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Compound-Specific Stable Isotope Analysis: A tool for assessing the effect of a marine reserve on the trophic position of Black grouper (Mycteroperca bonaci)

Synopsis: Belize encompasses the world’s second largest barrier reef. The barrier reef is home to many commercially important fish species and, as such, has become threatened by overfishing. I am interested in elucidating the effect of a marine reserve on the trophic position of black grouper through the use of $\delta^{15}$N analysis of Amino Acids. I have collected black grouper samples from both a marine reserve and non-reserve area to test if there is a difference in trophic enrichment based on prey availability and variety.

Biography: Jasmine hails from New Jersey. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Tampa before joining Stony Brook University’s Marine and Atmospheric Sciences PhD program in 2009. She was awarded the prestigious NSF Graduate Research Fellowship to conduct her work studying how marine reserves enhance groupers in Belize. Since joining Dr. Demian Chapman’s lab in 2009, she has had many adventures and gained invaluable research skills. She’s had the opportunity to hone her genetic skills working at the Guy Harvey Research Institute in Florida, spend time in Chile learning about the shark fin trade, and work at Dr. Brian Popp’s Stable Isotope Biogeochemistry Laboratory at the University of Hawaii. While in Hawaii, Jasmine got engaged. She is excited about her future research.