the processing authorities or because documents required was not submitted by the applicants.</p> <p>Mexico may wish to provide oral clarification regarding the above at the present meeting. If the delay is due to documents required from the processing authorities Mexico should be requested to report to SC78 on progress in achievement of this milestone.</p>
	<p>Milestone 3 (M3): New permits have been granted as applicable.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that Article 54 of its General Law on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture establishes a maximum deadline of 60 business days to process fishing permit applications. Mexico notes in its report that from April to July 2023, applications received were on average processed within 29 calendar days.</p> <p>Additional information regarding activities conducted in the context of M3 is also provided by Mexico in the Annex to its report.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the information provided by Mexico regarding the 23 fishing permits granted in the period 18 April to 15</p>	<p>Mexico reports that fishing permits were issued in a timely manner and that M3 was achieved. The Secretariat is not able to concur and notes that its observations at M2 of Target 4.2 in the present document regarding the 19 applications that are still pending are also applicable to the present milestone.</p> <p>Mexico may wish to provide oral clarification regarding the above at the present meeting. If the delay is due to documents required from the</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>July 2023, and that these were on average granted within 29 calendar days of receiving the application.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that its observations at milestone 2 of Target 4.2 in the present document are also applicable to the present milestone.</p>	<p>processing authorities Mexico should be requested to report to SC78 on progress in achievement of this milestone.</p>
<p>4.3 Provide training to 100% of organizations with alternative fishing systems authorized in the permits issued by CONAPESCA.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): 100% of permit holders have received training on authorized shrimp trawls and suripera nets.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that CONAPESCA plans to by 1 October 2023, conduct training sessions for permit holders using shrimp trawl nets and suripera nets, with the aim of training 100% of these alternative fishing gear permit holders as anticipated by M1.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the reporting provided on activities anticipated and notes that the deadline set in the compliance action plan for achievement of M1 is 1 October 2023.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that the deadline set in its compliance action plan for achievement of M1 was beyond the SC77 reporting deadline.</p> <p>Mexico may wish to provide an oral update on progress at the present meeting. If no or partial progress has been achieved, Mexico should be requested to report to SC78 on progress in achievement of this milestone.</p>
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): 100% of permit holders have received training on authorized nets for non-cartilaginous fish, traps and hook lines.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that CONAPESCA plans to by 1 November 2023, conduct a second phase of training sessions for permit holders using scale fish trawl nets, traps and authorized hook lines, with the aim of training 100% of these alternative fishing gear permit holders as anticipated by M2.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the reporting provided on activities anticipated and notes that the deadline set in the compliance action plan for achievement of M2 is 1 November 2023.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that the deadline set in its compliance action plan for achievement of M2 is beyond the SC77 reporting deadline.</p> <p>Mexico may wish to provide an oral update on progress at the present meeting. If no or partial progress has been achieved, Mexico should be requested to report to SC78 on progress in achievement of this milestone.</p>
<p>4.4. Implement the Special Marking and Fishing Equipment Programme for minor vessels, in accordance with the Regulatory Agreement.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): The Special Marking and Fishing Equipment Programme has been developed and publicized.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that work is underway to develop the Special Marking and Fishing Equipment Program for smaller vessels and that it is expected to be ready by the 30 September 2023 deadline set in the compliance action plan.</p> <p>Mexico further reports that as soon as this program is in place implementation will continue in accordance with the milestones, steps and timelines stipulated in the compliance action plan.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the reporting provided by Mexico, based on which it concludes that work is on track for the programme to be developed and ready to be implemented by the 30 September 2023 deadline set in the compliance action plan.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that the deadline set in its compliance action plan for achievement of M1 is beyond the SC77 reporting deadline.</p> <p>Mexico may wish to provide an oral update on progress at the present meeting. If no or partial progress has been achieved, Mexico should be requested to report to SC78 on progress in achievement of this milestone.</p>
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): The Special Marking and Fishing Equipment Programme has been</p>	<p>The Secretariat notes that the deadline set in the compliance action plan for achievement of M2 is 30 April 2024.</p>	<p>The deadline for achievement of M2 is in the future.</p> <p>It is recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on progress in achievement of this</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat	
	implemented in at least 50% of the registered vessels of the region.		milestone.	
	Milestone 3 (M3): The Special Marking and Fishing Equipment Programme has been implemented in 100% of the registered vessels of the region.	The Secretariat notes that the deadline set in the compliance action plan for achievement of M3 is 30 September 2024.	The deadline for achievement of M4 is in the future. It is recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on progress in achievement of this milestone.	
