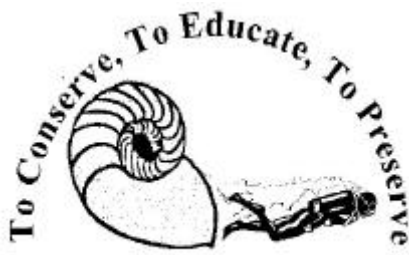


# ◊ RRT REEF BRIEF ◊

Volume 99, Issue 12

December 14, 1999

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Important Dates</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>12/9</b> Scubanauts annual Christmas Party @ Anheiser Busch plant</p> <p><b>NO MEETING IN DECEMBER!</b></p> <p><b>Next Classroom training dates:</b></p> <p><b>1/5</b> Training – Invertebrate Class – Mary Lyons @ JU Reid Hall.</p> <p><b>Meetings:</b></p> <p><b>1/19</b> 6:30 PM Board Meeting @ Southside Branch Library.</p> <p><b>1/19</b> 7:30 Regular Meeting @ Southside Branch Library</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>From Your Coordinator</b></p> <p>Isn't this cooler weather just wonderful? Doesn't it help to get you into the Christmas spirit? Don't you just wish we could go diving just once or twice more this year? Oh well, my wife constantly reminds me that I can't always have what I want.</p> <p>As most of you know, the weather and the winds cut our diving season real short this year. That will put a lot of pressure on us to complete our grant requirements by the deadline. Hopefully, we can get offshore early in the season for a change.</p> <p>The year 2000 will no doubt bring about some changes—one of which will be your officers. Give a lot of thought between now and our January meeting about who you want to help guide the future of the Jacksonville Reef Research Team. We have an extremely talented group of relatively new people that have been involved and helped with many facets of the Team this year. Hopefully, if nominated, they will step up and do the job they are capable of doing. (I sound like Coach Coughlin, don't I!)</p> <p>The January meeting will bring about another change. We will begin meeting (again) at the Southside Branch Library. It backs up to J. Turner Butler Boulevard at the Gate Parkway exit. Go North to the first street and turn West. It is on your right. We will meet in the room that has the LCD projector in the ceiling. We can start showing our best underwater pictures again!</p> <p>For now, that's all the news that is fit to print. I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and a very happy (and uneventful) New Year!</p> <p><b>Jim Cribb</b></p>	<p><b>Training</b></p> <p>The training class met last week (Wednesday, December 1, 1999) at Jacksonville University. We did data reduction (water and soil analysis).</p> <p>The dive season for the training class has come to an end until April and May, when we go to Kelly's on the Bay. Current team members will be invited. Further details will be available later. In the mean time we will be doing Invertebrate training in January.</p> <p>We will be doing fish ID training, then fish counting during February and March. There is some interest to do the fish test/review at Marineland again this year. We may actually get into the tank with the fish to do the ID training. I strongly encourage ALL (active and not so active) team members to renew their fish ID training. As we all know that it is easy to forget the types we can see off shore if we are not reviewing them on a regular basis.</p> <p>I want to wish a Happy Holiday season to everyone and their families.</p> <p>Lastly, I wanted to say congratulations to Daniel and Denise on their engagement!</p> <p>See you all in January.</p> <p><b>Brian</b></p>
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Jacksonville Reef Research Team

### From your Vice President

The latest on the Reef Ball project is that Larry Beggs of Reef Innovations has delivered 3 forms (one Ultra and two Bay Balls), for my students at Mandarin High, so we can begin construction. However, the forms are only on loan until March, at which time, we will need to either purchase them or rent them to continue the project.

The balls the kids will make are to be added to the 500 sitting on the pier at the old shipyards, which are due to be deployed in June. Currently, we are thrashing around trying to secure materials to build them with, and Tarmac Concrete, a concrete company down the street from the school, has tentatively approved supplying us with waste concrete. We will also need a front-end loader to move the Ultra Balls, or all we will be able to make is one of them, since we wouldn't be able to move it off the form! So, if anyone out there knows someone who may be able to help us out with this, LET ME KNOW!! It will be greatly appreciated.

