

When the new legislation is enacted, the new players in the fishing game, will have to buy the fishing right from players willing to exit. Currently though, the landing of the demersal resources are close to the allowable biological maximum for renewal.

Whatever the situation, current and future regulations will limit the landings growth of this resource. Those already fishing, will have to increase the value of their catch.

## **II. 5. Benthonic Fishery.**

### **II. 5. 1. General Considerations**

By definition, benthonic species are, living organisms that during their adulthood live attached to the ocean bottom and depend upon it to carry out their vital processes over their entire life.

The benthic resources, by their sedentary characteristics, are highly vulnerable to the fishing activity. The industry relies completely on landings of crabs, mussels, clams, oysters, scallops, sea urchins, seaweeds. The latter represent the most spectacular growth. To September 1990, the landing was 33 percent larger than in 1989, to same period. The most important species by their contribution are: chascon (*Lessonia*) 37%; pelillo (*Gracilaria*) 30% and luga (*Luga* sp.) with 22%.

Other important resources, mainly in the X Region, are the "culengue" mollusk, the clams and the sea urchins. The "culengue" has shown an important growth during the last two years. To September 1990, the landing of "culengue" was of 25,000 tones (+197%); the clam and sea urchin