

# Recruitment of Postlarval Caribbean Spiny Lobster (*Panulirus argus*) to the Central Bahamas: Spatial and Temporal Patterns

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## ABSTRACT

Spatial and temporal settlement patterns of Caribbean spiny lobster postlarvae (puerulus stage) in the vicinity of Lee Stocking Island, Exuma Cays, Bahamas, have been examined since January, 1990 using Witham habitat collectors. The results indicate significant spatio-temporal settlement patterns with a distinct lunar periodicity. Peak settlement occurred during the first quarter of the new moon, and during winter (December-January) and late summer (August- September). The majority of pueruli (83%) was collected at two of eight sites. We are presently using cross-correlation analyses to examine the relationship between settlement strength and environmental factors such as wind forcing, season and lunar phase.