

**Ongoing Population Studies of
Juvenile Queen Conch, Strombus
gigas, in the Exuma Cays, Bahamas**

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ABSTRACT

The Caribbean Marine Research Center has initiated an extensive study of the Queen Conch, Strombus gigas, in the Exuma Cays, Bahamas. The focus of the study is a large stock of year class 1983 located in shallow water banks and estimated to be in excess of 100,000 individuals. Measurements include population size, distribution, growth, migration patterns and natural mortalities. Seven hundred S. gigas juveniles have so far been tagged with a 15% return. Eight mortalities have been recorded. The project will attempt to track the 1983 population through harvesting to determine effects of fishing pressure on Exuma stocks.

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