Since the arrival of the forms, the interest in Reef Balls has really been growing around the school, and hopefully, this project will help to further fan the flames. In addition to us and St. Augustine High School, there are several other schools in the state who have done, and are doing, similar projects, with great success. A school in south Florida, Spanish River HS in Boca, has gotten several

HUGE grants. They also started with Reef Balls, but are now using the

pyramid design called Fish Havens. These are the product of Steve Bartkowski from the Panhandle. The marine science teacher at Spanish River got Steve to scale down the size (each one is over 6 feet tall!) so they can do projects in the ICW. They plan on putting them underdocks to increase the already productive habitat that the pilings provide. These kinds of projects really inspire me, and are the kind of projects that I foresee my students getting involved in in the coming years.

Well, at the risk of sounding too solicitous, I would ask that if you or anyone you know would be willing to support us in these efforts in any way, it would go a long way to making the education of these budding environmental scientists a real productive experience.

Thanks, and see you at the Southside Library.

Lex Waters

### Feeding Habits

There are five major trophic categories in which reef fishes are placed:

Fishes specialized to feed on plankton form large schools on the coral reef. There are diurnal planktivores among Serranidae (groupers), Chaetodontidae (butterflyfishes), Pomacentridae (damsel-fishes), and Balistidae (triggerfishes), and there are nocturnal planktivores among the Holocentridae (squirrelfishes and soldierfishes), Priacanthidae (bigeyes), and apogonidae (cardinalfishes).

Herbivorous reef fishes are a diverse group. The herbivores most characteristic of reef environments are Acanthuridae (surgeonfishes), Pomacentridae (damsel-fishes), Scaridae (parrotfishes), and Siganidae (rabbitfishes). They are very in the control of the algae abundance.

Invertebrate predators are considered the most diverse group, with the largest number of species. They eat coral polyps, other sessile invertebrates, and mobile invertebrates. This group of fishes play an important role on the composition of their prey communities.

Omnivores, which appear to be primarily carnivores, also influence the composition of their prey communities. Filefishes as well as triggerfishes and puffers and their allies are the primary omnivores, they feed in a variety of well armored invertebrates, crustaceans, and star-fishes as well as some algae.

The piscivores are formed by large fishes, such as Serranidae (groupers), which survive by eating other fish. Many of the piscivores become more active at dusk and dawn, during the day/night changeover, when they become less visible to potential prey. There are also some fishes, like the Neon Goby (*Gobiosoma* sp.) that are not in any of the groups above. They feed in mucus and parasites found in the skin of other fishes. In the Atlantic, the major group of cleaners are the gobies (Gobiidae), while in the Pacific the wrasses (Labridae) dominate.

A disturbance in one of these groups may affect directly another group, or the entire reef community. They are organized in a fragile balance, and related like rings in a chain.

This is a reprint from Coral Reef Fishes that can be accessed through a link on our website at [jaxrrt.org](http://jaxrrt.org).

*Editor*

## Science Officer Update

**Happy Holidays everyone . . .** Well the weather has certainly chilled a bit and the water temperature has dropped to a “cool” 64 degrees. Therefore, I doubt we have had much diving activity. However, if anyone is highly motivated to get out there and see how the local species might change in the winter season, I would love to get a few more SOCA’s from our grant sites.

Speaking of the monitoring grant, we do need to wrap up the remaining work and turn in a final report by next June. This combined with the Kirbo “reefball” project will make for a very busy Spring. We will be looking to get together to plan out the remaining work for the monitoring grant, as well as the work to be done for the reefball placement.

In the meantime, I would desperately like to have some “volunteers” help me with data input for the monitoring grant. I will even provide a downtown workstation, PC and free lunch . . . well, you know there is no such thing as a free lunch. If I could finish up reporting all the data we have thus far, I would probably have the city provide us with an interim payment on the grant.

In the meantime, if any one has free time over the holidays and we find some calm seas, you could always give me a call to try a couple of cold water SOCA's.

