## Chapter 10 *Chrysaora plocamia*: A Poorly Understood Jellyfish from South American Waters

Hermes Mianzan, Javier Quiñones, Sergio Palma, Agustin Schiariti, E. Marcelo Acha, Kelly L. Robinson, and William M. Graham

Abstract Blooms and strandings of Chrysaora plocamia are reported to occur along both Atlantic and Pacific South American coasts. First described in Peruvian waters by Lesson (1830) almost two centuries ago as Cyanea plocamia, there is surprisingly little ecological information about this conspicuous animal. This chapter reviews current knowledge about C. plocamia biology and ecology, its relationship with pelagic fisheries and climate and the problems blooms cause in the Humboldt Current and Patagonian shelf ecosystems. Chrysaora plocamia has important ecological roles, including trophic and symbiotic interactions with fish and sea turtles. Population variability has a clear relationship with climate where phases of high C. plocamia biomass were associated with El Niño events occurring during warm "El Viejo" regimes. Interestingly, their estimated biomass occasionally approached those of sardines or anchovies. This large jellyfish negatively affects human industries in the region when abundant, including fisheries, aquaculture, desalination plants and tourism. Understanding relationships between jellyfish blooms and environmental drivers (e.g. ENSO, regime shifts) should allow forecasting of the jellyfish abundance and potential vulnerabilities such that resource managers and industrial fisheries owners may prepare for costly outbreaks.

H. Mianzan (🖂) • A. Schiariti • E.M. Acha

Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo Pesquero (INIDEP), e IIMyC (CONICET-Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata),

S. Palma

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, P.O. Box 1020, Valparaíso, Chile

K.L. Robinson • W.M. Graham

University of Southern Mississippi, 1020 Balch Blvd., Stennis Space Center, MS 39529, USA

Paseo Victoria Ocampo no 1, Mar del Plata B7602HSA, Argentina e-mail: hermes@inidep.edu.ar

J. Quiñones

Laboratorio Costero de Pisco, Instituto del Mar del Perú (IMARPE), Av. Los Libertadores A-12, Urb. El Golf, Paracas, Ica, Peru

**Keywords** Jellyfish blooms • *Chrysaora plocamia* • Humboldt Current • Patagonia shelf • ENSO • Climate variability • Biological productivity • Commensalism • Feeding ecology • Socio-economic impacts • Fisheries

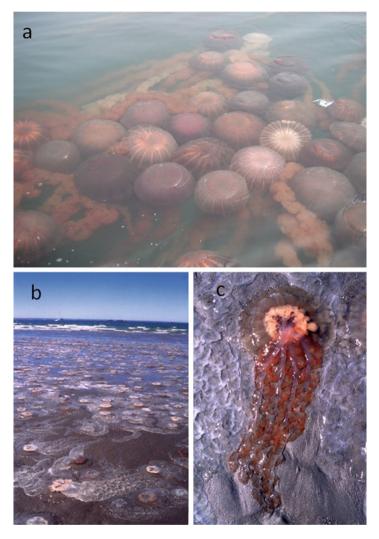
### 10.1 Introduction

J'admirai également de nombreuses méduses, et les plus belles du genre, les **Chrysaores**, particulières aux mers des Malouines [Malvinas Island]. Tantôt elles figuraient une ombrelle demi-sphérique très lisse, rayée de lignes d'un rouge brun et terminée par douze festons réguliers; tantôt c'était une corbeille renversée d'où s'échappaient gracieusement de larges feuilles et de longues ramilles rouges. Elles nageaient en agitant leurs quatre bras foliacés et laissaient pendre à la dérive leur opulente chevelure de tentacules.

[I also admired the numerous jellyfish, particularly the most beautiful of the genus, the Chrysaores, peculiar to Falkland/Malvinas seas. Sometimes they had a very smooth hemispherical umbrella, striped red-brown lines and completed by twelve regular festoons. Sometimes they became upside-down waste-paper baskets, from which grew gracious broad leaves and long red twigs. They swam waving their four leaf-like arms and let them hang drift their opulent hair tentacles.] – 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, **Jules Verne**, 1869

*Chrysaora plocamia* (Cnidaria: Scyphozoa: Semaeostomeae) is one of the largest and most conspicuous jellyfish found along the South American Pacific and Atlantic coasts (Fig. 10.1a–c). The bell diameter is typically 50–60 cm with the oral arms reaching lengths of 2–3 m. Rare specimens attain diameters of about 1 m with oral arms extending more than 3 m (Mianzan and Cornelius 1999). There is surprisingly little information about *C. plocamia* despite being first described almost two centuries ago in Peruvian waters by Lesson (1830) as *Cyanea plocamia*. This chapter reviews what is currently known about the biology and ecology of *C. plocamia*, its relationship with pelagic fisheries and climate and the problems *C. plocamia* blooms can cause. Our synthesis is derived from a variety of bibliographic sources, including technical reports, anecdotes and other non-peer-reviewed resources not typically available to the international scientific community.

