




The Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute



The Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute: A scientific forum for fisheries and marine resource management in the Gulf of Mexico and the wider Caribbean

Bob Glazer
Executive Director - GCFI, Inc.

About GCFI

- Founded in 1947 in association with University of Miami
 - Spun-Off in mid-1980's and became a non-profit
 - Originally the annual conference and publication of the Proceedings were the primary products...but things have changed
- 
- A series of several parallel white diagonal lines in the bottom right corner of the slide, extending from the middle of the right edge towards the bottom left.

The Annual Conference

- Close to 400 registrations from over 40 countries
- Mix of science and management products
- Special symposia, sessions, and workshops
- CINEFISH



Sponsored by Numerous Organizations



62nd Meeting of the GCFI – Cumana Venezuela



Sessions from the 62nd GCFI included:

- ☐ Coastal Resources and Habitat
- ☐ Are Tropical Bottom Trawl Fisheries Sustainable? Implications and Alternatives
- ☐ Invertebrate Biology and Fisheries
- ☐ Biology and Fisheries of Demersal and Reef Fishes
- ☐ Socio-economics and Fisheries Management
- ☐ Pelagics and Recreational Fisheries
- ☐ Biology and Management of Reef Fish Spawning Aggregations
- ☐ Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Science and Management
- ☐ Success Stories in Marine Conservation: Applying ecosystem-based management and Facing Climate Change



Workshops and Symposia at the GCFI

GULF AND CARIBBEAN RESEARCH

Caribbean Marine Protected Areas:

PRACTICAL APPROACHES TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC AND CONSERVATION GOALS

Proceedings of a Symposium at the 54th annual meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute Symposium, Turks and Caicos, November 2001

Published by
The University of Southern Mississippi • College of Marine Sciences
GULF COAST RESEARCH LABORATORY
Ocean Springs, Mississippi



NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-SEFSC-681
doi:10.7289/V5BK190N

REPORT OF A GCFI WORKSHOP: STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING FISHERY-DEPENDENT DATA FOR USE IN DATA-LIMITED STOCK ASSESSMENTS IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION

Nancie J. Cummings, Mandy Karnauskas, William Harford,
William L. Michels, and Alejandro Acosta

