

Project Update: July 2016

In May and June 2016 our project reached an important proposed objective: interaction with Brazilian Government environmental agencies sharing the results of research conducted in our project. We participated of the first “Seminar about Cup Coral Invasion (*Tubastraea tagusensis* and *T. coccinea*) in Brazil” for leveling officials of the Brazilian Government environmental agencies (Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais Renováveis-IBAMA, Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade-ICMBio and Ministério do Meio Ambiente-MMA), in the IBAMA headquarters in Brasília city, DF. The leveling officials of environmental agencies will assist the development of the Coral Cup Plan, a management tool that will be created by the Ministry of Environment to deal with Cup Coral Invasion in Brazilian coast.

We presented the lecture: "Cup Coral in Todos os Santos Bay: effects on natural systems" and formally shared our published scientific papers. Others institutions also participated such as Estadual University of Rio de Janeiro-UERJ, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro-UFRJ, research institute (IEAPM), NGO (PRÓ-MAR), and oil industry (Petrobrás).

After event, recently a law instrument was officially created (PORTARIA MMA Nº 94, 06 DE ABRIL DE 2016, see attachment) to start actions for elaboration of the Cup Coral Plan by Brazilian Ministry of Environment.

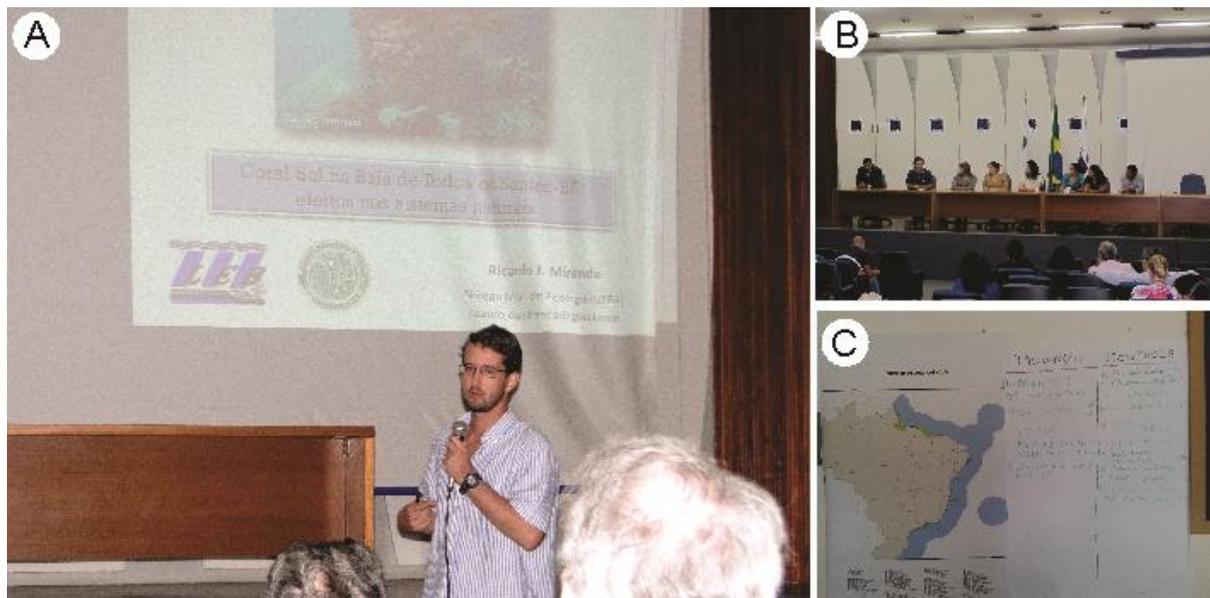


Figure 1. First “Seminar about Cup Coral Invasion (*Tubastraea tagusensis* and *T. coccinea*) in Brazil” realized by government environmental agencies: a) Ricardo J. Miranda showing research results of the project in event, b) representatives of civil, industry and research society during discussions, and c) map of priority areas to prevent and control the alien Cup Coral *Tubastraea* spp along Brazilian coast proposed during the event.