

1	Home range and diel behaviour of the ballan wrasse, Labrus bergylta,
2	determined by acoustic telemetry
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19	Running head: movement patterns of Labrus bergylta
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#### Abstract

Effective fisheries management needs to consider spatial behaviour in 22 addition to more traditional aspects of population dynamics. Acoustic telemetry 23 has been extensively used to provide information on fish movements over 24 different temporal and spatial scales. Here, we used a fixed-receiver array to 25 26 examine the movement patterns of Labrus bergylta Ascanius 1767, a species highly targeted by the artisanal fleet of Galicia, NW Spain. Data from 25 27 individuals was assessed for a period of 71 days between September and 28 November 2011 in the Galician Atlantic Islands Maritime-Terrestrial National 29 Park. Fish were present within the monitored area more than 92% of the 30 31 monitored time. The estimated size of individual home ranges, i.e. the area where fish spent most of their time, was small. The total minimum convex 32 polygons area based on all the estimated positions was  $0.133 \pm 0.072 \text{ km}^2$ , 33 34 whereas the home range size estimated using a 95% kernel distribution of the estimated positions was 0.091  $\pm$  0.031 km<sup>2</sup> The core area (50% kernel) was 35  $0.019 \pm 0.006 \text{ km}^2$ . L. bergylta exhibited different patterns of movement in the 36 day versus the night, with 92% of the fish detected more frequently and 37 travelling longer distances during the daytime. In addition, 76% of the fish 38 displayed a larger home range during the day versus night. The linearity index 39 was less than 0.005 for all fish suggesting random movements but within a 40 relatively small area, and the volume of intersection index between consecutive 41 42 daily home ranges was  $0.75 \pm 0.13$ , suggesting high site fidelity. The small home range and the sedentary behaviour of *L. bergylta* highlight the potential 43 use of small MPAs as a management tool to ensure a sustainable fishery for 44 45 this important species.

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- 46 **Keywords**: home range, diel behaviour, site fidelity, marine protected
- 47 areas, acoustic telemetry, *Labrus bergylta*.

#### 48 **1. Introduction**

Fish movement patterns are particularly relevant to marine management 49 and conservation (Alós et al., 2012b). Traditionally, management decisions 50 were based on population-dynamic models that incorporated fishing effort and a 51 number of biological traits. However, they assumed fish populations to be 52 spatially homogeneous (Botsford et al., 2009), even when the biology of the fish 53 and the management tools used had a spatial component (Babcock et al., 54 55 2005). As approaches for managing marine resources are improving, there is increasing evidence for the need to integrate spatial information into our 56 understanding of population dynamics (Pecl et al., 2006; Semmens et al., 57 58 2010).

Understanding fish movement patterns is important, for example, in the 59 design and assessment of marine protected areas (MPAs). MPAs are a 60 multipurpose fishery management tool (Martin et al., 2007), often used to 61 protect a specific life history stage and to promote the healthy populations which 62 will then spillover the boundaries of the MPA to other areas. Thus, the success 63 64 of MPAs in a fisheries context largely depends on the scale of fish movements in relation to the size of the MPAs. If most of the individuals within the 65 population have home ranges larger than the area of the reserve itself, then the 66 fish will be exposed to fishing pressure and the effectiveness of the reserve will 67 be limited (Kramer and Chapman, 1999). MPAs have been predicted to best 68 serve benthic species with small home ranges and high residency, such as 69 some scarids (e.g. Welsh and Bellwood, 2012), serranids (e.g. Afonso et al., 70

2011; March et al., 2010) or labroids (e.g. Chateau and Wantiez, 2007; Topping
et al., 2005).

73 In spite of its importance, quantifying movement patterns of marine fishes is difficult. Conventional approaches based on external tagging (i.e. mark-74 recapture studies; Fowler et al., 2002; Palmer et al., 2011) depend in large 75 part on the rate of fish returned by fishermen or anglers. In contrast, acoustic 76 telemetry is able to provide repeated estimates of the position of the same 77 78 individual and has become a powerful approach that allows tracking of fish over different spatial and temporal scales (Alós et al., 2011; Heupel et al., 2006). In 79 the last years acoustic telemetry has been increasingly used to determine home 80 81 range size (Collins et al., 2007; Lowe et al., 2003), diel activity pattern (Hitt et al., 2011; Jadot et al., 2006; Meyer et al., 2007), site fidelity (Abecasis and 82 Erzini, 2008; March et al., 2011), and habitat preference (Alós et al., 2011; 83 Topping et al., 2005) of different fish species in a variety of ecoregions. 84 Nonetheless, inference about temporal patterns from telemetry studies should 85 be done with care, and effort must be made in disentangling animal behaviour 86 and rhythms from other factors affecting the probability of detecting a fish (e.g. 87 wind speed, current speeds, biological and environmental noise; Heupel et al., 88 2006) and the use of fixed control tags has been recently proposed to overcome 89 this problem (Payne et al., 2010). 90

