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PhD project: **Artisanal and recreational fisheries in the Department of Rocha, Uruguay. Implementation and analysis of monitoring programs to strengthen their management**
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Summary: Nowadays, most of the fish stocks sustainability is being compromised principally by overfishing, but also by an inadequate fisheries management, which has social, environmental, economic, political and cultural problems as consequence. Systematic and long-term fisheries monitoring program contributes, among other aspects, with valuable information on stocks status, catch trends and fisheries environmental impact on ecosystems. In Uruguay, marine artisanal fishing has been under study for decades, but recreational fishing is understudied, and is not sufficiently regulated. Simultaneously, fisheries monitoring also allows keeping records of occurrence of the species and knowing more about their biology and ecology. Even more, when knowledge of marine ichthyology is limited, fragmented over time, and dispersed in scattered bibliography in Uruguay. To address this situation, in 2014 and in 2015 the National Agency of Aquatic Resources (DINARA), started two systematics Monitoring Fishing Programs, both with the collaboration and participation of fishers. Taking all the above into account, this thesis aims at comprehensively characterizing the artisanal (2014-2020 period) and the recreational fisheries (2004-2020 period) of the department of Rocha, Uruguay, through the analysis of the results of their respective monitoring programs and, thus, contribute to the strengthening of their management. In the artisanal fisheries situation with scarcity and segmentation of biological-fisheries data time series and in the case of marine recreational fisheries with practically non-existence of catch data; the analysis of data collected by these programs has a great importance and relevance to decisions making for the management of both fisheries from a biological, economic and governance perspective.