*Chrysaora plocamia* can be found across a range that encompasses two major Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs): the Humboldt Large Marine Ecosystem in the Pacific and the Patagonian Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem in the Atlantic (Heileman 2009; Heileman et al. 2009). These LMEs, with a combined coastline of 13,000 km and surface area of more than 5.5 million km<sup>2</sup>, represent a large fraction of South American coastal waters (Miloslavich et al. 2011). High biological productivity here contributes to about 15 % of global fish landings. In the Humboldt LME, *C. plocamia* ranges from Peruvian to Chilean waters. The species is far more concentrated in these northern waters compared to southern Chilean waters (Fig. 10.2). *C. plocamia* in southern waters was reported as *Chrysaora* sp. (Vanhöffen 1888) in the Magellan Strait, as *C. hysoscella* by Vannucci and Tundisi (1962) around the Antarctic Peninsula and as *C. plocamia* in the Beagle Channel (Mianzan and Cornelius 1999), but all these populations have since been recognised as *C. plocamia* (Morandini



**Fig. 10.1** (**a**-**c**) (**a**) Bloom of *Chrysaora plocamia*, May 2012 off Callao (12°04′S), Peru (Photo by Mario Rosina). (**b**) Stranding event of *Chrysaora plocamia* at Puerto Madryn, Chubut, Argentina. (**c**) Detail of a pigmented specimen (Photos by José Luis Esteves)

and Marques 2010). The species is also common in Atlantic waters (Mianzan and Cornelius 1999; Morandini and Marques 2010), where large conspicuous blooms occur with some regularity along the northern Patagonian coast becoming rare northerly (Mianzan and Cornelius 1999; Mianzan et al. 2005). The connectivity of *C. plocamia* between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans is likely facilitated by circulation within the Patagonian cold estuarine zone (Acha et al. 2004).

As with most coastal jellyfish species from temperate waters, *C. plocamia* exhibits strong seasonality. Although information about *C. plocamia's* reproduction is



Fig. 10.2 Distribution of *Chrysaora plocamia* in South America. Humboldt Large Marine Ecosystem, Peru: *1* Bahía Sechura, *2* Callao, *3* Pisco, *4* Paracas, *5* Bahía Independencia, *6* Ilo; Chile: *7* Arica, *8* Antofagasta, *9* Isla Chiloé, *10* Aysén region; Patagonian Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem, Argentina: *11* Canal de Beagle, *12* Bahía San Sebastián, *13* Golfo San Jorge, *14* Cabo Dos Bahías, *15* Golfo Nuevo, *16* Golfo San Matías. *Shaded* and *dotted areas* indicate the known distribution of *C. plocamia* 

still pending, polyps, strobilae, ephyrae and juvenile medusae were recently reared in the laboratory from planulae collected from mature specimens (Morandini pers. comm.). Post-ephyrae and juvenile stages occur during early austral spring, while adult medusae are common during austral summer–autumn (Mianzan 1986, 1989; Quiñones 2010). Medusae then senesce, losing tentacles and oral arms, and sink to the seabed in late autumn–early winter (Fig. 10.3). Abundance is lowest during winter; however, overwintering medusae are observed. Ephyrae frequently found in Chilean fjords during spring are probably those of *C. plocamia* (Bravo et al. 2011; Palma et al. 2011).



Fig. 10.3 Senescent *Chrysaora plocamia* on the sea floor close to Caleta Olivia, Santa Cruz, Argentina (Photo by José Adrián Acosta Fabio)

Coloration patterns of medusae differ by region from being totally transparent to being whitish with a few irregularly distributed brown-reddish spots to being completely yellow, red or brown with 16 triangular streaks radially distributed on the bell (see Mianzan and Cornelius 1999; Morandini and Marques 2010). Most Peruvian specimens have dark and highly varied coloration. Medusae from southern Chile and Argentina are typically lighter, with only few specimens intensely pigmented (Fig.10.1a–c). Observations of juveniles and even ephyrae in different and separate areas may suggest the existence of local populations. *Chrysaora plocamia* was found to be morphologically identical to *C. achlyos* (Morandini and Marques 2010), and genetic analysis is still needed to establish if differences in distribution reflect separate species (Morandini and Marques 2010, Dawson and Gomez Daglio 2012 pers. comm.).

## **10.2** Blooms of *Chrysaora plocamia*: Relationship with Climate

Climate is understood to be a main driver of biological productivity in upwelling systems. The Humboldt Current ecosystem is known to respond to climate, including the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) (Bakun 1996; Chavez et al. 2003, 2008). As an example, populations of the

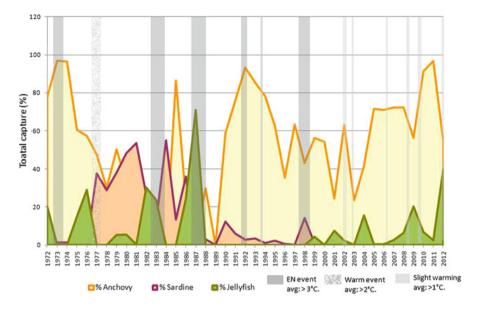


Fig. 10.4 A 40-year time series (1972–2012) of pelagic fishing landings (% wet weight) of anchovy (*Engraulis ringens*), sardine (*Sardinops sagax*) and jellyfish (*Chrysaora plocamia*) from Peru. *Shaded areas* represent ENSO and warm years. *Bar width* indicates the duration of the warm event (in months). The series represent the effort of 11,702 fishing hauls carried out annually during spring–autumn

Peruvian anchovy (*Engraulis ringens*) and sardines (*Sardinops sagax*) undergo interannual and interdecadal fluctuations in response to ENSO (El Niño–La Niña) and the PDO (El Viejo–La Vieja), respectively (e.g. Bakun 1996; Chavez et al. 2003, 2008; Fréon et al. 2008). Strong El Niño or La Niña events have large cascad-ing ecosystem effects. Among these are changes to reproductive strategies of fish and, ultimately, changes to fisheries yields (e.g. Arntz and Valdivia 1985).

