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Abstract

Background

Venezuela has suffered a severe academic and research management crisis, and funding opportunities for marine research and data management have been practically absent. This has worsened over the past five years, and as a result, libraries and other institutional spaces have been repeatedly vandalized, with hundreds of records, specimens, and historical data stolen, destroyed, or burned. To avoid the loss of irreplaceable data on Venezuelan biodiversity, an initiative aimed at digitizing information to create a rich dataset of biodiversity records, with emphasis on marine protected areas for the country, as well as to fill gaps in the distribution and status of marine biodiversity in Venezuela. Around 10 institutions in the country focusing on marine science have consistently produced a wealth of information about Venezuela's marine biodiversity in the form of specimen collections, unpublished sampled data, and research theses through the work of hundreds of researchers and students. An inventory of available data sources at these national institutions was conducted under the National Biodiversity Data Mobilization Grant and the Biodiversity Information for Development Program, together with the Global Biodiversity

Information Facility (GBIF) support. All recovered and processed datasets were published in the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS) and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) repositories.

New information

This data collection represents a major contribution to the marine biodiversity inventory in Venezuela. It is based on numerous published papers, reports, books, and checklists provided by experts, covering a broad taxonomic collection of 3,041 marine species, with representatives of each of the five kingdoms: Animalia, Chromista, Bacteria, Plantae, and Protozoa. The datasets provide information on occurrence since 1822, extending the temporal coverage of the species occurrence inventory for Venezuela, which was established in 1879 before this project. The species occurrences are organized into 59 datasets containing 40,881 records, which represent a 28.49% contribution to the records of Venezuelan marine biodiversity reported to the OBIS (143,513 records in OBIS until November 2022). The number of records for Venezuela increased by 41.3% compared with the data available before the project. Most of the occurrences (63.47%) were registered in Marine Protected Areas. Data collection included records of non-native species, descriptions of new species, and species listed under different IUCN categories.

Keywords

Occurrence, marine species, biodiversity, data digitization, Animalia, Chromista, Bacteria, Plantae, Protozoa, OBIS, GBIF, Venezuela, Southern Caribbean.

Introduction

Venezuela is among the top ten countries with the greatest biodiversity in the world (Aguilera et al. 2003, Grande 2018). However, due to the enormous impact of human activities such as tourism, overexploitation of marine resources, physical alteration, and pollution, marine environments are at great risk, and their biodiversity is highly threatened (Miloslavich et al. 2003). Coastal area management involves assessing the changes in the distribution and abundance of coastal and marine species. However, the Venezuelan Integrated Plan for Coastal Management (Plan de Ordenamiento y Gestión Integral de Zonas Costeras) reveals a lack of information related to biodiversity attributes and indicators, which form the basis for projecting risks and identifying actions to reduce coastal vulnerability (Minamb 2013, Peralta Brichtova 2021). An initiative for mobilization of marine data was promoted by Fundación Caribe Sur through the "Rescuing the knowledge base of Venezuela's marine biodiversity" project supported by the Global Biodiversity Information Facility-GBIF and funded by the European Union via the Biodiversity Information for Development Program-BID. The project managed to identify and digitize the Venezuelan marine biodiversity data found in articles and grey literature stored in many national academic institutions. This article summarizes the rescued dataset collections

derived from this project, which are hosted in the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS) and GBIF to date. Data collection, curation, and digitization were performed by a team of 14 researchers affiliated with the most important universities, scientific research centers, and NGOs that deal with marine science and marine management in Venezuela. The resulting collection is composed of 59 datasets with 40,881 records of marine organisms from a broad range of taxonomic categories registered within the Venezuelan maritime area, including some of its islands (Table 1).

Project description

Title: Rescuing the knowledge base of Venezuela's marine biodiversity

Personnel: [Ana Carolina Peralta Brichtova](#), [Joxmer Scott-Frías](#), Carlos Carmona-Suárez, [Carmen Rodriguez](#), Jeannette Perez, [Adriana Lopez Ordaz](#), Brightdoom Marquez, Carlos Lira, Santiago Gómez Acevedo, Yusneyi Carballo Barrera, Bladimir Rodríguez, Francoise Cavada-Blanco, José Ramón Delgado and [Eduardo Klein Salas](#)

Design description: Fundación Caribe Sur, supported by the Global Biodiversity Information Facility-GBIF, carried out the project "Rescuing the knowledge base of Venezuela's marine biodiversity". This Project convened researchers affiliated to 7 national academic institutions and 2 NGO (Universidad Simón Bolívar, Universidad Central de Venezuela, Universidad de Carabobo, Universidad de Oriente, Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas, Universidad Nacional Experimental Francisco de Miranda, Universidad del Zulia, Fundación Museo del Mar - Museo Marino de Margarita, Fundación Caribe Sur) to safeguard the largest amount of information on marine biodiversity that has been produced in the country. The project rescued data on marine biodiversity from most Venezuelan marine areas by digitizing and mobilizing information on marine biodiversity found in national institutions. Consequently, the project integrated national researchers into the community of contributors and users of georeferenced biodiversity data of Venezuelan marine environments.

