



Caribbean *Elacatinus* Cleaner and Sponge Gobies

Species Distribution Maps



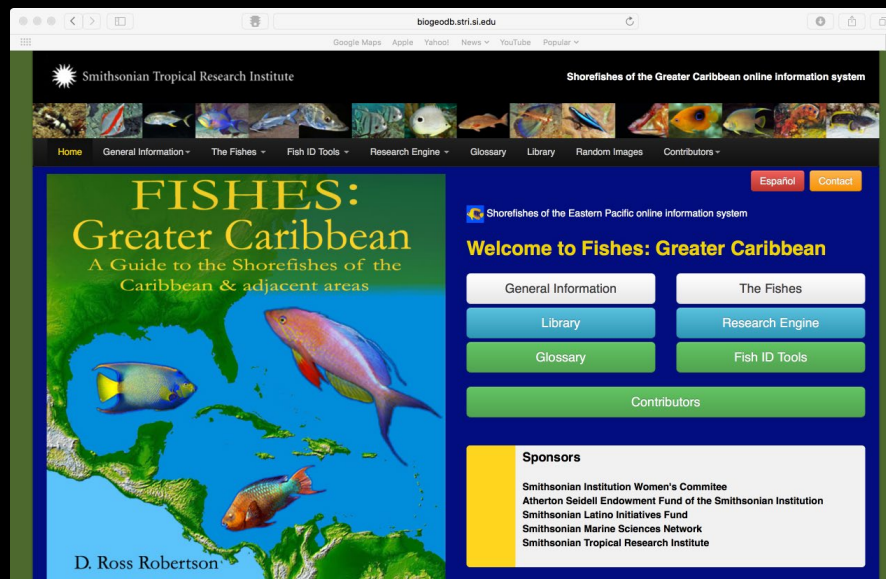
Photo by Carol Cox

As Presented in the REEF Fishinar on April 25,
2017 by Dr. Christy Semmens, REEF Director of
Science

Range map updates August 2026

All distribution maps presented in this handout are from:

Shorefishes of the Greater Caribbean – Webpage and Free App
<http://biogeodb.stri.si.edu/caribbean>



****** An important note about species ranges – some of the records represented on these maps have been proven incorrect since original publication based on taxonomic changes. Other records are based on one vagrant individual in a museum collection. Corrections are noted on the maps.