*John Perkner*

**WE WOULD LOVE  
TO HAVE YOUR  
SPECIAL ARTICLE  
IN NEXT MONTH'S  
NEWSLETTER!  
GET BUSY AND WRITE!**

## 1999 DIVE SCHEDULE

Day	Month	Dive Date	Rain Date	M	J	Location
Saturday	April	04/03	04/10		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	April	04/17	04/24		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	May	05/08	TBA	*		<b>BB</b>
Sunday	May	05/16	05/23		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	June	06/06	TBA	*		<b>CR Culverts</b>
Saturday	June	06/19	06/26		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	July	07/03	Open		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	July	07/04	TBA	*		<b>JW</b>
Saturday	July	07/10	07/24		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	July	07/18	TBA	*		<b>EEF Culverts</b>
Sunday	August	08/08	08/15		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	August	08/14	TBA	*		<b>HH Barge</b>
Sunday	August	08/15	08/22		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	August	08/28	TBA	*		<b>TR Anna</b>
Saturday	September	09/04	TBA	*		<b>JW</b>
Sunday	September	09/12	09/19		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	October	10/02	10/09		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	October	10/10	10/17		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	October	10/31	TBA		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	November	11/14	TBA		*	Jaxspots

Notes: M = Monitoring Dives      J = Jaxspots Confirmation and Discovery Dives

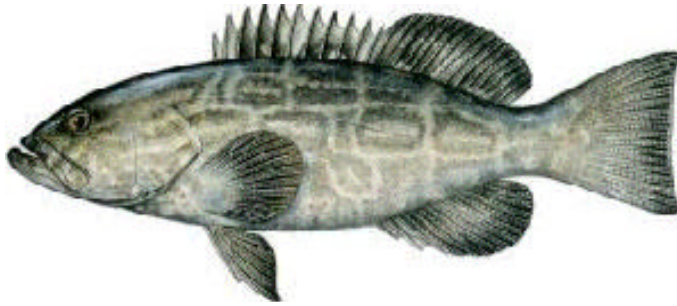
Meet at Mayport Marine promptly at 7:30 for all dives, unless specified otherwise

Contact Alex Waters at 262-5001 or John Perkner at 273-4562 with questions on the schedule.

# 1999 Officers/Board of Directors

President - Jim Cribb	904-264-1840 (H)	904-264-0520 (W)
Vice President - Alex Waters	904-262-5001 (H)	904-260-3911 (W)
Secretary - Mary Lyons	904-724-0324 (H)	904-708-8456 (M)
Treasurer - Jim Nelsen	904-641-0717 (H)	904-448-0305 (W)
Board/Webmaster - Ray Smith	904-389-9668 (H)	904-854-5990 (W)
Board/Chief Scientist - John Perkner	904-273-4562 (H)	904-791-5064 (W)
Board/Training Officer - Brian Salzman	904-646-3241 (H)	904-641-6611 (W)
Board/Safety Officer - Dennis Short	904-268-0414 (H)	904-332-1849 (W)
Board/Public Relations - Jim Barnes	904-757-1928 (H)	904-778-6089 (W)

**SUPPORT YOUR NEWSLETTER BY SENDING AN ARTICLE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE TEAM!**



**Description:** olive or gray body coloration with black blotches and brassy spots; gently rounded preopercle.

**Similar Fish:** gag *M. microlepis*; yellowfin grouper, *M. Venenosa*.

**Where found:** OFFSHORE species; adults associated with rocky bottoms, reef, and drop off walls in water over 60 feet deep; young may occur INSHORE in shallow water.

## Black Grouper

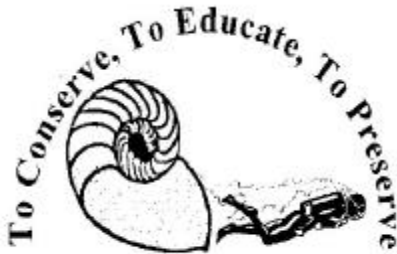
**Family Serranidae, SEA BASSES AND GROUPEL**  
*Mycteroperca bonaci*

**Size:** common to 40 pounds, may attain weights exceeding 100 pounds.

**\*Florida Record:** no Florida record because of identity confusion with gag, which are mistakenly called "black grouper."

### In This Issue...

### January Meeting changed to Southside Branch Library!



Jacksonville Reef Research Team  
P. O. Box 8776  
Jacksonville, FL 32239  
Website: [www.jaxrrt.org](http://www.jaxrrt.org)

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