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TITLE: Connectivity in the slender Sargassum shrimp (*Latreutes fucorum*): implications for a Sargasso Sea protected area

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ABSTRACT:

Conservation groups have called for protective measures in the Sargasso Sea, a region characterized by unique planktonic seaweed communities. To better understand population connectivity and facilitate effective conservation efforts, we assessed slender Sargassum shrimp (*Latreutes fucorum*) 16S rDNA variation along a 3093-km transect. FST analysis and an analysis of molecular variance indicate a highly dispersive population, suggesting that a network of protected areas may be necessary to protect the Sargassum ecosystem.

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