Similar climate-driven variability occurs in jellyfish populations (Brodeur et al. 2008; Suchman et al. 2012; Robinson and Graham 2013). *Chrysaora plocamia* biomass varies with ENSO (Quiñones 2010; Quiñones et al. 2010, 2013) as jellyfish biomass is usually high the year immediately preceding and during El Niño events. A long-term data set of jellyfish biomass taken during Peruvian research cruises from 1972 to 2012 indicates that population size fluctuated on annual to decadal scales. The consistency of this pattern during those decades led to this species being proposed as a potential indicator of El Niño phases in Chile (Alvial et al. 1984; Soto 1985). However, low medusa biomass from 1989 to 2009 in spite of several El Niño events occurring during these years suggests that other factors were also influencing its abundance. Variations in *C. plocamia* biomass were strongly matched to interdecadal phases known as "El Viejo" (a warm phase) and "La Vieja" (a cold one). The contribution of *Chrysaora plocamia* to the total pelagic catch was particularly high (20–70 % wet weight) when El Niño occurred during the warm "El Viejo" regime from the mid-1970s to 1980s (Fig. 10.4).

Decades with high medusa biomass coincided with a warm, "sardine-dominated" regime that began in 1975 and continued until the mid-1990s. Conversely, low abundances of medusae occurred during the cool "La Vieja", anchovy-dominated regime that followed (Fig. 10.4; Chavez et al. 2003, 2008). *Chrysaora plocamia* began to increase in 2007, reaching 40 % of the total pelagic catch in 2012, concomitant with a modest but increasing sardine capture by the artisanal purse seine fishery, suggesting the Humboldt Current ecosystem had undergone a shift once again to a warm, "El Viejo" regime.

# **10.3 Ecological Interactions of** *Chrysaora plocamia* in the Pelagic Realm

*Chrysaora plocamia* is an important member of the Humboldt and Patagonian Shelf LMEs given its ability to dominate the pelagic biomass. Jellyfish in general consume a wide selection of zooplankton and in large quantities (see Arai 1988), so *C. plocamia* quite possibly exerts strong, top-down ecological forcing when abundant.

Scientific observations of fishes feeding on *C. plocamia* are scarce in both the Humboldt Current and Patagonia shelf ecosystems. However, there are anecdotal suggestions that fish prey on *C. plocamia*. Artisanal fishermen from Bahía Independencia (Peru) used "gonads" of *C. plocamia* as bait to catch the Centrolophid palm ruff (*Seriolella violacea*). This practice makes sense considering *Seriolella violacea* have been shown to eat large quantities of jellyfish including salps, pyrosomes and ctenophores (mainly *Mnemiopsis leidyi*) (e.g. Arai 1988; Mianzan et al. 1996, www.fishbase.org). Recently, large juveniles of *S. violacea* were observed biting the medusae and mesoglea was occasionally found in their stomachs (Riascos et al. 2012a).

*Chrysaora plocamia* also form part of the diet of some sea turtle species; however, turtles need to consume large volumes of gelatinous prey to meet their nutritional requirements (Hays et al. 2009). Three of the five turtle species reported for Peruvian waters feed specifically (leatherback turtle, *Dermochelys coriacea*) or at least opportunistically (green turtle, *Chelonia mydas agassizii*, and olive ridley, *Lepidochelys olivacea*) on medusae (Quiñones et al. 2010; Goya et al. 2011). *Chrysaora plocamia* biomass appears to be sufficient, particularly during ENSO years, to support *C. m. agassizii* (Quiñones et al. 2010).

Jellyfish like *C. plocamia* provide structure that favour many types of ecological interactions in the pelagic realm; they may be used as a source of shelter and food or a focus for aggregation (e.g. Arai 1997; Towanda and Thuesen 2006). Their large bell and conspicuous oral arms may provide shelter and food for schools of juvenile stages of the starry butterfish (*Stromateus stellatus*) (Elliot et al. 1999) and other stromateid juvenile fish in the Patagonian shelf ecosystem (Mianzan pers. obs., A. Gosztonyi 2012 pers. comm.) (Fig. 10.5). Large scyphomedusae in particular often harbour juvenile or small adult fish under the bell or among the

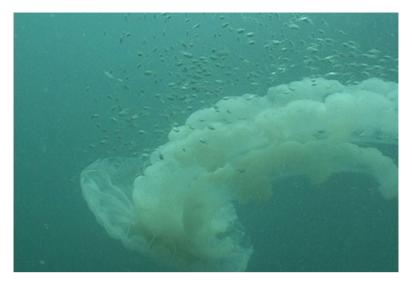


Fig. 10.5 *Chrysaora plocamia* accompanied by a school of stromateid juvenile fish off Puerto Madryn, Chubut, Argentina (Photo by J. Costello)

tentacles and oral arms. These fishes probably find shelter and protection from larger predators and may also benefit from prey stung and caught by the jellyfish (Purcell and Arai 2001).

