

Production of Chilean gracilaria: problems and perspectives

Santelices, B., & Ugarte, R. (1987). Production of Chilean Gracilaria: problems and perspectives. In Twelfth International Seaweed Symposium (pp. 295-299). Springer, Dordrecht. <10.1007/978-94-009-4057-4_44> Accessed 23 Oct 2022.

Abstract

In Chile, commercial Gracilaria beds have been economically and sociologically the most important of all seaweed resources over the last twenty years (Santelices & Lopehandía, 1981). During 1985, a total landing of 15700 dry tonnes was used in the local production of 816 tons of agar or exported as raw material for processing abroad. This crop provided returns worth US\$ 15 million and part- or full-time employment for an estimated 9000 fishermen and their families (Lopehandía, 1986). On a world-wide basis, the Chilean resource is reputed to be the Gracilaria crop with the highest quality gels (Guiseley, 1970; McLachlan & Bird, 1983), and annually supplies one-third to one-half of the world demand for Gracilaria.

Keywords

Seaweed, Gracilaria, Cultivation, Management, Agar, Export values.