

Experiment 16

In this experiment, conducted in the 'no fishing' area of the Marine Park on the north side of Heron Reef on 26 April 1979, the same four observers classified the sticks on the stick transect into ten 10 cm size classes. Each observer swam three or four times over the transect. All observers showed good ability to classify the sticks (Appendix 2, Tables 23 and 24), the difference between D_{max} and D_{crit} approaching or exceeding 0.2 in the vast majority of cases.

Experiment 17

The introduction of another observer (J.B.) who had participated in Experiment(2) necessitated testing his length estimation abilities. All tests with this observer involved placing the sticks into ten size classes, except for his first test, which required actual length estimation in the boat harbour at Heron Island.

Although this observer showed the same tendency for underestimation as all other observers, the mean deviation was relatively low (Appendix 2, Table 25). Placing these length estimates into size classes confirmed the accuracy of this observer (Appendix 2, Table 26).

All subsequent tests for this observer are grouped in Appendix 2, Table 27. These tests were made over a period of four days and showed steady improvement, so that in the last three trials his classifications were extremely close to the expected distribution.