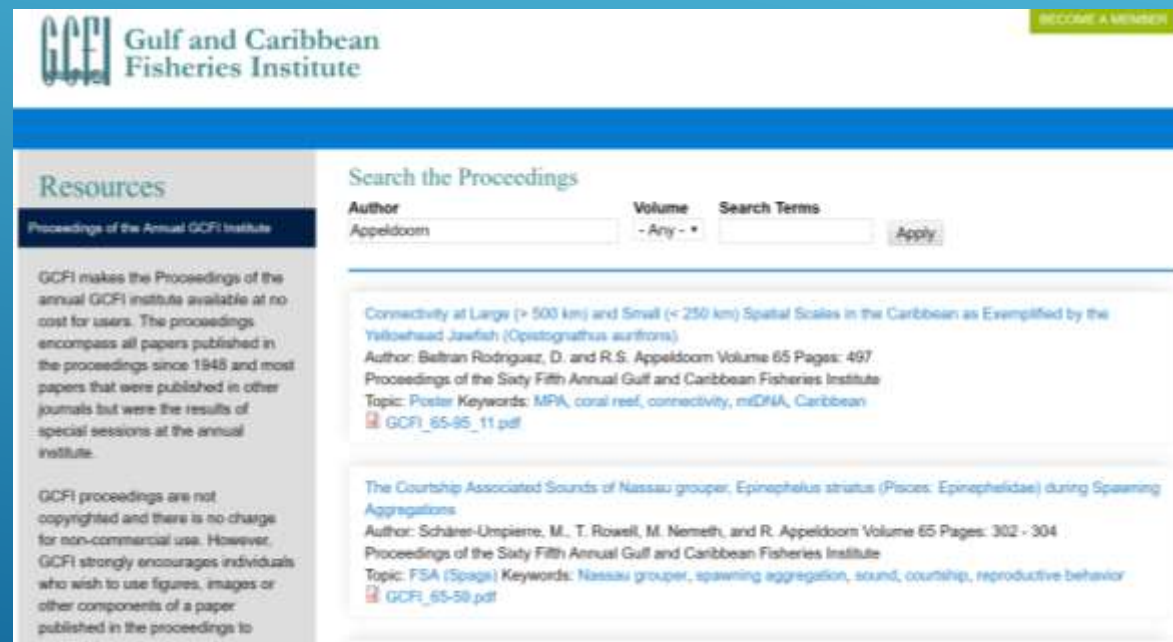
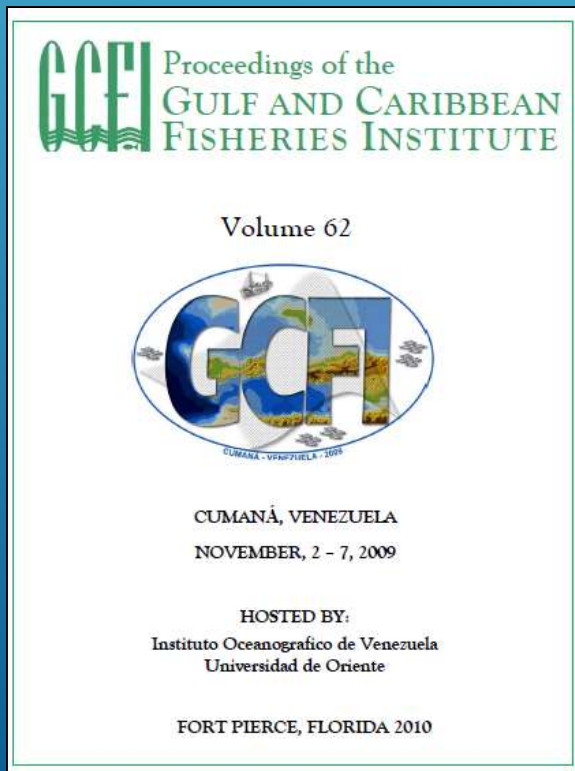


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, Florida 33149

September 2015

The Proceedings of the GCFI

- Published Yearly and Provided to GCFI Members
- Online version provided as Open Access





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Photo credit: Paul Christie, TIDE Belize

FISHERIES FOR FISHERS INITIATIVE

Ensuring that fishers are engaged and empowered to contribute to the wise management of the region's marine resources.

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ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

Building capacity in partnership with the region's Marine Protected Areas managers.

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Advancing the goals of sustainable use, wise management, conservation, and restoration of marine and estuarine fisheries and resources in the Region by providing a forum for the exchange of information and perspectives among decision-makers, scientists, managers, educators, resource users, and students.

About GCFI



Student Awards for Academic Achievement, Schmied Award, SCRFA Award, and Travel Awards





The Ocean Innovation Award



Fisheries for Fishers

Gladding Memorial Award Open for Nominations

The Gladding Memorial Award recognizes a Fisher who has demonstrated a Long-Term commitment of sustainable fishing and conservation of marine resources. The deadline for applications is 7 September

Nomination Announcement

About the Fisheries For Fishers Initiative



The GCFI Fisheries for Fishers Initiative is founded on the principle that fishers must be engaged and empowered to be part of the process of managing marine resources. GCFI has encouraged and supported activities related to this principle along with a number of our partners. The activities included the Gladding Memorial Award, The Small Grants fund for Fisher Exchanges and Alternative Livelihoods for Fishers. GCFI has supported the attendance of fishers at the annual meeting through a number of partners.

