

Seaflower: Ecosystems for wellbeing *Seaflower: Ecosistemas para el bienestar*

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Archipiélago de San Andrés, Providencia y Santa Catalina, Colombia
July, 2019

Why is related ecosystems and wellbeing?

Por qué se relacionan ecosistemas con bienestar?



Bienestar: Calidad de vida, acceso a la alimentación, condiciones seguras para la vida, trabajo y buena economía, entre otras cosas

The importance of coral reefs:

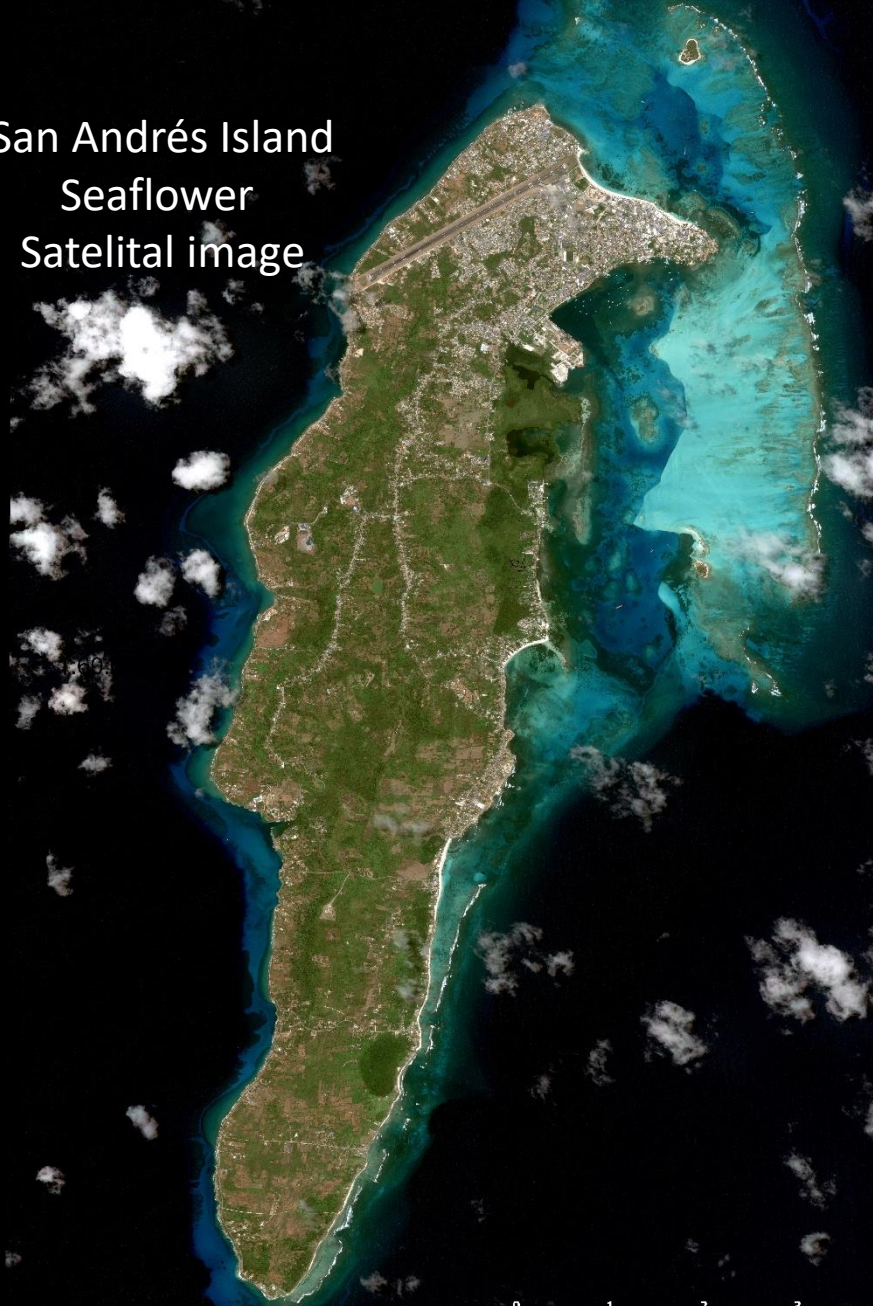
Corals are living animals

That produces Calcium carbonates (like our bones) and
construct 3D hard structures known as reefs



Corals construct reef barriers at Caribbean Oceanic Islands

San Andrés Island
Seaflower
Satelital image



Roncador Island
Seaflower
Satelital image



0 1 2 3
Kilometers

Foto, Cortesía CN León, Archivo DIMAR 2014

0 1 2 3
Kilometers

Reef barriers protects islands (Coastal protection)

Waves before...

and after reef crest breaking zone

(Albuquerque, Seaflower expedition 2018) Photo by Santiago Estrada

And provides shelter for fishes (Food provision)



Caribbean islands are exposed to waves formed across more than 700 km wind fetch



Reef barriers protects could be vital for Caribbean Islands

Roncador Island
Seaflower



Universidad Nacional de Colombia Sede Caribe:

UNIVERSIDAD
NACIONAL
DE COLOMBIA

Have been conducting research at the Archipiélago since more than 20 years
Participation on Seaflower expeditions with the initiative of CCO and interinstitutional support including Armada Nacional de Colombia, Colciencias and Coralina.

Participation on Seaflower expedition 2017 (I.C. Serranilla), 2018 (I.C. Albuquerque) and this year 2019 (I. Old Providence and Ketlina) with the Project:

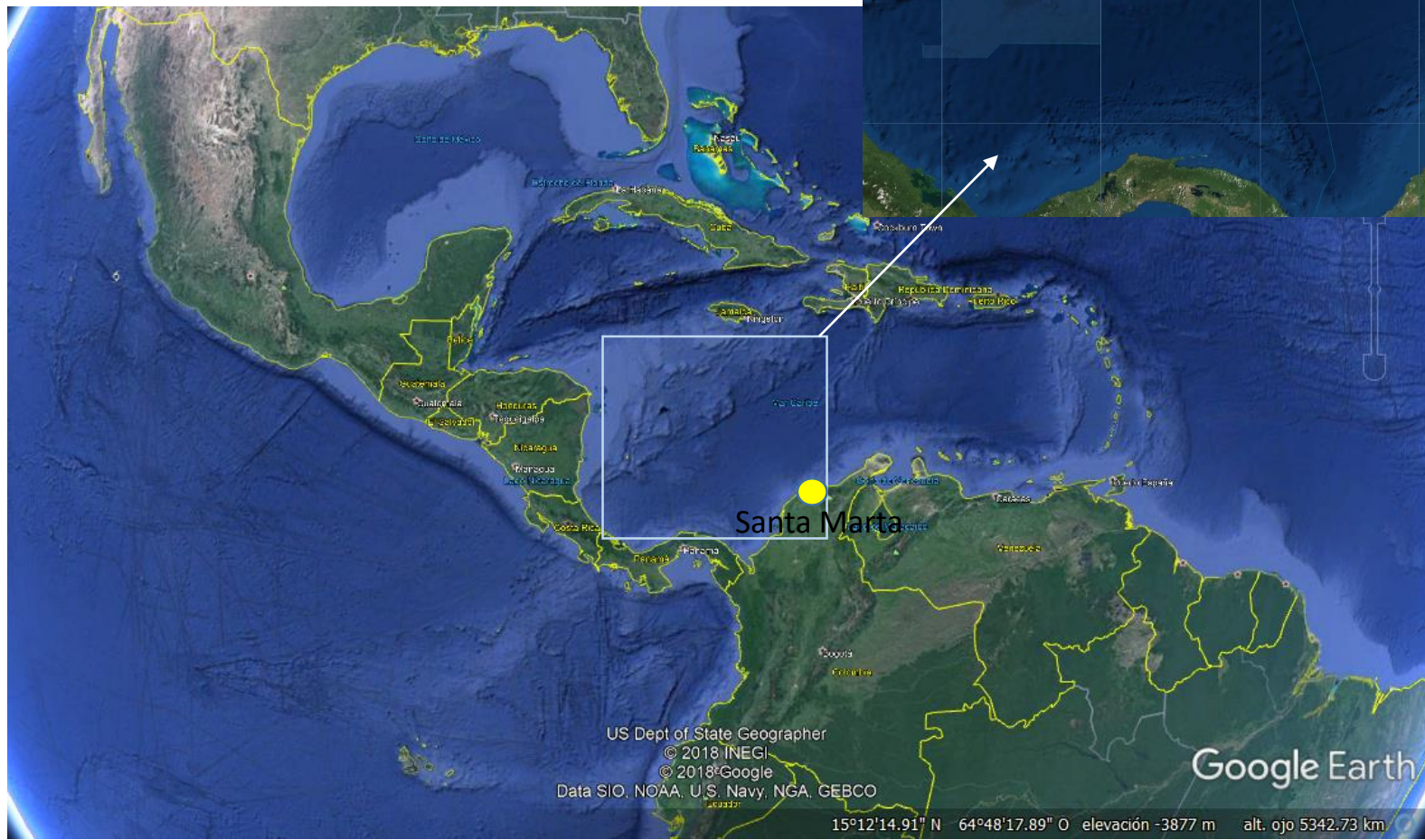
Valoración de servicios ecosistémicos de los arrecifes de coral en los alrededores de Isla Cayos de Albuquerque, Reserva de Biosfera Seaflower, Caribe Colombiano.

Directora e investigadora: Adriana Santos Martínez, PhD. Directora UNAL Sede Caribe.
Participation of islander and UN pre- and post graduated student researchers

Objective: To know the benefits that coral reefs gives to people for their wellbeing, to biodiversity, territory and economy.

Objetivo general: Conocer los beneficios que los arrecifes de coral de la Isla Cayos de Albuquerque aportan al bienestar, la biodiversidad, el territorio y la economía de los colombianos

Study Case, Serranilla Island Seaflower Biosphere Reserve, Colombian Caribbean, Seaflower Expedition 2017



82°0'0"W

Departamento de San Andrés, Providencia y Santa Catalina, Colombia

Islas Cayos de Serranilla

Bajo Alicia

Islas Cayos de Quitasueño

Islas Cayos de Bajo Nuevo

Islas Cayos de Quitasueño

Islas Cayos de Serrana

Islas Cayos de Serrana

Islas de Providencia y Santa Catalina

Islas Cayos de Roncador

Reserva de Biósfera Seaflower
9 islas, 99% mar
77% de los corales de Colombia

Islas de San Andrés

Home

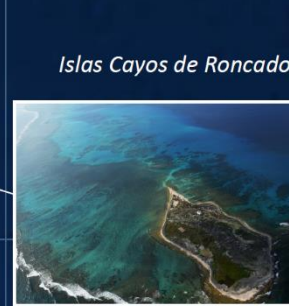
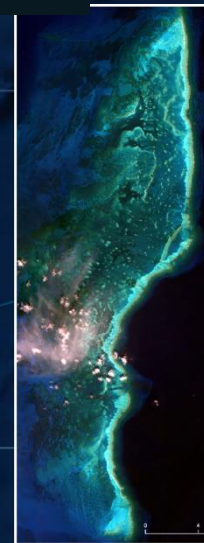
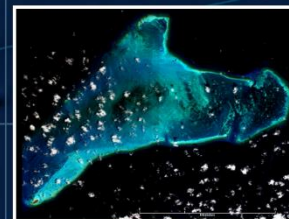
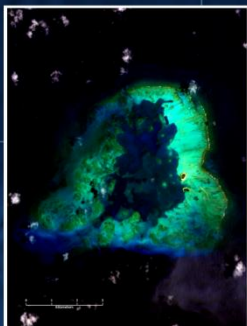
Islas Cayos de Este Sudeste