The ballan wrasse, *Labrus bergylta* Ascanius 1767, is one of 13 species of labroids occurring in Galicia, NW Spain (Bañon et al., 2010). It is distributed along the coasts of the north-east Atlantic (from Norway to Morocco) and the Mediterranean, from the shoreline to 60 m depth, and targeted throughout most

of this range (Porteiro et al., 1996; Talbot et al., 2012; Treasurer, 1994). In 95 96 Galicia, it supports an important artisanal gillnet fishery, being one of the three most landed fish species in the last decade (www.pescadegalicia.com; last 97 accessed: 25 Sep 2012), as well as a recreational fishery made up of anglers 98 and spear fishers, who usually select for larger individuals (Lloret et al., 2008). 99 The ballan wrasse is a benthic species, occurring most commonly at depths < 100 30 m (Dipper et al., 1977). It inhabits rocky reefs and kelp beds where it mostly 101 102 feeds on small invertebrates (Figueiredo et al., 2005). It's long-lived (up to 29 yr), with slow growth and a protogynous hermaphrodite without sexual 103 dimorphism in colour (Dipper et al., 1977), which spawns in the spring in 104 northern Europe (Dipper and Pullin, 1979; Muncaster et al., 2010). Management 105 of *L. bergylta* is based solely on a minimum landing size of 20 cm, even though 106 107 it has been suggested that in sequential hermaphrodites larger individuals should be protected to ensure sex ratios are sufficient for effective mating and 108 109 fertilization (Alonzo and Mangel, 2004).

There is little knowledge of home range size and temporal patterns in movements for this species. However, a pilot study suggested these topics could be successfully addressed with telemetry (Pita and Freire, 2011). In addition, males have been reported to defend small territories (< 300 m<sup>2</sup>) (Sjolander et al., 1972) and inactivity has been observed at night (Costello, 1991, pers. obs.). Thus, *L. bergylta* appears to be a good candidate for spatial management (i.e., MPAs), but the optimal reserve size lacks empirical testing.

<sup>117</sup> In this study, we used acoustic telemetry to investigate the individual and <sup>118</sup> temporal variability in the movement patterns of *L. bergylta* over a period of 71 days. Specifically, we estimated: (1) residence and site fidelity indexes, (2)
temporal patterns and diel behaviour, (3) home range and core area size and
(4) fish size related differences in spatio-temporal patterns.

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# 2. Material and Methods

This study was conducted at the Cíes Archipelago (Galicia, NW Spain; 124 125 Fig. 1) between 1 September and 10 November 2011. These islands are part of the Galician Atlantic Islands Maritime-Terrestrial National Park, created in 2002. 126 It comprises an area of  $\sim 32 \text{ km}^2$  where limited commercial fishing is allowed 127 with some gear regulations, while recreational fishing is forbidden. The study 128 129 area is located around a small islet in the channel between two of the main islands (Fig. 1). This is a shallow area with depths between 0 and 23 m 130 131 encompassing different habitat types, namely rocky reefs, kelp beds, coralline algae and sandy bottoms. 132

## 133 2.1 Receiver array

In September 2010, a preliminary range test was carried out in Ría de 134 135 Vigo at a location similar to the study area. We specifically tested detection range at 10-15 m depth and over 2 different substrates (soft and hard). We 136 used ©Vemco range test tags V13 and V9 with the same power output as the 137 tags used in this study. A line of 12 receivers was moored covering a distance 138 of 350 m, and both tags were submerged 1 m above the bottom, at the location 139 of the first receiver in the line. The test lasted 112 min, which is the time needed 140 to send out 160 emissions. A generalized linear model (GLM, family 141

quasibinomial) was used for each substrate type to test for differences between proportions of emissions detected at each distance by each tag type. There was no significant difference in the reception range of either tag type with hard (p =0.340) or soft (p = 0.620) bottom type. Therefore data from both tag types were pooled in subsequent analysis. Maximum detection range was ~ 200 m and ~300 m for hard and soft bottoms, respectively, so an intermediate value of 250 m was used to design the receivers array.

