XVIII CONGRESO LATINOAMERICANO DE CIENCIAS DEL MAR

HOTEL 13 DE JULIO - MAR DEL PLATA
ARGENTINA

4 - 8 NOVIEMBRE 2019

LIBRO DE RESÚMENES


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CONFERENCIAS

NOTES ON REPRODUCTIVE EFFORT PARAMETERS AND SPAWNING IN *CHAENOCEPHALUS ACERATUS* (PISCES, NOTOTHENIOIDEI) FROM THE SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS

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The knowledge of the reproductive biology of blackfin icefish *Chaenocephalus aceratus* in the southern Scotia Arc has been based, primarily on macroscopic observations of its maturation cycle, and lately, on histological analysis of ovaries in developing phase exclusively. Our study on reproduction of *C. aceratus* collected at Potter Cove (PC), South Shetland Islands (SSI), highlights the importance of histologic techniques to validate gonadal macroscopic maturity stages in order to estimate reliable reproductive parameters, in this work obtained from gravid females. Gonado-somatic index (GSI) of 7-21% (13.50±4.20, *n*=21), mature oocytes of 2.5-4.0 mm and total fecundity (TF) of 7372-17212 oocytes/female (12,466 ± 2911, *n*=13) were estimated. Although it is known that variations in the reproductive parameters of *C. aceratus* between areas of the Scotia Arc are linked to local environmental factors (i.e. hydrographic or biotic), we found close agreement between our results from PC and recent literature data for the South Georgia population, which also arose from the analysis of gravid females. Differently, lower GSIs and oocyte sizes, and higher TF reported lately for the offshore SSI population might be at least partially explained by the fact that these parameters were estimated from the analysis of developing ovaries. Based on our sampling and reproductive effort data, we suggest: (1) the spawning period of *C. aceratus* at the SSI might be more extended than previously belief, starting from late December until June; (2) the sheltered waters of PC might be a spawning site for *C. aceratus*, which highlights the role of nearshore areas as spawning grounds of notothenioids.

Keywords: Potter Cove, South Shetland Islands, Channichthyidae, Marine ecology