



REPÚBLICA
PORTUGUESA

MAR



ENTIDADE PROMOTORA

IPMA- Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera;
MIRABILIS;
SPAROS.

CÓDIGO E DESIGNAÇÃO DO PROJETO

FA_05_2017_009 – OURIÇAQUA – Production of sea urchin (*Paracentrotus lividus*): reproduction, larval culture and fattening of juveniles

Production of sea urchin (*Paracentrotus lividus*): reproduction, larval culture and fattening of juveniles

DATA DE INÍCIO

2019-01-01

DATA DE FIM

2023-06-30

CUSTO TOTAL ELEGÍVEL

66.064,42€

APOIO FINANCEIRO DO FUNDO AZUL

52.494,11€



OBJETIVO PRINCIPAL DO PROJETO

The immediate challenge that Portuguese and European aquaculture faces is to increase production but also diversify the supply of aquaculture products, based on principles of sustainability of the circular economy - recycling and reusing, quality and safety to meet the growing needs of fish consumption.

Sea urchin roe (gonads) are considered delicacies in Asian countries especially Japan consuming 80-90% of the world demand (Stefánsson *et al.*, 2017) and South Korea, but also consumed worldwide.

In Europe there is a traditionally domestic market in Mediterranean countries, Italy, France and Spain and niche markets are arising due to growing ethnic populations. Sea urchins consumption seems to be novel and trendy. France is the largest consumer of sea-urchins, with a large deficit in the import balance paying 7.6€/Kg, absorbing most of the production in European countries (Stefánsson *et al.*, 2017).

The national strategy for the sea 2013-2020 takes on the Ocean as a vector of development, among other aspects, on the exploitation of living marine resources aiming above all to reinforce the economic potential of the sea, increase the contribution to the gross domestic product and strengthen the national scientific and technological capacity.

Primarily objective of the national strategy for the sea is the promotion of the aquaculture production in line with the growing needs of consumption, based on one of the main pillars of the strategy the European Union Blue Growth. This growth must be done respecting production practices meeting the standards of environmental protection, animal welfare and consumer protection.

The **OURIÇAQUA** project aims to the development of technologies and methodologies for the cultivation of a new marine species, the sea urchin (*Paracentrotus lividus*), whose production in aquaculture is still reduced in the international panorama and non-existent in Portugal.

It is intended to develop farming techniques for the optimization of the various stages of production: crop and acclimatization of broodstock, as well as improving their reproductive capability, spawning induction, larval development, fixing and fattening of juveniles. The need and interest of production of this species due to the high commercial value and increasing demand at the international market. Due to this fact, the increase in the fishing effort in many industrial cases and

directed, associated with biological and ecological factors of the species has led to instability of the stocks and the annual recruitment, with the decrease in abundance and biomass of this resource. The knowledge that if they wish to develop in the course of this project will be transferred to the productive sector, being expected with this new production the dynamization of the sector and of the regional and national economy, creating a new business with high export potential, commercially profitable and environmentally sustainable, minimizing the dependence of collecting bodies in a wild environment, which is not the case here.

