



Occurrence and habitat selection in syngnathid fishes in Biscayne National Park, Florida

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Occurrence and habitat selection were studied in syngnathid fishes in Biscayne National Park, Florida from May until September 2016. Repeat surveys (n=7) were conducted at each site to account for false absences due to the cryptic behavior and appearance of syngnathids. Habitat types were broadly separated into continuous seagrass beds, discontinuous seagrass beds, reefs, and hard-bottom habitats. Gulf Pipefish (*Syngnathus scovelli*), Dusky Pipefish (*S. floridae*), and the Dwarf Seahorse (*Hippocampus zosterae*) were most frequently observed syngnathids in Biscayne National Park. Syngnathids were most abundant in continuous seagrass beds composed of *Thalassia testudinum*, *Syringodium filiforme* and/or *Halodule wrightii*.

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