Numerous invertebrate taxa utilise C. plocamia for substrate within the structureless water column. The hyperiid amphipod Hyperia curticephala has been described associating with C. plocamia medusae in coastal waters of Paita and Mejillones Bays (northern Peru and northern Chile, respectively) (Oliva et al. 2010). The authors reported one of the highest numbers of amphipods per medusa available in literature. Associations between hyperiid amphipods and medusae are widely documented (e.g. Laval 1980; Arai 1997; Towanda and Thuesen 2006, see also Chaps. 4 & 5). These associations are complex and vary greatly in timing, degree of dependence of the hyperiids on their hosts for shelter or for food and extent of maternal care (Gasca and Haddock 2004). The presence of small portions of mesoglea in the gut contents of all amphipods dissected suggests that H. curticephala uses C. plocamia not only as substrate in the pelagic realm but also as a food source (Oliva et al. 2010). Oliva et al. (2010) considered this association as micro-predation. Predation of hyperiids on medusae suggests that an equilibrium exists between its feeding rate and the regeneration rate of medusa tissue (Laval 1980). It was also proposed that amphipods may constitute a prey item for juveniles of S. violacea feeding on them and channelling energy back to fishes. The association between another invertebrate, the parasitic anemone *Peachia chilensis*, and *C. plocamia* as a host has been recently described. The parasite induced castration, reduction of fecundity and host mortality (Riascos et al. 2012a, b).

Industry	Event	Location	Source
Fisheries	Jellyfish by-catch in Peruvian artisanal fisheries	Pisco, Peru	Dr. Valdivia IMARPE pers. comm.
	Jellyfish by-catch in Peruvian industrial fisheries	Ilo, Peru	Quiñones et al. (2013)
Water inlets	Jellyfish clogging seawater intakes of floating pump stations	Callao, Peru	Federico Iriarte (2012) pers. comm.
	Desalination plant blocked	Antofagasta, Chile	Aldo Pacheco (2012) pers. comm.
	Clogging of ships' seawater intakes	Golfo Nuevo, Argentina	Mianzan (1986, 1989), Mianzan et al. (2005), Ricardo Vera (2012) pers. comm.
Aquaculture	Affected salmon aquaculture facilities	Chiloé, Chile	Palma et al. (2007), Bravo et al. (2011)
Tourism	Mass strandings	Golfo Nuevo, Argentina	Mianzan et al. (2005)
	Mass strandings, stinging	Paracas, Peru	Vera et al. (2004, 2005)
	Mass strandings, stinging	Arica, Iquique and Antofagasta, Chile	Vera et al. (2004, 2005), Vega and Ogalde (2008)

## 10.4 Economic Impact of *Chrysaora plocamia* Blooms: Is It a Troublesome Species?

There is a growing body of information suggesting *Chrysaora plocamia* is a nuisance for several human industries in South American waters (Table 10.1), which is not surprising given economic losses caused by other jellyfish species elsewhere (Nagata et al. 2009; Purcell 2012). Tourism, fishing, aquaculture and energy production are among the industries most affected by jellyfish (e.g. Chap. 6, Möller 1984; Verner 1984; Mianzan 1986, 1989; Williamson et al. 1996; Uye and Ueta 2004; Uye 2008), and species from the genus *Chrysaora* are sometimes cited as being problematic. For example, it has been suggested that *Chrysaora fulgida* has replaced fishes and has been inhibiting the recovery of sardine stocks in Namibian waters (Lynam et al. 2006; Flynn et al. 2012).

### 10.4.1 Fisheries

Jellyfish generally cause problems to fishing operations when abundant, and clogging of gear is the most reported effect (e.g. Purcell et al. 2007; Dong et al. 2010). Clogged gear can cause a wide spectrum of issues ranging from increases in fishing effort and

gear damage to injuries to fishers and fishery closures that result in severe income loss (e.g. Möller 1984; Graham et al. 2003; Kawahara et al. 2006; Purcell et al. 2007).

Fisheries landings in Peru, Chile and Argentina may represent about 15 % of the world's total marine landings (Official Statistics from each country see Vice Ministry of Fisheries, Peru; National Service of Fisheries, Chile and Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Argentina). These fisheries represent nearly 11 million tonnes annually, and the biological productivity supporting these fisheries also supports the production of jellyfish.

The by-catch of *C. plocamia* in Peruvian waters generates economic losses mainly to artisanal and commercial purse seine fisheries. Interference is particularly problematic during warm phases of ENSO when *C. plocamia* are so numerous (Fig.10.6a, b) that fishers had trouble finding waters without jellyfish to operate the gear (Dr. Valdivia, Instituto del Mar del Perú (IMARPE), pers. comm.). These fishing operations are substantial, involving 1,700 vessels each with a hold capacity from <30 to 900 tonnes (Fréon et al. 2008; Alfaro-Shigueto et al. 2010).

Within the artisanal fleet, jellyfish must be removed manually; however, total removal is difficult to achieve at sea (Fig. 10.6b). Thus, jellyfish are manually unloaded with the fish catch and discarded in port. Information from IMARPE fisheries observers from the Pisco area indicated that jellyfish by-catch averaged 10 % annually in 2007, 2008 and 2009. This percentage increases to 20–40 % of the total catch during summer when *C. plocamia* biomass tends to reach its annual peak.