Based on this information a fixed array of 12 acoustic omni-directional 149 receivers (<sup>©</sup>Vemco model VR2W) was deployed at the study site to monitor the 150 spatio-temporal patterns of L. bergylta (Fig. 1). Receivers, previously treated 151 152 with antifouling paint, were attached to the upper end of a metallic auger anchor (140 cm high), which was screwed  $\sim$  60 cm into the substrate. This system 153 allowed good fixation and resistance to bad weather conditions as well as a 154 guaranty of vertical orientation of the receiver. Receivers were placed at depths 155 between 5 and 21 m and the array covered an area of  $\sim 1.6$  km<sup>2</sup> with a higher 156 density of receivers closer to the place where fish were tagged and released 157 (islet shoreline). The receiver configuration allowed for range overlap and 158 allowed fish to be continuously detected when present inside the monitored 159 160 area.

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# 2.2 Sampling and tagging

Sixteen fish were captured at depths < 10 m during daytime with hook and line and the swim bladder punctured quickly for venting the trapped gas. Another 9 fish were captured while resting at night by SCUBA divers at 6-10 m depth and slowly brought to surface ( $\sim 4 \text{ m min}^{-1}$ ). After acclimatization fish

were anesthetized by immersion in a seawater solution of 100 mg l<sup>-1</sup> tricaine 166 167 methanesulfonate (MS-222) for  $4.0 \pm 1.6$  min (mean  $\pm$  sd; hereafter all values expressed as mean ± sd) until total loss of equilibrium. Individuals were 168 measured to the nearest 0.1 cm and placed in a methacrylate v-shaped "bed" 169 submerged in, a seawater solution of 25 mg l<sup>-1</sup> of MS-222. Acoustic tags were 170 implanted into the peritoneal cavity of each fish through a 3 cm longitudinal 171 incision in the abdominal wall and the wound closed with 2-3 sutures. The entire 172 surgical process took less than 4 min. After complete recovery, fish were 173 released in the location of initial capture. Time out of the water was 35 ± 12 174 min. The GPS position, depth, date and hour of release were recorded for each 175 tagged fish. 176

Twenty one fish were tagged with <sup>©</sup>Vemco V13-1L-A69-1601 tags (36 x 177 13 mm, 6.0 g in water), with a random delay of 40-80 s, while 4 of the smaller 178 individuals were tagged with V9-2L-A69-1601 (29 x 9 mm, 2.9 g in water) with a 179 random delay of 80-120 s. Battery life in both cases exceeded the duration of 180 the present study. An evaluation of the surgical procedure using dummy 181 transmitters with 8 individuals in captivity revealed normal activity 5-8 min after 182 surgery, normal feeding after 1 day, full cicatrisation without transmitter loss 183 after 3 weeks and 100% survival after 16 months. Fish were tagged before this 184 study (March-April 2011) as part of another experiment, so normal behaviour 185 and complete cicatrisation was assumed. As recommended by Payne et al. 186 187 (2010) a control tag (V13) was deployed inside the receiver array for the tracking period to assess possible environmental effects on the detection 188 patterns and to have a means to measure fish position error. 189

### 190 2.3 Temporal pattern

Data processing and all analysis were conducted in R (R Development 191 192 Core Team, 2011). Data were filtered to remove potential spurious detections, defined as any single transmitter code (fish ID) occurring alone at a specific 193 receiver within a 24 h period (Meyer et al., 2007). The total period of detection 194 (TP) for each fish was calculated as the time interval between the first day of 195 the experiment and the last day the fish was detected, while the number of days 196 detected (DD) reflected only those days an individual was detected. Thus, the 197 residence index (RI) for each fish was defined (March et al., 2010) as: 198

199 
$$RI = DD / TP$$
 (1)

Detections of all receivers for each fish were pooled into hourly bins (time 200 expressed in UTC). Then, continuous wavelet transforms (CWT) were used to 201 identify periodicity patterns in the time series (Alós et al., 2012a; March et al., 202 2010). We computed the 2-dimensional wavelet spectrum and calculated a 203 204 pointwise test at the 95% significance level using a Morlet wavelet with the 205 sowas package (Maraun et al., 2007). To investigate diel patterns, the number 206 of detections per hour were pooled and corrected by taking into account the 207 mean hourly detection frequency of the control tag, as described in Payne et al. (2010). This approach quantifies the magnitude of variation of each hourly bin 208 (as standardized detection frequencies, SDFs) around the mean daily detection 209 210 frequency for the control tag:

$$SDF_b = \frac{B_b}{\mu}$$

where  $\mu$  is the overall mean detection frequency across all hourly bins, b, and B 211 212 is the mean detection frequency in each hourly bin for the control tag. The mean daily detection frequency for each fish tag was then divided by the 213 corresponding SDF for each bin. Then, the total detections at day and night 214 were pooled and standardized based on the different duration of each phase. 215 216 Day and night phases were defined using sunrise and sunset data obtained from the U.S. Naval Observatory (http://aa.usno.navy.mil; last accessed: 14 Apr 217 2012) for the study area (March et al., 2010; Meyer et al., 2007). A Mann 218 Whitney U-test was used to test for differences in the corrected number of 219 detections between day and night. 220

