Common Parasites and Diseases of Puerto Rican Marine Sport Fishes
A-B. Slime Blotch Disease
This disease has been diagnosed around the Caribbean on many species of marine fishes including marine sport fishes. It is caused by a protozoan and other associated microorganisms that attack the skin of the fish. It can appear as a bloody exudate on the skin (B) (Photo courtesy of Jan Landsberg) but more commonly looks like dark blotches on the sides of the fish (A). This disease caused large mortalities of marine fishes throughout the Caribbean in 1980 and recently in the eastern Caribbean.

C-G. External Parasites on Marine Fishes
There are many external parasites that can be seen on marine sport fishes. Isopods can be very large and fill the gill cavity as seen in the Cero (C) or mouth of the host as seen in this barracuda (D).

Some copepods penetrate the skin of the fish with the body hanging out like a string as in the dolphin fish (E). Other copepods of live attached to the gill filaments, feeding on mucus and blood (Photos F and G courtesy of Bob Goldstein).

H-I. Internal Parasites of Marine Fishes
These worms, commonly called acorn worms, are frequently found in the stomach of wahoo. They are a kind of fluke and feed by sucking blood from the stomach lining (I). Usually there are only two worms in each stomach. They are large compared to most other fish flukes (Photo H courtesy of Bob Goldstein).