

Rio de Janeiro, May 05, 2020.

To the Editor – **Oecologia australis**

Dear Sir,

Please, consider for publication as a short communication in **Oecologia australis** the manuscript entitled “**SMALL-SCALE GENETIC CONNECTIVITY OF MULLET (MUGIL LIZA) POPULATIONS BETWEEN THE URBAN LAGOON RODRIGO DE FREITAS AND THE NATURAL MONUMENT OF CAGARRAS ISLAND ARCHIPELAGO, A FULLY PROTECTED CONSERVATION UNIT (UC) IN RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL**” by Anderson Vilasboa and others. In this study we conducted genetic comparisons of individuals of the mullet (*M. liza*) collected inside and outside Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon and observed that they are remarkably genetically similar, a strong indicative of gene flow between both regions, with implications for the conservation of the species in Rio de Janeiro. Due to the importance of these findings we believe that this paper can be of great interest to the public of the journal. **We declare that all authors have seen and approved the manuscript, this manuscript describes original work and these findings were never published before and are not under consideration for publication in any other journal.**


We take the opportunity to indicate five potential reviewers for the manuscript:

- 1) Dr. Cristiano Lazoski - Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro - lazoski@centroin.com.br
- 2) Dr. Alejandro Marquez - Direccion Nacional de Recursos Acuáticos de Uruguay - marquez.alejandro@gmail.com
- 3) Dr. Sergio Maia Lima – Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte - smaialima@gmail.com
- 4) Dra. Ana Cecilia Mai – Universidade Federal do Rio Grande – anaceciliamai@gmail.com

5) Dr. Fausto Foresti – Universidade Estadual Paulista/Botucatu - fforesti@ibb.unesp.br

Thank you for receiving our manuscript and considering it for review. We appreciate your time and look forward to your response. Please, do not hesitate to contact us if you need any further information.

With Regards,

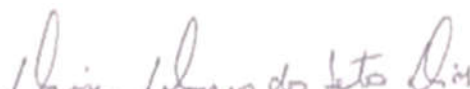


Anderson Vilasboa de Vasconcellos

Anderson Vilasboa de Vasconcellos
Prof. Adjunto - DGEN / IBRAG / UERJ
Mat. Nº 37239-1



Livia B. Villela



Denise B. dos Santos



Karina Alessandra Morelli



Carolina Tavares Schumann



Jaqueline Gusmão da Silva