

## **Situación de la Pesca del Caracol, *Strombus gigas*, en Nicaragua**

RONALD ESCOTO GARCÍA

*Centro de Investigaciones Pesqueras y Acuícolas, CIPA-AdPesca.  
Costado Este Hotel Intercontinental Metrocentro,  
Managua, Nicaragua.*

### RESUMEN

La pesca de la concha reina *Strombus gigas* está localizada en la región noreste del Caribe nicaragüense. Tradicionalmente este recurso ha sido capturado "incidentalmente" por buzos que se dedican a la captura de langosta. Antes de 1997 los desembarques de concha reina eran reportados junto con los desembarques de otras especies de poco interés comercial. Los desembarques de carne limpia de *S. gigas* se han incrementado de 17 toneladas métricas (tm) en 1997 a 113 tm en 2001, y las exportaciones de 8 tm a 45 tm, respectivamente. Los volúmenes de exportación se rigen por cuotas establecidas de acuerdo con CITES; que en 1997 definió en 20 tm, incrementándose a 45 tm a partir del 2001. Se desconoce el volumen del consumo local. No existen estudios que definan el potencial aprovechable. Sin embargo, de acuerdo a experiencias regionales y a muestreos biológicos locales, se considera que el recurso está subexplotado y se ha sugerido una talla mínima de captura (longitud sifonal) de 200 mm. La administración pesquera nacional y la empresa privada hacen esfuerzos para evaluar el recurso y definir una nueva cuota de captura de acuerdo a la capacidad biológica del recurso. El Gobierno carece de recursos y no tiene capacidad para controlar la pesca y el tráfico ilegal por y hacia países vecinos.

**PALABRAS CLAVES:** Caracol reina, *Strombus gigas*, pesquería, Nicaragua

## **The Status of the Fishery for Queen Conch, *Strombus gigas*, in Nicaragua**

The fishing of the snail is located in the northeast region of Nicaraguan Caribbean; traditionally the resource has been captured "incidentally" by divers that dedicate themselves to the lobster catch, reason why the statistics of landings are begun to register as of 1997, since before this date the few landings volumes were registered grouped with other species of little interest. The landings of snail (clean meat) have been increased of 17 ton. in 1997 to 113 ton. in 2001, and the exports of 8 to 45 ton for the same years. The volumes of export are governed by quotas established in agreement with CITES, which were defined from 1997 as 20 tons. and increased to 45 tons in 2001. The volume of local consumption is not known. Studies do not exist that define the usable potential, however, according to regional

---

experiences and to local biological samplings, it is considered that the resource is subexploded and a minimum length capture (siphonal length) of 200 mm has been suggested. The national fishing administration and private companies differ in their evaluation of the resource and to define a new quota of capture according to the biological capacity of the resource. The state does not have capacity to control the fishing and the illegal traffic by and towards neighboring countries.

**KEY WORDS:** Queen conch, *Strombus gigas*, fishery, Nicaragua