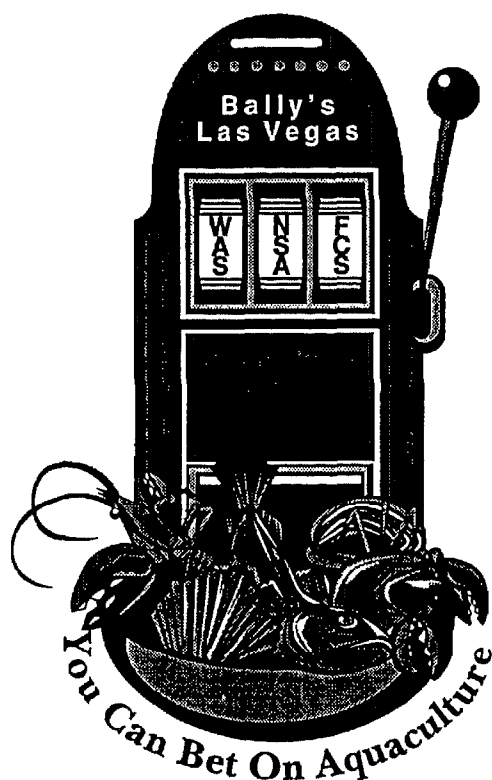


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ECONOMICS OF COMMERCIAL GILTHEAD SEABREAM PRODUCTION

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Comparisons of alternative strategies of seabream production and the different technologies involved is a difficult task, due to the fact that the results of economic studies are scarce, and these never compare alternatives of production when analyzing gilthead seabream (*Sparus aurata*) production costs.

In this study the characteristics of enviromental conditions, markets and geographic locations have been analized for the same taget, trying to integrate the physical and biological components of the production system, the aim being always to predict the degree of success of the firm. The review presented here is the first step to integrate a bioeconomic simulation model for the production of seabream whit the aim of helping decision making for future entrepreneurs. The elements considered include economic, biological, and environmental factors, as well as marketing strategy, size of operation, technological organization, operational decisions, location of the operation, growth, quality and quantities of food, survival of the fish, and ratio of marketable fish.

The lack of information is substantial, and sometimes difficult to obtain as private firms tend to treat it like a commercial secret. This could be reduced whit co-operation between biologist, aquaquulturists, and economists involved in production activities.