Funding: The resources to undertake this project have been received from the European Union and GBIF under the National Biodiversity Data Mobilization Grant and the Biodiversity Information for Development program.

Sampling methods

Sampling description: The present work contains literature-based sampling information on marine organism occurrences collected from institution libraries from which theses, research project reports, and journal publications were reviewed (Table 2) to obtain data on the taxonomic groups, location of occurrence, collection dates, measurements of habitat features (such as physical and chemical parameters of the environment), biotic measurements (e.g., body size, abundance, and biomass), and details regarding the nature of the sampling or observation methods, equipment, and sampling effort.

Quality control: All data were formatted into the Darwin Core Biodiversity Standards (Darwin Core Task Group 2009), adopting the OBIS Dw-Core template and OBIS-ENV-DATA structure (OBIS 2022). The datasets were created according to the data source, taxonomic groups, home institution, and professional expertise of the scientists involved in data digitization.

Geographic coverage

Description: The data cover the entire Venezuelan mainland coast and some of its islands (maximum latitude: 15.676, minimum latitude: 8.612, maximum longitude: -57.705, minimum longitude: -71.939), including diverse marine coastal habitats such as coral reefs, mangroves, rocky shores, sandy beaches, seagrass beds, coastal lagoons, sandy bottoms, oceanic water column, and sea floor. Most occurrences (63.45%) were registered within marine protected areas, including seven national parks (Morrocoy, La Restinga, Archipiélago de Los Roques, San Esteban, Mochima, Médanos de Coro, and Península de Paria) and four wildlife refuges (Cuare, Boca de Caño, Hueque-Sauca, and Isla de Aves) (Table 3, Fig. 1). However, some MPAs (Laguna de Tacarigua, Turuépano, and Mariusa) still show important gaps in their biodiversity records. This project recorded new occurrences from areas that traditionally lacked biodiversity information, such as the Orinoco Delta and Atlantic Front, Paria Peninsula, and coastal areas of western Venezuela states (Falcón and Zulia).

Coordinates: 8.612 and 15.676 Latitude; -71.939 and -57.705 Longitude.

Taxonomic coverage

Description: The taxonomic structure of the Venezuelan marine biodiversity collection at the time of publication represents a total of 30 Phyla, belonging to the kingdoms Animalia (17), Chromista (6), Plantae (4), Bacteria (1), Fungi (1) and Protozoa (1) (Table 4). The total number of records identified at the species level was 34,615, representing 84,67% of all the records.

A total of 3,041 species are reported. Most records belong to the phylum Arthropoda (10,642 records, 375 spp.), phylum Rhodophyta (6,306 records, 322 spp.), while the least represented phylum were Bacteroidetes, Brachiopoda, Cryptophyta, and Planctomycetes, with one single record each.

The data included records of non-native species, new species descriptions (two Foraminifera and one Actinopterygii), and 78 species listed under different Threatened and Near Threatened IUCN categories (IUCN 2021): 5 species Critically Endangered (CR), 9 Endangered (EN), 43 Vulnerable (VU) and 21 Near Threatened (NT) (Table 5).

Temporal coverage

Data range: 1822-1-01 - 2022-4-13.

Notes: The present data include records from 1822 to 2022 (Fig. 2). Most occurrences were registered in the 1960s onward, with the largest number of documented records in the 2000 decade.

Usage licence

Usage licence: Other

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Data resources

Data package title: Rescuing the knowledge base of Venezuela's marine biodiversity

Resource link: <https://www.gbif.org/project/BID-CA2020-025-NAC/rescuing-the-knowledge-base-of-venezuelas-marine-biodiversity#datasets>

Number of data sets: 1

Data set name: Events and occurrences of marine species data digitization in Venezuela

Download URL: <https://doi.org/10.15468/dl.4tu8q5>

Data format: DwC & GBIF API terms

Data format version: Darwin Core Archive 1.6

Description: The database provides information on observations since 1822, including a broad taxonomic group of marine organisms compiled from 59 datasets (Table 1) with a total of 40,881 records. Most datasets are structured using Event Core Schema with Occurrences and Extended Measurements or Facts (eMOF) extensions; therefore, they contain not only georeferenced occurrence records, but also sampling protocols and environmental and biotic measurements.

