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TROPICAIS - SAT**

Estado de conservação das populações de budiões ao longo da costa brasileira

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Estado de conservação das populações de budiões ao longo da costa brasileira

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Orientador: Prof. Dr. Carlos Werner Hackradt

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Resumo

Áreas Marinhas Protegidas (AMPs) são áreas onde a pesca é controlada ou proibida, sendo uma ferramenta com o objetivo de recuperar populações ameaçadas pela sobrepesca e para a conservação da biodiversidade. No Brasil, os efeitos das AMPs são pouco compreendidos, pois há poucos estudos que avaliam sua eficácia, mesmo abrigo grupos-chave, como os budiões, espécies endêmicas e ameaçadas pela pesca predatória. O objetivo deste trabalho foi avaliar o papel de diferentes tipos de manejo em AMPs na recuperação de populações de cinco espécies de budiões: *Scarus trispinosus*, *Scarus zelindae*, *Sparisoma amplum*, *Sparisoma axillare* and *Sparisoma frondosum*. Esperávamos que as AMPs de proteção integral influenciassem no crescimento da abundância e biomassa dessas espécies. Seis AMPs ao longo da costa foram amostradas entre janeiro e fevereiro de 2021, usando censos visuais para acessar a abundância, biomassa e tamanho dos budiões, bem como caracterizar seus habitats. Os resultados mostraram que as AMPs de proteção integral aumentaram a abundância e a biomassa das espécies de budiões, mostrando que elas se beneficiam da proteção. As categorias de Uso Sustentável apresentam baixa abundância e biomassa de espécies de budiões semelhantes à zonas não protegidas. Os resultados sugerem que medidas adicionais são necessárias para conservar efetivamente algumas espécies que ainda estão ameaçadas mesmo dentro de áreas protegidas e garantir que elas estarão aqui no futuro.

Palavras-chave: peixe-papagaio, Scarini, Áreas Marinhas Protegidas, efeito da proteção

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1 Conservation status of parrotfish populations along the brazilian coast

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19 ABSTRACT: In Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) fishing is controlled or forbidden as a
20 tool for population recovery and biodiversity conservation. In Brazil, the effects of
21 MPAs are poorly understood, since there are few studies that evaluate their
22 effectiveness, even though they harbor key groups, like endemic parrotfishes that are
23 threatened by overfishing. The aim of this work was to evaluate the role of different
24 types of management MPAs in recovering populations of five parrotfish species: *Scarus*
25 *trispinosus*, *Scarus zelindae*, *Sparisoma amplum*, *Sparisoma axillare* and *Sparisoma*
26 *frondosum*. We expected that MPAs of Fully protection would increase abundance and
27 biomass of these species. Six MPAs along the coast were sampled between January and
28 February of 2021, using visual censuses to assess the abundance, biomass and size of
29 parrotfishes, as well as characterizing their habitats. The results showed that Fully
30 Protected MPAs increased the abundance and biomass of parrotfish species, showing
31 that they benefit from protection. Categories of Multiple use present low abundance and
32 biomass of parrotfish species, similar to not protected zones. The findings suggest that

33 additional measures are needed to effectively conserve some species that are still under
34 threat even within protected areas, to guarantee that they will be there in the future.

35 KEY WORDS: parrotfish, Scarini, Marine Protected Areas, protection effect

36 INTRODUCTION

37 Brazilian parrotfishes are threatened by overfishing (Bender et al. 2014, Roos et al.
38 2016, Pinheiro et al. 2021), and different from another locals around the world, where
39 parrotfishes species face multiple legislations (e.g. Caribbean islands), there it is a
40 single nation to management the fisheries on their endemic parrotfishes species
41 (Ferreira et al. 2004, Floeter et al. 2005, Morais et al. 2017, Hoey et al. 2018, Pinheiro
42 et al. 2021, de Queiroz-Véras et al. 2023). Therefore, little is known about the status of
43 parrotfish populations in Brazil, wich has 7491km of coastline, due to lack of systematic
44 fishing monitoring and does not assess their parrotfish stocks (Pinheiro et al. 2021).

45 They perform various important ecological processes and are important for brazilian
46 coral reefs (Lellys et al. 2019), such as in aport of biomass, like *Scarus trispinosus* in
47 sites along the coast (Francini-Filho and Moura 2008a, b, Bonaldo et al. 2006, Francini-
48 Filho et al. 2010, Bruce et al. 2012, Giglio et al. 2020). The absence of these species can
49 have disastrous consequences for reef ecosystems (Duffy 2003), as they help maintain
50 the resilience of reefs (Mumby et al. 2006, Hughes et al. 2007). Also, these species can
51 influence the diversity of fish assemblages in different communities (Bellwood et al.
52 2012).

53 Worldwide, the decline of large predatory fish populations, such as groupers, snappers,
54 redfish, and tunas (Freire & Pauly 2010, Freitas et al. 2018), driven by increased fishing
55 efforts, has led to a shift in fishing towards large herbivores, making them more
56 vulnerable (Pauly et al. 1998, Duffy 2003). This has drastically impacted parrotfish
57 populations, including Brazilian parrotfish populations, as evidenced by the decline in
58 their biomass (Bender et al. 2014, Bonaldo et al. 2017, Roos et al. 2020a, de Queiroz-
59 Véras et al. 2023). According to the Official List of Endangered Species, some of the
60 Brazilian parrotfish species are threatened by overfishing (Ministerio do Meio
61 Ambiente, Decree No. 445 of 2014). These species are: *Scarus trispinosus* (Endangered:
62 EN), *Scarus zelindae* (Vulnerable: VU), *Sparisoma axillare* (VU), *Sparisoma*

63 *frondosum* (VU), and *Sparisoma rocha* (VU). Recently, the species list was updated,
64 and *Sparisoma amplum* remained excluded from the Decree No. 148 of 2022. However,
65 this species was included in the Parrotfish Recovery Plan (Freitas 2016) due to its
66 similar biological characteristics to the other species and being targeted by fishing
67 activities along the Brazilian coast, as it can reach large sizes (Xavier 2015) and has
68 been classified as Near Threatened (NT) in the Red Book of Threatened Brazilian Fauna
69 (Brasil 2018). Due to the lack of fishing landing monitoring along the coast, it is not
70 possible to confirm compliance with the regulations established in these legislations
71 (Pineiro et al. 2021).

72 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), where fishing is controlled or completely prohibited,
73 when well-planned, are considered an effective tool for conserving biodiversity,
74 maintaining ecosystem functions, providing services, and managing fisheries in reef
75 environments (Cinner et al. 2012, Hackradt et al. 2014, Williams & Graham 2019).
76 There are few studies that evaluate the effectiveness of MPAs considering their
77 managements strategies in the Brazilian coast (Ferreira et al. 2004, Floeter et al. 2006,
78 Floeter et al. 2005, Ferreira et al. 2022).

79 We assessed the abundance, biomass and size class distribution of five species of
80 parrotfish (*Scarus trispinosus*, *Sc. zelindae*, *Sparisoma amplum*, *Sp. axillare* and *Sp.*
81 *frondosum*) in different management strategies in six MPAs along the Brazilian coast.
82 We expected that MPAs of Fully protection would increased abundance and biomass of
83 parrotfish species (Francini-Filho and Moura 2008a), and others of Multiple use would
84 show lower abundance and biomass (Francini-Filho and Moura 2008a, b, Bender et al.
85 2014).

86 **1. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

87 **2.1 Sampling sites**

88 The study was carried out in six sites along the Brazilian coast spanning more than
89 2000km of coastline (Fig. 1). In each site, areas within Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
90 with different management strategies and adjacent areas where fishing is allowed were
91 sampled: Recife de Corais Environmental Protection Area (APARC), Costa dos Corais
92 Environmental Protection Area (APACC), Recife de Fora Municipal Marine Park

