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Orientation: Integrated Management of the Sea
Specialization Area: Analysis and Environmental assessment
Research Area: 3.5 Biodiversity and littoral zone ecology

PhD project: Littoral Ichthyofauna of Cabo Verde Islands: Biogeographic analysis and Community Structure

Supervisors: Dr. Jesús S. Troncoso (University of Vigo)
Dr. Carlos E. Ferreira (Fluminense Federal University)

Summary: The project aims to improve our understanding about the biology of reef fish from the Cabo Verde Islands; To date, most studies have, in part, focused on fish assemblages and checklists, basic zoogeographic diagnosis, and notes on occurrences and new species descriptions; However, almost nothing is known about the basic biology, ecology and behavior of fishes from the Archipelago. Specifically, the project will: (1) remedy the lack of information on reef fish biology for the eco-region (West African and Guinean zones, including the Cabo Verde Islands), as well as providing data on general biogeography and macroecology; (2) improve future performance indicators for MPA monitoring programs in Cabo Verde; and (3) evaluate and establish stress indicators for commercial coastal species around islands based in community structuring; (4) identify with new data and propose other MPAs, which are currently expanding in several areas throughout the Archipelago. The project will involve interdisciplinary and complementary studies, though without being exhaustive. The final dissertation will comprise published, submitted or accepted manuscripts in peer-review journals.