

HOW BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF TROPICAL FISH IS RELATED TO THE SCENIC BEAUTY OF CORAL REEFS? AN OPEN SCIENCE PROJECT

A CNRS team of scientists from the University of Montpellier and the University Center of Mayotte study how the biological diversity of tropical fish is related to the scenic beauty of coral reefs. They propose an online science protocol opened to everyone, no knowledge of fish required.

Coral reefs are connected to many important cultural and touristic issues, particularly because of their beauty and ecological values. The variety of fish present in coral reefs, such as variation in size, shape and color, contribute to the overall beauty of this tropical landscape.

Identifying how the aesthetic value of fish is perceived in coral landscapes is an open question for ecologists. This project objective is to understand how we perceive the beauty of coral reefs in function of fish aesthetics value. This project on coral reefs and fish diversity will help to development conservation policies based on human perception for this natural ecosystem threatened by habitat degradation and fishing.



The online questionnaire assess the aesthetic value of different species of tropical fish in the Indian Ocean. It is important to gather a large number of responses given by participants from all social backgrounds (including children) in order to obtain reliable results. These results will be published in scientific journals and popularized to the general public. No knowledge or experience is required to participate.

Children, adults, you can participate to this study very simply by clicking the following link: <http://sbio.mbb.univ-montp2.fr/>. This survey only takes few minutes. This questionnaire will be available until June 2016. **THANK YOU for sharing this link in your networks** (friends, office mates, schools, etc.); the more responses we receive, the more reliable and useful our results will be.

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INEE Year of the Landscape: http://www.cnrs.fr/inee/communication/annee_paysage_2016.html