Column label	Column description
identifier	A related resource that is referenced, cited, or otherwise pointed to by the described resource
license	A legal document giving official permission to do something with the resource
basisOfRecord	The specific nature of the data record

occurrenceID	An identifier for the Occurrence (as opposed to a particular digital record of the occurrence). In the absence of a persistent global unique identifier, construct one from a combination of identifiers in the record that will most closely make the occurrenceID globally unique
occurrenceStatus	A statement about the presence or absence of a Taxon at a Location
eventDate	The date-time or interval during which an Event occurred. For occurrences, this is the date-time when the event was recorded. Not suitable for a time in a geological context
year	The four-digit year in which the Event occurred, according to the Common Era Calendar
scientificNameID	An identifier for the nomenclatural details of a scientific name
scientificName	The full scientific name, with authorship and date information if known. When forming part of an Identification, this should be the name in lowest level taxonomic rank that can be determined. This term should not contain identification qualifications, which should instead be supplied in the IdentificationQualifier term
kingdom	The full scientific name of the kingdom in which the taxon is classified
taxonRank	The taxonomic rank of the most specific name in the scientificName
decimalLatitude	The geographic latitude (in decimal degrees, using the spatial reference system given in geodeticDatum) of the geographic center of a Location. Positive values are north of the Equator, negative values are south of it. Legal values lie between -90 and 90, inclusive
decimalLongitude	The geographic longitude (in decimal degrees, using the spatial reference system given in geodeticDatum) of the geographic center of a Location. Positive values are east of the Greenwich Meridian, negative values are west of it. Legal values lie between -180 and 180, inclusive
language	A language of the resource
waterBody	The name of the water body in which the Location occurs
country	The name of the country or major administrative unit in which the Location occurs
countryCode	The standard code for the country in which the Location occurs
datasetName	The name identifying the data set from which the record was derived
phylum	The full scientific name of the phylum or division in which the taxon is classified
class	The full scientific name of the class in which the taxon is classified
order	The full scientific name of the order in which the taxon is classified
family	The full scientific name of the family in which the taxon is classified
genus	The full scientific name of the genus in which the taxon is classified
genericName	The genus part of the scientificName without authorship
specificEpithet	The name of the first or species epithet of the scientificName
continent	The name of the continent in which the Location occurs

Additional information

Some of the datasets compiled for this project has additional columns (Table 6)

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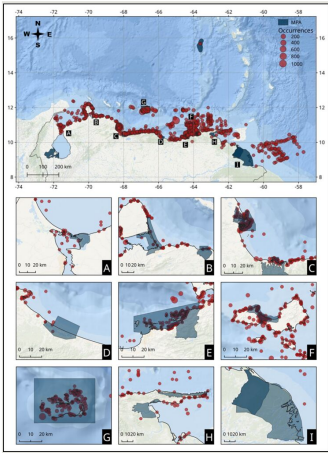


Figure 1.
Location and aggregation of occurrences reported in this work for the Venezuelan coast and its islands. Most of the records (63.47%) are from Marine Protected Areas. Dark blue regions represent MPAs: **A** Ciénaga de los Olivitos National Park; **B** Médanos de Coro National Park, Laguna Boca de Caño Wildlife Refuge and Hueque-Sauca Wildlife Reserve; **C** Morrocoy and San Esteban National Parks, Cuare Wildlife Refuge; **D** Laguna de Tacarigua National Park; **E** Mochima National Park; **F** Laguna de La Restinga National Park; **G** Archipiélago de Los Roques National Park; **H** Península de Paría and Turuépano National Parks; **I** Mariusa National Park and Delta del Orinoco Biosphere Reserve.

