

# A 50 YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENT IN MARINE SCIENCE: A HISTORY OF THE JOURNAL PUBLISHED BY THE GULF COAST RESEARCH LABORATORY

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**Abstract:** The Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL) has a 50 year history of annual publication of the peer-reviewed journal *Gulf and Caribbean Research* (GCR, 2000-present; formerly *Gulf Research Reports* (GRR) from 1961–1999). Other extant journals serving the region during this time include *Contributions in Marine Science* (since 1945), *Proceedings of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute* (since 1948), *Bulletin of Marine Science* (since 1951), *Revista de Biología Tropical* (since 1953), and *Caribbean Journal of Science* (since 1961). In the early years of the GCR publication, papers were primarily concerned with research in Mississippi and the northern Gulf of Mexico (GOM), and the majority of authors were from USM/GCRL or the GOM region. However, in the past 15 years, studies from Mexico and the Caribbean have dramatically increased, with a concurrent increase in the geographical diversity of authors. Overall, surveys and inventories, taxonomy, and life history studies have been most common, and taxa have been dominated by fish and crustaceans. Offshore, benthic and marsh habitats have been the most commonly studied during GCR's 50 year history. In general, publications during the last 15 years are more similar to each other ( $\geq 65\%$  similarity based on CLUSTER analysis and MDS ordinations) than to earlier publications for geography, taxon, habitat and subject areas. The journal is well cited in peer-reviewed literature, with 72% of the papers published in GRR and 65% of those published in GCR cited at least once. GCR provides an important outlet for peer-reviewed publications from the GOM and Caribbean region.

**Key Words:** Citation history, taxa, habitats, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean

# DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE OF INTRODUCED FISHES IN FLORIDA'S CHARLOTTE HARBOR ESTUARY

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**Abstract:** A growing number of non-native fishes have been introduced into Florida waters in recent years, yet little information has been available on their distribution and abundance in southwest Florida. The ichthyofauna of the Charlotte Harbor estuary, Florida, was intensively sampled from 1989 through 2007. We collected eight introduced fish taxa: African jewelfish (*Hemichromis letourneuxi*), blue tilapia (*Oreochromis aureus*), brown hoplo (*Hoplosternum littorale*), grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*), Mayan cichlid (*Cichlasoma urophthalmus*), sailfin catfishes (*Pterygoplichthys* spp.), spotted tilapia (*Tilapia mariae*), and walking catfish (*Clarias batrachus*). These fishes were found principally in tidal rivers, especially the Caloosahatchee River. Other introduced species, such as Asian swamp eel (*Monopterus albus*), blackchin tilapia (*Sarotherodon melanotheron*), and pike killifish (*Belonesox belizanus*), are known to occur in neighboring bay systems but have yet to be reported in the Charlotte Harbor estuary. Continued monitoring will help us detect additional species that are introduced to the estuary, expansions in the ranges of documented species, and assemblage-level changes.

**Key Words:** Charlotte Harbor, Caloosahatchee River, Florida, cichlids, exotic fishes

# CARIBBEAN LEUCOTHOIDAE (CRUSTACEA: AMPHIPODA) OF PANAMA

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**Abstract:** Leucothoid amphipods were collected from sponge, ascidian, and bivalve mollusk hosts around Bocas del Toro, Panama. New host and locality records are reported for 10 species. Morphological variation is noted in some species originally described from Belize and South Florida. Future molecular research will help to clarify the importance of this variation. A key to the Caribbean species of the Leucothoidae collected around Bocas del Toro, Panama is provided based on morphological characters.

**Key Words:** *Anamixis* spp., *Leucothoe* spp., taxonomy, amphipods

# TRADE-OFFS BETWEEN GEAR SELECTIVITY AND LOGISTICS WHEN SAMPLING NEKTON FROM SHALLOW OPEN WATER HABITATS: A GEAR COMPARISON STUDY

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**Abstract:** We compared logistical issues and the catch composition, density, and size structure of nekton samples collected with a drop sampler, benthic sled, and a fine mesh cast net in shallow non-vegetated habitats of Galveston Bay, Texas. Approximately 16 cast net replicates were collected and sorted for every one drop or benthic sled sample. The drop sampler collected the greatest number of species and provided the highest density estimates for the majority of crustaceans and small demersal fishes; the sled provided comparable density estimates for penaeids and small demersal nekton, while under-representing more mobile fishes. Densities of small benthic nekton were underestimated by the cast net, but it provided the highest density estimates for larger and mobile fishes. Within the selectivity constraints of each gear, the sled and cast net provide viable alternatives to the drop sampler for sampling particular nekton from shallow open water habitats.

**Key words:** gear efficiency; drop sampler; benthic sled; cast net; salt marsh

**SHORT COMMUNICATION**

**ODD ASSOCIATION AND RANGE EXTENSION OF  
*CALIGUS RUFIMACULATUS* WILSON, 1905; CALIGIDAE,  
SIPHONOSTOMATOIDA, COPEPODA**

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**KEY WORDS:** *Caligus rufimaculatus*, marine mammal associate, range extension, parasitic copepod, *Tursiops truncatus*

**SHORT COMMUNICATION**

**OBSERVATIONS AT A MULTISPECIES PARROTFISH (SCARIDAE)  
SPAWNING AGGREGATION SITE AT BERMUDA WITH NOTES  
ON THE PREDATION BEHAVIOR OF BLACK GROUPER  
(*MYCTEROPERCA BONACI*)**

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**Key Words:** Reproduction, *Sparisoma rubripinne*, *Scarus vetula*, *Sparisoma viride*, predator—prey