### 221 2.4 Spatial pattern

222 We estimated the centres of activity (COA) for each fish at each time bin (Hedger et al., 2008; Simpfendorfer et al., 2008) using the Nadayara-Watson 223 normal kernel estimator with the sm package (Bowman and Azzalini, 1997). The 224 resulting set of estimated positions was used as input for the subsequent 225 analysis. Fish position at each time,  $XY_{ii}$ , was based on the averaged positions 226 227 of the receivers that detected fish *i* during the time bin *j* and weighted by the number of detections at each receiver over that period. Selection of an 228 appropriate time bin size ( $\Delta_t$ ) is required to get accurate results when using this 229 230 method and the optimal bin size must balance the need to record sufficient detections from different receivers and the need to not allow the fish to move 231 too much (Simpfendorfer et al., 2002). To select the optimal  $\Delta_t$ , we calculated 232 the mean number of receivers detecting signals from an individual tag (NR), and 233 then we averaged the number of detections from this tag across all receivers 234

(ND) during each time bin. We tested six different values of  $\Delta_t$ : 10, 20, 30, 40, 235 236 50 and 60 min. NR is expected to increase asymptotically as  $\Delta_{\rm f}$  increases, whereas ND increases linearly with  $\Delta_t$ . Better position estimates are obtained 237 238 when the fish is detected multiple times by multiple receivers (Simpfendorfer et al., 2002). We considered a suitable  $\Delta_t$  when the increase in NR was < 10% 239 between two consecutive values of  $\Delta_t$  and ND remained > 10. The resulting 240 value was  $\Delta_t$  = 30 min at which NR was 2.8 ± 1.8 receivers for both V13 and V9 241 tags and ND was 10.1  $\pm$  6.9 and 14.4  $\pm$  12.1 detections / time interval for V9 242 and V13 tags, respectively. 243

We used 2 approaches to estimate the home range of each fish over the 244 245 total period. Minimum convex polygons were estimated based on the full set of fish positions (MCP<sub>100</sub>). Bivariate normal fixed kernel utilization distributions 246 (KUDs) were estimated based on 95% (home range) and 50% (core area) of 247 the positions (KUD<sub>95</sub> and KUD<sub>50</sub>, respectively) using the *adehabitat* package 248 (Calenge, 2006). The MCP<sub>100</sub> provided information regarding the extent of an 249 animal's range over a given period, while KUDs provided information regarding 250 the use of space within that range including core area and home range. The 251 overlapping area between the small islet located in the receiver array and the 252 253 activity spaces was subtracted to produce the final results. A kernel bandwidth equal to the error in the estimation of the fish locations was selected (Alós et al., 254 2012a). As this error is unknown, it was approximated as the mean of the 255 256 positioning error of the control tag. A linear regression was used to test for differences in the intercept and slope of the home range sizes estimated by 257 MCP<sub>100</sub> and KUD<sub>95</sub>. 258

Changes in home range over time were investigated based on KUD<sub>95</sub>. 259 260 Observation-area curves were calculated by plotting cumulative home ranges over a period of days. It is expected that as tracking time increases the 261 262 cumulative KUD<sub>95</sub> will initially increase and eventually reach an asymptote, indicating that no additional tracking time is needed to ascertain the true home 263 range of the fish (Rechisky and Wetherbee, 2003). We assumed the asymptote 264 was reached at the time when percent change of the observation-area curve 265 was less than 5% between two consecutive days (Rechisky and Wetherbee, 266 2003). In addition, daily values of KUD<sub>95</sub> were estimated for the 71 days and 267 268 diel (night vs. day) differences in these values were statistically tested using a Wilcoxon signed rank test. For comparison we also estimated the accumulated 269 KUD<sub>95</sub> for day and night phases for each fish. 270

The linearity index (L<sub>i</sub>) (Alós et al., 2011; Rechisky and Wetherbee, 2003) and the volume of intersection (VI) index (Fieberg and Kochanny, 2005) were calculated for each fish as a proxy for site fidelity. L<sub>i</sub> was calculated as:

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$$L_i = (F_n - F_1) / D$$
 (2)

where  $F_n - F_1$  is the distance between the first and last COA, and D is the total 275 distance travelled by the fish. An Li of 1 indicates linear movements between 276 the first and the last COA and an L<sub>i</sub> near 0 indicates little movement from the 277 area and reuse of the same activity space (March et al., 2010). VI index 278 279 computes the volumetric intersection between two activity spaces and was calculated with the kerneloverlap function in the adehabitat package (Calenge, 280 2006). The VI index ranges from 0 to 1 (Fieberg and Kochanny, 2005). We 281 estimated 3 VI indices. First, VI index was calculated for daily values of KUD<sub>95</sub> 282

in order to investigate patterns of space reuse from day to day. A value of 1 283 signifies complete overlap of activity spaces (sedentary behaviour) whereas a 284 value of 0 indicates non-overlap (nomadic behaviour). Second, patterns in 285 home range diel shift were evaluated by estimating the day-night values of VI 286 index for the accumulated KUD<sub>95</sub> and third, the same was done with the 287 accumulated KUD<sub>50</sub>. In this case a VI index of 1 indicates complete overlap 288 between day and night activity spaces whereas a VI index of 0 suggests a 289 290 different use of space during the day and night. Total distance travelled per day (Dt) was approximated by adding up the distances between consecutive COAs 291 292 for each day. Distance travelled per hour at daytime  $(D_d)$  and night time  $(D_n)$ were calculated for each day by dividing the distance travelled per diel phase by 293 the duration of the phase, and the differences were tested with a Wilcoxon 294 295 signed rank test.

In addition, linear regression models were used to determine the effects of fish total length (TL) on the home range size (both MCP<sub>100</sub> and accumulated KUD<sub>95</sub>) and D<sub>t</sub>. The normality of the residuals and model performance were examined by visual inspection of the residual distributions, plotting the residuals against the fitted values and using quantile-quantile (QQ) plots.

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#### 302 **3. Results**

The characteristics of the 25 *L. bergylta* individuals monitored are summarized in Table 1. A total of 822,251 detections were downloaded from the receivers, with a mean of  $31,625 \pm 22,366$  detections per fish. On average, an individual fish was detected by  $8.2 \pm 1.9$  receivers over the whole period. Fish were detected by more receivers during daytime ( $3.8 \pm 1.2$  receivers per hour) than at night ( $2.1 \pm 0.5$  receivers per hour). The mean number of fish detected by a receiver was  $17.3 \pm 6.0$ . The total period of detection was 71 days for all tagged fish with a mean of  $70.2 \pm 1.4$  days detected. The RI varied from 0.92 to 1.00 with a mean of  $0.99 \pm 0.02$ .

# 312 3.1 Temporal pattern

The corrected number of detections binned by hour and pooled ignoring day 313 (Fig. 2) revealed a clear diel pattern for the majority of fish. The diel pattern was 314 315 characterized by more detections during the day. Detections from the control 316 tag indicated a significant variability in reception between day and night periods (Fig. 2), with more detections occurring during the night period (p < 0.05). The 317 318 corrected mean number of detections was significantly higher during daytime compared to the night for 24 individuals (Table 2), with the exception of one fish 319 320 which was more frequently detected at night.

321 The CWT spectrograms (some examples in Fig. 3) detected significant periodicities in the time series of the monitored fish, but not in the control tag. 322 Twenty-four fish presented a clear 24 h periodicity in their spectrograms. In 323 324 some cases this periodicity extended for the majority of the days (n = 9), whereas in others it was more sporadic (n = 15). Fish 305 also showed a 325 significant 48 h periodicity in addition to the 24 h periodicity, probably 326 327 corresponding to the second harmonic of the 24 h period. Fish 285 did not exhibit a 24 h periodicity, but did show a significant 12 h periodicity. 328

329 3.2 Spatial patterns

A mean of 2,651  $\pm$  574 COAs (fish positions) were estimated for the tagged fish based on 30 min time bins (Table 3). For the control tag, 3,376 COAs were estimated and compared with the true tag position giving a mean estimation error of 45.5  $\pm$  17.0 m.

The plots of daily cumulative KUD<sub>95</sub> (Fig. 4) revealed that although all 334 individuals stabilized their home range area during the study period (mean = 335  $16.8 \pm 18.6$  days), the time needed to achieve it was highly variable, ranging 336 from 1 to 56 days (Fig. 4 and Table 3). Home range (MCP<sub>100</sub> and KUD<sub>95</sub>) and 337 core areas (KUD<sub>50</sub>) are shown in Table 3 while some examples are plotted in 338 Fig. 5. The estimation of home range size obtained with MCP<sub>100</sub> was 0.133  $\pm$ 339 0.072 km<sup>2</sup>. MCP<sub>100</sub> was negatively correlated with fish TL ( $\beta$  = -0.005, t = -340 2.907, p = 0.008). The estimation of home range size obtained with KUD<sub>95</sub> was 341 0.091  $\pm$  0.031 km<sup>2</sup>, exhibiting no relationship with fish TL (p = 0.322). MCP<sub>100</sub> 342 estimates were significantly larger than KUD<sub>95</sub> estimates over the full range of 343 home range sizes, i.e., the linear regression between the home range sizes 344 estimated with MCP<sub>100</sub> against those estimated with KUD<sub>95</sub> revealed a slope 345 significantly different from 1 ( $\beta$  = 1.339, t = 3.346, p = 0.003) and an intercept of 346 0. The core area based on accumulated  $KUD_{50}$  was 0.019 ± 0.006 km<sup>2</sup> showing 347 no relationship with fish TL (p = 0.070). 348