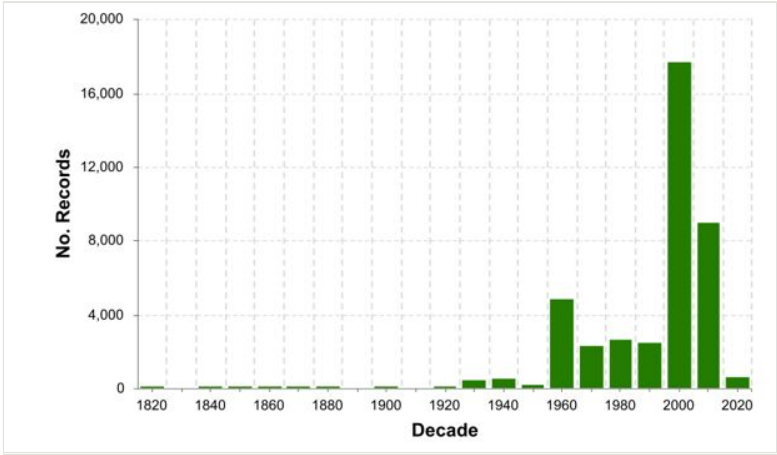


Figure 2.
Number of occurrence records for marine species by decade.

Table 1.
Overview of the 59 datasets used in the compilation.

Partial dataset	Dataset title	No. records	Resource citation
1	Benthic macroalgae from the coasts of Venezuela 1822-2021	10,438	Gómez Acevedo and Carballo Barrera (2022)
2	Zooplankton of Morrocoy National Park 2000-2002	8,066	Zoppi de Roa et al. (2022)
3	Diversidad de Foraminiferos en Venezuela	4,506	Carvajal-Chitty (2022)
4	Records of the vertical distribution of planktonic copepods in the Southern Caribbean	2,268	Cervigón and Scott-Frías (2022)
5	Spatial and temporal characterization of zooplankton in Los Roques Archipelago (Venezuela)	1,824	Casanova et al. (2022)
6	Esponjas asociadas a raíces de <i>Rhizophora mangle</i> del Parque Nacional Morrocoy	1,414	Pérez (2022)
7	IOV - Distribución espacial y temporal del fitoplancton en el Golfo de Cariaco	1,144	Calvo-Trujillo et al. (2022)
8	Biodiversidad Marina del Parque Nacional Laguna de La Restinga	1,019	Lira (2022e)
9	Marine Fishes from Archipiélago los Roques, Venezuela	861	Rodríguez et al. (2022)
10	Megabenthos biodiversity of the northwest coast of Paraguana Peninsula (Venezuela)	807	Lopez (2022)
11	IOV Fitoplancton del Saco del Golfo de Cariaco, Venezuela	739	Márquez-Rojas et al. (2022a)
12	Biodiversidad de Moluscos de la isla de Margarita	647	Lira (2022f)
13	Macroalgas del Parque Nacional Laguna de La Restinga, isla de Margarita, Venezuela	613	Lira (2022d)
14	Peces asociados a los arrecifes Coralinos del Parque Nacional Morrocoy, Venezuela	608	Rodríguez-Quintal et al. (2022b)
15	Peces de las lagunas costeras de Isla Margarita, Venezuela	475	Lira (2022c)
16	IOV Copépodos del Golfo de Cariaco, Venezuela	447	Marquez et al. (2022a)
17	Poliquetos criptobentonicos en <i>Orbicella annularis</i> en arrecifes coralinos del PNA de Los Roques Venezuela	386	Rodríguez Fernandez et al. (2022)
18	Poliquetos fondos arenosos de Arrecifes de Coral en el PN Archipiélago de Los Roques, Venezuela	382	Díaz-Díaz et al. (2022)
19	IOV-UDO-ZOOPLANKTON-PLAYA COLORADA	371	Marquez et al. (2022b)
20	Peces asociados a raíces de manglar en el PN Morrocoy, Venezuela	279	López (2022)