For more information, please see the [F4F Facebook page](#)

The Gladding Memorial Award



The Gladding Memorial Award was established in 2004 in honor of Peter Gladding, a commercial fisher who was responsible to a great extent for the protection of Riley's Hump, an important mutton snapper spawning aggregation in the region of the Dry Tortugas. Each annual award recognizes a commercial fisher in the region who, through example, demonstrates a long-term conservation ethic. Each recipient is selected by a GMA subcommittee composed of several GCFI trustees and one or more past recipients of the award. Fishers from around the Gulf of Mexico and the wider Caribbean Basin are eligible for the award. As of 2011, 13 individuals including 2 women from 12 countries have received the award.

[Read More »](#)

The Small Grants Fund

Fisher Exchanges and Alternative Livelihoods



The GCFI has partnered with the SPRAW Programme of the UNEP CEP to make available a Small Grant Fund to promote sustainable fishing practices and alternative livelihoods for fishers. This fund forms part of the CEP/SPRAW initiative to develop adequate management plans and programmes for priority species of regional concern including those of economic value. GCFI has provided funding support for numerous projects focusing on the core priorities, sustainable fishing practices and alternative livelihoods for fishers.

[Read More »](#)

The GCFI Fisher Forum



The Fishers' Forum at GCFI is focused on including fishers in the broader science and management issues that shape the marine resources of the region. Fishers are sponsored by numerous partners to attend the annual meeting during which a specific activity is included within the GCFI meeting agenda for fishers to present their point of view on a variety of topics. Other activities are included which enable the fishers to interact with local fishers both at the meeting and in their communities to garner lessons learned from others in the region.

For example, the theme for the 2008 Fishers Forum at GCFI was: Impacts of climate change on small-scale fisheries. The session featured a few brief presentations on the topic followed by a panel. Discussion amongst fishers, scientists, managers and others was aimed at identifying research required to gain a better understanding of problems and solutions, with a view to developing the ideas into funded projects. The Forum was open to all GCFI participants, but fishers were especially welcome. Fishers attending GCFI were asked to share their views on likely impacts at sea and ashore, and how about their concerns may be addressed. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) was a major sponsor of the 2008 Fishers Forum at GCFI.

The Initiatives (and partnerships) of GCFI





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Photo Credit: D. J. Southall

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Ensuring that fishers are engaged and empowered to contribute to the wise management of the region's marine resources.

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Building capacity in partnership with the region's Marine Protected Areas managers.

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About GCFI



CaMPAM





CaMPAM Webpage

CaMPAM


Network and Forum

Hosted by The Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, Inc.
a 501 (c) (3) Non Profit Corporation

[GCFI Home](#) > CaMPAM Network and Forum



CaMPAM Network and Forum



Why CaMPAM

The use of marine managed areas (MMA) has become increasingly popular in the Wider Caribbean as a tool for coastal resources management. If rightly designed and managed, they can assist to conserve marine biodiversity, reduce overfishing and inadequate tourism practices, decrease user conflicts, and provide economic alternatives to local coastal communities, while meeting international conservation commitments of governments. This has contributed to substantial knowledge gained on optimal site selection and design, successful outreach approaches, effective management strategies, and appropriate methods to evaluate their effectiveness. Limited information exchanges on lessons learned continue to constrain informed decision-making due to the geographic, socioeconomic, and cultural complexities of the Caribbean region. At the same time, communication among professionals has become progressively more vital given the increasing scientific interest in the examination of biophysical connectivity across the region. As MPAs (or more accurately, MNAs) continue to be proposed and implemented, the efficient exchange of information is now more critical than ever. CaMPAM provides a platform for capacity building through training activities, communication tools and grant awarding to expedite transfer of knowledge and lessons learned as well as financial resources across the Wider Caribbean region.