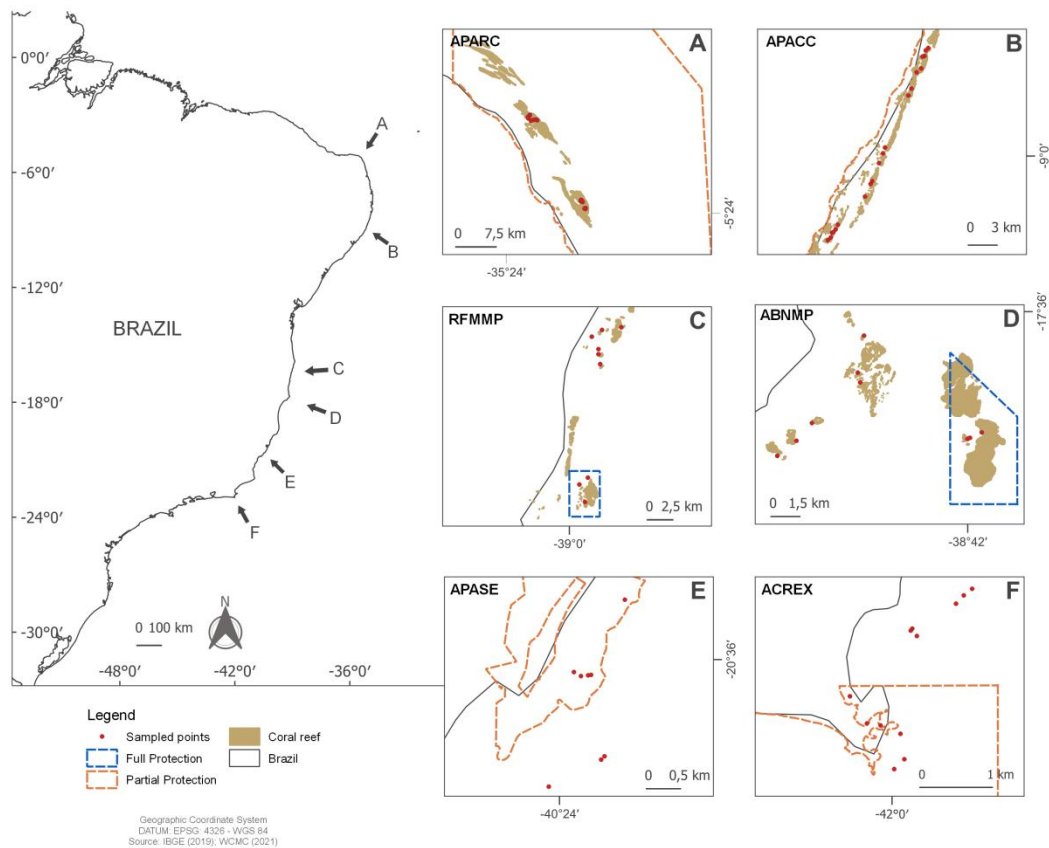
93 (RFMMP), Abrolhos National Marine Park (ABNMP), Setiba Environmental Protection
 94 Area (APASE) and Arraial do Cabo Reserve Extractive (ACREX). The Brazilian
 95 National System of Conservation Units of Nature was established by law in 2000 and
 96 categorizes MPAs in two groups, Fully Protected and Multiple use. MPAs Fully
 97 Protected investigated, equivalent for IUCN were Category II: National Park, and for
 98 Multiple Use were Category V: Marine protected landscape and Category VI: Protected
 99 are with sustainable use of natural resources (Table 1).

100 Table 1. Characteristic of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) studied along Brazilian coast.
 101 Management Category according to their management intent: no-take areas, extractive reserves
 102 and multiple use. IUCN Category equivalent to SNUC, Area: area of MPA (hectares), No-take:
 103 areas where fisheries and tourism are forbidden (hectares), Distance: Distance of the coast in
 104 kilometers, Year: Year of establishment, Controlled by: institution responsible for supervision
 105 inside MPA boundaries. Please refer to Fig. 1 for the geographic location of MPAs.

MPA*	Management Category	IUCN Category	MPA size	No-take	Distance	Year	Controlled by
A. APARC	Multiple use	Marine protected landscape (V)	136.000	631	5	2001	IDEMA ¹
B. APACC	Multiple use	Marine protected landscape (V)	400.000	5.546	-	1997	ICMBio, MMA ²
C. RFMMP	No-take	National park (II)	1.190	200	1.3	1997	SMMA ³
D. ABNMP	No-take	National park (II)	80.200	Guarita island	50	1983	ICMBio, MMA ²
E. APASE	Multiple use	Marine protected landscape (V)	12.960	3	11	1998	IEMA ⁴
F. ACREX	Extractive reserve	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources (VI)	0.05	670	-	1997	ICMBio, MMA ²

106 ¹Sustainable Development and Environmental Institute of Rio Grande do Norte¹, ²Biodiversity Conservation Chico
 107 Mendes Institute, Environmental Ministry, ³Municipal Secretary of Environment of Porto Seguro, Bahia (SMMA),
 108 ⁴Environmental and Hidric Resources Institute of Espirito Santo state (IEMA).

109 * Acronyms of MPA names are in accordance with SNUC (2000): Environmental Protection Area (APA), Municipal
 110 Park (MMP), National Park (NMP) and Extractive Reserve (RESEX)



111

112 Fig. 1. Map of the Brazilian coast showing the six sites where surveys were conducted. A:
 113 Recife de Corais Environmental Protection Area (APARC); B: Costa dos Corais Environmental
 114 Protection Area (APACC); Recife de Fora Municipal Marine Park (RFMMP); Abrolhos
 115 National Marine Park (ABNMP); Setiba Environmental Protection Area (APASE); and Marine
 116 Extractive Reserve of Arraial do Cabo (ACREX). Sampled points are the sectors (red dots).
 117 Delimitation of MPAs boundaries and Protection Level: Full Protection (blue dashes) and
 118 Partial Protection (orange dashes).

119 2.3 Sampling design

120 We established a sampling design to evaluate the effectiveness of six MPAs in
 121 protecting parrotfish with different management strategies, where in each MPA, zones
 122 were selected being: Protected zones (P), Partially Protected zones (PP) and Not
 123 Protected (NP) zones. For two MPAs, due their extension, we added a factor called
 124 Locality, and in each, two zones were established like mentioned before. In each zone,
 125 sectors (S: random factor) were arranged, where a total of 448 visual censuses were
 126 conducted (Fig. 1).

127 In APARC, an orthogonal design was applied, considering two Localities (2 levels). In
 128 each Locality, two zones were sampled, being one Protected (P) and one Partially

129 Protected (PP), in the first Locality we sampled eight and in second five sectors (Fig.
130 1A). Due to its size and specific characteristics, an orthogonal design was also used in
131 three different Localities in APACC (Fig. 1B), and in each Locality were established
132 two zones (P vs. PP). The first Locality were sampled 8 sectors, and second and final
133 Locality 6 sectors each. Specifically in APARC and APACC, the PP zones were inside
134 the MPA boundaries, but are open-access areas. The design was unbalanced for RFMMP
135 and ABNMP (*Beyond-BACI*, Underwood 1994), and three zones were established in
136 each local, being the MPA the Protected zone and the other two Not Protected zones,
137 with 3 sectors each zone (Fig. 1C, D). In APASE were sampled three zones, being the
138 no-take zone Protected, the multiple use area within the MPA being Partially Protected
139 (PP), and Not Protected in adjacent areas, with three sectors in each zone (except for PP,
140 where two sectors were sampled). And finally in ACREX were sampled two zones,
141 being the zone inside the MPA considerer PP, given the Multiple use characteristics, and
142 the NP zone in adjacent unprotected areas, with six sectors each.

143 2.4 Accessing parrotfish populations

144 The data were collected by SCUBA diving visual underwater censuses on transects with
145 an area of 100m² (20x5m) adapted from the Reef Check Brasil methodology (Brasil
146 2018) throughout January and February 2021. A previously trained diver stretches a
147 measuring tape to mark the transect path and moves at a constant speed (Lincoln Smith
148 1988, 1989) identifying fish species, estimating individual abundance in a geometric
149 scale (1; 2-5; 6-10; 11-30; 31-50; 51-100; 101-200; 201-500; >500) and estimate their
150 total size in two-centimeter size classes to reduce the error and standardize the
151 estimations between observers (Hackradt et al. 2011). After that, size classes
152 distribution of 10 centimeters were created to evaluate the number of individuals
153 observed in each class (juveniles, adults, and terminal phases). Biomass was calculated
154 using weight-length relationships available in the literature (Robins and Ray 1986,
155 Moura et al. 2001).

156 2.5 Environmental variables

157 Environmental variables were accessed to identify how they influence the distribution
158 of these populations and differentiate the zones sampled in each MPA and adjacent

159 areas. Some environmental variables were sampled, like: depth; habitat complexity was
160 assessed with reef inclination (INCLI) and habitat roughness (ROUGH); heterogeneity
161 was evaluated with percentage of sand, reef, rubble (RUBBL) and seagrass (SEAGR).
162 Depth was assessed with dive computer in meters; INCLI in visual scale of degrees of
163 inclination of the reef (0°, 15°, 30°, 45°, 60°, 90°); roughness was visually estimated in
164 categories from 1 to 5, with 1 being low and 5 being high (Gratwicke & Speight 2005);
165 heterogeneity was a visual estimative of percentage (%) on habitat characteristics
166 mentioned before.

167 Benthic communities were assessed through substrate coverage census using the PIT
168 (Point Intercept Transect) method where the benthic community is sampled only at fixed
169 intervals and without measuring its size, simplifying the sampling and increasing
170 efficiency (Hill & Wilkinson 2004, Facon et al. 2016). We used 50cm intervals
171 (Hodgson 1999; Brazil 2018), totaling 40 points along the transect. The observed
172 organisms were: Encrusting Coralline Algae (ECA), Articulated Coralline Algae (ACA),
173 Macroalgae (MC), Algae Turf (AT), Soft Coral (SC), Branched Soft Coral (BSC), Hard
174 Coral (HC), Sea Urchins (SU) and Sponges (SP).

175 2.6 Data analysis

176 We evaluated the correlation between environmental variables using the Spearman
177 correlation coefficient (r), whose values can vary between -1 (inverse relationships) and
178 +1. Values indicate the magnitude of the correlation between the variables, which can
179 be classified as “weak” ($0.1 < |r| < 0.39$), “moderate” ($0.39 < |r| < 0.69$) or “strong”
180 ($0.70 < |r| < 1.00$) (Burnham and Anderson 2004). When two predictors showed strong
181 correlation, the most explanatory variable was selected using published literature of
182 habitat preferences of parrotfishes (Bonaldo et al. 2014) and then was used in the
183 Principal Component Analysis (PCA) (Table S1 to S6). We used a PCA for each site
184 separately, to evaluate the similarity between zones (P x PP x NP), to summarize the data
185 and identify directions along the variation using the ‘vegan’ package (Oksanen et al.
186 2008).

