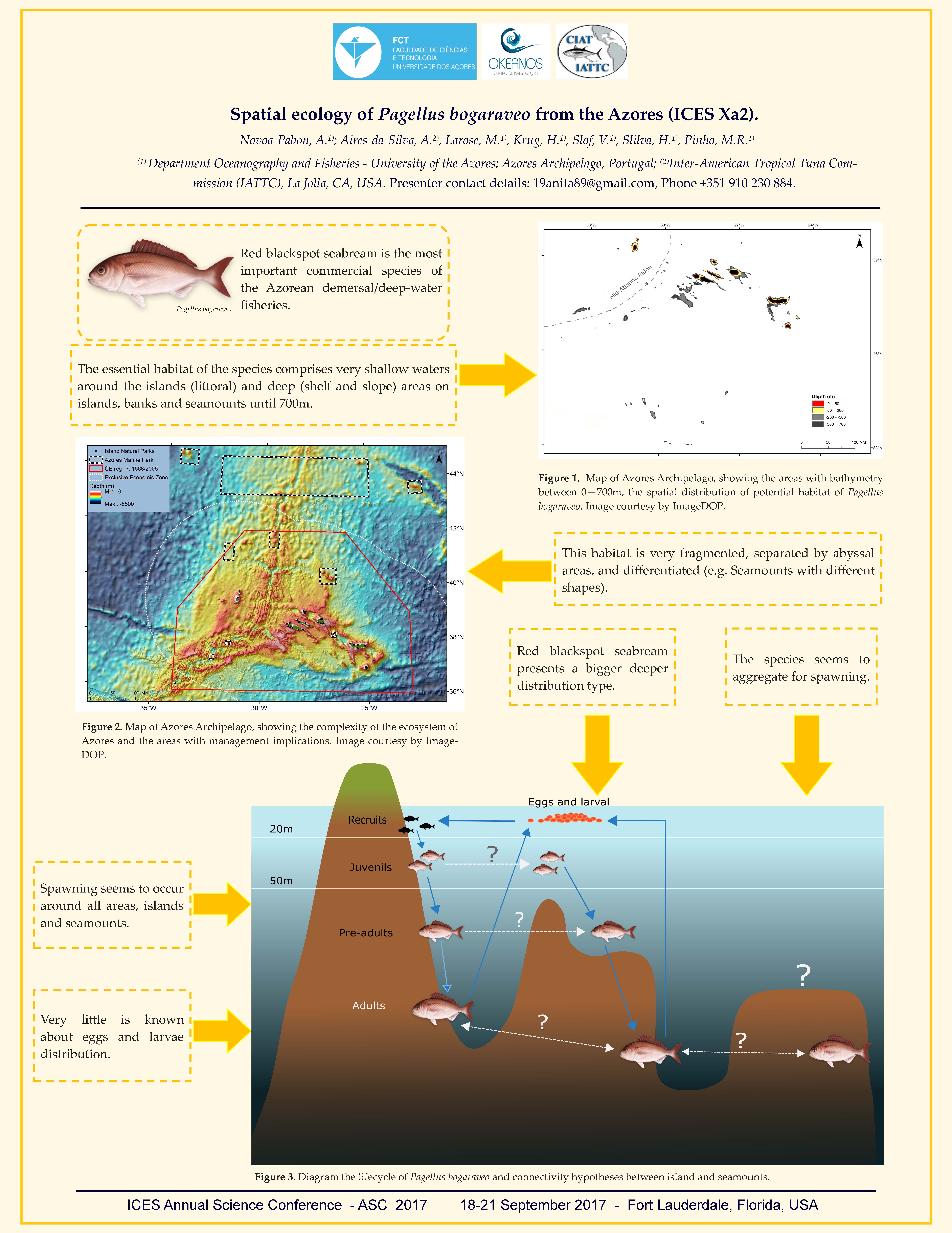
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**Spatial ecology of Red blackspot seabream (*Pagellus bogaraveo*) from the Azores (ICES Xa2).**

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**Abstract**

Red blackspot seabream(*Pagellus bogaraveo*) is the most important commercial species of the Azorean demersal/deep-water fisheries. The essential habitat of the species comprises very shallow waters around the islands (littoral) and deep (shelf and slope) areas on islands, banks and seamounts until 700m. This habitat is very fragmented, separated by abyssal areas, and differentiated (e.g. Seamounts with different shapes). The species presents a bigger deeper distribution type with juveniles occurring in the littoral coastal areas with an ontogenetic migration to deeper depth strata in function of growth/age. The species seems to aggregate for spawning. Spawning seems to occur around all areas, islands and seamounts. Very little is known about eggs and larvae distribution. The population seems to be distributed by metapopulations. However, a model has not yet been established for the connectivity between these metapopulations. Moreover, it is estimated that climate change may have moderate/high effects on the population. Fisheries targeted all components of the life history, from juveniles to megaspawner, with interactions between recreational, tuna and demersal fisheries. In this study, we discuss the life history and spatial distribution of the red seabream around the Azores archipelago highlighting the fishing, stock assessment and management implications.

**Keywords:** Red blackspot seabream, Azores, life history, spatial distribution, connectivity, management.

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