About CaMPAM

CaMPAM was created in 1997 under the framework of the UN Environment Program's [Caribbean Environment Programme \(UNEP-CEP\)](#) and its [Specially Protected Area and Wildlife \(SPA/W\)](#) Protocol of the [Cartagena Convention](#). Since then, it has received the support of governments, private foundations, international donors and individual experts. This initiative brings together MPA researchers, administrators, managers, and educators from governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as the private sector in an inclusive network to exchange ideas and lessons learned through a variety of mechanisms. CaMPAM is guided by [UNEP-CEP's SPA/W](#) subprogramme which identifies strategic objectives in consultation with the SPA/W parties and, in cooperation with its Regional Activity Center ([SPA/W-RAC](#)). It provides leadership and resources for the network and its capacity building program. A team of mentors from the region is also consulted as they comprise collaborators, MPA practitioners and marine conservation scientists. Georgina Bustamante (bio) has served as the CaMPAM coordinator since 2008, and has contributed to several of the training and communication activities.

Most of CaMPAM activities are implemented on a project-basis model. They depend on the resources available, from both, government and non-government organizations interested in this program and the objectives, and willing to partner with CaMPAM in selected activities.

CaMPAM since 2010

CaMPAM-L List News

FW: Compilación de correo para guardas@googlegroups.com - 1 actualización en 1 hora

Guidelines for Tourism Partnerships and Concessions for Protected Areas - available in English, Spanish, French

FW: [EBM Tools] EBM Tools Webinar: Making your research freely available with MacKey: The (free!) research repository for ocean conservation and marine climate science, November 14 at 1 pm US EST/10 am US PST/6 pm UTC

FW: [GCFI/NET] Too Big To Ignore (TBTI) on Fri 10 Nov

FW: Boletín ANP y Guardaparques 188

FW: WHSRN News Alert

BIOPAMA session at 20th GCFI FW: [Onenote/science/seminars] OneNote Science Seminar Series, October 30 - November 3, 2017

FW: [GLS/SPA Process] SGP and Partner Events at COP 23

Summaries of outcomes of the projects supported by CaMPAM-ECHMAN grants already posted in CaMPAM website

FW: [GCFI/NET] Vacancy for CMB + Communication Specialist Immed - your assistance kindly requested for further dissemination

FW: EBM Vol. 18 No. 74 - 12th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention

Search CaMPAM

Google Search

CaMPAM-ECHMAN Small Grants Program

CaMPAM Small Grants Program

See Dec 2015 outcomes of project activities

Summaries of projects supported by CaMPAM-ECHMAN grants 2014-2015

CaMPAM Activities

RPM Facilitators

Report of the 2013 UNEP-CEP Caribbean Challenge Regional Project Final Meeting

Report of the 2013 UNEP-CEP Caribbean Challenge Regional Project Update Meeting

Small Grants Fund and Exchanges

Mid-Size Grants

RPM Regional Database: Communications and Outreach

Training of Trainers

Training of Trainers Manuals (Eng) (Esp) (Fr)

2014 Course Report: NETWORK OR (pdf 3.3mb)

2013 Course Report: CAAMPAM/BIOMANA (pdf 1.3mb)

Feb 2011-2012 Report (pdf 8.3mb)

Feb 2011-2012 Regional Local Events Report

For 2010 Regional and local course reports

For 2009 Regional and local course reports

Feb 2007 Report (pdf 8.3mb)

Feb 2007 Subprogramme Evaluation (pdf 3mb)

Feb 2006 Report (pdf 3mb)

Feb 2004 Report (pdf 3mb)

Feb 2002 Report (473 kb)

MPA Database

CaribbeanMPA

A database of the Wider Caribbean's Marine Protected Areas

Username: glazer Password: **** Login

Search for an MPA:

Country or Territory
Choose One...

Ecoregion Location
Choose One...

IUCN Category
Choose One...

Designation
Choose One...


Caribbean Challenge

SPAW

Welcome About the Database View the Database

You may select an MPA from the list below to view, or you may use the search bar on the left side of the screen.

