

showed a decrease of 37 percent, indicating the state of overexploitation of these resources.

The "loco" (abalone-like) mollusk had a very special position of exploitation. At present it is a "closed" fishery due to indiscriminate overfishing. However, the illegal activity of fishing continues underground.

The primary activities of this type of fishing and gathering, are carried out by artisanal fishermen all along the coast, however, 80% of the activities are concentrated in Chile's three southernmost regions. Most of the processing of the benthic resources takes place in the same processing facilities used by the demersal industry.

It is necessary to indicate here, that the Japanese Government donated an artisanal and semi-industrial fishing port in Puerto Montt (Chiniquihue), X Region, dedicated to serve a large number of small fishing boats. Throughout this port, the artisanal fishermen supply the local industry with a variety of different species, which are mostly exported. The port also has facilities that help to preserve the quality of the fishery products, improving the possibilities to explore external markets.

Recently, an important authorization was granted to Chile by the USA, allowing the export of fresh mussels, clams, scallops and oysters to the US market. This was the result of long years of bilateral negotiations between both countries. This agreement has opened the US market to Chilean mollusks, and will help open other markets, including Canada; since the Chilean products are meeting US standards, which are similar to the standards of other countries.

## II. 5. 2. Situation of the Resources and Management.