21	Crustaceos decapodos asociados a <i>Stichodactyla helianthus</i> Isla Larga, Carabobo, Venezuela	263	Mariño et al. (2022)
22	Algunos Copépodos de la Fachada Atlántica de Venezuela	255	Camisotti and Pérez (2022)
23	Corales escleractinidos de La Orchila, Venezuela, 1976	207	Pérez and Urich (2022)
24	Demospongas de la Laguna La Restinga, Venezuela	199	Lira (2022a)
25	Componentes biológicos estudiados en el área de influencia del tramo D, poliducto SUFAZ. La primera fase del Plan de Monitoreo y Seguimiento en el marco del proyecto SUFAZ	197	Peralta Brichtova (2022)
26	Peces asociados a una pradera de fanerógamas marinas en el PN Archipiélago Los Roques	196	López et al. (2022)
27	Macroalgas del área de influencia del terminal marino de la empresa Salinera Sacosal, Araya, Estado Sucre, Venezuela	179	Barrios-Montilla (2022a)
28	Diversity, abundance and other ecological features of littoral brachyuran crabs from Falcon State, Venezuela	168	Carmona-Suarez (2022b)
29	Marine Invasive Species of Venezuela	158	Gonzalez (2022)
30	Peces de arrecifes coralinos de Isla Larga y Alcatraz, PN San Esteban, Venezuela	154	Rodríguez-Quintal et al. (2022)
31	Distribución espacial y abundancia de la Familia Corycaidae Dana, 1852 (Copepoda: Cyclopoida) en el Golfo de Cariaco, Venezuela	149	Márquez-Rojas et al. (2022b)
32	Abundancia y distribución de los Branchiopoda (cladóceros) marinos del Parque Nacional Mochima, estado Sucre, Venezuela	141	Bravo and Marquez-Rojas (2022)
33	Community features of Swimming crabs (Portunidae) from Golfete de Cuare- Falcón- Venezuela	124	Carmona-Suarez (2022c)
34	Cnidarios y Poríferos del Parque Nacional San Esteban, Venezuela	117	Rodriguez-Quintal et al. (2022b)
35	Biodiversity of Crustacea Decapoda from La Blanquilla Island- Venezuela	96	Carmona-Suarez (2022d)
36	Peces Criptobentónicos en los arrecifes coralinos del PN Archipiélago de Los Roques Venezuela	89	Rodríguez-Quintal et al. (2022a)
37	Composición y abundancia del plancton de la costa noreste de la bahía El Tablazo	89	Guerrero-Rios and Hernandez (2022a)
38	Moluscos Arrecifes Coralinos San Esteban Carabobo Venezuela	88	Alvarez-Barco et al. (2022)
39	Abundancia y Distribución de <i>Temora turbinata</i> y <i>Temora stylifera</i> en el Parque Nacional Mochima, Venezuela	81	Colina-Romero and Marquez-Rojas (2022)
40	Macroalgas de la bahía de Macuro, estado Sucre, Venezuela. Estudio de línea base previo a la mejora del muelle de Macuro	63	Barrios-Montilla (2022b)
41	Cnidarios Arrecifes Coralinos de Playa Mero, Cayo Sombrero y Peraza PN Morrocoy, Venezuela	59	Rodríguez-Quintal et al. (2022a)
42	Diversity and geographic distribution of brachyuran crabs from the Callapidae family in Venezuela	55	Carmona-Suarez (2022e)
43	Crustaceos decapodos de islotes Caribe y Los Lobos, Venezuela	50	Lira (2022b)

44	Swimming crabs, Portunidae, from La Vela de Coro- Falcon-Venezuela	42	Carmona-Suarez (2022h)
45	Peces presentes en praderas de fanerogamas en Boca Seca (PN Morrocoy) y Laguna de Yapascua (PN San Esteban) Venezuela	39	Rodríguez Fernandez et al. (2022)
46	Records of cephalopod paralarvae (Mollusca: Cephalopoda) in the Caribbean and Venezuelan Atlantic Ocean	38	Stella Chacin and Scott-Frías (2022)
47	Diversity of littoral peneid shrimps in Falcon State, Venezuela	37	Carmona-Suarez (2022f)
48	Composition and abundance of decapod crustaceans in mixed seagrass meadows in the Paraguaná Peninsula, Venezuela	34	Carmona-Suarez (2022g)
49	Geographical distribution and abundance of the land blue crab <i>Cardisoma guanhumi</i> (Brachyura, Gecarcinidae) in Venezuela	34	Carmona-Suarez (2022a)
50	Diversidad de corales y especies asociadas en el ecosistema coralino de Adícora, Península de Paraguaná, Venezuela	33	Gomez (2022)
51	Ictioplancton en cinco puntos del sector San Carlos del Lago de Maracaibo: composición distribución y abundancia	32	Guerrero-Rios and Hernandez (2022b)
52	Poliquetos holoplanctónicos (Annelida: Polychaeta) de la plataforma norte de la península de Paria y golfo de Paria, Venezuela	26	Cardenas-Oliva et al. (2022)
53	Macroinvertebrados bentónicos en un transecto ubicado entre Punta Espada y Punta Macolla, Golfo de Venezuela	20	Hernández (2022a)
54	Macroinvertebrados bentónicos del muro de San Carlos- Zulia-Venezuela	20	Hernández (2022b)
55	Population features of <i>Cardisoma guanhumi</i> in Nueva Carenero-Miranda State- Venezuela	16	Carmona-Suarez (2022i)
56	Spatial distribution and population features of the decorator crab <i>Omalacantha bicornuta</i> (former <i>Microphrys bicornutus</i>) in Buchuaco-Falcon State- Venezuela	15	Carmona-Suarez (2022j)
57	Diversity and ecological features of Majidae crabs from Morrocoy National Park - Venezuela	12	Carmona-Suarez (2022l)
58	Diversity, abundance, and ecological features of swimming crabs (Brachyura; Portunidae) from Boca de Hueque, Venezuela	8	Carmona-Suarez (2022k)
59	A new species of the Stenopodidean shrimp genus <i>Spongicola</i> , representing the first record of the genus from the Atlantic Ocean	4	Rodríguez-Quintal and Goy (2022)