187 Data analysis was conducted to understand the differences in abundance, biomass, and
188 size of parrotfish between zones in each MPAs studied, therefore, a Permutation

189 analysis of variance (PERMANOVA) was performed using the software Primer
190 v.6.1.15 with the Permanova v.1.0.5 extension, using 9999 permutations and a
191 significance level of $p < 0.05$. Abundance, biomass, and size (Univariate and
192 Multivariate: species composition) data were used to assess the potential response to
193 different types of protection under parrotfish species.

194 To assess the relationship between parrotfish abundance with the environmental
195 variables, firstly to decide whether analysis apply, linear or unimodal ordination method,
196 we calculated DCA (detrended by segments) on data, and check the length of the first
197 DCA axis (Lepš and Šmilauer 2003). The dataset was homogeneous, so we applied a
198 linear method, a redundancy analysis (RDA), with the package ‘vegan’(Oksanen et al.
199 2008). Non variables had a variance inflation factor (VIF) > 3 , so all habitat
200 characteristics were used in the analysis (Zuur et al. 2010). All previous analyses were
201 performed in R version 4.0.4 (R Core Team 2015, www.r-project.org).

202 **2. RESULTS**

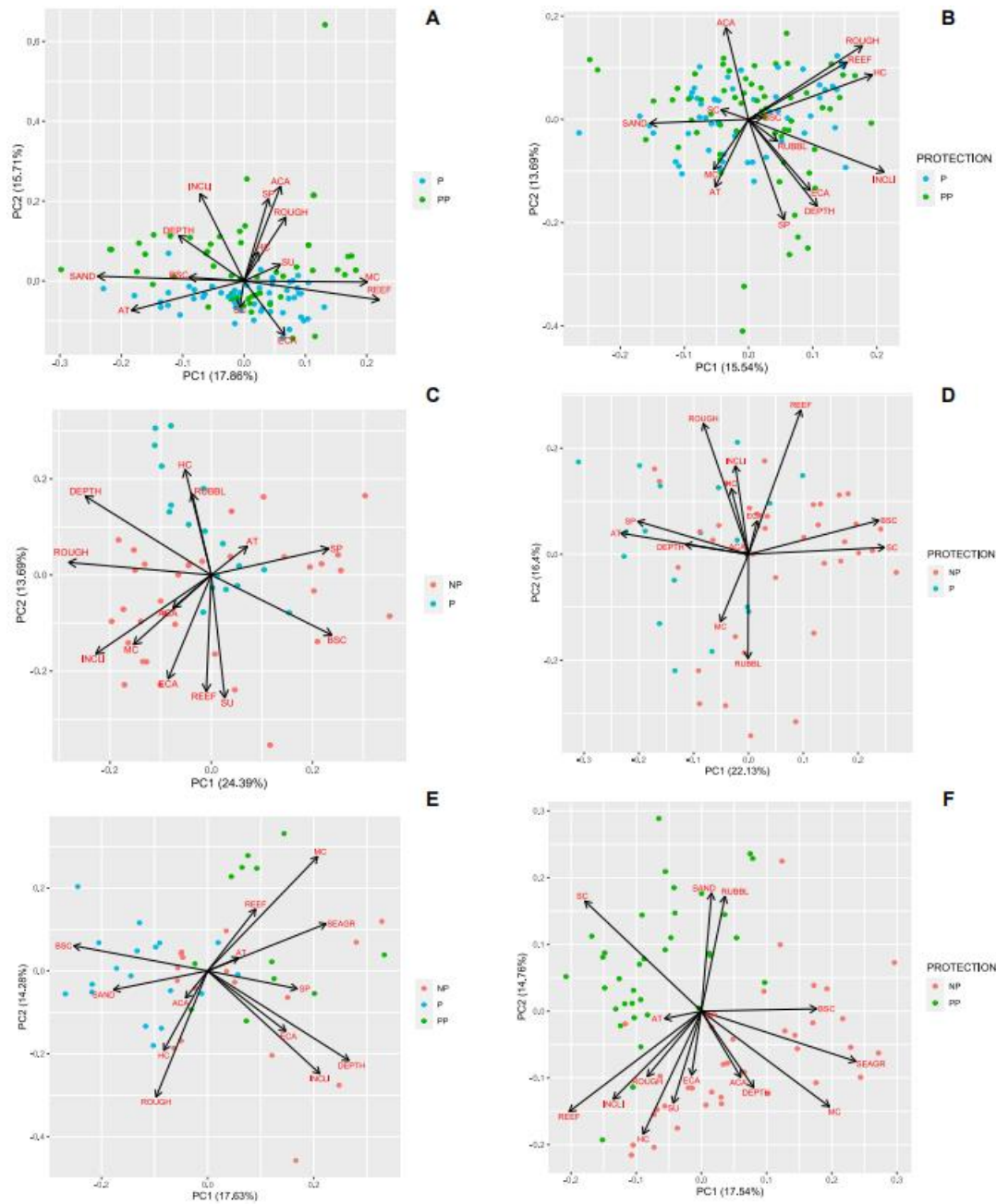
203 2.1 Habitat characteristics

204 In APARC, the Partial Protected zone was characterized as being more complex and
205 deeper than the Protected, besides that, the distribution of samples of Protection factor
206 are separated when we observe the PCA plot (Fig. 2A). In APACC, the PCA revealed
207 that the Protected and Partial Protected zones of APACC had similar characteristics,
208 with a considerable overlap of samples between these areas (Fig. 2B).

209 In RFMMP, the Protected zone was more homogeneous in relation to Rubble and HC
210 than the Not Protected (Fig. 2C). In ABNMP, the NP zone had higher coverage of SC
211 and BSC, while P zone had more coverage of AT and SP (Fig. 2D). ABNMP was the
212 only MPA that showed significant differences in the Protection factor for abundance,
213 and also average size (Table 2, Table 4). Environmental and benthic coverage variables
214 in RFMMP and ABNMP had the highest variance explanations of PCs (approximately
215 38%).

216 In APASE, the PP zone had more MC and Reef, while P had more Sand and BSC and
217 in the NP zone, there was greater variation in environmental variables (Fig. 2E). In the

218 ACREX, there was a clear separation between samples within the PP (with a lot of Sand,
 219 Rubble, and SC) and NP, which was deeper and had more HC, MC and Seagrass (Fig.
 220 2F).



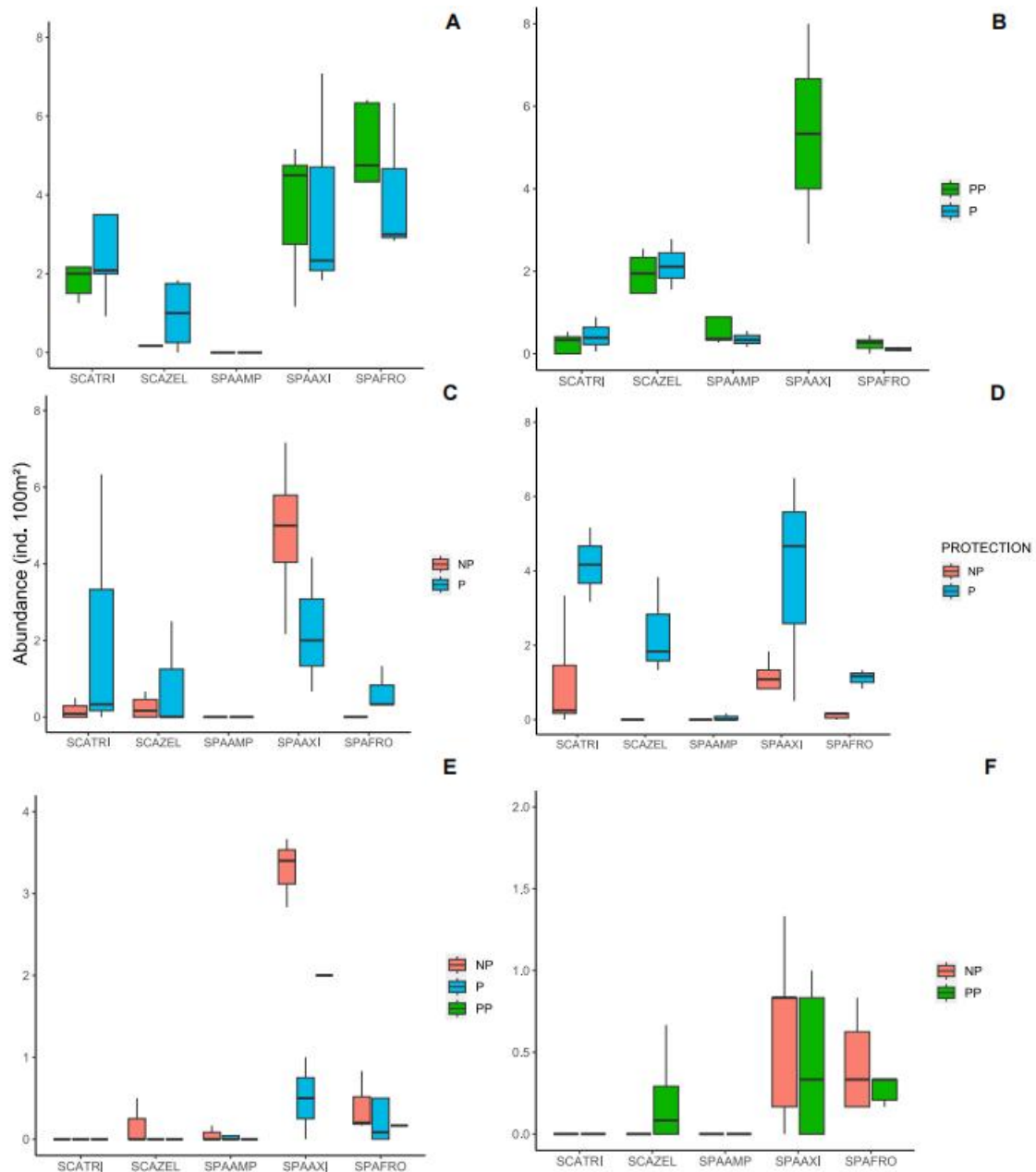
221

222 Fig. 2. Principal Component Analysis (PCA) for each site with environmental variables and
 223 benthic community. A: APARC, B: APACC, C: RFMMP, D: ABNMP, E: APASE and F:
 224 ACREX. NP: Not Protected, P: Protected and PP: Partially Protected. INCLI: Inclination,
 225 ROUGH: Roughness, RUBBL: Rubble, SEAGR: Seagrass, ECA: Encrusting Coralline Algae ,
 226 ACA: Articulated Coralline Algae, MC: Macroalgae, AT: Algae Turf, SC: Soft Coral, BSC:
 227 Branched Soft Coral, HC: Hard Coral, SU: Sea Urchin and SP: Sponges.

