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AGING OF TROPICAL REEF FISH BY DENSITY OF DAILY OTOLITH INCREMENTS

presented by

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SUMMARY

Estimation of the age of adult reef fish poses a number of problems. In many cases, only the daily growth increments on the otoliths can be used. The classical procedure consists of counting all these increments from the nucleus to the edge of a thin section of the otolith, which is a lengthy and tedious task. A novel approach was needed. The alternative method presented here is based on calculation of the density of the daily increments, which increases from the nucleus towards the edge of the otolith. The new method has many advantages but also poses a few problems. An example of the application of this new method has been given for the grouper Diagramma pictum.