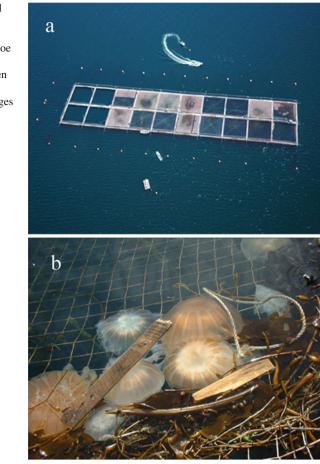
The commercial purse seine fishery operates differently to the artisanal one. Both fish and jellyfish are removed directly from the purse seine net by suction and held within the ship without sorting and discarding jellyfish. These result in a large displacement of fish catch by jellyfish and also result in loss of revenue or even the total catch being rejected by processing plants. *Chrysaora plocamia* by-catch in the southernmost Peruvian fishing harbour of IIo was enough to cause losses exceeding \$200,000 (USD) in 35 summer days (Fig. 10.6c). Fishery factories refused to receive the catch if jellyfish by-catch was greater than 40 % of total weight (Quiñones et al. 2013). Thus, economic losses to both artisanal and commercial fishing have the potential to become substantially high during warm periods like El Niño when *C. plocamia* tend to be more abundant.

#### 10.4.2 Aquaculture

General information about effects of jellyfish on fish aquaculture is limited to relatively few well-documented incidents (Purcell et al. 2007; Doyle et al. 2008; Baxter et al. 2011). There is evidence *C. plocamia* has interfered with salmon aquaculture operations in Chile (southern Humboldt Current). Since 1980, salmon farming in Chile has grown from 10,000 tonnes in 1988 to 470,000 tonnes in 2009 (Soto et al. 2001; Palma et al. 2007; SERNAPESCA 2012).

From February to June 2002, salmon aquaculture facilities were affected by proliferations of *Chrysaora plocamia* (Fig. 10.7a). It is likely that *C. plocamia* caused **Fig. 10.6** (a–c) (a) Capture of Chrysaora plocamia by the Peruvian Research Vessel "José Olaya Balandra" off Peru in summer 2009; (**b**) by-catch of *C. plocamia* by an artisanal purse seine vessel during an anchovy (Engraulis ringens) fishing operation off Callao, Peru (Photo by Yuri Hooker); (c) anchovy landing of an industrial purse seine vessel with >70% by-catch of C. plocamia in the port of Ilo (Peru-January 2009). The whole catch was discarded

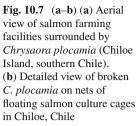


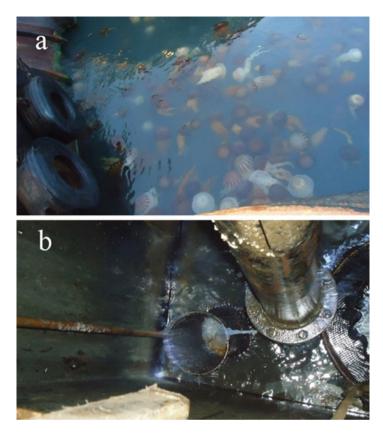


fish mortality by damaging the gill tissue resulting in suffocation (Palma et al. 2007). Medusae become pressed against the nets and their tissues split into several, smaller pieces that passed through the mesh of the floating cages (Fig. 10.7b). It was also proposed that fish were unable to feed inside the floating cages during such events (Bravo et al. 2011) and many died due to stress and starvation. Fish natural mortality doubled during this event and more than 60 % of the dead fishes presented eye injuries (blindness).

## 10.4.3 Clogging of Cooling Water Intakes

*Chrysaora plocamia* medusae have been responsible for clogging water intake systems of ships and shore-based facilities. When abundant, this species has caused significant problems in Argentinean and Peruvian harbours (Schweigger 1959 cited in





**Fig. 10.8** (**a**–**b**) (**a**) Cooling water intakes clogged by *Chrysaora plocamia* in floating structures for industrial fishery landings in Callao harbour Peru (June 2012). (**b**) Manual removal of jellyfish remains from ship pumps

Möller 1984; Mianzan 1989). During the summer of 1999–2000, the water intake systems of ships anchored in the harbour experienced clogging when a massive stranding of *C. plocamia* occurred in Nuevo Gulf (Mianzan et al. 2005) and it required several hours for divers to clear the jellyfish from the system (Ricardo "Bebote" Vera 2012 pers. comm.). In another example from El Callao harbour, Peru, in early 2012, several vessels experienced clogging while transferring fish to factories on land. Here, seawater intakes of floating pump stations called "chatas" that supply water for the operation were blocked. Blockage due to medusae during the bloom resulted in delays and stoppages before jellyfish were manually removed (Fig. 10.8a, b).

*Chrysaora plocamia* blooms also affected a desalination plant in Chile. The city of Antofagasta is in the middle of Atacama Desert located in northern Chile, where 70 % of the freshwater is supplied by a desalination plant. The water intake pipes are often blocked by *C. plocamia* during summer. Reduced production resulted in social disturbances and economic losses (Aldo Pacheco 2012 pers. comm.).

reactions plocamia

Fig. 10.9 Skin reactions shortly after *C. plocamia* stings

## 10.4.4 Tourism

Tourism impacts by jellyfish are widely recognised in tropical and subtropical regions of North America, Europe and Australia, but only a few cases are known from South America. Large numbers of *C. plocamia* or their remains have caused problems in tourist areas of Paracas in Perú; Arica, Iquique and Antofagasta in Chile; and Puerto Madryn in Argentina. Strandings tend to happen in late spring–summer (Vera et al. 2004, 2005) and are especially large during El Niño events in Peru and Chile. Aquatic sports like kayaking, rowing, wake boarding, diving, swimming and sailing are frequent in the area where the jellyfish were aggregated; consequently, *C. plocamia* was responsible for one of the most frequent causes of skin irritations in swimmers (Vera et al. 2005). The mildly toxic venom of *C. plocamia* can cause slight cutaneous and ophthalmologic manifestations within the first 24 h. Delayed long-term reactions in individuals who have been sensitised through previous contacts can result in an immune response such as skin lichenification (Vera et al. 2004, 2005; Vega and Ogalde 2008) (Fig. 10.9).

