

IUCN SSC Groupers and Wrasses Specialist Group



IUCN SSC
Groupers & Wrasses
Specialist Group

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Website: <https://www.iucn.org/ssc-groups/fishes/grouper-and-wrasse>



CO-CHAIR

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RED LIST AUTHORITY COORDINATOR

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NUMBER OF MEMBERS

28

Mission statement

The Mission of the Groupers and Wrasses Specialist Group is to promote the conservation, management and wise use of groupers and wrasses, and to enhance awareness of the vulnerability of this group of fishes, which includes the groupers (family Epinephelidae) and wrasses (family Labridae), and of the habitats upon which they depend.

Projected impact 2021–2025

The Groupers and Wrasses Specialist Group (GWSG) anticipates that our target activities will positively impact the conservation status of these important species by enhancing the foundational understanding of the Red List process, increasing awareness of common threats and how to mitigate them, and supporting the implementation of conservation strategies.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Complete Red List species assessments, initially for selected species of elevated conservation concern (Family: Labridae).

T-003 Publish global review on grouper management in place and its effectiveness.

T-005 Initiate a management and conservation strategy for Camouflage Grouper (*Epinephelus polyphekadion*).

PLAN

T-008 Support spawning site conservation initiatives with NGOs and national government.

ACT

T-009 Provide support letters, technical consultations and other input on management and conservation plans for NGOs and governments as opportunity and need arises.

NETWORK

T-006 Increase Specialist Group member diversity geographically.

T-007 Ensure 15% of Specialist Group members are formally trained in species conservation planning by 2024.

COMMUNICATE

T-002 Produce annual newsletter and upkeep GWSG website.

T-004 Organise seminars on groupers in India.

T-010 Raise awareness with both policy makers and coastal fishing communities on value of groupers in ecosystems through creative communication materials in Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region.

Activities and results 2021

ASSESS

Red List

T-001 (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: Planning has commenced for a reassessment workshop for all species of wrasses and parrotfishes with a priority plan for species of elevated conservation concern.

Research activities

T-003 (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 0

Result description: Review outline and methods are in development and focal group has been created to further develop publication.

T-005 (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 0

Result description: Global and regional (Asia) assessments have been completed. These will feed into a management strategy.



Humphead Wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*)
Photo: Y. Sadovy

Humphead Wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*) for sale in Hong Kong Restaurant
Photo: Y. Sadovy

PLAN

Policy

T-008 (KSR 9)

Number of spawning aggregations protected in WIO: 0

Result description: For this we contributed to the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC)/Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Fishery Management Plan which has been finalised for Nassau Grouper (*Epinephelus striatus*) and Mutton Snapper (*Lutjanus analis*). The plan was reviewed and translated and has been formally assessed and accepted by WECAF's Scientific Advisory Group (FAO).

ACT

Technical advice

T-009 (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 1

Result description: GWSG has provided input and advice for several high-profile policy changes for the Atlantic Goliath Grouper (*Epinephelus itajara*) fishery in the southeast United States and other species of concern.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-007 (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 0

Result description: Training workshops for the Asian region have been completed and are ongoing.

Membership

T-006 (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: Achieved.

Result description: Membership is completed for the 2021–2025 quadrennium. We have added members from two countries and increased membership in Asia, an area of particular concern for our focal species.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-002 (KSR 13)

Number of communication products using innovative tools: 0

Result description: Our web content managers have been navigating the ever-changing IUCN web platform and website is current. The newsletter is slated for mid-2022.

T-004 (KSR 13)

Number of SSC members' presentations developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 2

Result description: Planning has commenced for a workshop on taxonomy and species identification for grouper species common to fish markets in India. Presentations given on *Cheilinus undulatus* in Hong Kong and by zoom on *Epinephelus striatus*.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 10

Geographic regions: 6 Global, 1 Asia, 3 Body of water

Actions during 2021:

Assess: 3 (KSR 5, 6)

Plan: 1 (KSR 9)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Network: 2 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 2 (KSR 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