Neon Goby

Elacatinus oceanops



Photo by Carol Cox



Caribbean Neon Goby

Elacatinus lobeli



Photo by Carol Cox

<http://stri.si.edu/sfgc>, Tue, 18 Apr 2017 13:57:40 GMT

Belize to Honduras, incl.
offshore islands



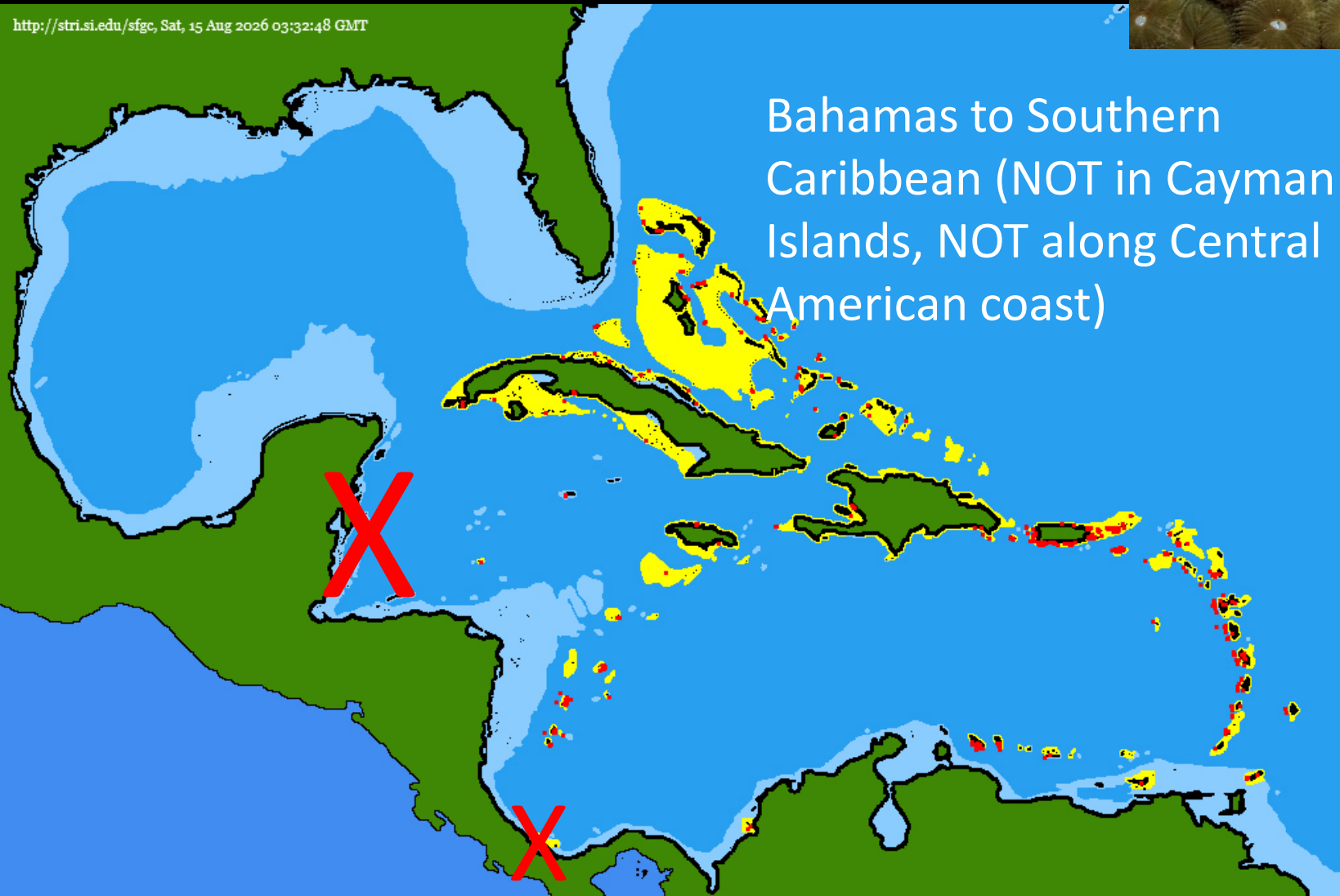
Sharknose Goby

Elacatinus evelynae



Photo by Carol Cox

<http://stri.si.edu/sfgc>, Sat, 15 Aug 2026 03:32:48 GMT



Cleaning Goby

Elacatinus genie



Photo by Wolfram Sander

<http://stri.si.edu/sfgc>, Tue, 18 Apr 2017 13:50:38 GMT

Bahamas and Cuba ONLY



Cayman Cleaning Goby

Elacatinus cayman



Photo by Florent Charpin

<http://stri.si.edu/sfgc>, Tue, 18 Apr 2017 15:34:52 GMT

Cayman Islands ONLY



Broadstripe Goby

Elacatinus prochilos



Photo by Paul Humann

<http://stri.si.edu/sfgc>, Tue, 18 Apr 2017 14:02:04 GMT



Mexican Caribbean, Belize,
Jamaica, Lesser Antilles only.
Deep habitats

Yellownose Goby

Elacatinus randalli



Photo by Carol Cox

<http://stri.si.edu/sfgc>, Tue, 18 Apr 2017 14:02:44 GMT

SE Caribbean to Venezuela
to Aruba (NOT confirmed
in Puerto Rico)



Yellownose Goby

Elacatinus randalli



Photo by Carol Cox

SE Caribbean to Venezuela
to Aruba (not in Puerto
Rico)