4.5 Implement the continuous improvement programme for the development of alternative fishing systems to catch gulf corvina.	Milestone 1 (M1): A diagnosis of necessary improvements has been made with the suggestions of fishers.	<p>Mexico reports that work is underway to develop the Continuous Improvement Program for the Development of Alternative Fishing Systems for Catching Gulf Corvina. It is reported that an improvement diagnosis is being undertaken to incorporate the perspectives of fishers as appropriate. Mexico reports that work is expected to be completed as planned, by the 30 September 2023 deadline set in the compliance action plan for achievement of M1.</p> <p>Mexico further reports that the diagnosis being conducted will serve as input for the creation of the program as anticipated by M2 of Target 4.5.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the reporting provided by Mexico, based on which it concludes that work is on track for M1 to be achieved by the 30 September 2023 deadline set in the compliance action plan.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that the deadline set in its compliance action plan for achievement of M1 is beyond the SC77 reporting deadline.</p> <p>Mexico may wish to provide an oral update on progress at the present meeting. If no or partial progress has been achieved, Mexico should be requested to report to SC78 on progress in achievement of this milestone.</p>	
	Milestone 2 (M2): The continuous improvement programme for the development of selective fishing systems to catch gulf corvina has been prepared.	The Secretariat notes that the deadline set in the compliance action plan for achievement of M2 is 29 February 2024.	The deadline for achievement of M2 is in the future. It is recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on progress.	

Line of action 5. Monitor the vaquita population.

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
5.1 Estimate the population trend of the vaquita.	Milestone 1 (M1): The elements of the Community Conservation component of the Programme for the Protection and Restoration of Priority Species and Ecosystems (PROREST) have been published.	<p>Mexico reports that guidelines for the implementation of the PROREST programme were developed and published and that the required budget was allocated for implementation through the community conservation component. The report from Mexico includes a URL link through which the published guidelines can be accessed.</p> <p>Based on the information provided, the Secretariat concludes that M1 was achieved and welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that the guidelines anticipated by M1 were published and that M1 was achieved. Based on the information provided the Secretariat concurs and welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 5.1.</p>
	Milestone 2 (M2): The working plan has been drawn up.	<p>Mexico reports that, to continue the vaquita marina acoustic monitoring program which has been carried out annually since 2011, a work plan was developed. The work plan outlines the methodology for sampling, the sites where sampling will take place, the periods, the execution deadlines, and other aspects. It is reported that in accordance with the workplan, in 2023, sampling was scheduled to be conducted at the same 42 sites within the Zo where samples were collected in 2022, and that additional samples were scheduled to be attempted at new sites, with the goal of reaching a total of 55 sampling sites.</p> <p>The work plan is included as an Annex to the report from Mexico.</p> <p>The Secretariat based on the information provided concludes that M2 was achieved and welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that the work plan anticipated by M2 was prepared and that M2 was achieved. Based on the information provided, the Secretariat concurs and welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M2 of target 5.1.</p>
	Milestone 3 (M3). 85 acoustic detectors have been acquired and delivered to replace those missing.	<p>Mexico reports that 85 acoustic detectors were purchased in June 2023 and that their shipment was at the time of reporting in progress. It is reported that with the 85 newly bought acoustic detectors, those lost in previous years can be replaced and that there will be devices in reserve to use should future losses occur.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that the deadline set in the compliance action plan for achievement of M3 is 31 August 2023 and welcomes the progress made. Based on the reporting provided the Secretariat concludes that work related to M3 is on track.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that work regarding M3 is in progress.</p> <p>Mexico may wish to provide an oral update on progress at the present meeting. If no or partial progress has been achieved, Mexico should be requested to report to SC78 on progress in achievement of this milestone.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
	<p>Milestone 4 (M4). Fieldwork has been conducted (i.e., <i>Placement of acoustic detectors to compile data in at least 30 sites in the Zo during a minimum of four sampling periods at neap tide</i>).</p>	<p>Mexico reports that implementation regarding M4 is ongoing and that at the time of its reporting to the present meeting some placements and some recovery of anchors and acoustic detectors have been carried out in the Zo. It is reported that under the PROREST programme a beneficiary community group of fishermen is participating in this work. It is further reported that sampling periods will be adjusted to the intervals of neap tide occurring between June and November 2023.</p> <p>Mexico reports that it is expected to obtain the following information through the 2023 vaquita acoustic monitoring program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records of acoustic encounters. A map of acoustic activity by sampling site. Tables of acoustic activity by site and sampling periods. <p>The Secretariat notes that the deadline set in the compliance action plan for achievement of M4 is 30 November 2023 and welcomes the ongoing work. Based on the reporting provided the Secretariat concludes that work related to M4 is on track.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that work regarding M4 is in progress. The Secretariat concurs and concludes that work related to M4 is on track.</p> <p>The deadline set in the compliance action plan for achievement of M4 is 30 November 2023. It is recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on further activities conducted to fully implement M4.</p>
