

Intraspecific Geographic and Seasonal Physiological Variability in An Intertidal Fish, *Girella Laevifrons*, Along a Climatic Gradient

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Abstract

Metabolic rate and condition factor (K) of juvenile *Girella laevifrons* were highest in southern populations along the Chilean coast. Since adults of *G. laevifrons* complete their life cycle in subtidal waters, the results suggest a metabolic cold adaptation in juveniles of this species and physiological compensation that enable them to move early to subtidal environments for reproduction.

Key words: *Girella laevifrons*; intertidal; temperature; geographic distribution.