Islas Cayos de Roncador

Islas Cayos de Albuquerque

Islas Cayos de Albuquerque

Islas Cayos de Este Sudeste



16°0'0"N

14°0'0"N

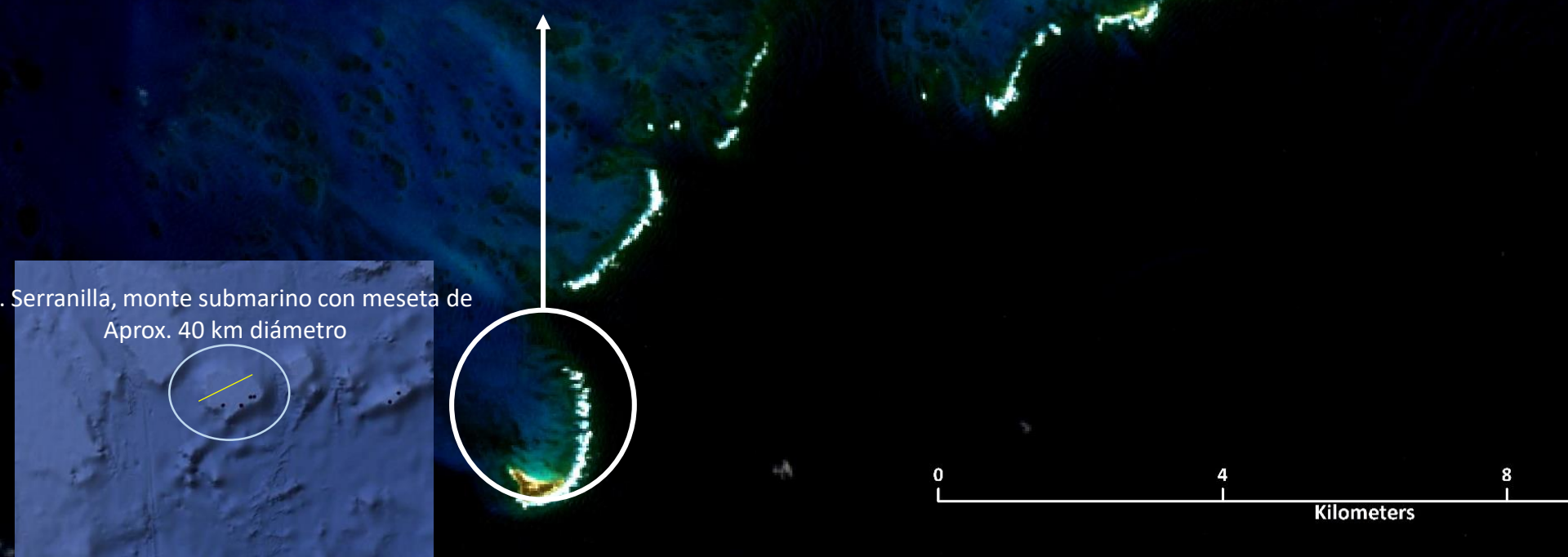
12°0'0"N

10°0'0"N

Located at 420 km from San Andrés island.

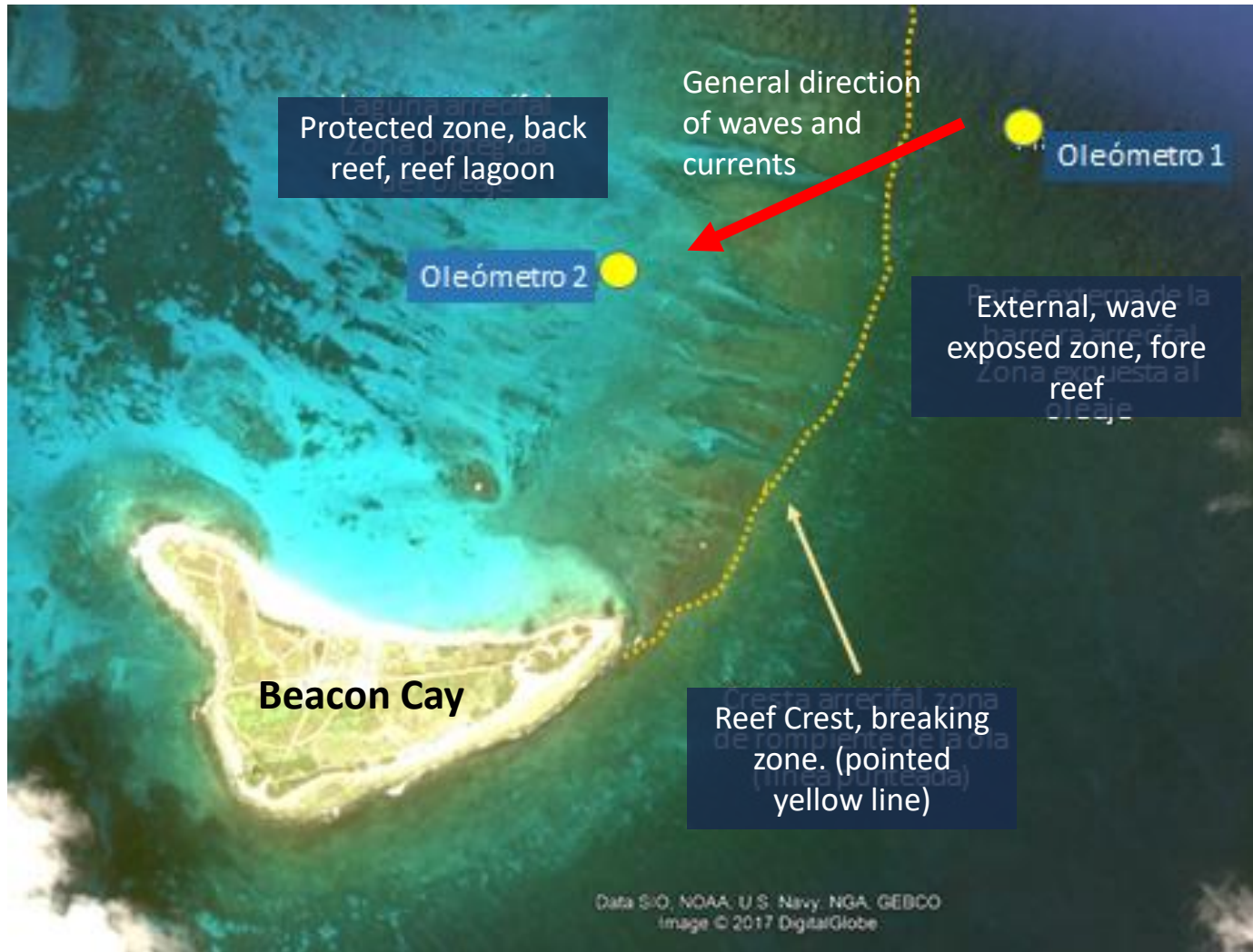


Study case: Isla Cayos de Serranilla.



