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POPULATION OF THE SCALLOP *ARGOPECTEN PURPURATUS* (LAMARCK, 1819) IN THE LITTORAL OF THE REGION ANCASH, PERÚ. SPRING 2006

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The Regional Center of Fishing and Aquaculture Research of the IMARPE in Chimbote, Ancash (CRIPA Chimbote) during September 23th to October 3rd 2006, made a study on *Argopecten purpuratus* in eight localities of the five bays of the Ancash Region (9° - 10°35' S). 185 biooceanographic stations were made, distributed in three layers of depth. The sizes varied from 2 to 84 mm of valve height, and the biomasses from 0.257 t – 63.375 t; the average values varied according to the localities: for Santa island (40.9 mm and 5.244 t), Blanca island (14.7 mm and 0.257 t), Ferroles islands + Agua Fría (25.4 mm and 3.112 t), El Dorado (27.9 mm and 63.375 t) Boquita de Samanco (21.4 mm and 0.784 t), Tortuga bay (25.9 mm and 1.789 t). In the locality Chimus and Salinas, the very low population of the resource did not allow any biometric nor biological analysis. The commercial units (>65 mm) reached low population values (0 to 4.0 %). Compared with March 2006, the spring 2006 population increased, due to the great larval establishment and to the best environmental conditions referred to temperature, dissolved oxygen and the great nutritional supply provided by great plankton volumes. The greatest yield in talus was found in Turtle bay, Santa Island and El Dorado, because of the own gonad condition of the species. Mixtures of Cold Coastal Waters and Superficial Subtropical Waters, were found with salinity from 34.900 to 35.300 ups and temperature <20,0°C.

POPULATION OF “MARUCHA” *DONAX MARINCOVICH* (COAN, 1983) IN SAMANCO BAY, ANCASH REGIÓN, PERÚ. WINTER 2006

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A study of “marucha” was carried out, in Vesique, Atahualpa and Anconcillo beaches during 7th-10th June 2006, to determine the magnitude of its population, distribution and some biological aspects. A total of 38 transects perpendicular to the line of border were made, approximately 150 m distant between them; in each one, three stations of sampling spaced in 10 m were established, and a 2 m drag by station was made. Temperature, dissolved oxygen and salinity were registered. In each locality, the exoskeleton length, the biomass and the average density of the species were determined. In Vesique beach the average size was 19,9 mm, biomass 16,2 t, average density 730 ind./m². In Atahualpa beach, the estimation was 20,6 mm; 54,2 t; 1233 ind./m². In Anconcillo beach, it was found 21.9 mm; 25 t; 275 ind./m². The individuals >15 mm reached population values over >88%. In the three beaches, *Donax marincovich* was the dominant species of the sandy intermareal with crustaceans and polychaetans as the most frequent accompanying groups. The distribution and concentration of this pelecypod in these localities could be explained by their degree of exposure to the waves, their slope and dynamic processes with the sediment transport, which does not respond necessarily to a distribution pattern of the resource. The temperature was similar in the Vesique and Atahualpa beaches; and it was greater in Anconcillo. Dissolved oxygen displayed values >4,00 mL/L, typical of beaches of great surging

activity; Coastal Cold Waters (CCW) were determined, with salinities next to 35.000 ups and temperatures <20,3°C

POPULATION OF THE "NAVAJUELA" *TAGELUS DOMBEII* (LAMARK, 1818) IN THE SAMANCO BAY, REGIÓN ANCASH, PERÚ. AUTUMN 2006

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A study of the "Jacknife" *Tagelus dombeii* Lamarck (Pelecypoda: Solecurtidae), was carried out in the Samanco Bay (areas El Dorado and Boquita-San Vicente). A total of 68 biooceanographic stations were established; the density and biomass were calculated with the method of stratified sampling at random for a single layer of depth. The sizes of the Jacknife varied between 15 and 97 mm of valve length. In Pampas El Dorado, average seize was 53.5 mm, the biomass was estimated in 3.656 t, average density in 492 ind./m²; commercial individual (>60 mm) had 31,6% in population and 61% in biomass. The size averaged 65.5 mm in the area Boquita - San Vicente, and the occurrence of the species was registered only in such discreet and dispersed patches, that neither density nor biomass was possible to calculate. *T. dombeii* is a benthonic pelecypod, dominant in the sandy submareal habitat of the evaluated areas, whose main companions were polychaetans, other pelecypods and gastropods. The substrate particules size represents a condition of great importance in the biological conduct of the species. The oceanographic conditions were normal in the evaluated area, Cold Coastal Waters were identified, with salinity next to 35.000 ups and temperatures<18.0°C.

THE "RAZOR CLAM" *ENSIS MACHA* (MOLINA, 1782) POPULATION FOUND IN THE LITTORAL OF ANCASH REGION, PERÚ. EARLY AUTUMN 2006

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The study was carried out from March 25th to April 2nd, 2006, between parallels 9°25'S and 10°19'S, which, north to south, include five areas of Huarmey and Casma provinces: Bernardino, Punta Gorda, Punta Huaro, Punta Cruz del Cabo y Las Zorras. 128 field stations and 53 oceanographic stations were established, distributed in three strata, depending on the locality; density and biomass were evaluated by the swept area method. The sizes varied from 6 to 144 mm in length valve; mean lengths varied in the localities; individual sizes >110 mm had minimal representation (0,0 a 9,1%). Biomass estimates and the average densities were: 3,4 t and 30,53 ind./m² in Bernardino; 0,9 t and 2,43 ind./m² in Punta Gorda – Punta Huaro area; 73,3 t and 66,44 ind./m² for Punta Cruz del Cabo; 63,8 t and 101,51 ind./m² in Las Zorras. There are no records of catches on these evaluated banks.