228 2.2 Parrotfish abundance and biomass

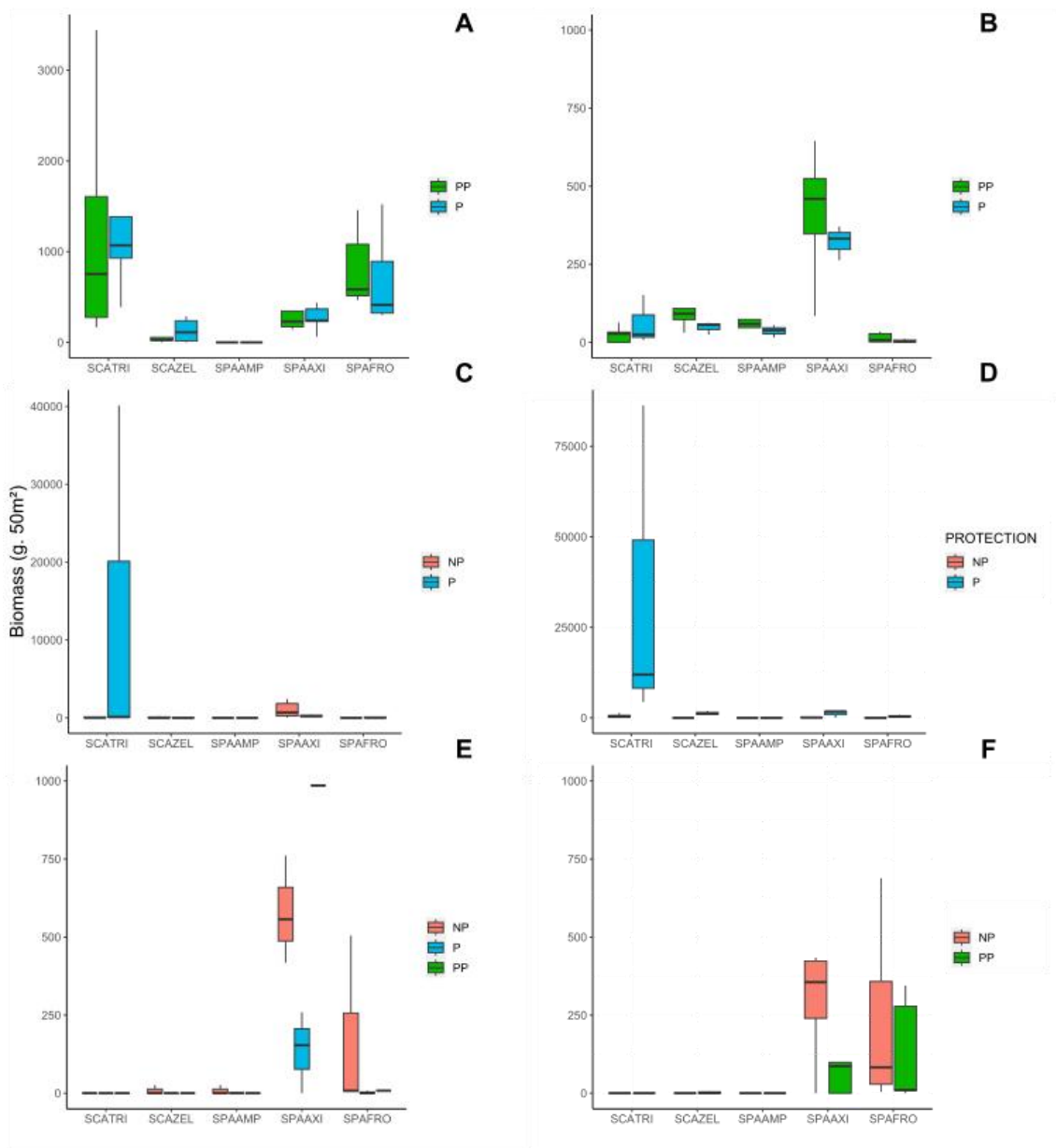
229 In APARC, APACC, RFMMP, APASE and ACREX the abundance of parrotfish was
230 similar between zones (Fig. 3). Only in ABNMP the average abundance of all parrotfish
231 species was higher within the Protected area (Fig. 3D). In APASE and ACREX non
232 individuals of *Sc. trispinosus* were observed. *Sparisoma amplum* was also not observed
233 in LR (Fig. 3E, F). *Sp. axillare* have higher abundance in PP and NP zones (except
234 ABNMP). Only for ABNMP was found a significant difference for abundance in the
235 Protection factor for both univariate (F=26.75, p<0.0005), being the total abundance of
236 parrotfishes, and multivariate (F=11.25, p<0.0005), being the parrotfish species
237 composition (Table 2).

238 In APACC the mean biomass of *Scarus trispinosus* is higher in the Protected zone (Fig.
239 4A). Also, in ABNMP we can see that the average biomass of *Sc. trispinosus* is higher
240 than all other species, causing the mean values of the others to be flattened (Fig. 4D).
241 The PERMANOVA analysis with biomass of parrotfishes not showed significant values
242 for the Protection factor (Table 3), but the results with average size of parrotfishes
243 showed significant differences in the composition of species for ABNMP (F=4.43,
244 p<0.005), explained by the occurrence of large individuals (>50cm, Fig. 5). APASE
245 also showed significant differences in the total size average of parrotfishes for Protection
246 factor (F=9.07, 0<0.005, Table 4), where we observed for *Sparisoma axillare* large
247 individuals in the Protected zone and for *Sp. frondosum* large individuals in the Partially
248 Protected zone (>20cm, Fig. 5).