	<p>Milestone 5 (M5). The findings on acoustic monitoring have been submitted to the GIS.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that it is expected that the results of the 2023 vaquita acoustic monitoring program will be presented to GIS members in November 2023.</p>	<p>The timeline for achievement of M5 is in the future.</p> <p>It is recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on progress in the achievement of this milestone.</p>
<p>5.2 Undertake a research cruise for visual detection of vaquitas to determine their minimum number in the Zo.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): The mission has been planned.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that planning was completed and that subsequently the 2023 Vaquita Observation Cruise took place from 10 to 26 May 2023.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the compliance action plan.</p>	<p>The report from Mexico shows that M1 was achieved. The Secretariat concurs and welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 5.2.</p>
	<p>Milestone 2(M2): The coordination and logistic actions for conducting the observation cruise have been implemented.</p>	<p>Mexico in its report highlights the different authorities, organizations and experts that participated in the 2023 Vaquita Observation Cruise that took place from 10 to 26 May 2023.</p> <p>The report from Mexico shows that M2 was achieved. The Secretariat welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the compliance action plan.</p>	<p>The report from Mexico shows that M2 was achieved. The Secretariat concurs and welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M2 of target 5.2.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
	Milestone 3 (M3): The observation cruise has been conducted.	<p>Mexico reports that the 2023 Vaquita Observation Cruise that took place from 10 to 26 May 2023 and that it had both acoustic and visual components. It is reported that over the period of 17 days, visual searches were conducted in the Zo and its surroundings. It is further reported that acoustic monitoring allowed for determining the vaquitas' whereabouts in the hours leading up to the visual searches, and that 61 acoustic detections and 16 sightings were achieved.</p> <p>The report from Mexico shows that M3 was achieved. The Secretariat welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the compliance action plan.</p>	<p>The report from Mexico shows that M3 was achieved. The Secretariat concurs and welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M3 of target 5.2.</p>
	Milestone 4 (M4): The expert workshop has taken place.	<p>Mexico reports that, to determine the minimum number of individuals sighted during the Vaquita Observation Cruise, an analysis of the cruise results was conducted using the Expert Elicitation method. This analysis was facilitated by experts from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, with a 76% confidence level. The results show that the minimum number of the vaquita population is at present between 10 and 13 individuals, including 1 to 2 calves.</p> <p>The report from Mexico shows that M4 was achieved. The Secretariat welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the compliance action plan.</p>	<p>The report from Mexico shows that M4 was achieved. The Secretariat concurs and welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M4 of target 5.2.</p>
	Milestone 5 (M5): The report has been submitted to CONANP.	<p>Mexico reports that the final report on the 2023 Vaquita Observation Cruise and its results was submitted to CONANP as anticipated by M5.</p> <p>The report from Mexico shows that M5 was achieved. The Secretariat welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the compliance action plan.</p>	<p>The report from Mexico shows that M5 was achieved. The Secretariat concurs and welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M5 of target 5.2.</p>
	Milestone 6 (M6): CONANP has submitted the report to the GIS.	<p>Mexico reports that CONANP presented the results of the 2023 Vaquita Observation Cruise to the GIS at its Second Ordinary Session held in Mexicali, Baja California, on 23 June 2023.</p> <p>Mexico in its report highlights some of the important results of the 2023 Vaquita Observation Cruise as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of vaquita sightings increased from 7 in 2021 to 16 in 2023. 	<p>The report from Mexico shows that M6 was achieved. The Secretariat concurs and commends Mexico for the swift achievement of all milestones set for Target 5.2 in its compliance action plan.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M6 of target 5.2.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation cruise participants were able to track 7 groups of vaquitas for more than 30 minutes. • The amount of time during which vaquitas could be visually and acoustically observed was greater than in previous years. • All individuals sighted in 2023 appeared healthy with no apparent marks. • A more than 90% reduction in the presence of pangas and gillnets within the Zo was observed. • The concrete block project reported upon against Target 2.5 of the compliance action plan seems to be delivering positive results. <p>Mexico further reports that the 2023 Vaquita Observation Cruise incorporated a training component in which eight local observers from the San Felipe community in Baja California participated.</p> <p>The final report on the 2023 Vaquita Observation Cruise is included as an Annex to the report of Mexico to the present meeting.</p> <p>The Secretariat commends Mexico for the swift achievement of all milestones set for Target 5.2 in its compliance action plan. The results of the 2023 Vaquita Observation Cruise show that, at between 10 and 13 individuals, including 1 to 2 calves, the vaquita population remains very fragile. Mexico is therefore encouraged to build upon the positive progress made with implementation of its compliance action plan, rapidly progressing all aspects of the plan in accordance with the Targets and Milestones contained in it.</p>	

Line of Action 6. Raise awareness of illegal trade in totoaba and its consequences for conservation.

