

The Mating Call of the Wild

Samantha Elizabeth Edwards

What's that sound? Is it secret navy drilling or nesting bees? These were the speculations of houseboat owners when they heard the loud humming, mating call of the Plainfin Midshipman Marine Toadfish. This fish is interesting because it has two male reproductive tactics, and the males provide parental care. As a member of the Aquatic Behavioural Ecology Lab (ABEL), I counted the Midshipman fish eggs, laid under rocks, to further our understanding of fish mating and parental care habits. This data will help the fishing industry to better meet the supply and demand of our growing populations.

This précis is based on research at the Aquatic Behavioural Ecology Lab (ABEL).

Published with permission from Dr. Sigal Balshine.