Significant diel differences were found in 22 out of 25 fish in daily  $KUD_{95}$ (Table 3), with 19 fish showing significantly larger daily daytime  $KUD_{95}$  and 3 fish exhibiting larger nighttime  $KUD_{95}$ . Fish exhibited the same diel pattern when the accumulated, i.e. asymptotic,  $KUD_{95}$  was analyzed with the exception of one. Averaged D<sub>t</sub> was 1570 ± 467 m d<sup>-1</sup> (Table 4). It was negatively correlated with fish TL ( $\beta$  = -35.06, t = -3.107, p = 0.005) and showed a strong positive correlation with KUD<sub>95</sub> (Pearson r<sup>2</sup> = 0.82). D<sub>t</sub> varied significantly with the diel phase, with longer distances travelled at day hours in all cases except for one fish (Table 4).

L<sub>i</sub> and VI indices are shown in table 4. L<sub>i</sub> over the full period was 0.0008 ± 0.0009. VI index was high based on a KUD<sub>95</sub> daily shift (0.75 ± 0.13). Day-night VI index ranged between 0.00 and 0.41 in the case of the accumulated KUD<sub>50</sub> (0.22 ± 0.12) and between 0.18 and 0.86 for the accumulated KUD<sub>95</sub> (0.58 ± 0.17).

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# 364 **4. Discussion**

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#### 4.1 Residence time and site fidelity

366 Residence time and site fidelity are important issues to be taken into account when designing MPAs for a given species. High residence time is a 367 typical behaviour among reef associated fishes and has been documented for 368 many different fish families (e.g. Labridae and Serranidae) at different time 369 scales, such as days (23 d for Xyrichtys novacula, Alós et al., 2012a), months 370 (up to 27 months for Semicossyphus pulcher, Topping et al., 2006) or years (up 371 372 to 5 years for Epinephelus marginatus, Afonso et al., 2011). Our results of RI for L. bergylta over the 71 d of study agree with this general pattern of behaviour, 373 with all fish being detected in the monitored area > 92% of the days. Moreover, 374 the fact that all the 25 fish were tagged in the study area months before this 375 study, and were still there in September 2011 when this research started, 376

suggests that the resident behaviour reported might be maintained over longer
periods of time. The high residency of *L. bergylta* is supported by the low L<sub>i</sub> and
high daily VI index values obtained, which reveal a strong sedentary behaviour
and non-directional movements.

381 *4.2 Diel behaviour* 

382 L. bergylta showed a clear diel pattern with a much higher activity during daytime. The 24 h periodicity of this temporal pattern was also clearly observed 383 in the CWT spectrograms for most fish. The interpretation of diel patterns in 384 385 telemetry studies must, however, be done with care. Environmental conditions 386 (e.g. temperature, salinity, conductivity) may produce spurious periodicities in the detection patterns, even if the animal does not have diel behaviour, which 387 may lead to a misinterpretation of the results (Payne et al., 2010). To assess 388 those effects we used a control tag, which recorded any environment-related 389 temporal pattern and allowed us to remove this from the data prior to assessing 390 movement patterns. Therefore, diel patterns observed were due only to fish 391 392 behaviour, assuming that there was no spatial variation in environmental 393 artefacts within the monitored area.

The existence of a diel pattern is a common characteristic of fish behaviour and has been previously reported for a wide variety of species (Alós et al., 2011; Arendt et al., 2001; Hitt et al., 2011). Some authors found that diel detection patterns were related to actual fish movement in and out of a certain area (Hitt et al., 2011; Topping et al., 2005). A similar pattern could, however, be observed if the animal does not leave the area but displays hiding or burying behaviour at night (March et al., 2010), as has been observed for many labroids

(Alós et al., 2012a; Topping et al., 2005). This seems to be the case of L. 401 402 bergylta too, which is known to display decreased activity and sheltering behaviour at night hours, when individuals rest inside rock crevices or between 403 the rocks (Costello, 1991; pers. obs.). This behaviour would impede the 404 transmission of the acoustic signals, resulting in the low number of detections 405 observed at night. During the day L. bergylta is more mobile and visible 406 (Costello et al., 1993) allowing improved reception of the acoustic signals. This 407 would also increase the potential for signal collisions during the day 408 (Simpfendorfer et al., 2008), which may, at least in part, explain the observed 409 410 pattern of detection of the control tag (fewer detections during daytime).