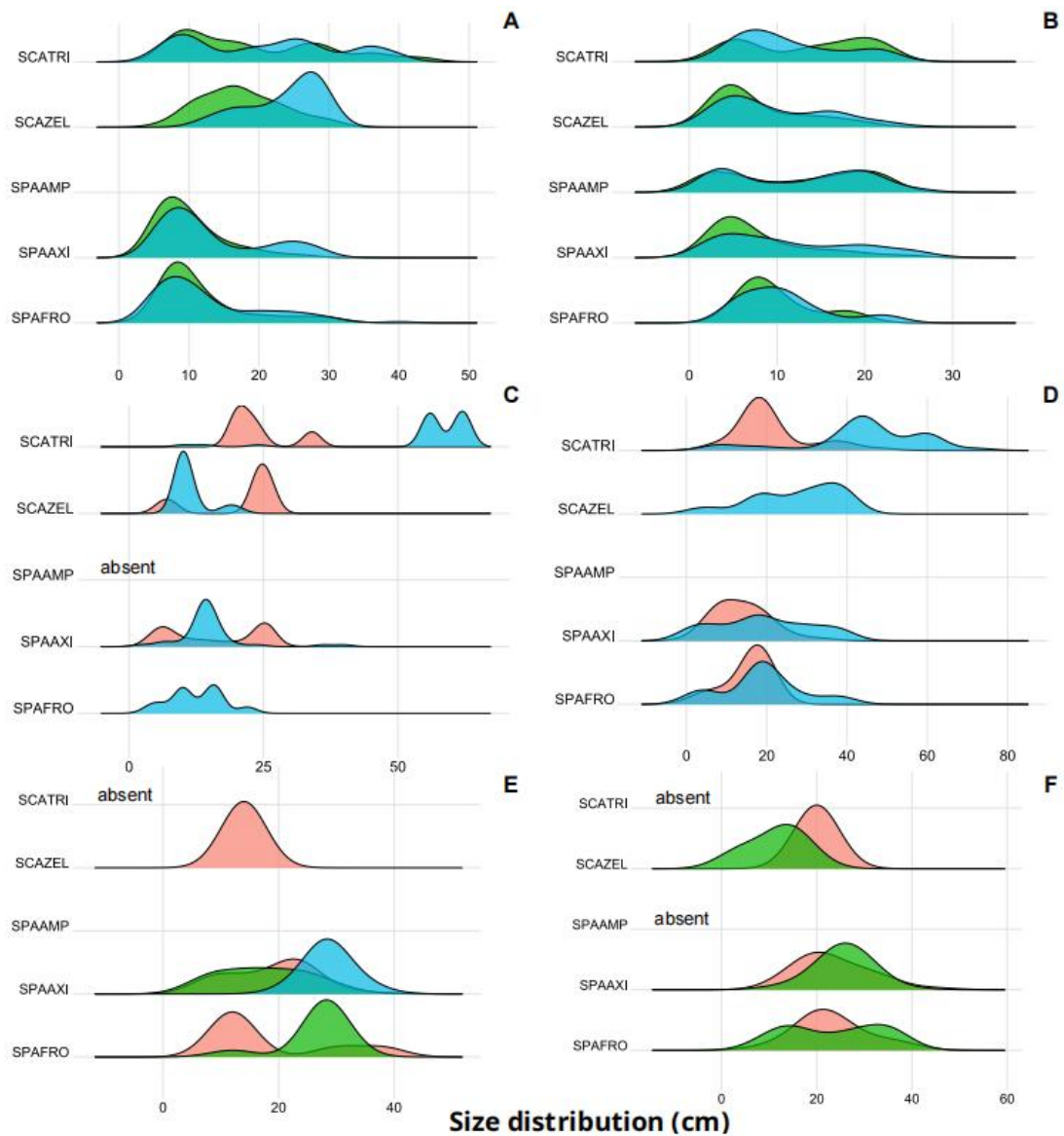
249

250 Fig. 3. Abundance (ind. 100m²) of parrotfishes species in each site with Protection factor in
 251 evidence. A: APARC, B: APACC, C: RFMMP, D: ABNMP, E: APASE and F: ACREX. NP:
 252 Not Protected (salmon), P: Protected (blue) and PP: Partially Protected (green). SCATRI:
 253 *Scarus trispinosus*, SCAZEL: *Scarus zelindae*, SPAAMP: *Sparisoma amplum*, SPAAXI:
 254 *Sparisoma axillare*, SPAFRO: *Sparisoma frondosum* and SPARAD: *Sparisoma radians*. Boxes
 255 indicate the quantiles, bars indicate mean values, different colors indicate Protection and
 256 whiskers represents the standard error. Please refer to Fig. 1 for MPAs names.



257

258 Fig. 4. Biomass (g. 100m²) of parrotfishes species in each site with Protection factor in evidence.
 259 A: APARC, B: APACC, C: RFMMP, D: ABNMP, E: APASE and F: ACREX. NP: Not
 260 Protected (salmon), P: Protected (blue) and PP: Partially Protected (green). SCATRI: *Scarus*
 261 *trispinosus*, SCAZEL: *Scarus zelindae*, SPAAMP: *Sparisoma amplum*, SPAAAXI: *Sparisoma*
 262 *axillare*, SPAFRO: *Sparisoma frondosum* and SPARAD: *Sparisoma radians*. Boxes indicate the
 263 quantiles, bars indicate mean values, different colors indicate Protection and whiskers represents
 264 the standard error. Please refer to Fig. 1 for MPAs names.



265

266 Fig. 5. Size distribution (densities) of parrotfishes species in each site with Protection factor in
 267 evidence. A: APARC, B: APACC, C: RFMMP, D: ABNMP, E: APASE and F: ACREX. NP:
 268 Not Protected (salmon), P: Protected (blue) and PP: Partially Protected (green). SCATRI:
 269 *Scarus trispinosus*, SCAZEL: *Scarus zelindae*, SPAAMP: *Sparisoma amplum*, SPAAXI:
 270 *Sparisoma axillare*, SPAFRO: *Sparisoma frondosum* and SPARAD: *Sparisoma radians*. Please
 271 refer to Fig. 1 for MPAs names.

272 Table 2. PERMANOVA of Univariate and Multivariate Abundance of parrotfishes for each Local: APARC, APACC, RFMMP, ABNMP, APSE and
 273 ACREX. L: Localities, SE: Sectors, DF: Degrees of Freedom and SQ: Sum of Squares. Bold cells means significant values $p < 0.05$. Please refer to Fig. 1
 274 for MPAs names.

Factors	DF	APARC Abundance Uni.		APARC Abundance Multi.		DF	APACC Abundance Uni.		APACC Abundance Multi.	
		Pseudo-F	P(perm)	Pseudo-F	P(perm)		Pseudo-F	P(perm)	Pseudo-F	P(perm)
LO	1	11,945	0,0497	2,5247	0,1366	2	4,2128	0,1018	3,4748	0,0256
Protection(LO)	2	0,17739	0,8478	0,96923	0,4545	4	1,2301	0,3438	1,562	0,1255
SE(Protection(LO))	14	5,2651	0,0001	2,6879	0,0001	14	1,3349	0,2033	1,1978	0,2129
Fatores	DF	RFMMP Abundance Uni.		RFMMP Abundance Multi.		DF	ABNMP Abundance Uni.		ABNMP Abundance Multi.	
		Pseudo-F	P(perm)	Pseudo-F	P(perm)		Pseudo-F	P(perm)	Pseudo-F	P(perm)
Protection	2	1,2729	0,351	2,5579	0,0695	2	26,751	0,0001	11,257	0,0001
SEC(Protection)	6	1,6697	0,1718	1,6072	0,1064	6	0,91303	0,5021	0,84066	0,6293
Fatores	DF	APASE Abundance Uni.		APASE Abundance Multi.		DF	ACREX Abundance Uni.		ACREX Abundance Multi.	
		Pseudo-F	P(perm)	Pseudo-F	P(perm)		Pseudo-F	P(perm)	Pseudo-F	P(perm)
Protection	2	3,9834	0,1056	3,4106	0,0695	1	1,8717	0,2058	1,3952	0,2725
SEC(Protection)	5	0,89982	0,4985	1,2632	0,2878	10	1,9287	0,0633	1,8531	0,0131

275

276 Table 3. PERMANOVA of Univariate and Multivariate Biomass of parrotfishes for each Local: APARC, APACC, RFMMP, ABNMP, APSE and
 277 ACREX. L: Localities, SE: Sectors, DF: Degrees of Freedom and SQ: Sum of Squares. Bold cells means significant values $p < 0.05$. Please refer to Fig. 1
 278 for MPAs names.

Factors	DF	APARC Biomass Uni.		APARC Biomass Multi.		DF	APACC Biomass Uni.		APACC Biomass Multi.	
		Pseudo-F	P(perm)	Pseudo-F	P(perm)		Pseudo-F	P(perm)	Pseudo-F	P(perm)
LO	1	0,89669	0,4755	0,27913	0,7994	2	7,0884	0,0499	4,2972	0,0633
Protection(LO)	2	0,4032	0,6739	1,6642	0,2055	4	0,52413	0,7244	0,55033	0,7315
SE(Protection(LO))	14	2,4284	0,0118	1,6559	0,0651	13	1,2508	0,2519	1,1535	0,3121
Factors	DF	RFMMP Abundance Uni.		RFMMP Abundance Multi.		DF	ABNMP Abundance Uni.		ABNMP Abundance Multi.	

		Pseudo-F	P(perm)	Pseudo-F	P(perm)		Pseudo-F	P(perm)	Pseudo-F	P(perm)
Protection	2	0,75226	0,5858	0,74171	0,5898	2	0,2898	0,762	0,26605	0,7744
SEC(Protection)	6	5,1505	0,0018	5,4481	0,0012	6	2,1549	0,0515	2,2596	0,0464
Factors	DF	APASE Abundance Uni.		APASE Abundance Multi.		DF	ACREX Abundance Uni.		ACREX Abundance Multi.	
		Pseudo-F	P(perm)	Pseudo-F	P(perm)		Pseudo-F	P(perm)	Pseudo-F	P(perm)
Protection	2	0,50099	0,6183	0,91594	0,4376	1	7,91E-02	0,7836	1,56E-01	0,8914
SEC(Protection)	5	1,0762	0,3887	1,0407	0,4091	10	3,1863	0,0041	2,1343	0,0109

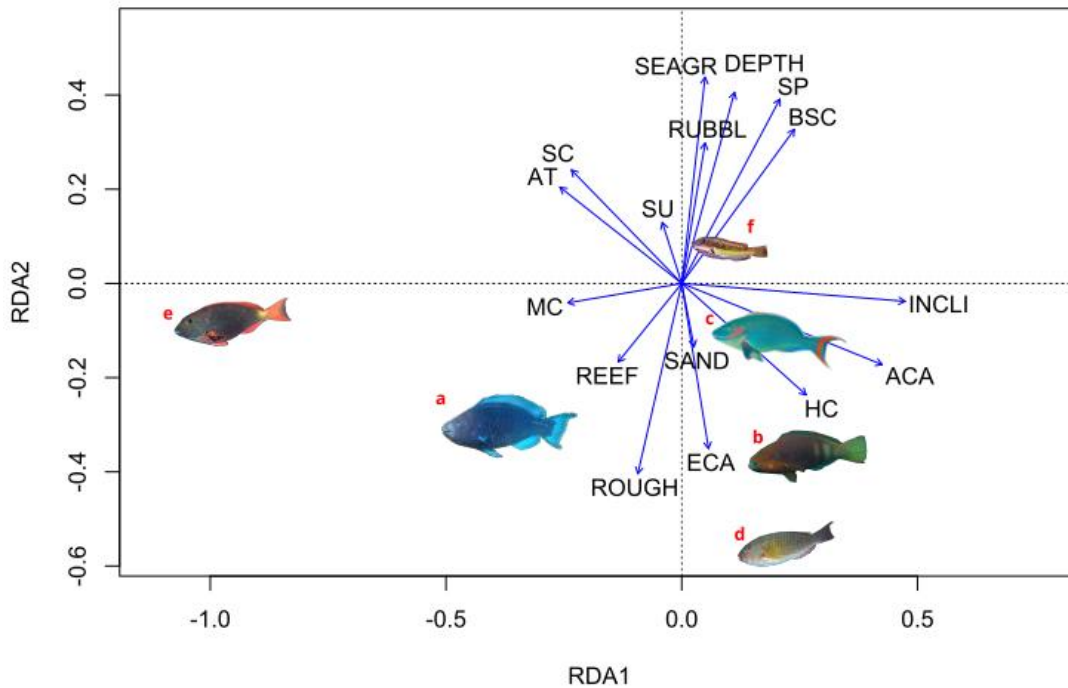
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280 Table 4. PERMANOVA of Univariate and Multivariate average Size of parrotfishes for each Local: APARC, APACC, RFMMP, ABNMP, APSE and
 281 ACREX. L: Localities, SE: Sectors, DF: Degrees of Freedom and SQ: Sum of Squares. Bold cells means significant values $p < 0.05$. Please refer to Fig. 1
 282 for MPAs names.