Country	Short Name	
Anguilla	Amana	
Anguilla	Anguilla Island	
Anguilla	Blowing Point	
Anguilla	Conch Bar Caves National Park	
Anguilla	Corito Bay	
Anguilla	Crocus Bay	
Anguilla	Dog Island	
Anguilla	El Buen Consejo	
Anguilla	Little Bay	
Anguilla	Prickly Pear	
Anguilla	Sandy Island	
Anguilla	Scrub Island	
Anguilla	Seal Island	
Anguilla	Shark Bay	
Anguilla	Shoal Bay	
Anguilla	Sombbrero Island	
Antigua and Barbuda	CBMR	
Antigua and Barbuda	CLNP	
Antigua and Barbuda	Darkwood	
Antigua and Barbuda	Devil's Bridge	
Antigua and Barbuda	Diamond Reef	
Antigua and Barbuda	Fort James	
Antigua and Barbuda	Fryes Bay	
Antigua and Barbuda	Green Islands Reef	
Antigua and Barbuda	Half Moon Bay	



Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park

[Map](#)[Management Plan Template](#)[Identification](#)[Legal](#)[Physical Description](#)[Management](#)

Primary management institution ⓘ

Bahamas National Trust

Other institutions that participate in management ⓘ

Bahamas Department of Marine Resources, Department of Immigration, Custom's Department, Royal Bahamas Defence Force

Personnel ⓘ

1 park administrator, 2 wardens, 1 office administrator

Management objectives

- ☒ species protection
- ☒ ecosystem protection
- ☒ fisheries management
- ☒ user conflict resolution
- ☒ recreational/tourism use
- ☐ navigation restrictions

Other management objectives ⓘ

1. Conserve natural resources in a state that allows for the continuity of evolutionary and ecological processes; 2. Conserve Historical and Cultural Resources; 3. Protect and enhance natural landscapes and seascapes for their scenic value; 4. Conserve marine resources in the Park and help to support the local and regional economy; 5. Provide a scientific basis for management decisions; 6. Provide education, outreach and interpretation opportunities; 7. Provide visitor management systems compatible with the objectives of the ECLSP; 8. Ensure sufficient capacity and regulations for effective Park management; 9. Ensure Park infrastructure will serve as a model of environmentally sensitive development

Management framework

Yes

Date of establishment of management framework ⓘ

2006

Last update of management framework

2006

Management programmes ⓘ

- ☐ advisory committee
- ☐ co-management with private sector
- ☒ construction regulations
- ☒ education/outreach program
- ☐ emergency operations program
- ☒ enforcement program
- ☒ financial or business plan
- ☒ entrance/user fees
- ☒ fisheries regulations
- ☐ fishers' exclusive rights
- ☒ natural resources damage assessment authority
- ☒ navigational restrictions
- ☒ on-site staff
- ☒ permitting program
- ☒ research facilities
- ☒ research program
- ☒ signalization
- ☐ solid waste management
- ☐ sustainable and environmentally sound

Small Grants Case Study

BELIZE-BAHAMAS FISHERMEN EXCHANGE: Lionfish Management Training Workshop



Preparation for consumption



A large, stylized graphic of a coral reef and two fish. The coral is composed of many small, light blue dots forming a branching structure. Two dark blue fish are swimming to the right. The text "MPA connect" is overlaid on the coral.

MPA connect

Capacity Assessment Report

A Management Capacity Assessment of Selected Coral Reef Marine Protected Areas in the Caribbean





ENVIRONMENTAL LAW INSTITUTE
for the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute



Legal Frameworks for MPA Enforcement in the Caribbean: *Challenges and Opportunities*

February 2015





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Photo credit: Michelle Schmitt

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Invasive Lionfish

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EDUCATION & OUTREACH RESEARCH & MONITORING CONTROL MANAGEMENT

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LIONFISH CONTAINER This diver uses a lionfish container to carry his catch to help prevent envenomation.

