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Commercially Important Marine Mollusks for Human Consumption in Acapulco, México

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ABSTRACT

Acapulco, offers for international tourism a variety of mollusks that are delightful to the palate and a source of economic revenue for its residents; however there are no studies on the species consumed. Furthermore, data from the State agencies responsible for registration of these products are unclear. This work is aimed to develop an inventory of Gastropoda, Bivalvia and Polyplacophora marketed as food, to gain knowledge on the species native to Acapulco and the introduced ones. The places that sell shellfish were interviewed from 2008 to 2011 in order to determine the geographical origin of their products being offered. We identified 42 species: 15 species of gastropods are captured locally and three are introduced. On Bivalvia, seven species are caught locally and 16 are introduced. There are Bivalvia species caught locally; however, their capture is now unaffordable. It is likely that this situation is due to overfishing and/or the transmission of diseases or parasites caused by the introduction of foreign living organisms to Acapulco. Within the list of species caught locally, there are some listed as of subject protection; all of these organisms are exploited in Acapulco without control. The wealth of marine mollusks for human consumption in Acapulco is very high. The capture does not satisfy local market demand and the amount of introduced species is very high. It is necessary to make a diagnostic analysis of mollusk fishing industry in the state of Guerrero, also implement a management program, including the sanitary measures and control of introduced species, as they arrive alive and stay alive in the waters of Acapulco. A significant number of native species that have aquaculture potential should be studied for commercial culture practice as well as to conduct studies on their biology on those species that are considered over-exploited and allow recovery of the species in its habitat.

KEYWORDS

Mollusks; Commercial; Consumption; Human; Acapulco; México

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