
Preface

It was during my participation at the 6th World Fisheries Congress in Edinburgh when the idea to edit this book started to take form. At the time I met Alexandrine Cheronet, the Publishing Editor of Environmental Sciences from Springer, I was enquiring about another book from the same editorial (Nagelkerken. 2009. Ecological Connectivity among Tropical Coastal Ecosystems). After going through this book, and discovering that it was the kind of book I was looking for—considering my current projects on estuarine systems and their linkages with the adjacent marine environment in the SE Gulf of California—I started to chat with Alexandrine about this and other similar books from Springer. Once I was back at home, she told me about a new series called “Estuaries of the World” that was being developed by Springer, and it was immediately something that interested me as I was looking for more information on estuarine systems from Mexico and Central America. However, Alexandrine told me that a book covering Mexico and Central America had not been planned, but encouraged me to contribute with a volume on estuarine systems from this region of the world. After giving this idea some thought, and doing an initial research among my colleagues that work on these systems (in order to have an idea on how many contributed chapters the volume could have), I decided to go ahead with this volume and presented an initial idea to Jean-Paul Ducrotoy, the series editor. I came to realize that there were, in general, few books and published works dealing with fisheries management in estuarine systems from Mexico and Central America that also included aspects such as the ecology, hydrology, contamination, etc.—topics related to fisheries management that are not always considered when management policies are formed. Considering also the rapid degradation of estuarine systems in Mexico and Central America, I realized that a book with these characteristics could provide a vision, and a path forward, to help conserve and properly manage these ecosystems. So, several emails later, the idea took form and over the following months, thirty three authors mainly from Mexico, but also from Costa Rica, the USA, Canada and France worked extra hours to make this book possible. As usual, there were some individuals that promised a chapter and at the last minute had to withdraw their contribution; however, besides those incidents, and with the help of all the authors, my first experience in editing a book was free of frustrations. Part of this success was also thanks to several editors, reviewers and peer reviewers that provided a critical, but mainly cursory review of the book chapters: Gabriela Anaya-Reyna, Gastón Bazzino, Claire Coiraton, Elaine Espino, Francisco Flores-Verdugo, Francisco Gutiérrez-Mendieta, Germán Ramirez, Jorge R. Ruelas-Inzunza, Cleve Steward, Carlos Suarez and Piotr Szefer. I am also very thankful to David P. Philipp who managed to write the foreword for the book in spite of his busy and tight agenda. Finally, after realising that a book in English language written mainly by non-English

speakers would need an Editor whose mother language was English, I invited Brian Bellgraph to help me co-edit this book. Brian did a fantastic job, as he not only edited the written English but also made very critical comments and observations that undoubtedly helped to improve the quality of this book. Now looking at the final version of the book, I hope that this material is useful for fisheries ecologists, students, managers and others interested in the fisheries and estuarine systems of Mexico and Central America.

Felipe Amezcua

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Amezcuca, F.; Bellgraph, B. (Eds.)

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