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
6.1 Implement the Strategy for the Promotion of the Culture of Peace and	Milestone 1 (M1): The Community Participation Committee has been set up.	Mexico highlights in its report that the Strategy for the Promotion of a Culture of Peace and Social Fabric Reconstruction is framed within three components:	Mexico reports that the Community Participation Committee was established and that M1 was achieved. Based on the information provided, the Secretariat concurs and welcomes the achievement

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
<p>Reconstruction of the Social Fabric to promote a behavioural change in the population.</p> <p>Baseline (BL) and Indicator (I)</p> <p>BLI: Public spaces for community sharing are inappropriate for the community.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovery and appropriation of public spaces. Community dialogues. Promotion of life skills and protective factors in schools. <p>Mexico reports that on 5 April 2023, the Community Participation Committee consisting of community members aiming to oversee actions and ensure the proper distribution of responsibilities, was formed as anticipated by M1.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the establishment of the Community Participation Committee and based on the reporting provided concludes that M1 was achieved.</p>	<p>of this milestone.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 6.1 (BL1 and I1).</p>
<p>I1: Number of actions performed in accordance with the work plan.</p>	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): The work plan for the rehabilitation of a public space has been prepared.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that based on the needs expressed by community members a work plan was developed which includes 14 activities to be carried out during 2023. This workplan and additional information is included in an Annex to Mexico's report prepared for the present meeting.</p> <p>Mexico notes in its report that results anticipated by implementing the work plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities aiming to promote the consumption of local products, boost community entrepreneurship and encourage public space use. Providing theoretical and practical tools for community recovery and appropriation of public spaces. A recycling centre was inaugurated on 10 July 2023 and community activities focused on nature conservation and composting took place. Formation of community promoters by the National Commission of Sport. <p>The Secretariat welcomes the swift achievement of this milestone and the work plan developed in support of achievement of Target 6.1. As noted by the Secretariat in document CoP19 Doc. 29.2.1, the situation in the Upper Gulf of California is complex and multifactorial and therefore the situation in which enforcement activities directed at preventing and detecting illegal fishing and trade of totoaba are occurring is also complex. The response of the Government of Mexico to deal with the multiple facets of the</p>	<p>Mexico reports that the work plan anticipated by M2 was developed and M2 achieved. The Secretariat concurs and welcomes the achievement of this milestone.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M2 of target 6.1 (BL1 and I1).</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
		<p>totoaba trafficking issue involves different aspects, such as support for community well-being and development, addressing substance abuse, exploring development alternatives, improving governance and others.</p>	
	<p>Milestone 3 (M3): The work plan has been implemented.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that of the 14 activities contained in the work plan developed in accordance with M2 above, eight have been completed, two are in progress, and four have not yet commenced. Mexico notes in its report that this is in accordance with the timeline set for implementation of activities, in the work plan developed. Further information regarding this can be found in the relevant Annex to Mexico's report prepared for the present meeting.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that the work plan has not been fully implemented by the 31 July 2023 deadline set by Mexico in its compliance action plan for achievement of M3. The reporting provided by Mexico shows however that progress has been made in accordance with the timeline set for implementation of activities in the work plan developed in accordance with M2. Based on the information provided by Mexico, the Secretariat concludes that activities are on track for achievement of this milestone.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that implementation of M3 is in progress. The Secretariat concurs and on the basis of information provided by Mexico concludes that activities are on track for achievement of this milestone.</p> <p>It is recommended that Mexico be requested to again report to SC78 on progress in achievement of this milestone.</p>