## 10.5 Concluding Remarks

*Chrysaora plocamia* is very large and colourful and therefore a quite conspicuous animal that is difficult to overlook. The species is an important member of the coastal marine ecosystems of South America having important ecological roles, including trophic and symbiotic interactions with fish and sea turtles. Population variability has a clear relationship with climate where phases of high *C. plocamia* biomass were associated with El Niño events that occurred during "El Viejo" warm regime. Interestingly, biomass occasionally approaches sardines or anchovies stock

biomass estimates. This large jellyfish negatively affects human industries in the region when abundant, including fisheries, aquaculture, desalination plants and tourism. Understanding relationships between jellyfish blooms and environmental drivers (e.g. ENSO, regime shifts) should allow forecasting of the jellyfish abundance and potential vulnerabilities such that resource managers and industrial fisheries owners may prepare for costly outbreaks.

Acknowledgements We deeply thank Mike Dawson and Liza Gomez Daglio (University of California at Merced, USA), Stefan Gelcich (PUC, Chile), Andre Morandini (USP, Brazil), Ricardo "Bebote" Vera (CENPAT-CONICET, Argentina) and Sara Purca (IMARPE), for literature suggestions and for constructive comments on particular sections of this chapter. Photographic material was provided by Mario Rosina, Yuri Hooker (Peru), José Luis Esteves (CENPAT-CONICET, Argentina), José Adrián Acosta Fabio (Argentina), John (Jack) Costello (Providence College, USA). We also thank as well the Peruvian Research Institute (IMARPE) for providing valuable information on jellyfish by-catch. This chapter was supported by CONICET PIP 0152 and by a grant from the Inter American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) CRN 3070 sponsored by the US National Science Foundation (Grant GEO-1128040) to H.M. and E.M.A. This chapter is INIDEP contribution N° 1793.

#### References

- Acha EM, Mianzan HW, Guerrero RA, Favero M, Bava J (2004) Marine fronts at the continental shelves of austral South America. Physical and ecological processes. J Mar Syst 44:83–105
- Alfaro-Shigueto J, Mangel JC, Pajuelo M, Dutton PH, Seminoff JA, Godley BJ (2010) Where small can have a large impact: structure and characterization of small-scale fisheries in Peru. Fish Res 106:8–17
- Alvial A, Fuenzalida R, Herrera G, Prado L, Soto D, Zapata B (1984) Presencia del fenómeno "El Niño" en la zona costera de Iquique, con especial referencia al período 1982–1983. Ambiente y Desarrollo 1:133–136
- Arai MN (1988) Interactions of fish and pelagic coelenterates. Can J Zool 66:1913–1927
- Arai MN (1997) A functional biology of Scyphozoa. Chapman & Hall, London
- Arntz WE, Valdivia J (1985) Visión integral del problema "El Niño": Introducción. In: Arntz W, Landa A, Tarazona J (eds) "El Niño" su impacto en la fauna marina. BolInst Mar Perú. Vol. Extraordinario: 5–10
- Bakun A (1996) Patterns in the ocean. Ocean processes and marine population dynamics. California Sea Grant, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas del Noroeste, La Paz, BCS México, 323 pp
- Baxter EJ, Sturt MM, Ruane NM, Doyle TK, McAllen R, Harman L, Rodger HD (2011) Gill damage to Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) caused by the common jellyfish (*Aurelia aurita*) under experimental challenge. PLoS One 6:1–6
- Bravo V, Palma S, Silva N (2011) Seasonal and vertical distribution of medusae in Aysén region, southern Chile. Lat Am J Aquat Res 39:359–377
- Brodeur RD, Decker MB, Ciannelli L, Purcell JE, Bond NA, Stabeno PJ, Acuna E, Hunt GL Jr (2008) Rise and fall of jellyfish in the eastern Bering Sea in relation to climate regime shifts. Prog Oceanogr 77:103–111
- Chavez FP, Ryan J, Lluch-Cota SE, Ñiquen MC (2003) From anchovies to sardines and back: multidecadal change in the Pacific Ocean. Science 299:217–221
- Chavez FP, Bertrand A, Guevara-Carrasco R, Soler P, Csirke J (2008) The northern Humboldt Current System: brief history, present status and a view towards the future. Prog Oceanogr 792–794:95–105