Yellowprow Goby

Elacatinus xanthiprora



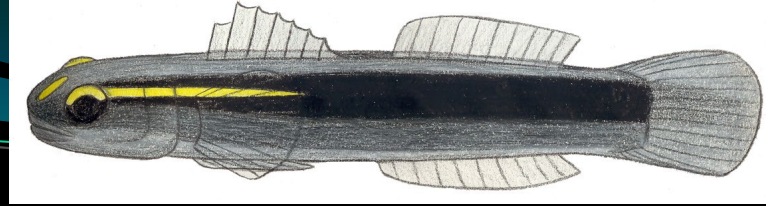
Photo by Carol Cox



North Carolina to Florida to
Gulf of Mexico only

Slaty Goby

Elacatinus tenox



Drawing by Tambja



Colin's Sponge Goby

Elacatinus colini



Photo by Carol Cox

<http://stri.si.edu/sfgc>, Sat, 15 Aug 2026 03:47:17 GMT

Mexico to Honduras ONLY



Barsnout Goby

Elacatinus illecebrosus



Photo by Paul Humann

<http://stri.si.edu/sfgc>, Sat, 15 Aug 2026 03:51:46 GMT



Mexican Caribbean and Coastal America, including offshore islands

Linesnout Goby

Elacatinus lori



Photo by Carol Cox

<http://stri.si.edu/sfgc>, Sat, 15 Aug 2026 03:53:50 GMT



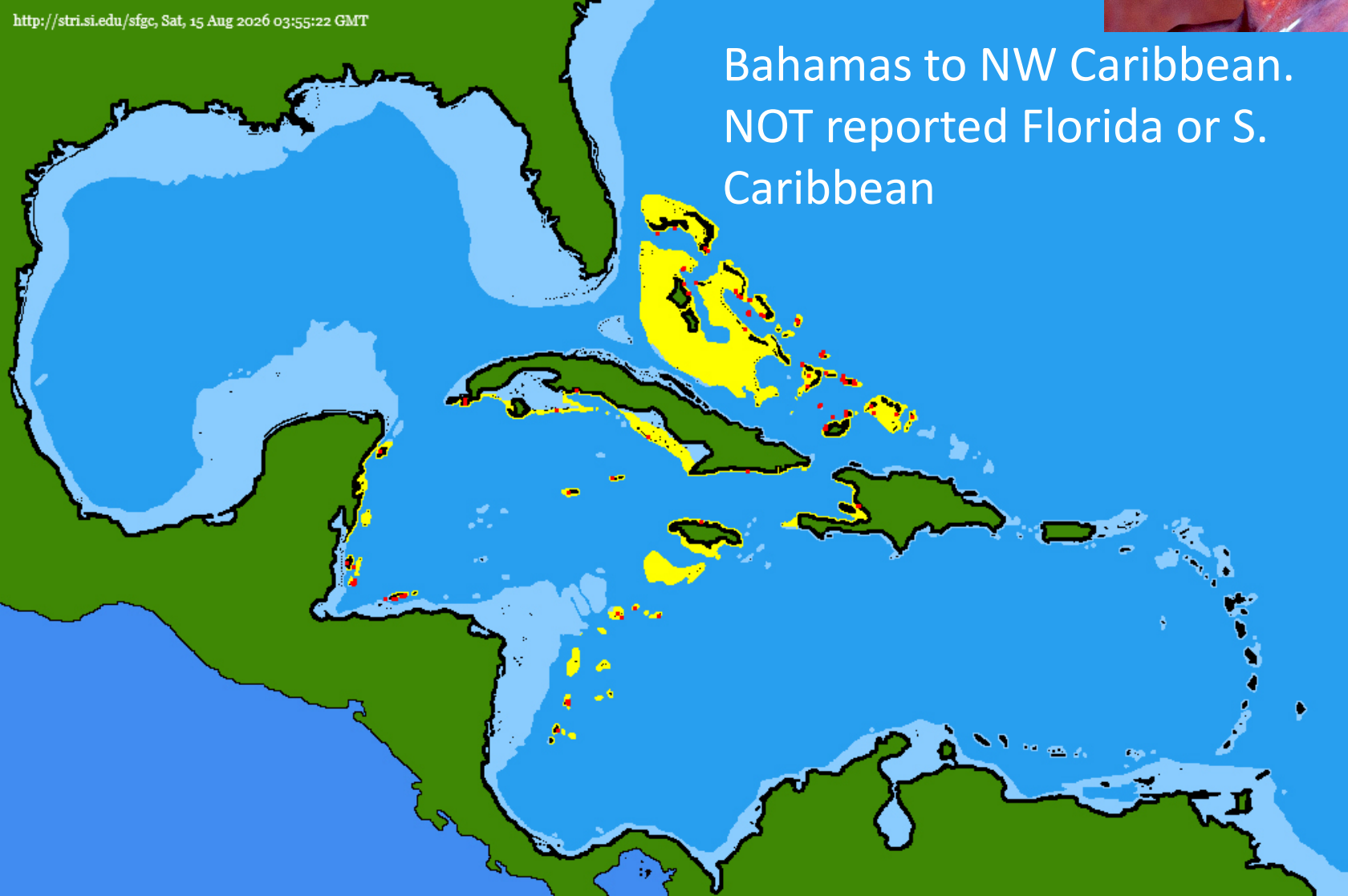
Belize and Honduras Only

Spotlight Goby