#lionfish

André Afonso @andreaafonso

The steel. Enjoying the Diving Side of Life! [paper: lionfishes/7](#) ad... Thanks to @DIVERMAGAZINE @reporterfor World's Again!

Embed View on Twitter

Latest Flickr Photos

BerryFickler if posted a photo:

*"The invasion of lionfish (*Pterois miles* and *Pterois volitans*) may prove to be one of the greatest threats of this century to warm temperate and tropical Atlantic reefs and associated habitats. As the first marine reef fish invasive species to this region, lionfish are changing the culture of how reef managers view invasive species, the regional connectivity of marine reefs, and their vulnerability to marine invaders"* - Dr. James A. Morris, Jr. NOAA

Timeline of the Lionfish Invasion (from USGS)

2004

The Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute

GCFI Symposia

- GCFI Proceedings
- Tweetchat on Twitter
- Tweets on Scribble

GCFINET List

- Too Big To Ignore (TBTI) on Fri 10 AM
- Be: help share the message! Post on Pteroisfish - Social Media Campaign

more

Latest Lionfish YouTube Videos

Invasion of Atlantic coastal ecosystems by Pacific lionfish

Editors: Mark Hixon, Stephanie Green, Mark Albins, Ivan Nagelkerken, Tim McClanahan, Charles Birkeland

Marine Ecology Progress Series Vol. 558, pages 159–279

This Theme Section focuses on understanding the ecological effects of the devastating marine invasion of Atlantic coastal ecosystems by Pacific lionfish (*Pterois volitans/miles*), reasons why lionfish are such successful invaders, and practical means of managing the invasion.



Photo: Jens Petersen

CONTENTS

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Sargassum

September, 2015



Please cite as: Doyle, E. and J. Franks, 2015.
Sargassum Fact Sheet, Gulf and Caribbean
Fisheries Institute.

Fact Sheet

Pelagic Sargassum Influx in the Wider Caribbean

Massive quantities of pelagic sargassum occurred throughout the Caribbean in 2011, impacting aquatic resources, fisheries, shorelines, waterways, and tourism. Similar events have occurred since then, with a particularly heavy influx of sargassum observed during 2015. This Fact Sheet seeks to share the state of knowledge about the sargassum influx and to promote the adoption of best management practices. Some of the questions that we're frequently asked are:

What is it? Pelagic sargassum is a brown alga, or seaweed that floats free in the ocean and never attaches to the ocean floor. These free-floating forms are only found in the Atlantic Ocean. Sargassum provides refuge for migratory species and essential habitat for some 120 species of fish and more than 120 species of invertebrates. It's an important nursery habitat that provides shelter and food for endangered species such as sea turtles and for commercially important species of fish such as tunas. There are two species of sargassum involved in the sargassum influx: *Sargassum natans* and *Sargassum fluitans*.



Left: *Sargassum natans*; Right: *Sargassum fluitans*
Photos: N. Overford



The sargassum ecosystem Photo: S. Rames

Where does it come from? Sargassum travels on ocean currents. Scientists are able to determine where the sargassum comes from by back-tracking from its stranding location using ocean models and data on movements of satellite trackers that are deployed at sea. It is believed that the recent influxes are related to massive sargassum blooms occurring in particular areas of the Atlantic, not directly associated with the Sargasso Sea, where nutrients are available and temperatures are high. The sargassum consolidates into large mats and windrows and is transported by ocean currents towards and throughout the Caribbean.

Will the sargassum influx occur every year? We don't know for sure if it will happen every year, but currently proposed efforts to develop prediction and alert systems would help answer this important question. Signs from the Eastern Caribbean so far this year are that we'll be seeing sargassum in the region periodically throughout 2015. Some scientists associate the cause of sargassum with higher than normal temperatures and low winds, both of which influence ocean currents, and they draw links to global climate change.

