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Recommendations on Gorgonian taxa in the Alcyonacea in SWG2022-VME01

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Taxonomic revisions were made several years ago, and both Gorgonians and soft corals are now included in Alcyonacea in the current classification. However, they should be treated separately because they have very different ecological characteristics and functional roles. Miyamoto et al. (2017) shows part of the cold-water corals collected from the Emperor Seamounts area (Table 2) and gorgonians taxa are sub-orders Scleraxonia, Holaxonia and Calcaxonia. We proposed that gorgonians and soft corals (Alcyonacea excluding gorgonians) should be treated separately in reference to that paper (Miyamoto et al. 2017).

References

Miyamoto, M., Kiyota, M., Hayashibara, T., Nonaka, M., Imahara, Y., Tachikawa, H. 2017. Megafaunal composition of cold-water corals and other deep-sea benthos in the southern Emperor Seamounts area, North Pacific Ocean. *Galaxea*. 19: 19-30.
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