SAMPLING SURF ZONE FISH COMMUNITIES : EVALUATING THE PAST, EXPLORING THE FUTURE.

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INTRODUCTION

- Surf zones of sandy beaches are known to be important habitats for fishes.
- Few studies focused on surf zones and the majority does not consider the ecological function of distinct morphodynamic beach types.
- They are often considered as one of the most challenging areas when it comes to sampling and mostly one single methodology is used.

OBJECTIVES

- Compare the efficiency of the use of beach seine nets, considered the most general method, to the use of surf zone BRUV's
- Identify the differences in fish community composition between methods.
 - Compare fish communities of beaches with different profiles, from dissipative to reflective, along a gradient.

SOMETHING OLD

Beach seine net:

- 10m wide, 3m high, sac of 5m
- Mesh size 3mm





SOMETHING NEW

Surf-BRUV :

- Gopro Hero 5 camera
 - 10kg weight and 500g of selected bait



SAMPLING DESIGN

- Six beaches with different morphology
 - -> dissipative to reflective
- Six cameras divided over one center and two corner sections (min. distance of 100m)



- One hour of filming
- 12 x 5min of fishing with the beach seine net
 (2 sessions per camera area)



EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Evaluate efficiency of both methods
- Evaluate fish communities detected by both methods
- Determine the most adequate method for each beach type
- Identify areas that are important as nursery grounds for fish biomass export