Factors	DF	APARC Abundance Uni.		APARC Abundance Multi.		DF	APACC Abundance Uni.		APACC Abundance Multi.	
		Pseudo-F	P(perm)	Pseudo-F	P(perm)		Pseudo-F	P(perm)	Pseudo-F	P(perm)
LO	1	5,7433	0,1402	1,6427	0,2722	2	1,6316	0,3032	2,1738	0,0623
Protection(LO)	2	0,05301	0,95	0,46924	0,838	4	0,99557	0,4453	1,5123	0,1166
SE(Protection(LO))	14	2,8532	0,0015	2,5147	0,0001	13	1,5861	0,105	1,3626	0,0489
Fatores	DF	RFMMP Abundance Uni.		RFMMP Abundance Multi.		DF	ABNMP Abundance Uni.		ABNMP Abundance Multi.	
		Pseudo-F	P(perm)	Pseudo-F	P(perm)		Pseudo-F	P(perm)	Pseudo-F	P(perm)
Protection	2	0,17072	0,8479	1,7133	0,1498	2	4,8393	0,055	4,4386	0,0055
SEC(Protection)	6	2,9933	0,0203	1,4592	0,1293	6	1,8889	0,1169	1,1062	0,3669
Fatores	DF	APASE Abundance Uni.		APASE Abundance Multi.		DF	ACREX Abundance Uni.		ACREX Abundance Multi.	
		Pseudo-F	P(perm)	Pseudo-F	P(perm)		Pseudo-F	P(perm)	Pseudo-F	P(perm)
Protection	2	9,0739	0,0059	3,914	0,0093	1	0,00054784	0,9818	1,8324	0,1767
SEC(Protection)	5	1,3929	0,2617	2,0671	0,0303	10	4,8506	0,0001	1,8953	0,0174

283

284 *Scarus trispinosus* was mainly associated with complex reefs with higher cover of
 285 coralline algae (ECA) and *Sparisoma frondosum* shared similar characteristics but also
 286 was associated with MC. *Sc. zelindae*, *Sp. amplum* and *Sp. axillare* were associated with
 287 similar habitat characteristics, high cover of HC and ECA. *Sparisoma radians* was
 288 associated with deeper reefs with sponges and BSC (Fig. 6).



289

290 Fig. 6. RDA with abundance data for all sites together with environmental variables and benthic
 291 community. a: *Scarus trispinosus*, b: *Scarus zelindae*, c: *Sparisoma amplum*, d: *Sparisoma*
 292 *axillare*, e: *Sparisoma frondosum*, f: *Sparisoma radians*. INCLI: Inclination, ROUGH:
 293 Roughness, RUBBL: Rubble, SEAGR: Seagrass, ECA: Encrusting Coralline Algae, ACA:
 294 Articulated Coralline Algae, MC: Macroalgae, AT: Algae Turf, SC: Soft Coral, BSC: Branched
 295 Soft Coral, HC: Hard Coral, SU: Sea Urchin and SP: Sponges. Please refer to Fig. 1 for the
 296 names of MPAs.

297

3. DISCUSSION

298 The present study is the largest research focused on parrotfishes (in terms of extension,
 299 number of MPAs embraced and species of parrotfish sampled), evaluating the role of
 300 different Brazilian management strategies in the maintenance of endangered and
 301 endemic species. Another studies in brazilian coast also evaluated MPAs effectiveness
 302 (Ferreira et al. 2004, Floeter et al. 2005, 2006, Ferreira et al. 2022), but not focused in

303 parrotfish threatened by overfishing (Bender et al. 2014, Roos et al. 2016, Pinheiro et al.
304 2021). So, why MPAs of Multiple use are not working to protectec endemic parrotfish?
305 Here, the effect of protection was observed more significantly in the Fully Protected
306 MPA of ABNMP. These MPA is the oldest, further from the coast and also enforced
307 since the 80's (Leão 1999). In these site, we have evidence that the abundance and
308 biomass of threatened parrotfish species are higher, demonstrating that areas with
309 fishing exclusion recover these species (Francini-Filho and Moura 2008a), results also
310 observe in this research.

311 Small MPAs have been shown to be effective in increasing species richness, fish group
312 diversity, and favoring ecological processes such as herbivory, coral cover, and higher
313 parrotfish density and biomass (Ferreira et al. 2005, Francini-Filho and Moura 2008a,b,
314 Bonaldo et al. 2017, Roos et al. 2020a). Evidence of spillover, when fish biomass spills
315 over the boundaries of the protected area, demonstrated that the blue parrotfish
316 (“budião-azul”) biomass was low before the area implementation (Francini-Filho &
317 Moura 2008b, Harmelin-Vivien et al. 2008, Halpern et al. 2010). MPAs of Fully
318 Protection can also play an essential role in maintaining the genetic diversity of
319 Brazilian parrotfish (Bezerra et al. 2018). Recently was found that the overall
320 abundance of *Sc. trispinosus* population in ABNMP has decreased over time, even
321 within the Protected area (Roos et al. 2020a). Seagrass habitats and macroalgae banks
322 are known to sustain high abundance of juvenile parrotfish (nursery), but lack protection
323 and are currently in decline (Chaves et al. 2010, Roos et al. 2019, 2020a). In this
324 research, *Scarus trispinosus* was associated with reefs with higher roughness and cover
325 of caralline algae, and *Sparisoma frondosum* had similar relationship with *Sc.*
326 *trispinosus*, but more related to MC, and these results are similar to other studies (Roos
327 et al. 2019).

328 A new brazilian management strategy published in 2019 called Inverted Management
329 Strategy (Pinheiro et al. 2021) allows threatened species to be caught in Multiple use
330 MPAs but prohibits it in any other location. As pointed out by the authors, currently
331 fishing occurs freely and without monitoring throughout the coast. In addition, the study
332 suggested widespread communication and prohibition of fishing for threatened species
333 until management plans are implemented, and only after proving the effectiveness of

334 this strategy for parrotfishes should it be applied to other threatened species (Pinheiro et
335 al. 2021). Freitas and colleagues (2019) point out, despite the critical state we have, for
336 example, for *Sc. trispinosus*, we need to recognize that totally prohibiting fishing in
337 remote locations is not effective. Research has shown that Fully Protected MPAs in
338 Brazil take longer to show the effects of protection compared to other countries
339 (Giakoumi et al., 2017; Goetze et al., 2021). In Bermuda, conservation measures have
340 been implemented since 1990 that have been rapidly effective in the recovery of
341 parrotfish populations (O'Farrel et al. 2016). Other examples of Public Policies
342 implemented on parrotfish management and protection around the world have been
343 implemented in Belize, Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico (Cox et al. 2013, Cannon
344 2018, SEGOB 2019, Healthy Reefs 2021). Nevertheless, evidence has been found that
345 Fully protected areas can be effective even when they are recent and surrounded by
346 intense fishing pressure (Floeter et al., 2006; Ferreira et al., 2022).

347 A study conducted through interviews in the municipalities within APACC showed that
348 the population of *Sc. trispinosus* suffered from overfishing, where fishermen noticed a
349 decrease in the number of individuals caught as well as their biomass (Pereira et al.
350 2021a), which in our results the abundance of *Sc. trispinosus* is low. Study have shown
351 population collapse of *Sc. trispinosus* in Arraial do Cabo (Bender et al. 2014), as well as
352 suggest local functional extinction (Floeter et al. 2008), and in this study, the species
353 was not observed. In another study, *Sp. axillare* and *Sc. zelindae* were only observed in
354 the eastern part of Arraial do Cabo, where temperatures are higher, the reefs are
355 shallower, and not affected by wave action as in the western part, where the
356 phenomenon of upwelling occurs (Cordeiro et al. 2015). When we look at the results of
357 abundance of ACREX, we can see that *Sc. zelindae* has a higher abundance in the
358 Partially Protected area, while in the Not Protected area it is absent, and also was
359 associated with Seagrass. Categories of Multiple use present low abundances of *Sc.*
360 *trispinosus*, *Sp. amplum*, and *Sp. frondosum*, similar to Not Protected areas (Francini-
361 Filho and Moura 2008a, b, Bender et al. 2014), and these pattern can be observed in the
362 results, when we observe APARC, APACC, APASE and ACREX.

