

### **Project Update: September 2013**

From May to August 2013, we collected fin clippings from 240 individual stoplight parrotfish at 10 sites along the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef in Belize and Honduras. Using scuba, we captured adult stoplight parrotfish in hand nets between 1900 and 2300 hrs. Parrotfish sleep under coral heads or rocks during the night, which made capturing them much easier than attempting during the day. After capturing the fish in the hand net, we clipped a small portion (approximately 5 mm<sup>2</sup>) of the upper lobe of the caudal fin with scissors in situ. Fish were released after approximately 2 minutes. This is a non-lethal method commonly used for collecting genetic material from fishes. We stored the fin sample in 2 ml tubes filled with 95% ethanol. We transported the samples to UNC Chapel Hill and are currently assessing the genetic population structure of these populations using microsatellites.