

Review of: "Estimates of Atlantic Goliath Grouper (*Epinephelus Itajara*) Bycatch Mortality in Commercial Fisheries of the Southeastern Us From 2002 to 2022"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Dear Gabri

Peer Review Team, Qeios

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Reviewer comments related to Manuscript: Estimates of Atlantic goliath grouper (*Epinephelus itajara*) bycatch mortality in commercial fisheries of the Southeastern US from 2002 to 2022, by Christopher Koenig, Felicia Coleman, James V. Locascio - **Qeios, CC-BY 4.0 · Article, March 19, 2024.**

The work appears interesting, and it's an important contribution to update the knowledge of Atlantic goliath grouper occurrence in the Southeastern US.

The manuscript is well-set-up, rigorous, and complete.

The figures/tables are well made and immediate in their reading.

The bibliographic search is updated and extensive.

A single observation: in the bibliography, various episodes of mortality, even significant ones, of groupers of the genus *Epinephelus*, in various parts of the world, caused by Betanodavirus, are reported. Among the various causes of decline in the population of Atlantic giant grouper, perhaps this possibility should also at least be mentioned. It could be included in the introductory paragraph. Below are some works on the matter:

- Vendramin et al., BMC Veterinary Research 2013, 9:20: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1746-6148/9/20>
- Anales de Biología 42: 53-62, 2020 ARTÍCULO: <http://dx.doi.org/10.6018/analesbio.42.07>
- Aquaculture, Volume 529, 15 December 2020, 735662:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0044848620308899?via%3Dihub>

I have no major revisions to propose, only minor revisions.

The work therefore deserves to be published.

Minor revisions:

In the title, please change the characters written in capital letters.

In the Discussion paragraph: Because capture-release recreational fisheries are common off Florida...please change in Because capture-release recreational fisheries are common off Florida.

In References, there are various imperfections, repetitions:

Brown et al.....pages 8 pp ???

Drumhiller et al.....190-199 6 : 190:199 ???

Koenig et al....fisheries45 ???

Runde et al....10:100-117, 201 10:100-117 ???