Table 2. Sampling information source.		
Data source	Number of records	%
Scientific journal	21,754	53.21
Gray literature *	16,243	39.73
Books	1,863	4.56
Catalogs	1,021	2.50

* Technical reports, Project reports and Thesis.

Table 3.
Occurrences recorded within Marine Protected Areas (MPA).

MPA	No. of records
Morrocoy National Park	11,548
Archipiélago Los Roques National Park	6,389
Laguna de la Restinga National Park	2,587
Cuare Wildlife Refuge	2,393
Mochima National Park	1,605
San Esteban National Park	988
Península de Paria National Park	188
Médanos de Coro National Park	103
Ciénaga Los Olivitos National Park	71
Laguna Boca de Caño Wildlife Refuge	50
Laguna de Tacarigua National Park	13
Isla de Aves Wildlife Refuge	3
Hueque-Sauca Wildlife Reserve	2

Table 4.

Number of records and number of classes by Phylum represented in this collection.

Phylum	No. Class	No. Records	%
Arthropoda	6	10,642	26.03
Rhodophyta	4	6,306	15.43
Chordata	6	4,657	11.39
Foraminifera	2	4,619	11.30
Chlorophyta	3	3,163	7.74
Ochrophyta	4	2,478	6.06
Mollusca	5	1,879	4.60
Porifera	3	1,743	4.26
Cnidaria	4	1,264	3.09
Annelida	1	1,212	2.96
Myzozoa	1	987	2.41
Chaetognatha	1	789	1.93
Echinodermata	5	239	0.58
Haptophyta	1	236	0.58
Platyhelminthes	2	125	0.31
Hemichordata	1	87	0.21
Ciliophora	2	77	0.19
Bryozoa	1	64	0.16
Euglenozoa	1	56	0.14
Cyanobacteria	1	54	0.13
Nemertea	NA	46	0.11
Phoronida	NA	35	0.09
Nematoda	NA	19	0.05
Rotifera	1	10	0.02
Ctenophora	NA	7	0.02
Charophyta	1	5	0.01
Tracheophyta	1	5	0.01
Basidiomycota	1	2	<0.01
Brachiopoda	NA	1	<0.01
Cryptophyta	1	1	<0.01

NA: no classes were reported for this particular phylum

Table 5.
Considering the threatened IUCN Red List categories

IUCN	Specie	No. Records	Phylum and family
CR	<i>Acropora cervicornis</i>	11	Cnidaria, Acroporidae
	<i>Acropora palmata</i>	11	Cnidaria, Acroporidae
	<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	4	Chordata, Sphyrnidae
	<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>	3	Chordata, Sphyrnidae
	<i>Epinephelus striatus</i>	2	Chordata, Serranidae
EN	<i>Orbicella annularis</i>	22	Cnidaria, Merulinidae
	<i>Orbicella faveolata</i>	11	Cnidaria, Merulinidae
	<i>Pseudobatos percellens</i>	4	Chordata, Rhinobatidae
	<i>Carcharhinus perezii</i>	3	Chordata, Carcharhinidae
	<i>Carcharhinus signatus</i>	3	Chordata, Carcharhinidae
	<i>Carcharhinus plumbeus</i>	2	Chordata, Carcharhinidae
	<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	2	Chordata, Lamnidae
	<i>Aetobatus narinari</i>	1	Chordata, Myliobatidae
	<i>Carcharhinus obscurus</i>	1	Chordata, Carcharhinidae
VU	<i>Hippocampus erectus</i>	10	Chordata, Syngnathidae
	<i>Pomatomus saltatrix</i>	9	Chordata, Pomatomidae
	<i>Agaricia lamarcki</i>	5	Cnidaria, Agariciidae
	<i>Coryphopterus personatus</i>	5	Chordata, Gobiidae
	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	4	Chordata, Carcharhinidae
	<i>Dichocoenia stokesii</i>	4	Cnidaria, Meandrinidae
	<i>Carcharhinus signatus</i>	3	Chordata, Carcharhinidae
	<i>Coryphopterus lipernes</i>	3	Chordata, Gobiidae
	<i>Hippocampus erectus</i>	10	Chordata, Syngnathidae
	<i>Pomatomus saltatrix</i>	9	Chordata, Pomatomidae
	<i>Agaricia lamarcki</i>	5	Cnidaria, Agariciidae
	<i>Coryphopterus personatus</i>	5	Chordata, Gobiidae
	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	4	Chordata, Carcharhinidae
	<i>Carcharhinus limbatus</i>	4	Chordata, Carcharhinidae
	<i>Ginglymostoma cirratum</i>	4	Chordata, Ginglymostomatidae
	<i>Lachnolaimus maximus</i>	4	Chordata, Labridae

