**Assessment of genomic diversity and population sub-structuring of kingklip (*Genypterus capensis*) off southern Africa**

Kingklip (*Genypterus capensis*) is a deep-water benthic fish endemic to the southern African coastline and represents a valuable marine resource for both South Africa and Namibia. This species has been subject to fishing pressures for many years, with past exploitation levels leading to substantial declines in abundance, resulting in it being considered over-exploited. Currently there is a lack of consensus regarding kingklip stock structure, with previous studies providing evidence for both multiple and single stocks. Understanding stock structure is vital for the accurate assessment and management of marine resources. Taking into account both the commercial importance and trans-boundary nature of this species it is therefore evident that a consensus regarding its fine-scale genetic structure is needed in order to best inform future management decisions. Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) has revolutionised population genetics allowing for the sequencing and identification of thousands of loci at reduced costs, thereby helping to identify weak genetic differentiation and adaptive divergence in several high gene flow species. By employing NGS techniques this study aims to develop a novel set of genome-wide Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) markers to be used to assess the fine-scale genetic structuring of kingklip along the southern African coastline (Namibia and South Africa). The results will further be used in the development of a stock identification tool, potentially increasing the species economic value and aiding in the eco-labelling initiatives.

