

# ***GAVIOTERAS, THE HIDDEN LINK IN THE FISHERIES VALUE CHAIN, YUCATAN, MEXICO***

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# Background

- Fisheries as a human economic activity are subject to change. **Fish markets** are changing due to **consumptions patterns** affecting catch volumes and this is also changing organizational structures in fisheries communities.
- Fishing is a way of life, dependent on fish resources, therefore, the **scarcity or abundance** of fish resources can influence how coastal communities organize and it can also influence gender dynamics.
- Women in fishing communities **also rely** on catch level for their income and survival.
- This dependence is subject to **local resource availability** and **the paid work women can have access to.**

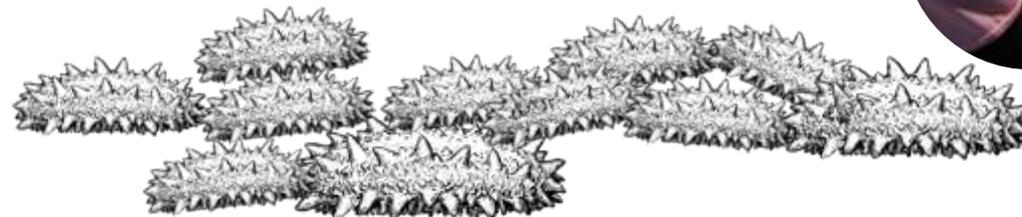


# Traditional women activities in the fishing industry



# The sea cucumber fishery as a paradigmatic shift....

- New market structures were created by the new fishery
- Sea cucumber impacted local economy and social dynamics (newcomers)
- Boom and bust trayjectory
- Informality and IUU fishing
- Women's participation in fisheries was also affected and some traditional roles such as **Gabioteras** also change



# Research objective

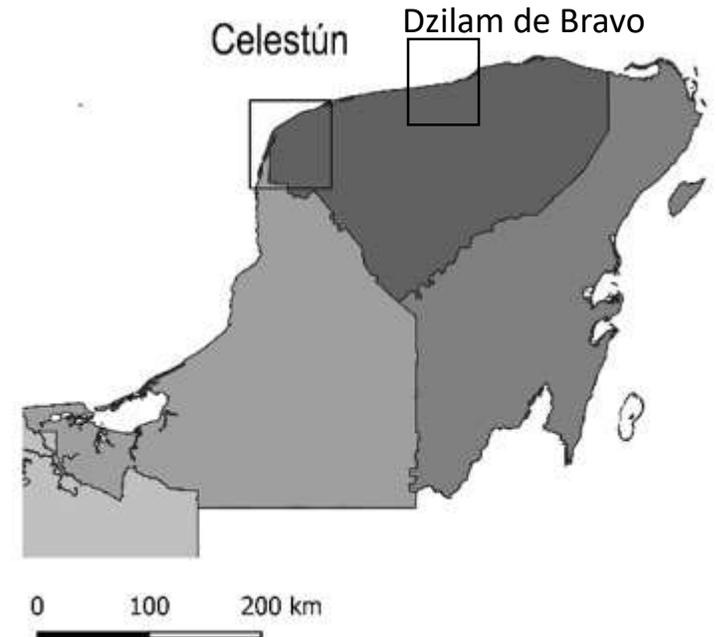
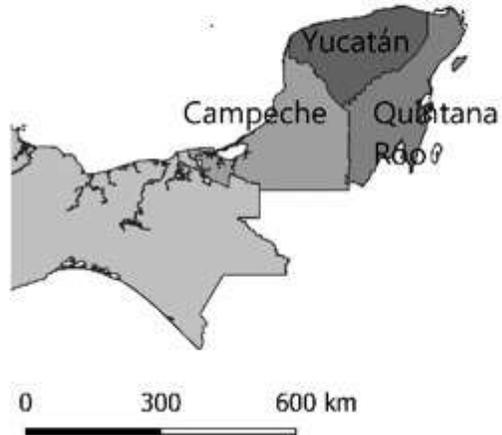
- What are working dynamics of *Gavioteras* (women seagulls) in the fishing sector and the importance of their activities for household survival.



# Study Area

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- Celestún and Dzilam de Bravo are the second and third most important fishing ports in Yucatán.



# Gavioterias origins (women seagulls)



# Gavioterías a changing role



# Gavioteras, in action



# Gavioteras, in action



# Competitive strategies and access to fish





Fish for sex as a  
competitive strategy

# Gavioteras as a commercial strategy



# Risks

- Bad day of fishing means no income, but expenses.
- Too many gabioteiras, harder competition.
- Accidents
- Sexual harassment.
- Bad reputation.
- Best period octopus season.
- The amount of products obtained also depends on their relationship with fishers and buyers.



# Advantages

- Income generating
- Better prices for the same product
- Flexibility in working hours
- Access to food



# Final remarks

- The goods and the bads from being a gaviotera.
- Women and men experience access and availability of fish resources in different ways.
- Women access into the labor market as a poverty coping strategy.
- An activity for women into the informal sector.
- An additional link of the value chain.
- Despite all disadvantages it represents an income for women.





**THANKS FOR YOU ATENTION**

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