	<i>Coryphopterus lipernes</i>	3	Chordata, Gobiidae
	<i>Negaprion brevirostris</i>	3	Chordata, Carcharhinidae
	<i>Orbicella franksi</i>	3	Cnidaria, Merulinidae
	<i>Epinephelus morio</i>	2	Chordata, Serranidae
	<i>Lutjanus cyanopterus</i>	2	Chordata, Lutjanidae
	<i>Mycetophyllia ferox</i>	2	Cnidaria, Faviidae
	<i>Mycteroperca interstitialis</i>	2	Chordata, Serranidae
	<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>	1	Chordata, Alopiidae
	<i>Carcharhinus leucas</i>	1	Chordata, Carcharhinidae
	<i>Coryphopterus tortugae</i>	1	Chordata, Gobiidae
	<i>Cynoscion acoupa</i>	1	Chordata, Sciaenidae
	<i>Dendrogyra cylindrus</i>	1	Cnidaria, Meandrinidae
	<i>Epinephelus itajara</i>	1	Chordata, Serranidae
	<i>Rhizoprionodon landalii</i>	1	Chordata, Carcharhinidae
	<i>Rhomboplites aurorubens</i>	1	Chordata, Lutjanidae
	<i>Carcharhinus plumbeus</i>	2	Chordata, Carcharhinidae
	<i>Epinephelus morio</i>	2	Chordata, Serranidae
	<i>Lutjanus cyanopterus</i>	2	Chordata, Lutjanidae
	<i>Mycetophyllia ferox</i>	2	Cnidaria, Faviidae
	<i>Mycteroperca interstitialis</i>	2	Chordata, Serranidae
	<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>	1	Chordata, Alopiidae
	<i>Coryphopterus tortugae</i>	1	Chordata, Gobiidae
	<i>Dendrogyra cylindrus</i>	1	Cnidaria, Meandrinidae
	<i>Epinephelus itajara</i>	1	Chordata, Serranidae
	<i>Megalops atlanticus</i>	1	Chordata, Megalopidae
	<i>Rhizoprionodon landalii</i>	1	Chordata, Carcharhinidae
	<i>Rhomboplites aurorubens</i>	1	Chordata, Lutjanidae
NT	<i>Lutjanus synagris</i>	18	Chordata, Lutjanidae
	<i>Lupinoblennius vinctus</i>	15	Chordata, Blenniidae
	<i>Porites branneri</i>	14	Cnidaria, Poritidae
	<i>Lutjanus analis</i>	13	Chordata, Lutjanidae
	<i>Scarus guacamaia</i>	11	Chordata, Scaridae
	<i>Albula vulpes</i>	10	Chordata, Albulidae

<i>Narcine brasiliensis</i>	8	Chordata, Narcinidae
<i>Mycteroperca bonaci</i>	6	Chordata, Serranidae
<i>Balistes vetula</i>	4	Chordata, Balistidae
<i>Galeocерdo cuvier</i>	4	Chordata, Carcharhinidae
<i>Hypanus americanus</i>	4	Chordata, Dasyatidae
<i>Agaricia tenuifolia</i>	3	Cnidaria, Agariciidae
<i>Carcharhinus altimus</i>	2	Chordata, Carcharhinidae
<i>Gymnura micrura</i>	2	Chordata, Gymnuridae
<i>Mustelus norrisi</i>	2	Chordata, Triakidae
<i>Hexanchus griseus</i>	1	Chordata, Hexanchidae
<i>Hexanchus nakamurai</i>	1	Chordata, Hexanchidae
<i>Hypanus guttatus</i>	1	Chordata, Dasyatidae
<i>Mustelus canis</i>	1	Chordata, Triakidae
<i>Mycteroperca venenosa</i>	1	Chordata, Serranidae
<i>Prionace glauca</i>	1	Chordata, Carcharhinidae

