

CHARACTERIZATION OF THE FISHES COMMERCIALIZED IN TOCANTINS STATE, BRASIL

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Brazilian aquaculture experiences a moment of expansion due the emergence of public policies encouraging fish production and consumption. However, Brazilian native fishes are still low explored in this commercial scenario.

This study was conducted to better characterize the fish commercialized by industries under federal inspection in Tocantins state. With this objective, visits to fish processing industries in Tocantins state were conducted and data was also obtained from *Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária e Abastecimento* (MAPA/DIPOA/SDA/SIF-TO) concerning fish commercialization in the state.

Figure 1 depicts the results obtained in this study. It was observed that total fish production processed in Tocantins state until October 2010 (2,521 t) has already overcome the production in 2009 (2,363 t). The main product commercialized is the fresh fish gutted. Among the species, the *Colossoma macropomum* (“Tambaqui”) and the *Piaractus sp.* (“Pacu”) were the most processed, reaching more than 75% of this activity. In addition, the hybrid “Pintado da Amazônia” or “Jundiara” (female *Pseudoplatystoma fasciatum* x male *Leiarius marmoratus*) can be included in the nomenclature “Pintado” related in Figure 1. It’s observed that “Pintado” begins to be part of the industrial processing and has a clean growing tendency. Part of the production supplies Tocantins state, but the processed fish is also commercialized in other areas, such as São Paulo, Distrito Federal, Goiás, Mato Grosso do Sul and Minas Gerais.

Some evidences relating the improvement of infrastructure, valorization and standardization of native species breeding, concerning on the quality of the fish offered to consumers and the offer of new products certainly needs technical and scientific support. Thus, we noted the existence of a regional scenario which is in urgent need of more research in order to improve aquaculture together with the transfer of new generated technologies to the producers. Certainly with these action results will project Brazilian native fishes production.

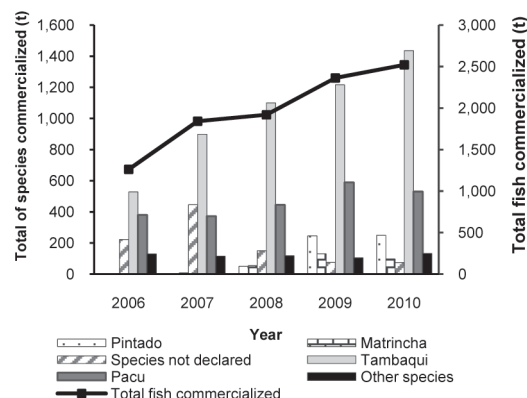


Figure 1 – Total of fish commercialized in Tocantins state in 2006-2010 (Source: *Serviço de Inspeção Federal – SIF* of *Departamento de Inspeção de Produtos de Origem Animal – DIPOA*, *Secretaria de Defesa Agropecuária – SDA*, *Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária e Abastecimento – MAPA*).