	<p>Milestone 4 (M4): Participatory information about the community's perception of the actions implemented has been collected.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that the actions implemented will be evaluated in future to further inform and develop activities.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that the deadline set in the compliance action plan for achievement of M4 is 30 August 2023. From the reporting provided and considering the timeline set for implementation of activities in the work plan developed in accordance with M2, it is evident that this deadline will not be met. The reporting provided by Mexico shows however that progress has been made and the Secretariat based on the information provided concludes that activities are on track for achievement of this milestone.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that activities regarding M4 will be undertaken in future. The Secretariat notes that the deadline set in the compliance action plan for achievement of M4 is 30 August 2023. From the reporting provided, it is evident that this deadline will not be met. The reporting provided by Mexico however shows that progress has been made and based on the information provided, the Secretariat concludes that activities are on track for achievement of M4.</p> <p>It is recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on progress in achievement of this milestone.</p>
<p>6.1 (Continue) Implement the Strategy for the Promotion of the Culture of Peace and Reconstruction of the Social Fabric to</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): Fishers in San Felipe have been approached to learn about their perspectives and opinions.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that historically dialogue between community members and governmental authorities, and community participation in related activities, were low and unsatisfactory through use of formal channels. Mexico reports that in this regard, SEGOB implemented actions to facilitate another type of dialogue with fishermen and key actors. It is reported that roundtable discussions were initiated to approach fishers in San Felipe and learn about their perspectives and opinions. It is</p>	<p>Mexico reports that the introductory meeting was held and that M1 was achieved. The Secretariat concurs and welcomes the roundtable discussions approach initiated to improve interaction with community members on key issues and the achievement of this milestone.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further</p>

<p>promote a behavioural change in the population.</p> <p>Baseline (BL) and Indicator (I)</p> <p>BL2: There is weak community participation and the dialogue between the community and the authorities takes place mainly through formal channels.</p> <p>I2: Number of community meetings or conversations held-/number of community meetings or conversations planned.</p>		<p>reported that on 16 March 2023 an introductory meeting was held with 22 fishers. This resulted in a dialogue where priority issues were identified to be addressed at future roundtable discussions.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the roundtable discussions approach initiated to improve interaction with community members on key issues and the swift achievement of this milestone in accordance with the timeframe set in the compliance action plan. Although it is too soon to determine the effect and impact this approach will have it seems as if the results of the introductory meeting were positive.</p>	reporting on M1 of target 6.1 (BL.2 and I2).	
	<p>Milestone (M2): Conversations have taken place with various sectors of the community of San Felipe.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that implementation of M2 is ongoing, and that work is on track for achievement of this milestone. It is reported that from 11 to 13 July 2023 roundtable discussions were held with the fishing sector, fishing authorities and institutional actors involved. It is reported that 35 individuals participated in these activities. Priority issues raised by the fishing sector during roundtable discussions included addressing matters related to illegal fishing, defining fishing gear between authorities and the fishing sector, respecting the zero-tolerance policy, updating or modifying the 2020 regulatory Agreement, and participating in collaborative fisheries management with authorities.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the roundtable discussions held to follow up on the 16 March 2023 introductory meeting reported upon against M1 above. Based on the reporting provided the Secretariat concludes that work is on track for M2 to be achieved by the 30 September 2023 deadline set in the compliance action plan. The Secretariat notes dialogue between community members and governmental authorities is an activity that should be of ongoing nature and encourage Mexico to also continue these activities beyond the deadline date as needed.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that implementation of M2 is in progress and that three of the five roundtable discussions envisaged were already held.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that dialogue between community members and governmental authorities should be a regularly occurring activity and encourages Mexico to also continue these activities beyond the compliance action plan deadline date as needed.</p> <p>It is recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on further progress in achievement of this milestone.</p>	
	<p>Milestones 3 (M3): The findings of the community meetings or conversations have been compiled and analysed to develop alternative proposals.</p>	<p>The Secretariat notes that the deadline set in the compliance action plan for achievement of M3 is 31 December 2023.</p>	<p>The deadline for achievement of M3 is in the future.</p> <p>It is recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on progress in the achievement of this milestone.</p>	