411 The temporal diel pattern observed was supported by our spatial results. Estimated home ranges differed between night and day, with most of the fish 412 413 exhibiting larger daytime home ranges. This result suggests that estimates of home range based solely on data from the daytime, as is common with active 414 tracking studies or direct underwater observations (Barrett, 1995), may not be 415 416 accurate. Besides, distance travelled at daytime was greater for all but one fish, revealing higher activity during this phase in agreement with the increased 417 diurnal detections. Given that the study period was out of the spawning season 418 of the species, increased daytime movements and activity are presumed to be 419 related to foraging activity. In addition, it is worth mentioning that for the 420 purposes of this research we defined the day and night periods using the 421 422 sunrise and sunset times, as in other telemetry studies (Alós et al., 2011; Hitt et al., 2011; March et al., 2010). This definition could potentially influence the 423 results of diel behaviour if dawn and dusk movements (included in the night 424 period) were important, resulting in a partially overestimated nocturnal activity. 425

The wide range of values obtained for day-night VI index (for both home range and core area) suggests intra-specific variability in diel patterns in the use of space. Some fish used relatively different areas for night and day activities (e.g. resting vs. foraging), while others remained in the same space throughout, similar to other temperate and tropical reef associated species (Lowe et al., 2003; Marshell et al., 2011; Meyer and Holland, 2005).

# 432 *4.3 Home range size*

The small home range obtained for *L. bergylta* (KUD<sub>95</sub> = 0.091 km<sup>2</sup>) is in 433 434 agreement with a sedentary behaviour previously reported for this species (Costello, 1991; Sjolander et al., 1972). Reported territory size for males during 435 spawning was < 300 m<sup>2</sup> (0.0003 km<sup>2</sup>; Sjolander et al., 1972), much smaller than 436 437 our estimations of home range size. Due to the nest guarding behaviour of the species (pers. obs), the estimation by Sjolander et al., (1972) likely corresponds 438 439 to the range of movement of the guarding males during the day (when observations were made), rather than the true home range of the species. 440

Home range size estimations are determined by the temporal scale at 441 which they are calculated. Measurements along several consecutive days are 442 443 required to obtain an asymptotic, i.e. accumulated value, to be used as an index of home range (March et al., 2010). Therefore, not taking into account the 444 temporal scale, i.e. measuring home range over short periods, can lead to 445 446 biased results and erroneous conclusions. In the case of L. bergylta all the individuals stabilized their home range during the study period showing that no 447 additional tracking time was needed for a reliable estimation of the home range 448 size. Pita & Freire (2011) estimated a home range size of 0.003 km<sup>2</sup> and 0.005 449

450 km<sup>2</sup> for two individuals of *L. bergylta* that were manually tracked for 1 and 4 451 days, respectively, which might lead to underestimated results. The home range 452 size reported in the present study for *L. bergylta* is in the range of other 453 hermaphroditic labroids with complex social structures like *Xyrichtys novacula* 454 (0.32 km2; Alós et al., 2012a), *Coris julis* (0.13 km<sup>2</sup>; Palmer et al., 2011) or 455 *Semicossyphus pulcher* (0.02 km<sup>2</sup>; Topping et al., 2005).

Intra-specific variability in home range sizes may be influenced by many 456 biological or environmental factors (Quinn and Brodeur, 1991). Different 457 relationships have been found between fish TL and home range size for 458 sedentary species, from positive (Jones, 2005) to negative (Kaunda-Arara and 459 460 Rose, 2004; Meyer and Holland, 2005), or no relationship (Alós et al., 2011; March et al., 2010). Additionally, the estimation of the home range size is highly 461 dependent on the method used (Walter et al., 2011), which was supported by 462 our results. Home range size of *L. bergylta* based on MCP<sub>100</sub> was negatively 463 correlated with fish TL, although KUD<sub>95</sub> was not correlated at all. The strong 464 correlation between KUD<sub>95</sub> and D<sub>t</sub> further supports the idea that home range 465 size is correlated with fish TL. Smaller fish travelled longer distances, resulting 466 in larger home ranges, as evidenced by the negative relationship between fish 467 TL and Dt. Higher mobility and larger home range (based on MCP<sub>100</sub>) in smaller 468 individuals of *L. bergylta* may indicate that they are too small to effectively 469 defend a territory, in contrast with adult territorial individuals that can satisfy 470 471 their energetic demands within a small area in high quality habitats (Grüss et al., 2011). In addition, KUD estimates are influenced by the selection of the 472 473 bandwidth. Smaller values are preferred with large sample sizes as they 474 produce less biased results (Kie et al., 2010). In this study, we used the mean of the positioning error of the control tag which allowed us to incorporate the
uncertainty of positional errors into the home range estimates (Alós et al.,
2012a) while increasing the spatial resolution.