Ecosystem service: Coastal protection

Methodology measurement of wave energy attenuation

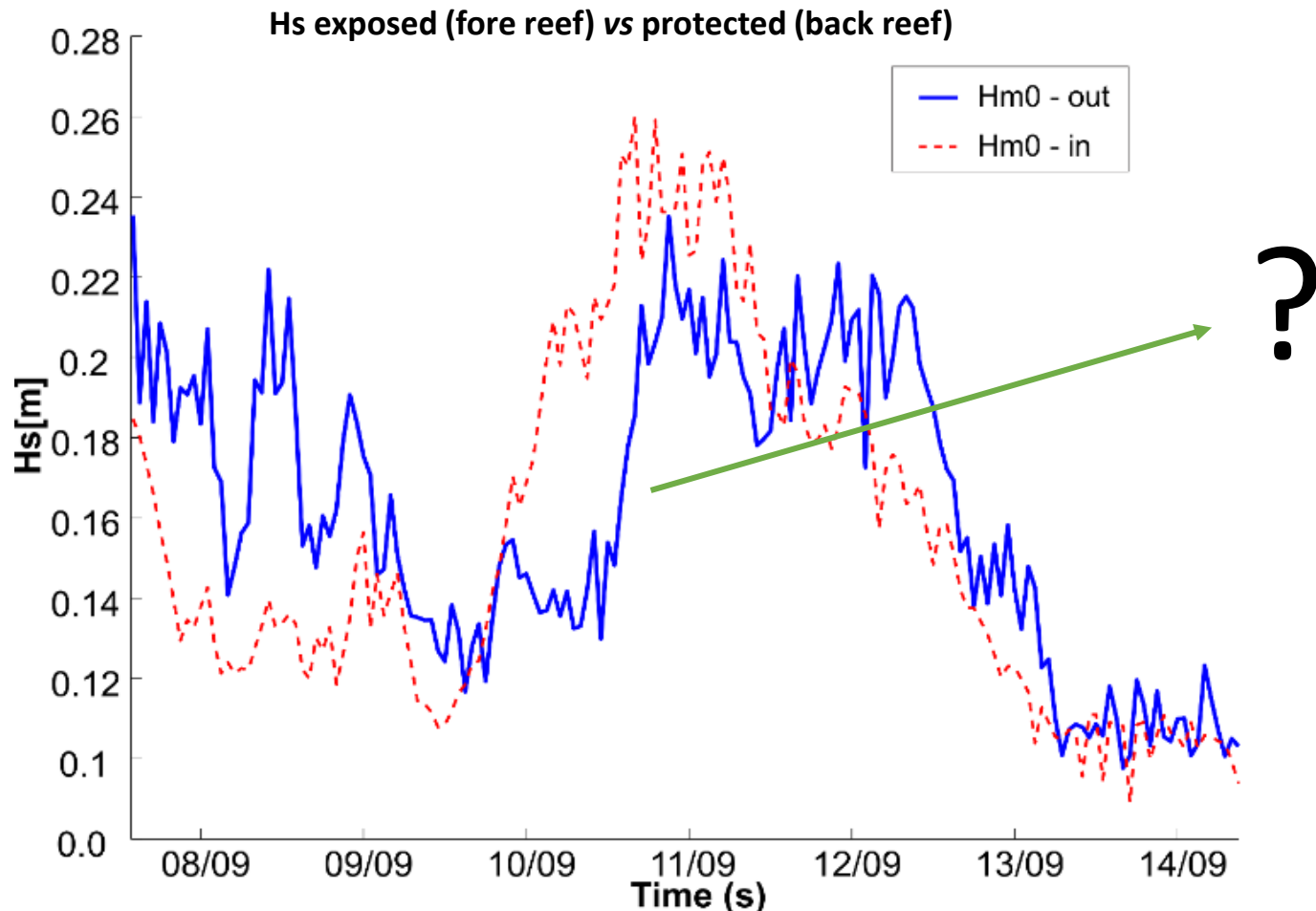


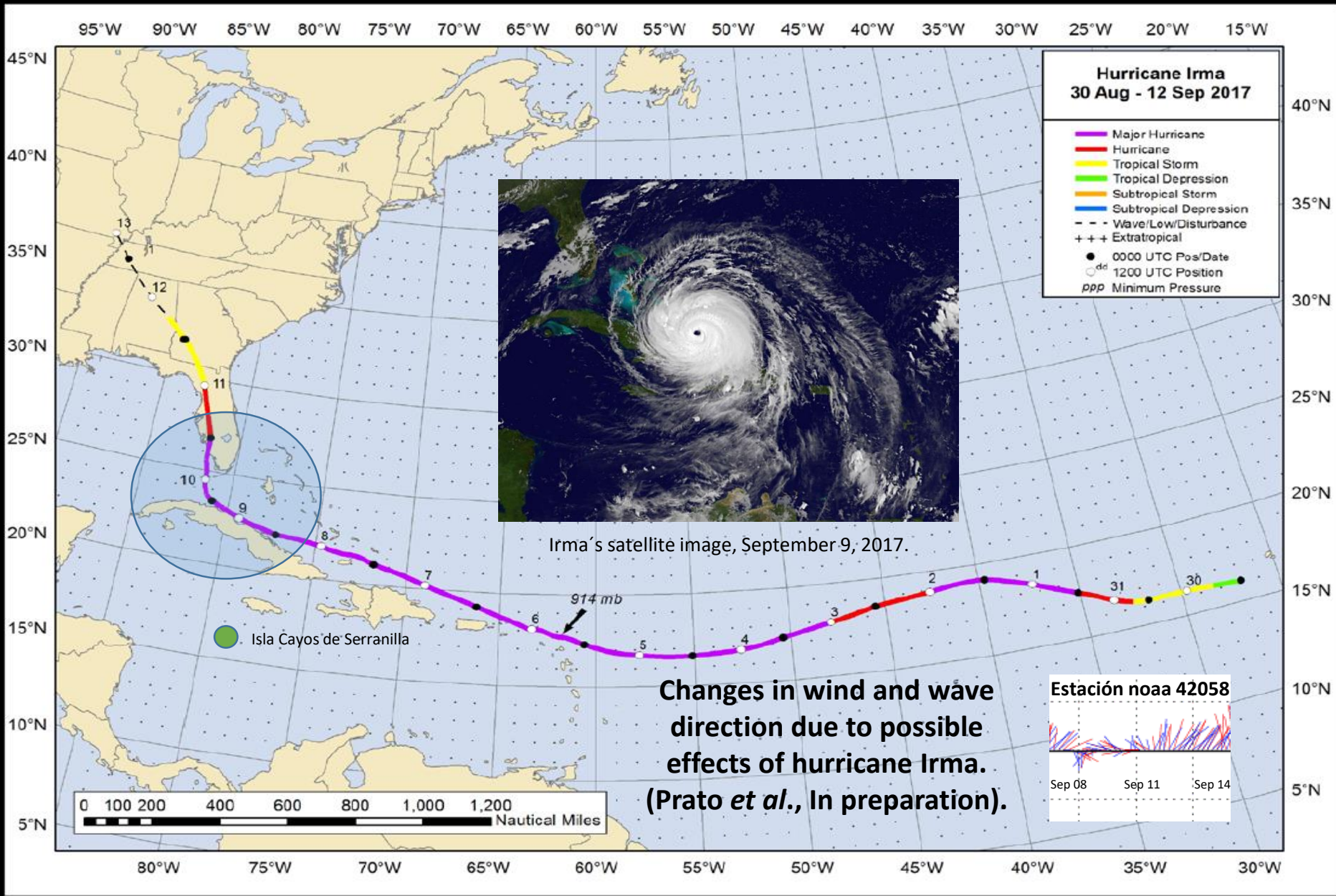
Sensors were underwater for seven days with continuous data measurement



Results wave energy attenuation

The reef barrier in the evaluated zone showed an **ability to attenuate wave energy (Hs: wave height) of up to 40%** under those conditions. Effect of the coral barrier cause processes as shoaling, bottom-breakage, bottom-friction and reflection which together can explain attenuation of wave energy.