	<p>6.1 (Continue) Implement the Strategy for the Promotion of the Culture of Peace and</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): Lectures and workshops about environmental protection have been conducted with children</p>	<p>Mexico reports that lectures and workshops as envisaged by M1 have commenced and that activities are ongoing and on track for achievement of this milestone. It is reported that there is already engagement with five primary and secondary level schools in the municipality of San Felipe, Baja California, where</p>	<p>Mexico reports that implementation of M1 is in progress.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes that lectures and workshops as envisaged by M1 should be a regularly</p>

<p>Reconstruction of the Social Fabric to promote a behavioural change in the population.</p> <p>Baseline (BL) and Indicator (I)</p> <p>BL3: Children and adolescents have little information about protective factors.</p> <p>I3: Number of children and adolescents who have participated in the workshops held in elementary and middle schools</p>	<p>and adolescents of the San Felipe community.</p>	<p>12 talks were conducted on environmental awareness, mental health, life skills, and prevention of adolescent pregnancy. These talks were supported by CONANP, the Institute of Psychiatry of the State of Baja California and the State Group for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention. It is reported that in total, 347 children and adolescents benefited from the workshops.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the activities conducted as reported upon and concludes that work is on track for M1 to be achieved by the 30 September 2023 deadline set in the compliance action plan. The Secretariat notes that lectures and workshops as envisaged by M1 should be of ongoing nature and encourage Mexico to also continue these activities beyond the deadline date as needed.</p>	<p>occurring activity and encourages Mexico to also continue these activities beyond the deadline date set in its compliance action plan, as needed.</p> <p>It is recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on further progress in achievement of this milestone.</p>	
<p>6.2 Implement a comprehensive awareness raising strategy for local communities on illegal trade of totoaba and its serious consequences for the conservation of the vaquita.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): A media strategy has been developed.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that the implementation of its media strategy is done as part of implementing a comprehensive awareness raising campaign for local communities regarding the illegal trade in totoaba and its serious consequences for the conservation of the vaquita. The Party highlights in its report that the media strategy was designed to specifically raise awareness amongst and target local communities and the fishing sector. It is reported that the awareness raising campaign was officially launched on 10 July 2023, and that it currently includes twelve infographics, with further materials also being developed. The report further highlights that numerous governmental agencies are participating in the joint campaign.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the media strategy developed and being implemented as part of Mexico's comprehensive awareness raising campaign targeting local communities and the fishing sector. Based on the reporting provided the Secretariat concludes that M1 was achieved.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that its media strategy is being implemented as part of a comprehensive awareness raising campaign that was launched on 10 July 2023, and that M1 was achieved. The Secretariat concurs and welcomes the awareness raising campaign targeting local communities and the fishing sector.</p> <p>The Secretariat does not see the need for further reporting on M1 of target 6.2.</p>	
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): The communication campaigns of the Mexican Government's Comprehensive Awareness-raising Strategy have been</p>	<p>Mexico reports that its comprehensive awareness raising campaign was launched on 10 July 2023. As part of the campaign information is being disseminated about Mexico's compliance action plan on totoaba and the activities that will be implemented in accordance with it. The campaign also raises awareness about the findings of the 2023 Vaquita Observation Cruise (survey), the characteristics of the vaquita and totoaba, their habitat and that</p>	<p>Mexico reports that with the launch of its comprehensive awareness raising campaign on 10 July 2023, implementation of M2 was achieved. The Secretariat agrees that the milestone was achieved.</p> <p>Implementation of the comprehensive awareness raising campaign and media strategy is a regularly</p>	

<p>launched.</p>	<p>they are endangered and endemic species in the Upper Gulf of California (AGC). The campaign further highlights the risks posed to the vaquita by the illegal fishing and trafficking of totoaba. Furthermore, the campaign addresses topics such as the regulatory framework in place for the protection of these species, and it emphasize the need for international cooperation and to address matters related to the illegal supply and demand.</p> <p>Mexico reports that among the activities implemented to provide information to key stakeholders, it is worth highlighting that on 24 May 2023 an Information Meeting with the Fishing Sector of the AGC was held. It is further reported that on 23 June 2023 the Second Ordinary Meeting of the Interagency Group on Sustainability in the Upper Gulf of California (GIS) took place. During this meeting the comprehensive awareness raising campaign and media strategy was presented and a guide on the content of Mexico's compliance action plan was provided to fishermen, academics and non-governmental organizations. An example of this guide is also included in the relevant Annex to Mexico's report prepared for the present meeting.