

## The anchovy fisheries (*Engraulis anchoita*) on the Southern Coast of Brazil: analysis of operating costs

### **Abstract**

The anchovy (*Engraulis anchoita*) is a small pelagic fish widely distributed in the Southwest Atlantic of Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina. It is estimated that up to 135,000 tons of anchoveta could be exploited in a sustainable way on the South Coast of Brazil, but still there is no anchovy fishing activities being carried out commercially in this country. This paper presents an economic analysis of the capture of anchovy (*Engraulis anchoita*) on the Brazilian coast, characterizing the items of operating costs to this activity and its relevance in the fisheries economics context. The applied method in this study was analysis of costs and economic assessment. It was used methodological procedure to collect and analyze data obtained from the boat responsible for the capture of anchovy - in a research context - during the years 2010 and 2011.

Results showed that to capture around 100 tons of anchovy, the unit cost of the catch is US\$0.38/kg. The most relevant item from the capture costs is the Fuel Oil, 33%, followed by maintenance with 23%, labor cost and the feeding cost with respectively 15% and 10%. These four items together represents 81 % of total operating costs of the capture.

This study is part a broad project to build and analysis the productive chain of anchovy in Brazil with the final purpose to contribute with the food security. The project is supported with funding of Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Science and Technology (MCT-CNPq), Brazil.