

Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0272-7714(17)30691-1

DOI: [10.1016/j.ecss.2017.12.019](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecss.2017.12.019)

Reference: YECSS 5714

To appear in: *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*

Received Date: 13 July 2018

Revised Date: 28 December 2018

Accepted Date: 29 December 2018

Please cite this article as: Possamai, B., Vieira, Joã.P., Grimm, A.M., Garcia, A.M., Temporal variability (1997-2015) of trophic fish guilds and its relationships with *El Niño* events in a subtropical estuary, *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science* (2018), doi: 10.1016/j.ecss.2018.12.019.

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Temporal variability (1997-2015) of trophic fish guilds and its relationships with *El Niño* events in a subtropical estuary

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ABSTRACT

Global climatic phenomena like *El Niño* events are known to alter hydrological cycles and local abiotic conditions leading to changes in structure and dynamics of terrestrial and aquatic biological communities worldwide. Based on a long-term (19 years) standardized sampling of shallow water estuarine fishes, this study investigated the temporal variability in composition and dominance patterns of trophic guilds in a subtropical estuary (Patos Lagoon estuary, Southern Brazil) and their relationship with local and regional driving forces associated with moderate (2002-2003 and 2009-2010) and very strong (1997-1998 and 2015-2016) *El Niño* events. Fish species were classified into eight trophic guilds (DTV detritivore, HVP herbivore-phytoplankton, HVM macroalgae herbivore, ISV insectivore, OMN omnivore, PSV piscivore, ZBV zoobenthivore and ZPL zooplanktivore) and their abundances were correlated

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