</p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes the launch of Mexico's comprehensive awareness raising campaign and media strategy. Although it is too soon to determine the effect and impact it will have the activities conducted as reported upon and ongoing work to implement the campaign is welcomed.</p>	<p>occurring activity. The Secretariat encourage that Mexico at future meetings provide information on further activities conducted in this regard, to inform deliberations on matters concerning totoaba. Mexico is also encouraged to when submitting its Implementation report include relevant information.</p>	
<p>Milestone 3 (M3): An assessment of the impact and reach of the Comprehensive Awareness-raising Strategy has been conducted.</p>	<p>The Secretariat notes that the deadline set in the compliance action plan for achievement of M3 is 20 October 2023. Considering the ongoing nature of activities to implement Mexico's comprehensive awareness raising campaign and media strategy it might be too soon to determine the effect and impact by this date. Mexico is encouraged to, as may be needed, also continue these assessment activities beyond the deadline date set in its compliance action plan.</p>	<p>The deadline for achievement of M3 is in the future. It is recommended that Mexico be requested to report to SC78 on progress in achievement of this milestone.</p>	

Line of action 7. Operationalize the Trilateral Enforcement Contact Group.

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
<p>7.1 China-US-Mexico Trilateral Enforcement Contact Group in operation.</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (M1): The existing discrepancies on the text of the terms of reference (ToR) for the creation of the Trilateral Enforcement Contact Group (TECG) have been solved.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that, to establish and operationalize the Trilateral Enforcement Contact Group (TECG) called for in the outcomes of the 2017 trilateral meeting held in Ensenada, Mexico, between China, Mexico and the United States of America (USA), the Government of Mexico has led negotiations to establish the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the TECG.</p> <p>Mexico reports in detail on the activities it conducted and the difficulties that were encountered in attempts to finalize the ToR for the TECG, primarily relating to disputes on text between China and the USA. Detailed information on the efforts of Mexico is also included in the relevant Annex to its report prepared for the present meeting.</p> <p>The Secretariat is aware of the efforts made by Mexico, including the reach out done to China and the USA through its Embassies in these countries and through the Permanent Mission of Mexico to International Organizations in Geneva. The efforts made by Mexico over time are also well documented in reports and documents prepared for the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee and the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. As pointed out in document CoP19 Doc. 29.2.1, Mexico reported that trilateral collaboration is a shared responsibility between the three Parties and that investment in this issue by the Parties concerned has been uneven.</p> <p>This milestone was not achieved by the 30 May 2023 deadline set by Mexico in its compliance action plan, but based on the reporting provided the Secretariat concludes that Mexico made significant efforts and used all avenues at its disposal to facilitate negotiations with an aim to finalize the ToR for the TECG.</p> <p>This matter is further addressed by the Secretariat in the document on Totoaba (<i>Totoaba macdonaldi</i>) prepared by the Secretariat for the present meeting.</p>	<p>Mexico reports that implementation of M1 is in progress. The Secretariat concurs.</p> <p>Matters related to the establishment and operationalization of the TECG as well as activities related to totoaba implemented by China and the USA are further addressed by the Secretariat in the document on Totoaba (<i>Totoaba macdonaldi</i>) prepared by the Secretariat for the present meeting.</p> <p>Mexico is encouraged to continue its leading role on this issue. It is recommended that the Standing Committee request China, the USA and Mexico to also report to SC78 in accordance with Decision 19.74 and to decide at SC78 if sufficient progress has been made or if further measures are needed regarding any of these three Parties.</p>
	<p>Milestone 2 (M2): The definition of signatories for each country has been clarified.</p>		<p>The Secretariat notes that its observations at M1 of Target 7.1 in the present document are also applicable to the present milestone.</p>

Target	Milestones	Reporting from Mexico to SC77 and observations of the Secretariat	Conclusions of the Secretariat
	Milestone 3 (M3): The mechanism for participating has been solved.		The Secretariat notes that its observations at M1 of Target 7.1 in the present document are also applicable to the present milestone.
	Milestone 4 (M4): There are sufficient legal conditions to start the operations of the Trilateral Enforcement Contact Group.		The Secretariat notes that its observations at M1 of Target 7.1 in the present document are also applicable to the present milestone.