Table 6. Additional columns present in some of the datasets compiled	
Column label	Column description
scientificNameAuthorship	The authorship information for the scientificName formatted according to the conventions of the applicable nomenclaturalCode.
institutionCode	The name (or acronym) in use by the institution having custody of the object(s) or information referred to in the record
collectionCode	The name, acronym, coden, or initialism identifying the collection or data set from which the record was derived
catalogNumber	An identifier (preferably unique) for the record within the data set or collection
recordedBy	A list (concatenated and separated) of names of people, groups, or organizations responsible for recording the original Occurrence. The primary collector or observer, especially one who applies a personal identifier (recordNumber), should be listed first
individualCount	The number of individuals present at the time of the Occurrence
lifeStage	The age class or life stage of the Organism(s) at the time the Occurrence was recorded
preparations	A preparation or preservation method for a specimen
disposition	The current state of a specimen with respect to the collection identified in collectionCode or collectionID
associatedReferences	A list (concatenated and separated) of identifiers (publication, bibliographic reference, global unique identifier, URI) of literature associated with the Occurrence
associatedTaxa	A list (concatenated and separated) of identifiers or names of taxa and the associations of this Occurrence to each of them
occurrenceRemarks	Comments or notes about the Occurrence
organismRemarks	Comments or notes about the Organism instance
eventID	An identifier for the set of information associated with an Event (something that occurs at a place and time). May be a global unique identifier or an identifier specific to the data set
parentEventID	An identifier for the broader Event that groups this and potentially other Events
eventTime	The time or interval during which an Event occurred
month	The integer month in which the Event occurred
day	The integer day of the month on which the Event occurred
verbatimEventDate	The verbatim original representation of the date and time information for an Event
habitat	A category or description of the habitat in which the Event occurred
samplingProtocol	The names of, references to, or descriptions of the methods or protocols used during an Event
sampleSizeValue	A numeric value for a measurement of the size (time duration, length, area, or volume) of a sample in a sampling event

sampleSizeUnit	The unit of measurement of the size (time duration, length, area, or volume) of a sample in a sampling event
samplingEffort	The amount of effort expended during an Event
eventRemarks	Comments or notes about the Event
locationID	An identifier for the set of location information (data associated with dterms:Location). May be a global unique identifier or an identifier specific to the data set
island	The name of the island on or near which the Location occurs
stateProvince	The name of the next smaller administrative region than country in which the Location occurs
locality	The specific description of the place
locationAccordingTo	Information about the source of this Location information
locationRemarks	Comments or notes about the Location
coordinateUncertaintyInMeters	The horizontal distance (in meters) from the given decimalLatitude and decimalLongitude describing the smallest circle containing the whole of the Location
coordinatePrecision	A decimal representation of the precision of the coordinates given in the decimalLatitude and decimalLongitude
footprintWKT	A Well-Known Text (WKT) representation of the shape (footprint, geometry) that defines the Location
georeferencedBy	A person, group, or organization who determined the georeference (spatial representation) for the Location
georeferencedDate	The date on which the Location was georeferenced
georeferenceProtocol	A description or reference to the methods used to determine the spatial footprint, coordinates, and uncertainties
georeferenceSources	A map, gazetteer, or other resource used to georeference the Location
georeferenceRemarks	Notes or comments about the spatial description determination, explaining assumptions made in addition or opposition to the those formalized in the method referred to in georeferenceProtocol
identificationQualifier	A brief phrase or a standard term to express the determiner's doubts about the Identification
typeStatus	A nomenclatural type (type status, typified scientific name, publication) applied to the subject
identifiedBy	A list of names of people, groups, or organizations who assigned the Taxon to the subject
identificationReferences	A list of references used in the Identification
identificationRemarks	Comments or notes about the Identification
acceptedNameUsage	The full name, with authorship and date information if known, of the currently valid (zoological) or accepted (botanical) taxon
infraspecificEpithet	The name of the lowest or terminal infraspecific epithet of the scientificName, excluding any rank designation
verbatimTaxonRank	The taxonomic rank of the most specific name in the scientificName as it appears in the original record

verbatimIdentification	A string representing the taxonomic identification as it appeared in the original record
minimumDepthInMeters	The lesser depth of a range of depth below the local surface, in meters
maximumDepthInMeters	The greater depth of a range of depth below the local surface, in meters