Best track positions for Hurricane Irma, 30 August–12 September 2017.

Source: (Cangialosi *et al.*, 2018)
National Hurricane Center. US.

Wave attenuation could be up to 95%

Bacon Cay, example of importance of reef barriers

Altura
máxima
promedio de
las olas =

4m



Altura máxima del
terreno de la isla=
2m



Reef barriers protects people's houses, human life and islands it self

Ecosystem services and wellbeing at risk: Coral cover and complexity losses

Coral reefs have been widely affected by several causes as pollution, climate change (elevated temperatures and acidification), overfishing and massive tourism. (Spalding *et al.*, 2001)

At Caribbean since 1970s decade it is estimated **losses around 80% of coral cover** (Gardner *et al.*, 2003). Close to 75% of Atlantic corals are considered at risk and could reach 100% by year 2050 (Burke *et al.*, 2011).

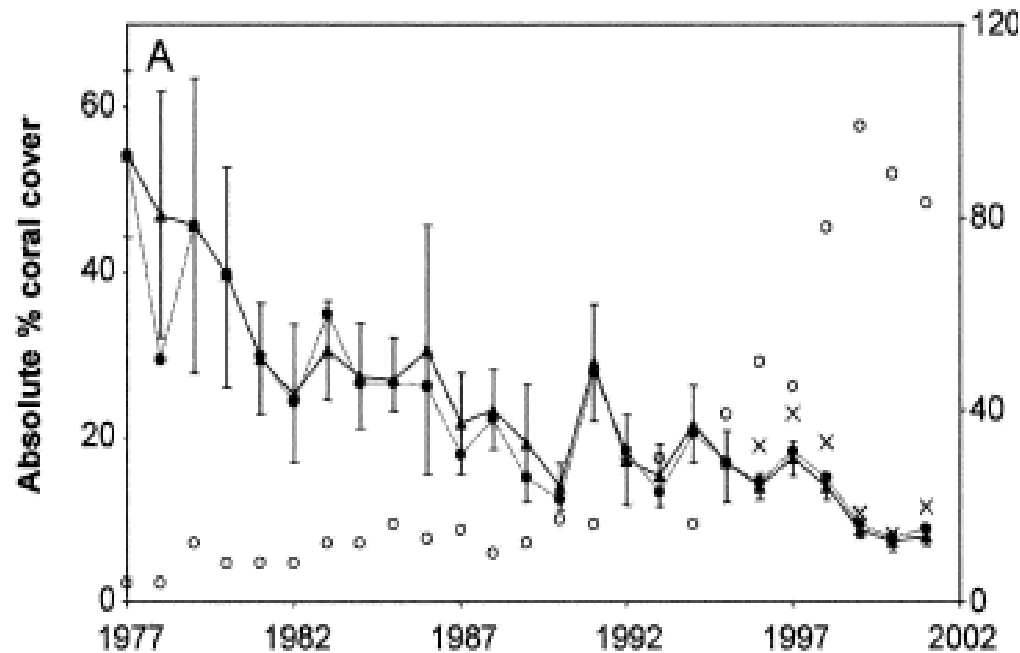


Imagen tomada de Gardner *et al.*, (2003)

Coral cover and complexity losses

Coral reefs ecosystem services and function depends on tridimensional structural (Alvarez-Filip *et al.*, 2013 , Franklin, 2015).



OPEN

Shifts in coral-assemblage composition do not ensure persistence of reef functionality

SUBJECT AREAS:
ECOLOGICAL
MODELLING
CONSERVATION
CORAL REEFS
CLIMATE-CHANGE ECOLOGY

Lorenzo Alvarez-Filip¹, Juan P. Carricart-Ganivet², Guillermo Horta-Puga³ & Roberto Iglesias-Prieto²

¹Healthy Reefs Initiative, Puerto Morelos, Quintana Roo, México, ²Unidad Académica de Sistemas Arrecifales, Instituto de Ciencias

Coral degradation, coral cover losses and replacement of reef structuring species by algae and weedy coral species (*Porites astreoides*, *Agaricia* spp), causes reefs become flat with reduction on structural complexity. (Alvarez-Filip *et al.*, 2013; Mumby *et al.*, 2014). This causes losses on ecosystem services as well.



Acropora palmata

Orbicella faveolata

Porites asteroides

Agaricia sp.

Imagen tomada de
Alvarez-Filip *et al.*, (2013)