Elacatinus louisae



Photo by Paul Humann



Bahamas to NW Caribbean.
NOT reported Florida or S.
Caribbean

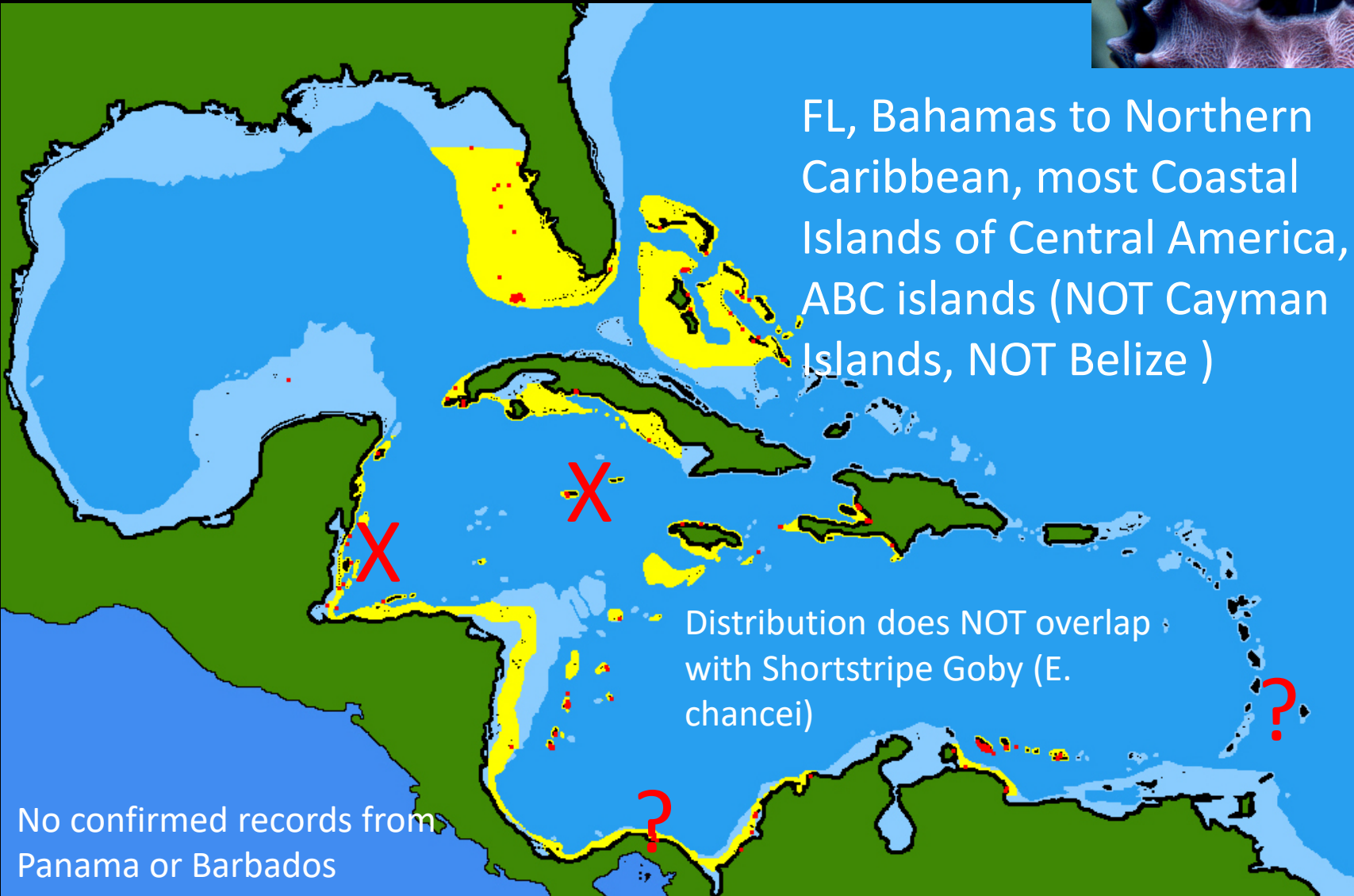
Yellowline Goby

Elacatinus horsti



Photo by Paul Humann

FL, Bahamas to Northern
Caribbean, most Coastal
Islands of Central America,
ABC islands (NOT Cayman
Islands, NOT Belize)



Distribution does NOT overlap
with Shortstripe Goby (*E.
chancei*)

No confirmed records from
Panama or Barbados

Cayman Sponge Goby

Elacatinus centralis



Photo by Everett Turner



Cayman Islands only

All “Yellowline Goby”
in Cayman Islands are
Cayman Sponge Goby

Shortstripe Goby

Elacatinus chancei



Bahamas, Lesser Antilles to
SE Caribbean

Distribution does NOT overlap
with Yellowline Goby (*E. horsti*)