

The fleet is almost equally divided between the Pacific, Gulf and Caribbean coasts, with about 4 percent of the craft operating in inland waters. Fewer than 3,300 boats are considered part of the high sea fleet, and they concentrate mainly on shrimp, tuna, sardine and anchovy. Shrimp boats alone make up about 69 percent of the high seas fleet. Another 26 percent specialized in scalefish, with the rest being tuna and sardine/anchovy boats. In 1996, there were 59 ports available to service the fishing industry, which included 28 kilometres of jetty.

PROCESSING PLANTS

Mexico has more than 300 fish processing plants. Close to three-quarters are located on the Pacific Coast. The Mexican government has active programs to modernize the fish processing sector. In particular, there is considerable interest in developing mass-consumption products such as fish paste and frozen fish fillets. This will require the modernization of fish processing plants.

In 1995, about one-third of the landed catch was frozen, almost 20 percent was canned, and most of the rest was cut up.

PROCESSING WEIGHTS BY REGION, 1995

TONNES

	North Pacific Coast	Central and South Pacific coasts	Gulf and Caribbean coasts	Inland states	Total
Live Catch	720,920	142,499	360,192	40,945	1,264,556
Total Processed					
Live Weight	616,103	41,626	70,623	102	728,454
Net Weight	247,126	24,833	44,749	51	316,759
Frozen					
Live Weight	151,426	26,972	61,756	0	240,154
Net Weight	103,124	17,935	43,258	0	164,317
Canned					
Live Weight	125,297	9,573	7,732	0	142,602
Net Weight	72,494	5,171	1,072	0	78,737
Dehydrated, Cooked or Shredded					
Live Weight*	335,081	4,709	321	0	340,111
Net Weight	70,338	1,500	77	0	71,915
Other Processes					
Live Weight	4,299	372	814	102	5,587
Net Weight	1,170	227	342	51	1,790

* includes 66,973 tonnes of waste, stemming from freezing and canning processes

Source: Secretaría del Medio Ambiente, Recursos Naturales y Pesca (Semarnap), Secretariat of Environment, Natural Resources and Fisheries.