#### 478 *4.4 Implications for fishery management*

Results from this research have direct implications for conservation and 479 480 should be integrated into the management of L. bergylta. At present, this species is managed solely on a minimum landing size of 20 cm, an inadequate 481 measure for protogynous species as the larger males may then have 482 483 inadequate protection (Alonzo and Mangel, 2004). We have demonstrated that 484 L. bergylta exhibits a high site fidelity and a limited home range that together with the reported slow growth rate (Dipper et al., 1977) and their hermaphroditic 485 486 reproductive strategy makes this species particularly vulnerable to overfishing (Sattar et al., 2008). Those fisheries which target larger individuals such as 487 angling and recreational spear fishing may especially impact resident 488 489 populations.

490 In the present study, clear diel behaviour was observed with increased distance travelled during day hours. The probability of catching a fish in a gillnet 491 492 is directly proportional to the probability of the fish encountering the net and being trapped in it, which in turn depends on the distance travelled by the fish 493 (Rudstam et al., 1984). Thus, a higher catch rate is expected for L. bergylta 494 495 during the daytime. Moreover, the negative relationship between fish TL and 496 distance travelled (a proxy of activity) suggest a complex catchability pattern: small fish will be more prone to be caught because they move more actively but 497 only when they reach the size threshold of the gear. 498

A consequence of the sedentary behaviour of the species and the small 499 500 home range is that relatively small MPAs may effectively protect this species (Barrett, 1995). Effective protection of L. bergylta by small MPAs could 501 augment the number and size of the individuals inside it (reserve effect), 502 increasing the reproductive potential of the population due to the allometric 503 increase in fecundity with size of most fish (Alonso-Fernández et al., 2008; 504 Birkeland and Dayton, 2005). Maintaining an intact population structure inside 505 the MPA would also prevent sperm limitation (Alonzo and Mangel, 2004) and 506 thus favour fertilization rates. The protected population would function as a 507 source of larvae to adjacent harvested areas, maintaining sustainable 508 population levels. Furthermore, if the population biomass within MPAs 509 increases, density-dependent factors may force small and intermediate-sized 510 511 fish to migrate and relocate their home range outside the MPA (Grüss et al., 2011; Kramer and Chapman, 1999; Lowe et al., 2003) thus being accessible to 512 513 the fishery. All this information should be taken into consideration by managers 514 designing small MPAs, at a point when their use is starting to be considered as an effective management tool in NW Spain. 515

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532 **References** 

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### 718 Figure captions

Figure 1 Map of the study site showing the location of the 12 acoustic receiversand the extension of the monitored area

Figure 2 Plot of mean detections and standard deviation for the control tag (a) and mean corrected detections per hour (UTC) for each tagged *Labrus bergylta* (b, c, d, e and f). Vertical lines represent sunrise and sunset. Diel phase is indicated as "n" (night) or "d" (day). Note the difference in Y-axis scale

Figure 3 Wavelet sample spectrums fitted for individuals 283, 285, 288, 291, 292, 296, 299, 304, 305 and the control tag. Individuals were selected to represent the different periodicity patterns obtained, covering the full range of fish sizes. Continuous lines represent the cone of influence (COI). Values outside de COIs should not be interpreted due to edge effects. Thick contours represent the 95% confidence level

Figure 4 Daily cumulative home ranges based on KUD<sub>95</sub> for all the tagged *Labrus bergylta*. Days needed to reach the asymptote are indicated in the legend. Information is presented in four different plots to improve visualization. Note the different Y-axis scales

Figure 5 Plots of total, night and day space utilization estimated for fish 283, 288, 289, 293, 302, 304, 306 and 429. Individuals were selected to represent the full range of home range sizes and IOR values. Fixed acoustic receivers are shown as black points, and location of capture and release for each fish as a red dot. MCP = minimum convex polygons based on 100% of the positions;  $KUD_{95}$  = kernel utilization distribution based on 95% of the positions;  $KUD_{50}$  = kernel utilization distribution based on 50% of the positions