



## 227 - THE RECENT EXPANSION OF THE BRAZILIAN DEEP-WATER CRAB (CHACEON SPP.) FISHERY

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Fishing operations, conducted by one Japanese chartered vessel in 1998/1999, set off the exploitation of the deep-water crab in Brazilian waters. Entirely directed to the international market, this pot fishery landed, until December 2003, a total of 7,700t, and developed into one of the country's most profitable fisheries. In 2002, chartered vessels fishing operations monitored by the chartered fleet Observer Program (UNIVALI-SEAP/PR), allowed the delimitation and assessment of two distinct stocks. The first one, composed by the royal-crab Chaceon ramosae, was exploited in one area delimited by latitudes 27° and 30°S and the 500 and 900 m isobaths. The second, dominated by the red-crab Chaceon notialis, was exploited south of 33°S and between 200 and 900 m depths. Throughout 2003, catches of C. ramosae were obtained beyond the original geographical limits, as (a) the fishing area of the, now defined, "southern stock", expanded to 31° and 25°30'S, and (b) an unexploited area was the identified northwards, between latitudes 25° and 19°30'S (southeastern stock). Brazilian deep-water crab total production in 2003 was composed by 276 and 391t of C. ramosae, as originated from the southeastern and southern stocks respectively, and 1,376t of C. notialis. Whereas catches of the former species were kept below the maximum recommended 600t for the southern stock, C. notialis catches exceeded 30% the maximum recommended levels for this stock (1,065t). Future recommendations for the deep-water crab fishery management will include a review of catch and effort limitations for C. ramosae, and a strong request for the reduction of annual C. notialis catch to biologically safe limits.

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## 228 - MEAT YIELD AND CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF CRAB UCIDES CORDATUS (LINNAEUS, 1763) (CRUSTACEA, BRACHYURA, OCYPODIDAE)

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The aim of this study was to determine the total meat and corporal parts yield of the crab Ucides cordatus, captured in mangroves in Iguape (SP), analyzing also its chemical composition according to sex, season (reproductive and non-reproductive) and size. The male meat yield was higher than the females (25.4 > 21.1%), reaching its higher levels during the reproductive season, due to the biggest constant of weight growth and positive allometric growth of the male's chelipeds after its maturity size. Were determined the meat water, ashes, proteins, lipids, amino acids, fatty acids, cholesterol, vitamins and minerals, indicating an elevated protein percentile (16%) and reduced level of lipids (0.2%), which in addition with the other chemical parameters, characterizes a meat with an excellent nutritional value.

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