Concepción, 27 July 2020

Dr. Howard I. Browman

Editor-in-Chief

ICES Journal of Marine Science

Dear Dr. Browman,

I am submitting the original research article entitled “Assessing a management procedure for a benthic species with non-annual recruitment: the case of the surf clam (*Mesodesma donacium*) in northern Patagonia, Chile” by authors A. Hernández, F. Tapia, C. Leal, N. Muñoz and myself, for your consideration as a potential contribution to ICES Journal of Marine Science.

In this manuscript, we show that management procedures currently applied to benthic species in coastal management areas could be flawed when recruitment is not annual, with higher-than-expected exploitation rates. Thus, quotas based on annual stock assessment surveys will be misleading if past data explaining the status of a benthic species are not considered. We, therefore, suggest the use of an integrated stock assessment model to avoid the effects of non-annual recruitment.

We believe that this manuscript is suitable for publication in ICES Journal of Marine Science, and will be of interest to the journal’s audience because it serves as a foundation for scientific advice to management. We have no conflicts of interest to disclose and confirm that this research is original and has not been submitted elsewhere.

Please address all correspondence concerning this manuscript to me at lucubillos@udec.cl.

Sincerely,

Dr. Luis A. Cubillos

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