

## **EVALUATION OF THE BAIT CRABS RESOURCES EXPLOITED BY SHELLFISH GATHERING IN THE CANARY ISLANDS**

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### **Abstract:**

The assessment of populations of the bait crabs *Xantho* spp., *Pachygrapsus* spp. and *Percnon gibbesi* is carried out for the first time for Gran Canaria Island in order to establish their current status. Their respective reproductive periods are described and, according to this, is proposing a modification of the temporary closures of the gathering fishery. The study analysed 3 shellfish areas, at south, east and north of the island. The catch per unit of effort (CPUE) values for *Pachygrapsus* spp. and *Percnon gibbesi* were the highest in the north ( $81.88 \pm 67.66$  and  $26.69 \pm 32.63$  individuals/hour/gatherer, respectively). However, the highest values for *Xantho* spp. were obtained in the east coast ( $27.13 \pm 19.92$  individuals/hour/gatherer). To establish a correct estimation of the CPUEs by areas, season and fishing effort, a Generalized Additive Model (GAM) was applied to estimate the fishing pressure on this crab species in each area and globally.

**Key words:** CPUE, fishing effort, Assessment, reproductive seasons.

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