

THE THIRD GULF OF MEXICO SYMPOSIUM STEERING A COURSE TO THE FUTURE

Jorge A. Gutiérrez Lara

This was the focus of the third Gulf of Mexico Symposium held from March 29 to April 1, 1995, in the The Corpus Christi Marriot Bay Front and Sheraton Corpus Christi Bayfront Hotels, Corpus Christi, Texas USA. The purpose of the symposium was to: provide a forum to address the many complex issues that affect the vast natural resources of the Gulf of Mexico, and provide an opportunity to discuss plans and progress with regard to eight main issues: Coastal erosion, freshwater inflow, habitat degradation, living aquatic resources, marine debris, nutrient enrichment, public health, and toxics and pesticides.

The EPOMEX Program was in charge of organizing a special session on Mexican contribution, and with the support of Gulf of Mexico Program EPA, and the Gulf of Mexico Foundation, 14 papers were presented:

Fishbase, A biological data base on fish: Mexican module

F. Arreguín-Sánchez, J. A. Sánchez, C. Bárcenas

The International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM) in collaboration with the Species Identification Data Programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) together with several international institutions and with the support of the Commission of the European Community (CEC) developed a global database (FishBase) to summarise key biological information on fish. ICLARM's strategy has been oriented to introduce within FishBase information of fish species around the world.

FishBase contains detailed information on different topics concerning ichthyology: systematics, common names, distribution, commercial importance, morphology, physiology, ecology, population dynamics, genetics, aquaculture, pathology, introduced species, and indexed bibliographic references documenting every single information incorporated. Currently, FishBase contains information on more than 8,000 species.

The Mexican Module is an initiative to contribute with FishBase through compilation of data on Mexican fishes; as well as to develop a specific section on toxicology.

GULF OF MEXICO



FOUNDATION



In the Gulf of Mexico there are many species of fish of common interest for Mexico and the United States. This contribution is presented as an invitation to those interested to be part of this effort. For this, a FishBase demonstrative software is being exhibited as a quick tour through FishBase.

Fishery and ecological atlas in the southern Gulf of Mexico

P. Sánchez-Gil, A. Yáñez-Arancibia, F. Arreguín Sánchez, D. Pauly¹, J. A. Sánchez, D. Flores Hernández, J. Ramos Miranda

This Atlas forth comes is designed to integrate and synthesize the research information on ecology and population dynamics of tropical coastal fish resources, in the Southern Gulf of Mexico.

The information is the result from the last 15 years, and were collected in 11 oceanographic cruises from 1978 to 1985. Consist in more than 60,000 individuals covering 300 fish species. Fifty species considered as dominant, are analysed in terms of the spatial distribution, their abundance as well as the main characteristics of their population dynamics, based on length frequency analysis. The Atlas also include selected references on the species.

The results are presented in the form of plates, providing for each species an outline drawing of the fish discussed. This Atlas is going to be complementary to different Atlas published by NOAA, and MMS(BLM-OCS) in the United States coasts in the Gulf of Mexico.

This publication has technical assistance from the International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM-Philippi-

nes), and will be a joint publication between EPOMEX-ICLARM, in EPOMEX Scientific Series.

The EPOMEX Program's remote sensing and geographic information systems laboratory

D. Zárate Lomeli, C. Santibón Montes de Oca, M. J. Roberts

The objectives of the Laboratory are: to give support to research and projects of the Scientific Areas of the EPOMEX Program; to create a pole of scientific development on the regional level which fortifies higher education of the Gulf of Mexico through the training of human resources or the elaboration of joint projects; to offer the technical services that may be required by the public and private sectors. Some of the products and services of the Laboratory are:

International Diploma Courses: Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems Applied to Coastal Processes.

Cartographic Products: Thematic Cartographic in the Scales of 1: 250 000, 1: 80 000, 1: 50 000, 1: 25 000, 1: 8 000 for key ecosystem in the southern Gulf of Mexico.

Digital Products: Land use and vegetation distribution and characterization of the Términos Lagoon (Gulf of Mexico), CanCun Area in the Mexican Caribbean, and the Atlantic Coast of Guatemala (Caribbean).

Research Projects:

- North American land characterization of US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Coordinated in Mexico by the Institute of Geography of UNAM.

- Integrated coastal management plan for the Términos Lagoon an ecological protected ecosystem in Campeche.

