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CONNECTIVITY OF WATER RESOURCE STATUS, ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Eleventh Work Plan, Aquaculture and Human Health Impacts Research 2 (11AHHR2)
Final Abstract

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ABSTRACT

The goal of this investigation is to characterize the relationships between water resources and aquaculture and aquaculture development in relation to human health. Sinaloa, Mexico is an ideal study site to elucidate the inter-connectivity of water resources, aquaculture production, environmental quality and human health being a state rich in both agriculture and industrial activities with rapid urbanization, like many developing regions of the world. Pressures on water resources are rapidly increasing in terms of quality and available volume at the precise moment that aquaculture development is accelerating. Previous work suggested that the status of water resources and aquaculture development affect and are affected by human health parameters. This study is focused on watersheds within Sinaloa where aquaculture (shrimp, bivalves, and freshwater finfish) development is growing and health-related effects have been observed. To date, extensive literature research, field investigations, interviews, site observations, and studies have been conducted. Multidisciplinary teams including specialists from the University of Sinaloa, University of Rhode Island, University of Hawaii Hilo, NGOs such as Conservation International, and government agencies are responsible for this research. Four workshops have been held to plan the work, define research methodologies, present preliminary results and analyze findings have been held. A draft of the case study has been produced and is now under review. It is expected that work will be completed by March 2005.

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