Ecosystem services and wellbeing at risk: Coral cover and complexity losses

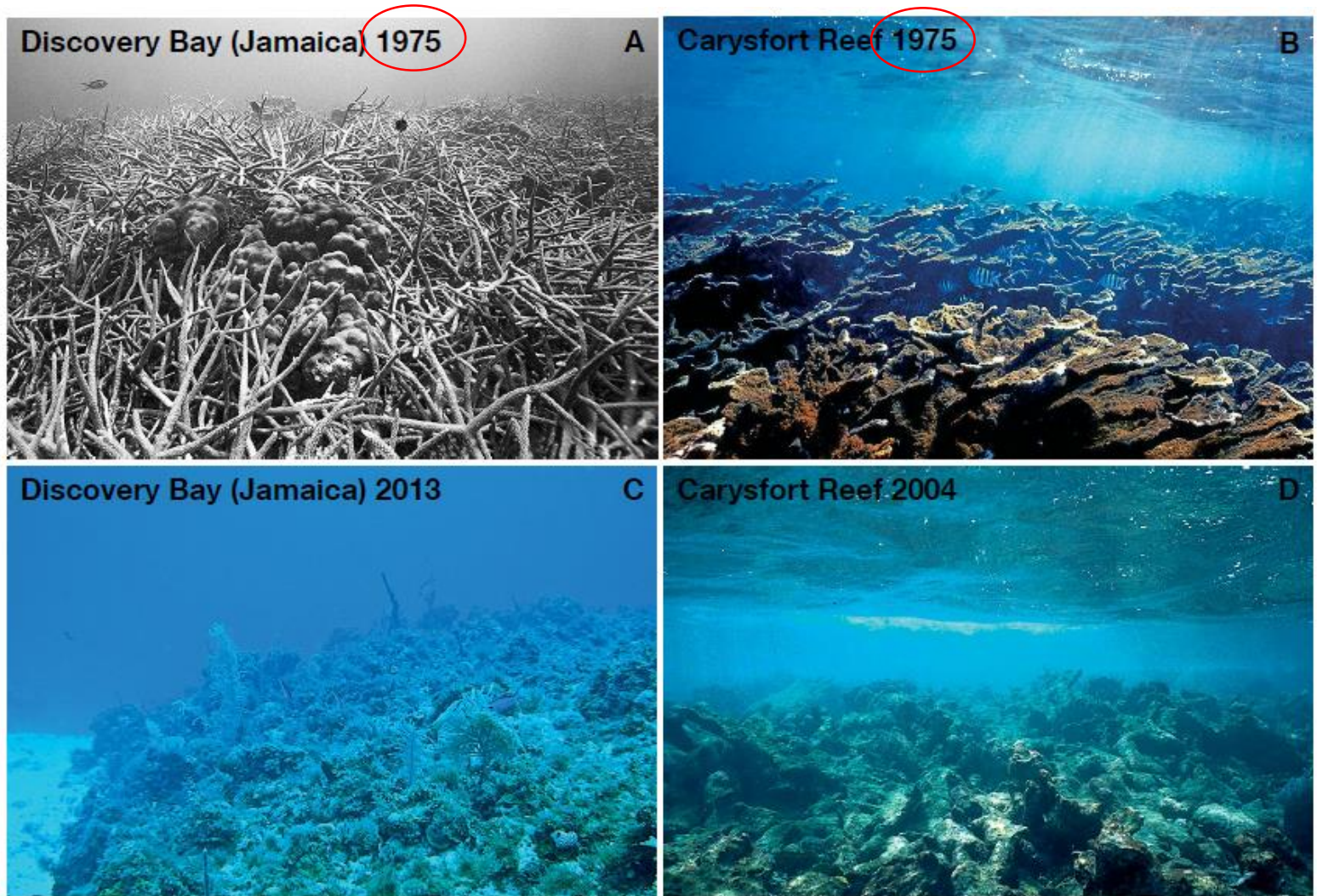


FIGURE 2. Phase shift from dominance by corals to dominance by macroalgae on the shallow fore-reefs in the northern Florida Keys and north coast of Jamaica. (A) Discovery Bay, Jamaica in 1975 and (C) the same location in 2013. (B) Carysfort Reef within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary in 1975 and (D) in 2004 ((A, B, D by Phillip Dustan, and C by Robert Steneck). Imagen tomada de Jackson *et al.* (2014)

Ecosystem services and wellbeing at risk: Coral cover and complexity losses

San Andrés Island pictures taken from (Zea *et al.*, 1998)

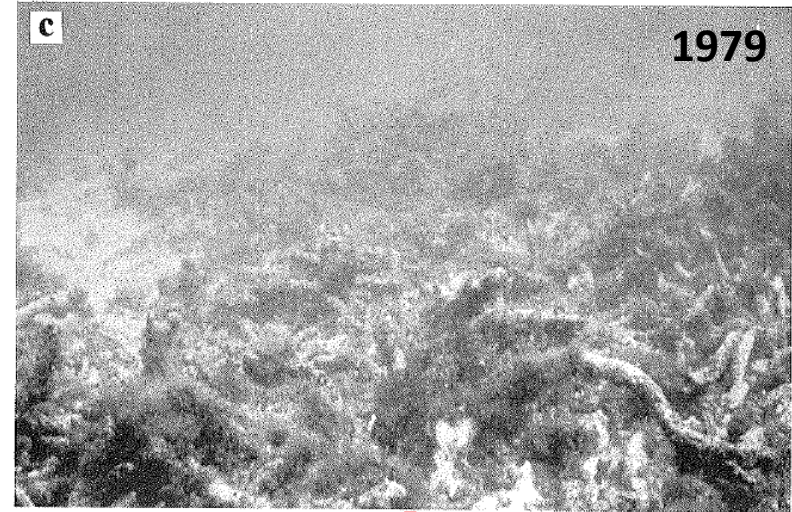
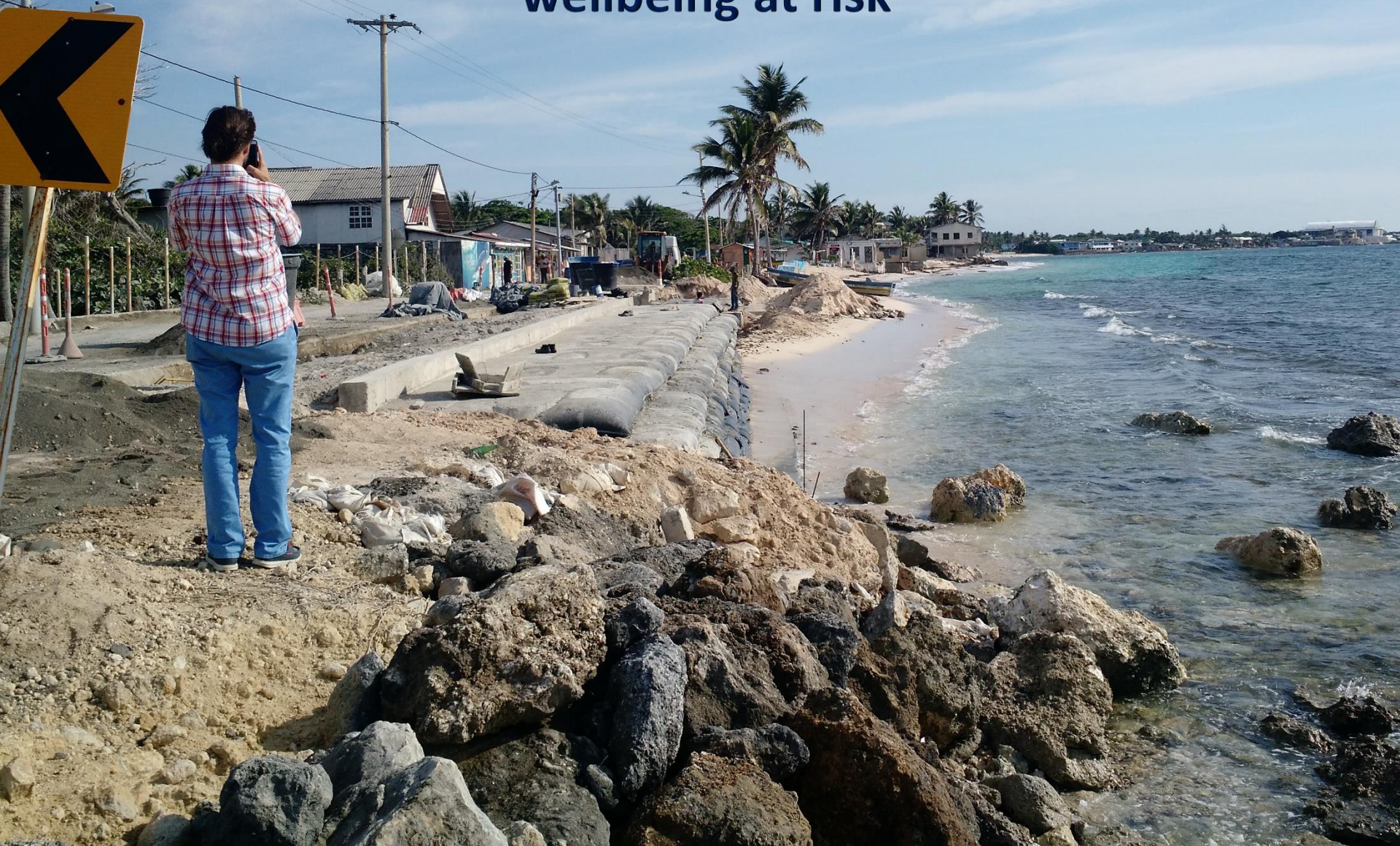


