

Review of: "Reef Fish in the Vitória-Trindade Seamount Chain of the Southwestern Atlantic: Biogeographical Corridors and Impact of Fishing"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The study titled "Reef Fish in the Vitória-Trindade Seamount Chain of the Southwestern Atlantic: Biogeographical Corridors and Impact of Fishing" was aimed at exploring the community structure of large reef fish of the central coast of Brazil. The study design is good, but I had issues with the presentation of the findings in the manuscript. The outlined specific objectives seem to be too generic; this need to be reworked. I have outlined briefly some comments for your actions:

Abstract

The section is well written but can improved upon to the reflect the major findings of the study, which are not currently well explained here.

Introduction

In the first paragraph you mention the idea of the use of the presence or absence of fish species as indicators of environmental health was not exhausted before you jumped to studies conducted on the structure of communities in the southwestern Atlantic. Please take note. I was wondering if this argument is one of your specific objectives, as I did not see any specific objective that speaks to the use of reef fish species as indicators.

Further, most of your arguments were centred on criticising what other researchers have done, without paying much attention to the meat of your study. I would advise you say less of what others have done and concentrate on the strength of your current study. Please argue in the line of the community structure of the reef fish in the study area and briefly what others have done and how your current study is an improvement of those earlier studies without destroying the efforts of others.

Materials and methods

The section is okay, but I couldn't find the marked sampling sites. What informed the selection of sites? How many sites were sampled?

Results

The findings were well explained in line with the statistical tools employed by the authors but not related with the outlined specific objectives. If you must go by these findings, then you may need to recraft your specific objectives.

Discussion

The section seems to be inline with the findings, please discuss your findings accordingly and suggest the implications of your findings to the study of reef fish species in the study area. Suggestions of the effect of reef fish species in continental shift should be form part of your recommendations not discussion.