

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 work done by the authors is commendable. The paper is concise and easy to read. Overall, the study provided information over a large area that previously was a gap in fisheries science in the Southwest Atlantic. The study elucidated the state of large, pelagic predator communities targeted for fisheries, their spatial distribution, and possible dispersion patterns. My main concern about the paper is the date of data collection. As I understood from the paper, the conclusions were made based on a decades-old dataset. In an area where fisheries have been conducted at a business-as-usual pace, there is a high probability that the communities surveyed have changed. Thus, conclusions made in the paper, especially the answers to objectives 1 and 4, must be considered with caution despite the robust sampling. However, no other studies have been recently conducted at this scale, which still makes this paper important in providing insights on what the state of the communities was during that time. I suggest that the authors provide more emphasis on the period of data collection. Hence, the conclusions should be stated with a clear mention of the period covered in the study to provide the readers with proper background. I would like to extend my congratulations to the authors for their contribution to improving our understanding of mesophotic reef fish communities in this part of the Atlantic.