

Shapleigh, Benjamin and Wil Nelp, "Comparative Study of Contrasting Rocky Intertidal Zones, Nicoya Peninsula, Costa Rica." Advisor: Jorge Cortés. Colorado College. 2010. 21pp.

Overfishing and human predation along rocky intertidal zones surrounding Paquera (9°49.0'N : 84°55.6'W) on the Nicoya Peninsula, Costa Rica have resulted in different species composition between protected and unprotected areas. Transects were taken along intertidal zones within three different sites. The protected site was the Curú wildlife refuge (CWR) the two unprotected sites included Playa Órganos (PO) and the Paquera ferry dock commonly called El Relleno(ER). Percent coverage was recorded to find abundance and biodiversity. A total of 24 organisms were recorded and nine were analyzed using a two-way ANOVA test. Siphonaria gigas and Oyster iridescens are two commonly extracted organisms and were therefore, measured along the longest and shortest axis of their shell. A significant size difference was found in these organisms between the protected and unprotected sites. Percent coverage of edible organisms was different primarily due to human predation. Interspecific competition as well as wave action also resulted in differences between the contrasting rocky intertidal zones.