363 The species of the *Sparisoma* genus reach larger sizes and have also become a target of
364 fishing, and their populations are at risk (Pinheiro et al. 2010, Nunes et al. 2012). *Sp.*

365 *axillare* was the only species that showed higher abundances outside the Protected areas
366 compared to the adjacent MPAs (Francini-Filho and Moura 2008a, b). This may be
367 related to the species habitat plasticity, which can adapt to the harsh conditions of
368 highly fished and algae-dominated areas (Ferreira et al. 2004). In this study, it was no
369 different, the abundance of *Sp. axillare* was also higher in the Not Protected areas,
370 except for ABNMP. *Sp. amplum* commonly presents higher abundances in Fully
371 Protected reserves within oceanic and coastal islands such as Fernando de Noronha,
372 Atol das Rocas, Trindade, and Abrolhos (Rosa and Moura 1997, Gasparini and Floeter
373 2001, Rocha and Rosa 2001, Ferreira et al. 2004, Francini-Filho and Moura 2008a, b,
374 Hoey et al. 2018).

375 **CONCLUSION**

376 It is clear that the marine ecosystems along the Brazilian coast are facing significant
377 threats due to human activities such as overfishing, pollution, and climate change (Hatje
378 and Barros 2012, Tedesco et al. 2017, Nunes et al. 2021, Oliveira et al. 2021, Pereira et
379 al. 2021b). However, the establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) has shown
380 promising results in conserving marine biodiversity and mitigating the negative impacts
381 of these threats around the world (Cinner et al. 2012, Hackradt et al. 2014, Williams and
382 Graham 2019). Several studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of MPAs in
383 protecting and increasing the abundance of fish species which are important for the
384 ecological functioning of coral reefs. However, other species, such as *Scarus trispinosus*,
385 have experienced population collapses and functional extinction, despite being protected
386 in MPAs (Bender et al. 2014, Roos et al. 2020a, Pereira et al. 2021b, de Queiroz-Véras
387 et al. 2023). The data revealed that Fully Protected areas have higher fish abundances
388 and larger sizes, indicating that they are effective in providing refuge. While MPAs
389 have proven to be effective tools in marine conservation, there is still much work to be
390 done to ensure the long-term sustainability of marine ecosystems. However, the findings
391 also suggest that additional measures are needed to effectively conserve some species
392 that are still under threat even within protected areas, such as *Scarus trispinosus*, to
393 guarantee that they will be there in the future.

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624 **Supplementary Information**

625 **Effect of protection on parrotfish species (Labridae: Scarini) along the Brazilian coast in different management strategies**

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629 Table S1. Spearman correlation test between environmental variables and benthic community to APARC. Result: No correlation between variables.

	DEPTH	INCLI	ROUGH	SAND	REEF	ECA	ACA	MC	AT	SC	BSC	HC	SU	SP
DEPTH		0,29	0,04	0,27	-0,14	-0,20	0,05	0,07	0,25	-0,23	0,12	-0,11	0,05	0,12
INCLI	0,29		0,18	0,11	-0,28	-0,22	0,38	-0,11	0,00	-0,22	-0,02	0,18	-0,04	0,18
ROUGH	0,04	0,18		-0,14	-0,06	-0,16	0,19	0,13	-0,28	-0,03	0,03	0,19	0,20	0,16
SAND	0,27	0,11	-0,14		-0,67	-0,13	-0,14	-0,43	0,20	0,00	0,17	0,00	-0,06	-0,09
REEF	-0,14	-0,28	-0,06	-0,67		0,13	0,14	0,40	-0,16	-0,02	-0,12	-0,10	0,06	0,08
ECA	-0,20	-0,22	-0,16	-0,13	0,13		-0,18	0,05	-0,11	-0,10	-0,08	-0,11	-0,13	-0,08
ACA	0,05	0,38	0,19	-0,14	0,14	-0,18		-0,06	-0,24	-0,08	-0,03	-0,09	-0,05	0,65
MC	0,07	-0,11	0,13	-0,43	0,40	0,05	-0,06		-0,46	-0,32	-0,13	-0,04	0,14	-0,10
AT	0,25	0,00	-0,28	0,20	-0,16	-0,11	-0,24	-0,46		-0,17	0,13	-0,29	-0,17	-0,12
SC	-0,23	-0,22	-0,03	0,00	-0,02	-0,10	-0,08	-0,32	-0,17		-0,03	-0,12	0,04	0,00
BSC	0,12	-0,02	0,03	0,17	-0,12	-0,08	-0,03	-0,13	0,13	-0,03		-0,05	-0,02	-0,01
HC	-0,11	0,18	0,19	0,00	-0,10	-0,11	-0,09	-0,04	-0,29	-0,12	-0,05		0,14	-0,01
SU	0,05	-0,04	0,20	-0,06	0,06	-0,13	-0,05	0,14	-0,17	0,04	-0,02	0,14		-0,02
SP	0,12	0,18	0,16	-0,09	0,08	-0,08	0,65	-0,10	-0,12	0,00	-0,01	-0,01	-0,02	

630

631 Table S2. Spearman correlation test between environmental variables and benthic community to APACC. Result: No correlation between variables.

	DEPTH	INCLI	ROUGH	SAND	REEF	RUBBL	ECA	ACA	MC	AT	SC	BSC	HC	SP
DEPTH		0,38	0,00	-0,03	-0,13	-0,07	0,25	-0,13	-0,17	0,09	-0,19	0,07	0,03	0,25

INCLI	0,38		0,25	-0,23	0,18	0,16	0,20	-0,23	-0,02	-0,04	-0,07	0,00	0,25	0,20
ROUGH	0,00	0,25		-0,17	0,32	0,06	-0,01	0,01	-0,27	-0,09	-0,13	0,07	0,36	-0,27
SAND	-0,03	-0,23	-0,17		-0,33	-0,06	-0,19	-0,19	-0,06	-0,11	-0,10	0,00	-0,20	-0,16
REEF	-0,13	0,18	0,32	-0,33		-0,01	0,04	0,13	0,16	-0,08	0,03	-0,16	0,32	-0,05
RUBBL	-0,07	0,16	0,06	-0,06	-0,01		0,06	-0,12	0,00	-0,07	-0,03	-0,05	-0,05	0,08
ECA	0,25	0,20	-0,01	-0,19	0,04	0,06		-0,14	0,02	-0,04	-0,03	-0,01	-0,06	0,20
ACA	-0,13	-0,23	0,01	-0,19	0,13	-0,12	-0,14		-0,31	-0,28	-0,07	-0,10	-0,19	-0,14
MC	-0,17	-0,02	-0,27	-0,06	0,16	0,00	0,02	-0,31		0,08	0,04	-0,11	-0,19	0,08
AT	0,09	-0,04	-0,09	-0,11	-0,08	-0,07	-0,04	-0,28	0,08		0,06	-0,08	-0,27	0,09
SC	-0,19	-0,07	-0,13	-0,10	0,03	-0,03	-0,03	-0,07	0,04	0,06		-0,03	-0,01	-0,06
BSC	0,07	0,00	0,07	0,00	-0,16	-0,05	-0,01	-0,10	-0,11	-0,08	-0,03		0,10	-0,05
HC	0,03	0,25	0,36	-0,20	0,32	-0,05	-0,06	-0,19	-0,19	-0,27	-0,01	0,10		0,04
SP	0,25	0,20	-0,27	-0,16	-0,05	0,08	0,20	-0,14	0,08	0,09	-0,06	-0,05	0,04	

632

633 Table S3. Spearman correlation test between environmental variables and benthic community to RFMMP. Result: exclusion of SC, Sand and Seagrass.

	DEPTH	INCLI	ROUGH	SAND	REEF	RUBBL	SEAGR	ECA	ACA	MC	AT	SC	BSC	HC	SU	SP
DEPTH		0,31	0,62	0,26	-0,26	0,12	0,14	0,06	0,09	0,24	-0,19	-0,50	-0,51	0,21	-0,22	-0,39
INCLI	0,31		0,44	-0,28	0,24	0,19	-0,34	0,25	0,23	0,34	-0,28	-0,49	-0,31	0,00	0,17	-0,44
ROUGH	0,62	0,44		0,03	-0,04	0,09	-0,02	0,30	0,22	0,29	0,03	-0,72	-0,57	0,06	-0,11	-0,54
SAND	0,26	-0,28	0,03		-0,97	0,10	0,88	-0,22	-0,11	0,10	-0,05	-0,13	-0,05	-0,14	-0,03	0,20
REEF	-0,26	0,24	-0,04	-0,97		-0,31	-0,86	0,23	0,10	-0,05	-0,02	0,15	0,07	0,14	0,05	-0,20
RUBBL	0,12	0,19	0,09	0,10	-0,31		-0,06	-0,08	-0,02	-0,18	0,31	-0,12	-0,10	-0,10	-0,07	-0,10
SEAGR	0,14	-0,34	-0,02	0,88	-0,86	-0,06		-0,22	-0,04	0,11	-0,12	-0,09	-0,06	-0,06	-0,09	0,37
ACI	0,06	0,25	0,30	-0,22	0,23	-0,08	-0,22		-0,06	-0,01	0,04	-0,13	-0,08	-0,32	0,05	-0,16
ACA	0,09	0,23	0,22	-0,11	0,10	-0,02	-0,04	-0,06		-0,07	-0,03	-0,19	-0,18	-0,33	-0,09	-0,04
MC	0,24	0,34	0,29	0,10	-0,05	-0,18	0,11	-0,01	-0,07		-0,42	-0,35	-0,25	-0,19	0,18	-0,22
TF	-0,19	-0,28	0,03	-0,05	-0,02	0,31	-0,12	0,04	-0,03	-0,42		-0,10	-0,08	-0,27	0,12	0,01
CMi	-0,50	-0,49	-0,72	-0,13	0,15	-0,12	-0,09	-0,13	-0,19	-0,35	-0,10		0,57	-0,10	-0,03	0,44
CMr	-0,51	-0,31	-0,57	-0,05	0,07	-0,10	-0,06	-0,08	-0,18	-0,25	-0,08	0,57		-0,24	0,17	0,37
CD	0,21	0,00	0,06	-0,14	0,14	-0,10	-0,06	-0,32	-0,33	-0,19	-0,27	-0,10	-0,24		-0,26	-0,19
OU	-0,22	0,17	-0,11	-0,03	0,05	-0,07	-0,09	0,05	-0,09	0,18	0,12	-0,03	0,17	-0,26		-0,13

SP	-0,39	-0,44	-0,54	0,20	-0,20	-0,10	0,37	-0,16	-0,04	-0,22	0,01	0,44	0,37	-0,19	-0,13	
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634

635 Table S4. Spearman correlation test between environmental variables and benthic community to ABNMP. Result: exclusion of Sand.