Figure 5 (continued on the next page). *Acropora cervicornis* stands in the northern lagoonal basin of San Andrés, 1-2 m in depth. (a) 1970, live, healthy thickets. (b) 1977, partly necrose and covered by filamentous algae

Figure 5 (continued from the previous page). (c). 1979, more than 80% of coral tissues dead. (d) 1992. 100% mortality and collapse of skeletons

Coral cover and complexity losses, causes coastal erosion, houses damage or removal, livelihoods and wellbeing at risk



Coral reefs protects beaches that attracts tourism and benefits thousands of families at the Archipelago

NACIONAL Antioquia Atlántico Bolívar Boyacá Cundinamarca Cauca Magdalena Meta Santa



LA CIFRA VIENE EN AUMENTO DESDE EL 2016



San Andrés superó el millón de visitantes por segundo año consecutivo

Nacional 16 Ene 2019 - 11:12 AM

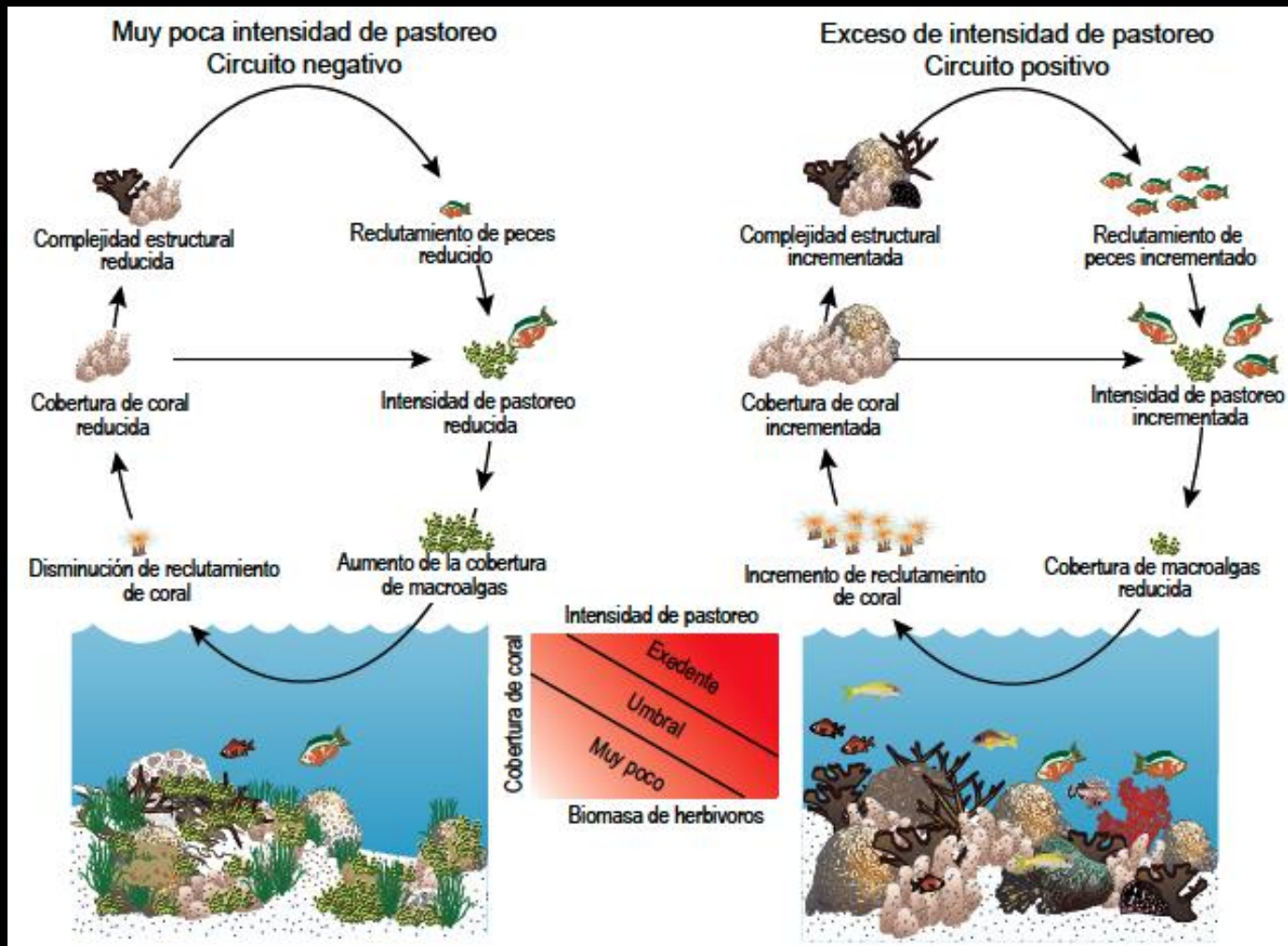
Por: - Redacción Nacional

Más de \$109 mil millones de pesos recibió el departamento sólo con el recaudo de la Occre. Parte de este dinero, según la Gobernación, se invierte en infraestructura pública turística.



