



The Gulf of California: Biodiversity and Conservation (Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Studies in Natural History)

From University of Arizona Press

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Few places in the world can claim such a diversity of species as the Gulf of California (Sea of Cortez), with its 6,000 recorded animal species estimated to be half the number actually living in its waters. So rich are the Gulf's water that over a half-million tons of seafood are taken from them annually—and this figure does not count the wasted by-catch, which would triple or quadruple that tonnage. This timely book provides a benchmark for understanding the Gulf's extraordinary diversity, how it is threatened, and in what ways it is—or should be—protected.

In spite of its dazzling richness, most of the Gulf's coastline now harbors but a pale shadow of the diversity that existed just a half-century ago. Recommendations based on sound, careful science must guide Mexico in moving forward to protect the Gulf of California.

This edited volume contains contributions by twenty-four Gulf of California experts, from both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. From the origins of the Gulf to its physical and chemical characteristics, from urgently needed conservation alternatives for fisheries and the entire Gulf ecosystem to information about its invertebrates, fishes, cetaceans, and sea turtles, this thought-provoking book provides new insights and clear paths to achieve sustainable use solidly based on robust science. The interdisciplinary, international cooperation involved in creating this much-needed collection provides a model for achieving success in answering critically important questions about a precious but rapidly disappearing ecological treasure.

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Editorial Review

Review

“An essential reference for anyone who is interested in the Gulf of California and its social, political, ecological, and physical dynamics.”—*Journal of Latin American Geography*

“A comprehensive and well-structured reference, useful in understanding the biodiversity conservation efforts in the region.”—*Ecological and Environmental Anthropology*

“A reflection of the long-term efforts attempting to decipher the message of change that is read between the lines of ecological indicators.”—*Environmental Biology of Fishes*

From the Inside Flap

This timely edited volume, with interdisciplinary contributions by both Mexican and U.S. scientists, utilizes multiple approaches to describe the remarkable biodiversity of the Gulf of California. Its goal is to provide a model for understanding this area, how it is threatened, and in what ways it is being protected.

About the Author

Richard Brusca is Director of Research and Conservation at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, a research scientist at the University of Arizona, and an Adjunct Professor at the Centro de Investigación en Alimentación y Desarrollo in Hermosillo, Mexico.

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