	DEPTH	INCLI	COMPL	SAND	REEF	RUBBLE	ACI	ACA	MC	TF	CMi	CMr	CD	SP
DEPTH		0,15	0,27	0,18	-0,25	0,17	-0,10	-0,30	-0,20	0,15	-0,18	-0,08	-0,07	0,39
INCLI	0,15		0,19	-0,15	0,23	-0,18	-0,21	-0,09	-0,08	0,07	-0,01	0,09	0,21	0,15
COMPL	0,27	0,19		-0,31	0,39	-0,22	0,26	-0,04	-0,21	0,26	-0,18	-0,02	0,20	0,28
SAND	0,18	-0,15	-0,31		-0,83	-0,07	-0,24	-0,01	0,23	0,15	-0,41	-0,39	-0,16	0,03
REEF	-0,25	0,23	0,39	-0,83		-0,50	0,19	0,06	-0,16	-0,10	0,32	0,32	0,23	-0,04
RUBBLE	0,17	-0,18	-0,22	-0,07	-0,50		0,04	-0,10	-0,07	-0,05	0,07	0,04	-0,16	0,02
ACI	-0,10	-0,21	0,26	-0,24	0,19	0,04		0,51	-0,20	-0,02	-0,10	0,06	-0,20	-0,05
ACA	-0,30	-0,09	-0,04	-0,01	0,06	-0,10	0,51		-0,08	0,11	-0,17	-0,13	-0,26	-0,08
MC	-0,20	-0,08	-0,21	0,23	-0,16	-0,07	-0,20	-0,08		-0,02	-0,28	-0,31	0,00	-0,10
TF	0,15	0,07	0,26	0,15	-0,10	-0,05	-0,02	0,11	-0,02		-0,60	-0,56	-0,07	0,54
CMi	-0,18	-0,01	-0,18	-0,41	0,32	0,07	-0,10	-0,17	-0,28	-0,60		0,69	-0,30	-0,35
CMr	-0,08	0,09	-0,02	-0,39	0,32	0,04	0,06	-0,13	-0,31	-0,56	0,69		-0,15	-0,42
CD	-0,07	0,21	0,20	-0,16	0,23	-0,16	-0,20	-0,26	0,00	-0,07	-0,30	-0,15		-0,13
SP	0,39	0,15	0,28	0,03	-0,04	0,02	-0,05	-0,08	-0,10	0,54	-0,35	-0,42	-0,13	

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637 Table S5. Spearman correlation test between environmental variables and benthic community to APASE. Result: exclusion of SC and Rubble.

	DEPTH	INCLI	ROUGH	SAND	REEF	RUBBL	SEAGR	ECA	ACA	MC	AT	SC	BSC	HC	SP
DEPTH		0,38	0,13	-0,20	0,03	0,09	0,20	0,41	0,21	0,07	-0,09	-0,43	-0,40	0,00	0,19
INCLI	0,38		0,31	-0,09	-0,13	0,19	0,19	0,17	-0,18	0,02	0,17	-0,32	-0,31	0,06	0,23
ROUGH	0,13	0,31		0,17	-0,12	0,02	-0,07	-0,11	0,05	-0,42	-0,16	0,13	0,11	0,13	-0,10
SAND	-0,20	-0,09	0,17		-0,51	-0,14	-0,13	-0,11	-0,16	-0,11	-0,07	-0,05	0,02	-0,17	-0,22
REEF	0,03	-0,13	-0,12	-0,51		-0,78	0,09	0,02	0,11	0,10	0,06	0,05	-0,01	-0,05	-0,08
RUBBL	0,09	0,19	0,02	-0,14	-0,78		-0,11	0,06	0,00	-0,08	-0,03	0,00	0,01	0,19	0,25
SEAGR	0,20	0,19	-0,07	-0,13	0,09	-0,11		-0,06	-0,13	0,39	0,12	-0,19	-0,20	-0,16	0,06
ECA	0,41	0,17	-0,11	-0,11	0,02	0,06	-0,06		0,08	-0,02	-0,07	-0,14	-0,11	0,02	0,09

ACA	0,21	-0,18	0,05	-0,16	0,11	0,00	-0,13	0,08		-0,15	-0,23	0,20	0,17	0,00	-0,02
MC	0,07	0,02	-0,42	-0,11	0,10	-0,08	0,39	-0,02	-0,15		-0,09	-0,15	-0,14	-0,36	0,16
AT	-0,09	0,17	-0,16	-0,07	0,06	-0,03	0,12	-0,07	-0,23	-0,09		-0,26	-0,28	0,09	-0,22
SC	-0,43	-0,32	0,13	-0,05	0,05	0,00	-0,19	-0,14	0,20	-0,15	-0,26		0,97	0,13	-0,10
BSC	-0,40	-0,31	0,11	0,02	-0,01	0,01	-0,20	-0,11	0,17	-0,14	-0,28	0,97		0,10	-0,11
HC	0,00	0,06	0,13	-0,17	-0,05	0,19	-0,16	0,02	0,00	-0,36	0,09	0,13	0,10		-0,04
SP	0,19	0,23	-0,10	-0,22	-0,08	0,25	0,06	0,09	-0,02	0,16	-0,22	-0,10	-0,11	-0,04	

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639 Table S6. Spearman correlation test between environmental variables and benthic community to ACREX. Result: No correlation between variables.

	DEPTH	INCLI	ROUGH	SAND	REEF	RUBBL	SEAGR	ECA	ACA	MC	AT	SC	BSC	HC	SU	SP
DEPTH		0,21	0,09	-0,02	0,02	-0,10	0,32	0,22	-0,05	0,28	0,21	-0,26	0,10	-0,03	-0,18	-0,05
INCLI	0,21		0,37	-0,09	0,31	-0,03	-0,16	0,13	0,14	-0,07	0,10	0,17	-0,27	0,34	0,09	-0,01
ROUGH	0,09	0,37		-0,04	0,34	0,05	-0,08	-0,03	0,01	-0,01	0,14	0,02	0,05	0,09	0,15	-0,05
SAND	-0,02	-0,09	-0,04		-0,30	0,33	-0,18	0,06	-0,13	-0,15	-0,04	0,04	-0,02	-0,25	-0,19	-0,03
REEF	0,02	0,31	0,34	-0,30		-0,36	-0,58	0,09	-0,03	-0,17	0,19	0,10	-0,23	0,30	0,26	0,14
RUBBL	-0,10	-0,03	0,05	0,33	-0,36		-0,10	0,00	-0,11	-0,07	-0,10	0,16	0,24	-0,16	-0,18	-0,05
SEAGR	0,32	-0,16	-0,08	-0,18	-0,58	-0,10		-0,01	0,25	0,52	-0,10	-0,41	0,32	-0,10	-0,06	-0,14
ECA	0,22	0,13	-0,03	0,06	0,09	0,00	-0,01		-0,03	0,06	0,06	-0,15	-0,10	0,32	0,00	-0,04
ACA	-0,05	0,14	0,01	-0,13	-0,03	-0,11	0,25	-0,03		0,07	-0,39	-0,14	0,20	0,27	-0,07	0,11
MC	0,28	-0,07	-0,01	-0,15	-0,17	-0,07	0,52	0,06	0,07		-0,11	-0,65	0,25	-0,06	0,11	0,05
AT	0,21	0,10	0,14	-0,04	0,19	-0,10	-0,10	0,06	-0,39	-0,11		-0,13	-0,16	-0,25	-0,06	-0,26
SC	-0,26	0,17	0,02	0,04	0,10	0,16	-0,41	-0,15	-0,14	-0,65	-0,13		-0,33	-0,10	-0,21	0,06
BSC	0,10	-0,27	0,05	-0,02	-0,23	0,24	0,32	-0,10	0,20	0,25	-0,16	-0,33		-0,19	-0,01	0,26
HC	-0,03	0,34	0,09	-0,25	0,30	-0,16	-0,10	0,32	0,27	-0,06	-0,25	-0,10	-0,19		0,22	-0,02
SU	-0,18	0,09	0,15	-0,19	0,26	-0,18	-0,06	0,00	-0,07	0,11	-0,06	-0,21	-0,01	0,22		-0,03
SP	-0,05	-0,01	-0,05	-0,03	0,14	-0,05	-0,14	-0,04	0,11	0,05	-0,26	0,06	0,26	-0,02	-0,03	

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