Caution!!!: To much masive tourism and non sustainably practices could affect ecosystems , and brings negative consecuenses for the tourism industry and economy

Parrot fishes helps protecting coral reefs



Fuente: Mumby *et al.*, (2014)

Familia Labridae - Scaridae

Scarus coelestinus



Scarus taeniopterus



Sparisoma chrysopterygum



Scarus coeruleus



Scarus vetula



Sparisoma radians



Scarus guacamaia



Sparisoma atomarium



Sparisoma rubripinne



Scarus iseri



Sparisoma aurofrenatum



Sparisoma viride



Lista de peces conocidos del Archipiélago de San Andrés, Providencia y Santa Catalina – (Bolaños *et.,al* 2016)

Reef complexity and fish communities

(results from Expedition 2017, I.C. Serranilla)

Sampling at 10 different sites,
evaluation of possible
relationship between reef
complexity and fish communities

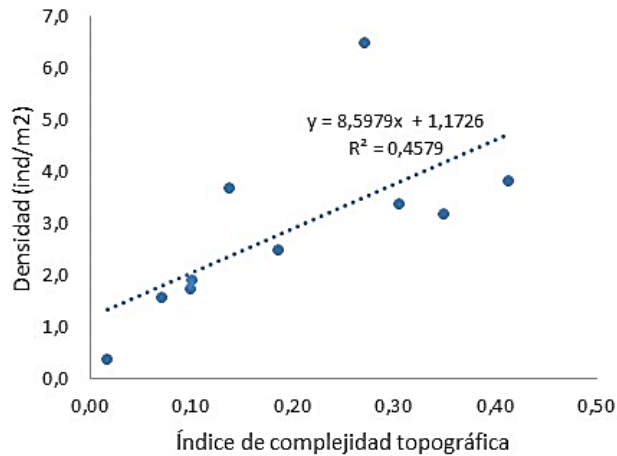


**Table: Average complexity index-CI per site
(from 0 to 1)**

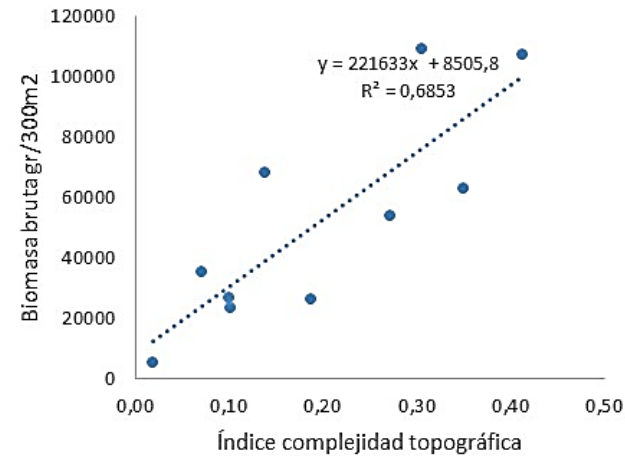
Site	Mean CI
ES1	0,14
ES2	0,10
ES3	0,27
ES4	0,07
ES5	0,02
ES6	0,41
ES7	0,10
ES8	0,19
ES9	0,31
ES10	0,35

Coral reefs complexity, biodiversity and food provision

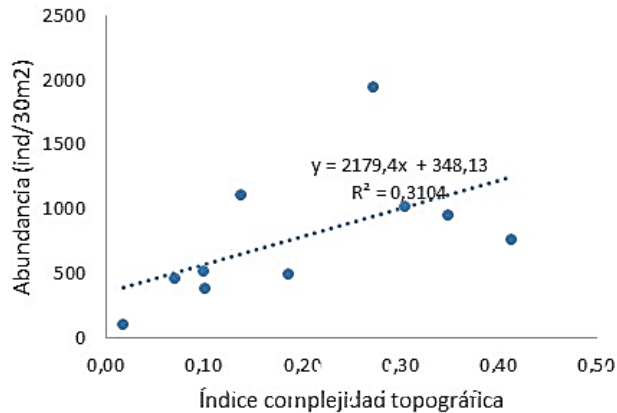
Complejidad vs Densidad peces



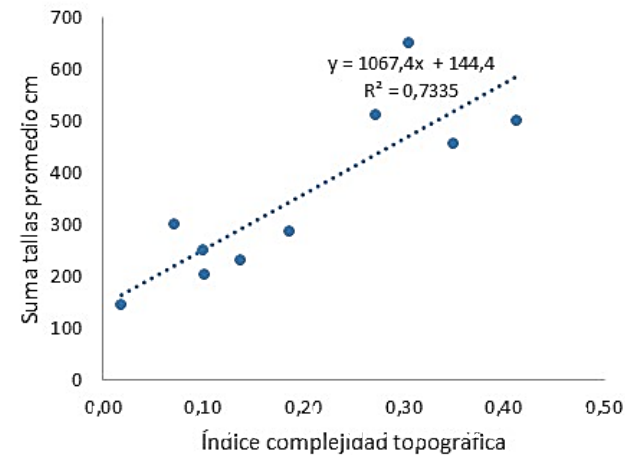
Complejidad vs biomasa bruta



Complejidad topográfica vs abundancia total



Complejidad vs suma tallas promedio



Figures from: (Castaño *et al.*, on press)

Coral reefs and sustainability: complexity losses or gains...and consequences for food provision

Rogers *et al.* (2014) predicted **reductions by three (3) folds on fishing productivity** related with losses on reef structural complexity.

If we protect coral reefs we could also increase fishing productivity...



Current Biology 24, 1000–1005, May 5, 2014 ©2014 Elsevier Ltd All rights reserved <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2014.03.026>

Vulnerability of Coral Reef Fisheries to a Loss of Structural Complexity

Alice Rogers,^{1,2,*} Julia L. Blanchard,³ and Peter J. Mumby^{1,2,*}

¹Marine Spatial Ecology Lab, School of Biological Sciences and ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, University of Queensland, St Lucia, QLD 4072, Australia

²College of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Exeter, Exeter, EX4 4PS, UK

³Department of Animal and Plant Sciences, University of Sheffield, Alfred Denny Building, Western Bank, Sheffield S10 2TN, UK

and (4) what are the implications for reef fish of transitioning from a high- to low-complexity? We present a framework for parameterizing the function of structural complexity to the production of reef fish and could easily be adapted for use in regions ranging from mangroves [12, 13] to Africa [15], where habitat structure also influences predation risk.



Picture from:
<https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/corte-de-la-haya-acepta-dos-contrademandas-de-colombia-anticaragua/547363>

Coral reefs protect islands, other ecosystems as beaches important for tourism and biodiversity (as fishes, humans and sea turtles).

Greater protection of the maritime territory is required, investment for control, surveillance, research and better policies that protect marine ecosystems are needed.



Sea turtle *Caretta caretta* hatching at Albuquerque island, Seaflower expedition 2018, Video courtesy from Paola Echeverry, DIMAR, 2018.

To invest on marine ecosystems is profitable in relation to the benefits that it brings to our country and the Caribbean region

Invest on coral reefs and marine ecosystems is to invest on our own wellbeing, for us and for our children

Coral reefs provides seafood, coastal protection and beaches that are necessary for wellbeing and for economy specially at Caribbean insular territories, our sustainability depends on it

Aknowledgements: Thanks to Universidad Nacional de Colombia Sede Caribe, Colciencias, CEMarin, professors Adriana Santos, Amilcar Cupul, Comisión Colombiana del Océano, Armada Nacional and all institutions that support Seaflower expeditions, *Seaflower* and people from San Andrés and Old Providence

Thank you all !!!



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