

**EFFECT OF HIERARCHY IN AGGRESSIVENESS IN SMALL GROUPS OF
JUVENILE WHITE-SEABREAM (*DIPLODUS SARGUS CADENATI* DE LA
PAZ, BAUCHOT Y DAGET, 1974)**

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White-Seabream (*Diplodus sargus cadenati*) is a species of commercial interest, but it shows high levels of intraspecific aggressiveness. In small groups of white-seabream, the monopolization and defence of resources affect directly the hierarchy structure of the group, as a result of the agonistic interactions. Groups show a linear hierarchy, where the dominant fish attacks selectively the next one in rank.

The social organization of small groups into a hierarchy when the dominant fish is temporarily separated is described. The aggressiveness developed by the group doesn't show significant differences before and after the dominant fish was withdrawn and reintroduced, but the reintroduction of the first dominant fish after 24 hours of separation doesn't affect its status. After some aggressions, it recovers its social position. The group's aggressiveness level was lower when the dominant fish was absent.