

In Brazil, the COVID-19 pandemic scenario is not at all hopeful - 2020.04.27

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Sergio Makrakis is Associate Professor and researcher at the University of the State of Western Paraná, in Brazil, and specialist in evaluating the impacts of passes for migrating fish on fish populations and an IFGR's member. He also evaluates the impacts of hydropower plants on fish. In particular, he was in charge of evaluating the longest fish pass downstream of the Iguazu falls, and of analysing hydropower feasibility studies on the Mekong River with respect to fish migrations.

While our Argentinean members are worried about the harsh recession that will follow the coronavirus pandemic, Sergio Makrakis gives us



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an update on the health situation in Brazil, one of the states in the world that has been slow to implement containment measures.

When the first news of a deadly virus arrived in December 2019, which had the epicenter in the city of Wugan, in China, Brazil remained indifferent, celebrated its traditional carnival in February, underestimating its great destructive power. However, when the shocking images and videos began to arrive, mainly from Italy, the population began to realize that those fictional movies about pandemics could become a reality for us too.

When the first cases of contaminants began to appear in some Brazilian cities, state governments, mayors of many cities and their populations began to make decisions, such as adopting social distancing, with the closing of shops and stores, maintaining only essential services, adoption of hygiene measures mainly to wash the hands and use of alcohol in gel. We know that currently the most efficient measure for controlling the spread of

Sars-Cov-2 is social isolation, supported by tests to identify the presence of COVID-19 in people who may have been potentially infected.

However, the federal government, in the person of President Jair Bolsonaro, has not set a good example. He has constantly participated in demonstrations with crowds of people, asking people to go back to work. It is clear that, always after these demonstrations, many people stop staying in their homes, increasing the crowds in the streets. This stance by the country's largest leader has created tensions with the states, which has forced the Supreme Court to decide that decisions on social distancing must be the responsibility of governors and mayors.

The fact that most states and municipalities started the social isolation, with some antecedence, this may have contributed to the flattening of the population contamination curve.