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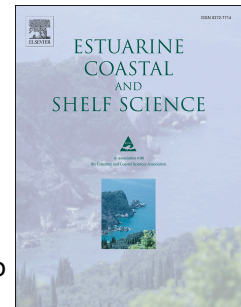
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Regional patterns in species richness and taxonomic diversity of the nearshore fish community in the Brazilian coast

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ABSTRACT

The nearshore fish assemblage structures and their seasonal changes were compared between two habitats (estuarine and surf zones) in three climatic regions (Tropical, 7°S; Transition, 23°S; and Warm Temperate, 32°S) encompassing ~3200 km in the Brazilian coast. Regional patterns of species richness and taxonomic distinctiveness of the fish community were also described. We expected the highest richness and lowest seasonal variation in the assemblage's structure in the Tropical region and the opposite pattern in the Warm Temperate region. The assemblage structures differed significantly among regions and habitats. In the estuarine habitats, species richness and taxonomic

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