

## **Managing wild crops of Gracilaria in central Chile**

Santelices, B., Vásquez, J., Ohme, U., & Fonck, E. (1984). Managing wild crops of *Gracilaria* in central Chile. In *Eleventh International Seaweed Symposium* (pp. 77-89). Springer, Dordrecht.

### **Abstract**

The species of the genus *Gracilaria* (Rhodophyta) provide nearly 48% of the raw algal material exported annually from Chile (Santelices & Lopehandia, 1981). About 50% of this material is gathered as thalli cast ashore from three beds of *Gracilaria lemaneiformis* (Bory) Weber-van Bosse in Central Chile (30 ° S, 71 ° W). An estimated 200 fishermen and their respective families are variously dependent on this resource. So far only two studies have been devoted to aspects of production ecology of this species (Santelices & Fonck, 1979; Black & Fonck, 1981), and there is yet no resource management program. It is illegal to cut or rake attached portions of the algae in Central Chile, and most of the algal gathering is restricted by law only to plants cast ashore. The legal regulation is difficult to enforce and the economic needs of the fishermen are great. This resource must be handled fairly in order to meet social and economic needs and to protect the algal beds from destruction.