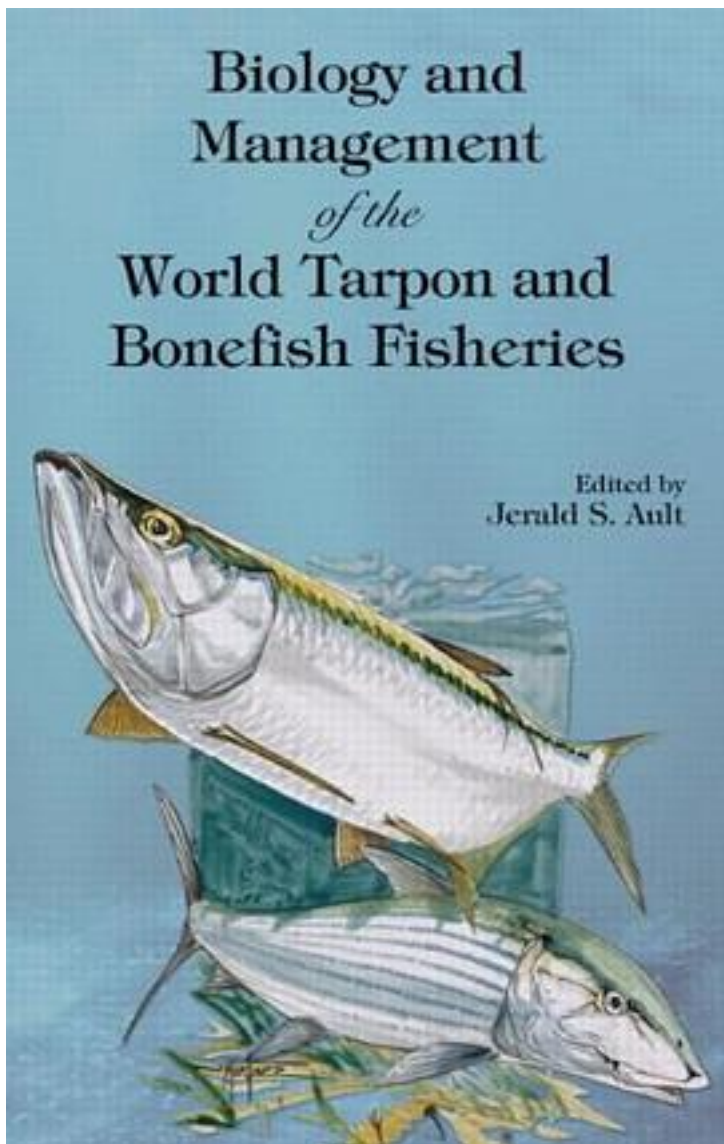


# Biology and Management of the World Tarpon and Bonefish Fisheries



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著者:Ault, Jerald S. 编

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The core of a multibillion dollar sport fishing industry, tarpon and bonefish, two of the earth's oldest creatures, are experiencing obvious and precipitous population decline. Experienced anglers in the Florida Keys suggest a drop of approximately 90-95 percent for the bonefish population over the last 65 years. Despite the economic value of the industry and scientific value of these ancient fish, very little information is available about their movements and migrations, population dynamics, life histories, and reproductive habits to effectively sustain fisheries for these amazing species. With contributions from some of the world's leading experts, "Biology and Management of the World Tarpon and Bonefish Fisheries" synthesizes existing scientific literature, presents new perspectives, and introduces original scientific research to guide fishery management and conservation efforts for building sustainable tarpon and bonefish fisheries. Divided into five sections, the book begins with an overview of the state of the world's fisheries for tarpon and bonefish. The second section reviews the biology and life history dynamics of these fish with contributions on conservation genetics, reproductive biology and early life development, as well as resolving gaps in evolutionary lineage and taxonomy. Covering population dynamics and resource ecology, the third section discusses migratory patterns in the Atlantic and the use of tagging. Highlighting the lore and appeal of these fascinating sport fish, the book concludes by introducing a myriad of proposals designed to improve fishery sustainability by conducting census, enforcing catch-and-release programs, and supporting science-based management decision making. Promoting a better understanding of the biological and fishery management issues that are paramount to the sustainable future of these valuable fishery resources, "Biology and Management of the World Tarpon and Bonefish Fisheries" provides a foundation for discussion and broad communication about the past present and future of these magnificent sport fish.

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目录:

[Biology and Management of the World Tarpon and Bonefish Fisheries 下载链接1](#)

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