EVALUATION OF DEPURA TION SYSTEM FOR THE ESTUARINE CLAM \textit{P. solida}. 


This project evaluates a depuration system for \textit{P. solida} from Maracaibo System, on a small scale and under laboratory conditions. The clams were collected from two different nursing locations, and transported to the laboratory in containers with water from each collection zone. Initial local values from water and clam were determined. The depuration process was done in triplicate for each collection, using 100 clams in containers filled with 100L of artificial sea water (5ups), irradiated with UV/24h light, and sampled at 0, 3, 24, 48, 72, 96 and 120 hours. The total inorganic content (TIC) was determined by the dried and calcined method. The total coliforms (TC), fecal coliforms (FC), fecal streptococcus (FS) and enterococcus (EN), were quantified using the most probable number technique, and the mesophilic aerobics (MA), using the pour plate technique. Results were compared by the Kruskal Wallis method. The sources of the original samples, didn’t comply with the microbiological quality for type 3 bivalve mollusks cultivation waters, required by the Venezuelan guidelines. The TIC values reduced approximately 80 % in 48h; and the biological indicators between 70 and 90 % in 24h. The pilot system used allowed a significant reduction of the TIC (p=0.0021) and the microorganisms FC, EN, FS (p=0.0063, 0.0153, y 0.0001, respectively). The possibility of implementing referential values of TIC in clam commercializing regulations can be visualized, with significant economic repercussions; also the use of depuration in the reduction of particles, improving significantly the clam quality.