



Reproductive Success of Male *Syngnathus scovelli* Pipefish Across Seasons

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The Gulf pipefish (*S. scovelli*) is a species residing in most of the Gulf of Mexico, including the Tampa Bay region. They breed year-round, except in the central gulf regions where their reproductive activity declines during winter. Addressing the reproductive status of males across seasons as well as detecting any patterns with partial pregnancy was the goal of this study. Male pipefish were collected from multiple populations in the Tampa Bay area during multiple seasons (2005-2010), where they were tagged with fluorescent dyes and photographed. The pictures were analyzed with the program Image J, where torso length (mm), pouch length (mm), pouch width (mm), pouch area (mm²), and the pouch reduction area (mm²) were measured. The number of embryos that males held, as well as the stage of pregnancy and if they were gravid, partially gravid, or not gravid at all were also recorded. During preliminary analysis, seasonal patterns were observed in both number of embryos and the amount of brood reduction. As a result, evidence suggests that sexual selection varies strongly with season in this species.