- Dong Z, Liu D, Keesing JK (2010) Jellyfish blooms in China: dominant species, causes and consequences. Mar Pollut Bull 60:954–963
- Doyle TK, De Haas H, Cotton D, Dorschel B, Cummins V, Houghton JDR, Davenport J, Hays GC (2008) Widespread occurrence of the jellyfish *Pelagia noctiluca* in Irish coastal and shelf waters. J Plankton Res 30:963–968
- Elliot W, Gonzáles R, Becerra W, Ramírez A (1999) Biología y pesquería del pampanito pintado *Stromateus stellatus* Cuvier en la zona de Huacho (Perú) durante enero a setiembre 1999. InformeProgresivo, Institutodel Mar del Perú (Ene 2000) no 112, 23 pp
- Flynn BA, Richardson AJ, Brierley AS, Boyer DC, Axelsen BE, Scott L, Moroff NE, Kainge PI, Tjizoo BM, Gibbons MJ (2012) Temporal and spatial patterns in the abundance of jellyfish in the northern Benguela upwelling ecosystem and their link to thwarted pelagic fishery recovery. Afr J Mar Sci 34:131–146
- Fréon P, Bouchon M, Mullon C, García C, Ñiquen C (2008) Interdecadal variability of anchoveta abundance and overcapacity of the fishery in Peru. Prog Oceanogr 79:401–412
- Gasca R, Haddock SHD (2004) Associations between gelatinous zooplankton and hyperiid amphipods (Crustacea: Peracarida) in the Gulf of California. Hydrobiologia 530/531:529–535
- Goya E, Quiñones J, de Paz N (2011) Informe Nacional sobre la Situación de las Tortugas Marinas en el Perú. Comisión Permanente del Pacifico Sur (CPPS), Lima, 72 pp
- Graham WM, Martin DL, Felder DL, Asper VL (2003) Ecological and economical implications of a tropical jellyfish invader in the Gulf of Mexico. Biol Invasions 5:53–69
- Hays GC, Farquhar MR, Luschi P, Teo SLH, Thys TM (2009) Vertical niche overlap by two ocean giants with similar diets: ocean sunfish and leatherback turtles. J Exp Mar Biol Ecol 370:134–143
- Heileman S (2009) Patagonian Shelf LME. In: Sherman K, Hempel G (eds) The UNEP Large marine ecosystem report: a perspective on changing conditions in LMEs of the world's regional seas. UNEP Regional Seas Report and Studies N° 182, United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, pp 735–746
- Heileman S, Guevara R, Chávez F, Bertrand A, Soldi H (2009) XVII-56 Humboldt Current LME. In: Sherman K, Hempel G (eds) The UNEP large marine ecosystems report: a perspective on changing conditions in LMEs of the world's regional seas. UNEP Regional Seas Report and Studies Nº 182, United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, 14 pp
- Kawahara M, Uye S, Ohtsu K, Iizumi H (2006) Unusual population explosion of the giant jellyfish Nemopilema nomurai (Scyphozoa: Rhizostomeae) in East Asian waters. Mar Ecol Prog Ser 307:161–173
- Laval P (1980) Hyperiid amphipods as crustacean parasitoids associated with gelatinous zooplankton. Oceanogr Mar Biol Ann Rev 18:11–56
- Lesson RP (1830) Voyage autour du monde, exècutè par ordre du roi sur la corvette La Coquille, pendant les annes 1822–1825. Zoologie 2(2):135
- Lynam CP, Gibbons MJ, Axelsen BE, Sparks CAJ, Coetzee J, Heywood BG, Brierley AS (2006) Jellyfish overtake fish in a heavily fished ecosystem. Curr Biol 16:492–493
- Mianzan HW (1986) Estudio sistemático y bioecológico de algunas medusas Scyphozoa de la región Subantártica. Ph.D. thesis, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, La Plata
- Mianzan HW (1989) Sistemática y zoogeografía de scyphomedusae en aguas neríticas argentinas. Invest Mar CICIMAR 4:15–34
- Mianzan HW, Cornelius PFS (1999) Cubomedusae and Scyphomedusae. In: Boltovskoy D (ed) South Atlantic zooplankton, vol 1. Blackuys Publishers, Leyden, pp 513–559
- Mianzan HW, Marí N, Prenski B, Sanchez F (1996) Fish predation on neritic ctenophores from the Argentine continental shelf: a neglected food resource? Fish Res 27:69–79
- Mianzan HW, Ramirez F, Costello J, Chiaverano L (2005) Un Mar de gelatina? Ciencia Hoy 15(86):48–55
- Miloslavich P, Klein E, Díaz JM, Hernández CE, Bigatti G, Campos L, Artigas F, Castillo J, Penchaszadeh PE, Neill PE, Carranza A, Retana MV, Díaz de Astarloa JM, Lewis M, Yorio P, Piriz ML, Rodríguez D, Yoneshigue-Valentin Y, Gamboa L, Martín A (2011) Marine biodiversity in the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts of South America: knowledge and gaps. PLoS One 6:e14631

