



RED DE OBSERVADORES CIUDADANOS
LA PAZ WATERKEEPER®

Citizen-driven vigilance to stop illegal fishing!

Beginning in 2017, ROC patrol boats worked with CONAPESCA (the federal fisheries authority) leading to the confiscation of 13 illegal fishing boats.

Since April of this year, no boats have been caught illegally fishing at Espiritu Santo National Park, and fish populations have dramatically increased, especially the heavily targeted parrotfish.



ROC's surveillance in the Bay of La Paz. The new ROC patrol boat is also bigger, allowing the boat to carry ROC's captain and staff, along with federal fisheries authorities and the Navy.



The ROC patrol boats do night and day vigilance patrols in the Bay of La Paz. The boat is run by *ex-pistoleros* (illegal fishermen) who are used to running boats at night without lights and know where the illegal boats fish.

In 2018, ROC traveled over 23,000 km and spent over 3,000 hours on the water in the Bay of La Paz. Since April 2018 no illegal fishing has been encountered. By comparison in 2017, 13 illegal boats were confiscated.



ROC - Mexico Park Service Base Camp on Espiritu Santo

In 2018, in response to the tourist closure at Los Islotes island (a popular destination for snorkelers and divers within Espiritu Santo's protected area), ROC collaborated with CONANP (the Mexican Park Service) to set up a temporary base camp on the island.

For 75 days, staff from ROC and CONANP patrolled the protected area night and day, making contact with an average of 55 boats a day and over 26,000 tourists total, sharing information about the new regulations and reasons for the closure.



In 2018, ROC was recognized by the Mexican Government, through the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas, as one of the most important environmental organizations for nature conservation in protected areas, awarding it an Honorary Mention in the "Reconocimiento a la Conservación de la Naturaleza" national award.

In 2018, ROC was also recognized as a model non-profit conservation organization by the Senate.

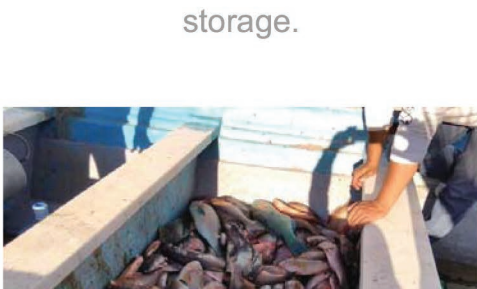
ROC's citizen-driven ROC vigilance in collaboration with State and Federal authorities produced outstanding results.



In 2017, 13 pangas and equipment confiscated were by federal fisheries authorities are now in storage.



Two pangas with all equipment and catch confiscated.



These are reef critical parrotfish aboard pistolero boats (boats shooting fish at night using compressed air which is illegal) All catch is confiscated.

Our contact information

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