

CONFÉRENCE

Conférencier

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Sujet

Bonefish spawning in the Caribbean: capturing the dynamics, physiology, and behavior at a critical period in their life history

Abstract: Analyses of the reproductive biology of teleost fishes provides critical knowledge on their population biology, behavior, habitat associations and other biological and ecological characteristics needed for development of management and conservation strategies. These studies of reproductive processes in natural systems are often supplemented by spawning and larval rearing in laboratory settings. Although many species have received such extensive study, analysis of the Superorder Elopomorpha has been hindered by the difficulty in collecting reproductive specimens and even greater difficulty in inducing spawning in laboratory culture. Bonefishes (*Albula* spp.) are classified within the superorder Elopomorpha, which is comprised of over 1000 species that share a unique leptocephalus larval stage. Bonefishes have a circum-tropical distribution, inhabiting inshore shallow water flats and gathering in presumptive nearshore pre-spawn aggregations during spawning months. These fishes support economically important recreational and subsistence fisheries throughout their ranges. Despite their economic and cultural importance, the populations in the Florida Keys and numerous locations in the Caribbean are in decline with much of their reproductive and early life history stages unknown. Using both field and lab-based experiments, our research group focus on understanding spawning migration pathways, and pre-spawning and spawning sites, the reproductive ecology and the physiological role the aggregation events of bonefish play in the spawning preparation process and also the biology, behavior and ecology of leptocephalus larvae

Date et heure

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Endroit

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