

Project Update: March 2019

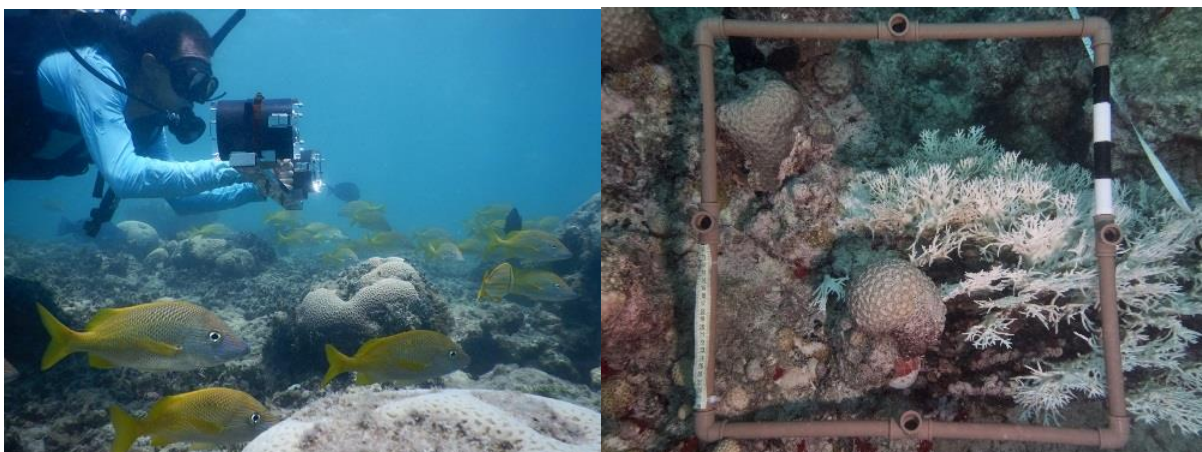
The second and last expedition of this project was conducted between 22thFebruary and 9thMarch 2019. During this period I had the opportunity to perform 18 scuba dives, sampling eight different sites within the Arolhos Archipelago.

As we are facing an anomalous high seawater temperature, a massive coral bleaching event is actually taking place in the Arolhos reefs as well as in other parts of the world. Thus I have dedicated some effort to sampling this event, as it can have important consequences to the reef fish assemblages that are the focus of this project.

Now, I am back to the lab working all the collected data together with the Ichthyology Lab team in the Federal University of Espirito Santo State.



Left: Reef fishes and a bleached colony of fire coral. Right: Bleached fire coral *Millepora alcicornis* in the Arolhos Marine National Park.



Left: Diver operating a stereo video system to measure the minimum approach distance between fishes and scuba divers. Right: Aspect of sampling method used to evaluate the rate of coral bleaching.