

INSTITUTO POLITÉCNICO NACIONAL CENTRO INTERDISCIPLINARIO DE CIENCIAS MARINAS



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Ruiz-Campos, G., S. González-Guzmán, A. Ramírez-Valdéz, **A.F. González Acosta**, **J.L. Castro Aguirre** & **J. De La Cruz Agüero** (2010). Composition, density and biogeographic affinities of the rocky intertidal fishes on the western coast of the Baja California península, Mexico. California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations Reports, 51: 210-220.

Composition, density and biogeographic affinities of the rocky intertidal fishes on the western coast of the Baja California península, Mexico

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The composition, density and biogeographic affinities of the rocky intertidal fishes of the western coast of the Baja California peninsula, Mexico, were studied from June 2006 to January 2009. A total of 5,489 specimens belonging to 48 species, 39 genera and 20 families were registered. *Clinocottus analis* was the dominant species on the northern and central coast (north to Punta Abreojos), and *Entomacrodus chiostictus* was dominant farther south. Based on distribution and density of permanent species, the area between Punta San Juanico and Bahia Magdalena represents the distributional boundary for northern (warm-temperate) and tropical fish elements. Most of species(85%) showed zoogeographical affinities with the San Diegan province, followed by species related to the Mexican (58%) and Cortez (56%) provinces. The known northernmost geographical ranges are extended for *Sargocentron suborbitalis*, *Labrisomus multiporosus* and *Bathygobius ramosus*; while the southernmost ranges extended for *Clinocottus analis*, *Oligocottus rubellio* and *Amphistichus koelzi*.

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