

Cofece prevents the creation of monopolies and duopolies of ferries in Quintana Roo

- *The merger would have reduced the number of ferry companies in the region, reducing competition on prices and quality of the services.*
- *Ferries are the main means of transportation for people commuting between their homes and jobs in tourist areas.*

Mexico City, August 29, 2024. The Board of Commissioners of the Federal Economic Competition Commission (Cofece) denied Grupo Xcaret the acquisition of four operators of ferry routes in Quintana Roo because **it would reduce the number of service providers, causing users to have fewer options to choose from, and companies to have less incentives to compete on price and quality.**

The operations rejected by Cofece consisted of the acquisition of companies operating routes between Puerto Juárez and Isla Mujeres; between the Hotel Zone and Isla Mujeres, and between Cozumel and Playa del Carmen.

Why was this operation denied?

Cofece noted that on the Hotel Zone - Isla Mujeres route, **the operation would have resulted in Grupo Xcaret becoming a monopoly**, allowing it to raise prices or reduce the quality of its services without offering consumers any other alternatives.

On the Cozumel - Playa del Carmen route, the operation would have resulted in a duopoly structure, which would have reduced competition and resulted in higher prices, fewer choices, and fewer trips.

Ferry services are primarily used by residents of these areas **for commuting to and from work**, and secondarily by tourists. In 2023 alone, nearly **two million people** used ferries to travel to Cozumel, and over **half a million** passengers traveled by ferry to the Cancun Hotel Zone.

As part of the new phase of economic competition policy, **Cofece reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that competition brings tangible benefits to the population**, by using its tools to the fullest extent to prevent the creation of market structures that are harmful to Mexicans.

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MORE COMPETITION FOR A STRONGER MEXICO

The Federal Economic Competition Commission safeguards competition and free market access.

Through its work, it seeks better conditions for consumers, that more services are supplied with higher quality, and that there is a "level playing field" for companies.