- Möller H (1984) Effects of jellyfish predation on fishes. Workshop on jellyfish blooms in the Mediterranean. UNEP, Athens, pp 45–59
- Morandini AC, Marques AC (2010) Revision of the genus *Chrysaora* Péron & Lesueur, 1810 (Cnidaria: Scyphozoa). Zootaxa 2464:1–97
- Nagata RM, Haddad MA, Nogueira MJ (2009) The nuisance of medusae (Cnidaria, Medusozoa) to shrimp trawls in central part of southern Brazilian Bight, from the perspective of artisanal fishermen. Pan Am J Aquat Sci 4:312–325
- Oliva ME, Maffet A, Laudien J (2010) Association between *Chrysaora plocamia* (Cnidaria, Scyphozoa) and *Hyperia curticephala* (Peracarida: Amphipoda) in Mejillones Bay, Northern Chile. Rev Biol Mar Oceanogr 45:127–130
- Palma S, Apablaza P, Silva N (2007) Hydromedusae (Cnidaria) of the Chilean southern channels (from Corcovado Gulf to Pulluche-Chacabuco Channels). Sci Mar 71(1):65–74
- Palma S, Silva N, Retamal MC, Castro L (2011) Seasonal and vertical distributional patterns of siphonophores and medusae in the Chiloé inland sea, Chile. Cont Shelf Res 31:260–271
- Purcell JE (2012) Jellyfish and ctenophore blooms coincide with human proliferations and environmental perturbations. Ann Rev Mar Sci 4:209–235
- Purcell JE, Arai MN (2001) Interactions of pelagic cnidarians and ctenophores with fish: a review. Hydrobiologia 451:27–44
- Purcell JE, Uye SI, Lo WT (2007) Anthropogenic causes of jellyfish blooms and direct consequences for humans: a review. Mar Ecol Prog Ser 350:153–174
- Quiñones J (2010) Chrysaora plocamia Lesson, 1830 (Cnidaria, Scyphozoa), frente a Pisco, Perú. Informe Instit Mar Peru 35:221–230
- Quiñones J, González Carman V, Zeballos J, Purca S, Mianzan HW (2010) Effects of El Niñodriven environmental variability on black turtle migration to Peruvian foraging grounds. Hydrobiologia 645:69–79
- Quiñones J, Monroy A, Acha EM, Mianzan HW (2013) Jellyfish bycatch diminishes profit in an anchovy fishery off Peru. Fish Res 139:47–50
- Riascos JM, Vergara M, Fajardo J, Villegas V, Pacheco AS (2012a) The role of hyperiid parasites as a trophic link between jellyfish and fishes. J Fish Biol 81(5):1686–1695
- Riascos JM, Villegas V, Cáceres I, González JE, Pacheco AS (2012b) Patterns of a novel association between the scyphomedusa *Chrysaora plocamia* and the parasitic anemone *Peachia chilensis*. J Mar Biol Assoc UK 1(1):1–5
- Robinson KL, Graham WM (2013) Long-term change in the abundances of northern Gulf of Mexico scyphomedusae Aurelia spp. and Chrysaora sp. in the northern Gulf of Mexico with links to climate variability. Limnol Oceanogr 58(1):235–253
- Servicio Nacional de Pesca (SERNAPESCA) (2012) Anuarios estadísticos de pesca. http://www. sernapesca.cl/index.php?option=com\_remository&Itemid=246&func=select&id=460. Reviewed: 30 July 2012
- Soto MR (1985) Efectos del fenómeno El Niño 1982–83 en ecosistemas de la I Region. Invest Pesq (Chile) 32:199–206
- Soto D, Jara F, Moreno C (2001) Escaped salmon in the inner seas, southern Chile: facing ecological and social conflicts. Ecol Appl 11:1750–1762
- Suchman C, Brodeur RD, Daly EA, Emmett RL (2012) Large medusae in surface waters of the Northern California Current: variability in relation to environmental conditions. Hydrobiologia 690:113–125
- Towanda T, Thuesen EV (2006) Ectosymbiotic behavior of *Cancer gracilis* and its trophic relationships with its host *Phacellophora camtschatica* and the parasitoid *Hyperia medusa-rum*. Mar Ecol Prog Ser 315:221–236
- Uye S (2008) Blooms of the giant jellyfish *Nemopilema nomurai*: a threat to the fisheries sustainability of the East Asian Marginal Seas. Plank Benth Res 3:125–131
- Uye S, Ueta U (2004) Recent increase of jellyfish populations and their nuisance to fisheries in the Inland Sea of Japan. Bull Jap Soc Fish Oceanogr 68:9–19
- Vanhöffen E (1888) Untersuchungenübersemiostome und rhizostomemedusen. Bibliotheca Zoolog, Stuttgart, Bd. 1, heft 3, 52 pp. 6 pls

- Vannucci M, Tundisi J (1962) Las medusas existentes en los museos de La Plata y Buenos Aires. Comunicaciones del Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales "Bernardino Rivadavia", Ciencias Zoológicas 3(8):203–215
- Vega MA, Ogalde JP (2008) First results on qualitative characteristics and biological activity of nematocyst extracts from *Chrysaora plocamia* (Cnidaria, Scyphozoa). Lat Am J Aquat Res 36:83–86
- Vera C, Kolbach M, Zegpi MS, Vera F, Lonza JP (2004) Picaduras de medusas: actualización. Rev Med Chil 132:223–241
- Vera C, Kolbach M, Lonza JP, Zegpi MS, Vera F (2005) Medusas en Chile: a Propósito de un Caso. Rev Chilena Dermatol 21:96–101
- Verner B (1984) Jellyfish flotation by means of bubble barriers to prevent blockage of cooling water supply and a proposal for a semi-mechanical barrier to protect bathing beaches from jellyfish. Workshop on jellyfish blooms in the Mediterranean. UNEP, Athens, pp 205–210
- Williamson JAH, Fenner PJ, Burnett JW, Rifkin JF (1996) Venomous and poisonous marine animals: a medical and biological handbook. University of New South Wales Press, Brisbane