Caribbean Node of the GPML



Case Study – Microplastics in Caribbean Fish



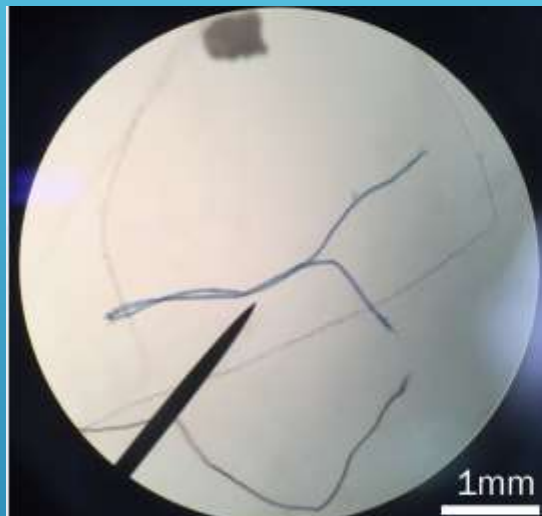
MICROPLASTIC IN COMMERCIALY EXPLOITED FISH FROM GRENADA, WEST INDIES

M. E. Taylor, D.N.K. Adams, E. Vogler and C.E. Morrall



Emerging Issues - Microplastics

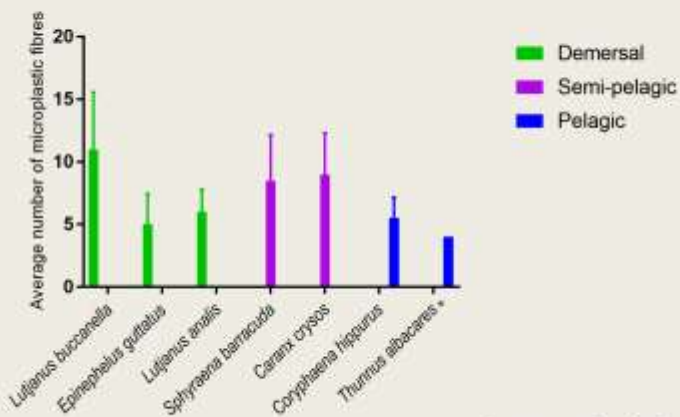
Fibers



Film



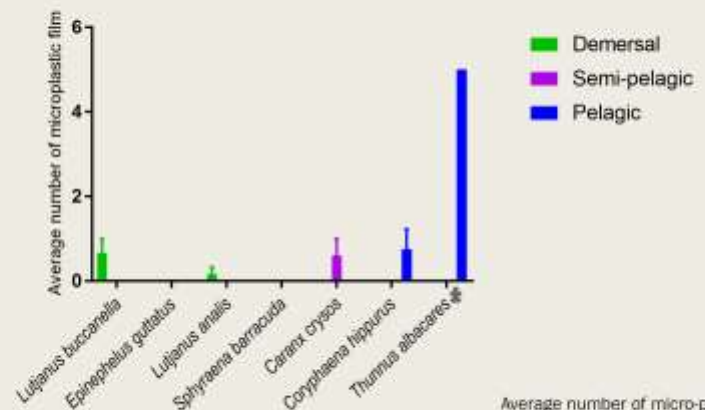
Results – Fibres



Average number of micro-plastic fibres found in each species of fish. Error bars indicate the mean \pm S.E.M.

* *Thunnus albacares* n=1

Results – Film



Average number of micro-plastic film pieces found in each species of fish. Error bars indicate the mean \pm S.E.M.

* *Thunnus albacares* n=1



CLME+

Identify Science-Policy Gaps in the countries sharing the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems

1. Expand the knowledge base required for implementation of Ecosystem Approach of Key Fisheries including flyingfish; spiny lobster; and shrimp and groundfish in the CLME+ region
2. Expand the knowledge base to support habitat protection and restoration in the CLME+ region
3. Expand the knowledge base required for the efficient and cost-effective reduction of LBS pollution in the CLME+

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