

IUCN SSC Grouper and Wrasse Specialist Group



2016-2017 Report



Yvonne Sadovy



Matthew Craig

Co-Chairs

Yvonne Sadovy ⁽¹⁾
Matthew Craig ⁽²⁾

Red List Authority Coordinator

Matthew Craig ⁽²⁾

Location/Affiliation

⁽¹⁾ The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
⁽²⁾ National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, California, US

Number of members

40

Social networks

Website:
(IUCN hosted) Grouper and Wrasse Specialist Group



Grouper & Wrasses Specialist Group

Mission statement

The Mission of the Grouper and Wrasse Specialist Group (GWSG) 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.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Bolster work at national scales

- Policy advice
- i. Survey work (6 years) of Napoleon fish in Indonesia following its CITES App II listing has been completed and a manuscript is under review. It will be submitted to a journal in March 2018. (KSR #27)

Capacity building

- Membership
- i. A proposal has been submitted to hold a regional workshop in Asia for membership and capacity building and promote national planning.

Communications

- Communication
- i. A high impact paper on outcome of global reassessment of groupers is powerful opportunity to assess change over a decade and highlight where work is needed. (KSR #28)

Conservation action

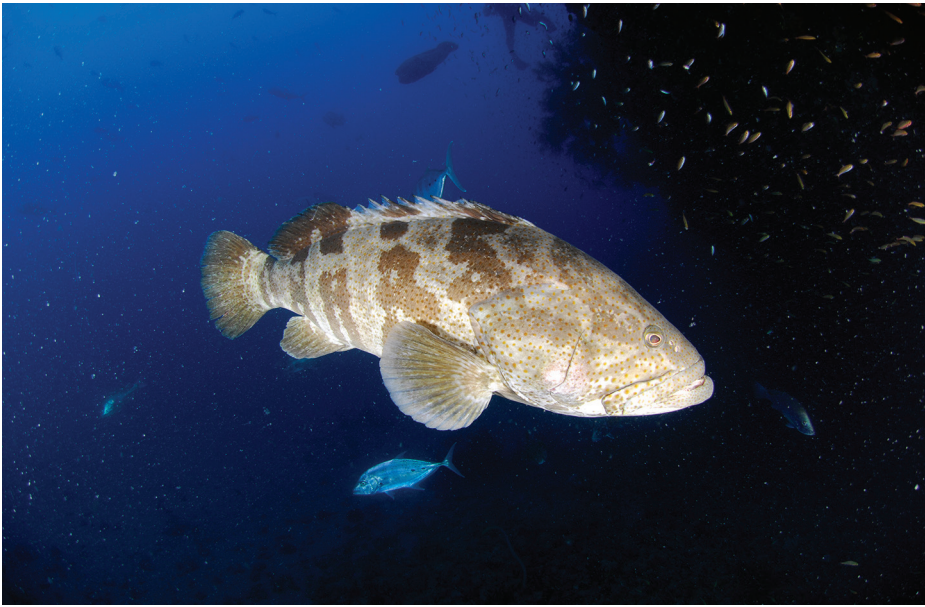
- Red List
- i. We have completed global reassessments of all groupers and plan to submit the tidies up assessments to the IUCN technical unit by end March 2018 for final checking and posting on Red List this year. (KSR #2)

Policy

- Policy advice
- i. A report on live fish trade has just been released and had extensive media coverage. (KSR #26)

Acknowledgements

We thank the following donors that helped us to cover the costs of the workshop that enabled the grouper reassessments: Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, Mohammed bin Zayed Foundation, United States voluntary contribution to the IUCN, The University of Hong Kong, the University and government of the Azores. ADM Capital Foundation supported much of the logistics for the report on regional trade in live groupers and the humphead wrasse and the Marine Biodiversity Unit, especially Gina Ralph, Kent Carpenter and Christi Linardich supported the evaluations of the GWSG members red list assessments. The CITES Secretariat has funded work on the Napoleon wrasse in relation to its CITES App II listing and reducing illegal trade. Funding received through IUCN from the US Voluntary Fund for red listing and Napoleon wrasse work in relation to its illegal trade.



Orange-spotted Grouper (*Epinephelus coioides*),
Near Threatened
Photo: Luiz Rocha



Napoleon Wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*), Endangered,
and Yvonne Sadovy in French Polynesia
Photo: Eric Clua



Groupers sold live in Hong Kong
Photo: Yvonne Sadovy

Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Barometer of life

Red List: complete Red List assessments for all groupers. Since these will be reassessments of all the species in the taxon, we can also do an Indicator Analysis of changes, if any, over time. (All 160 plus species published on Red List).

Communications

Research activities: publish one high impact paper on the outcomes of the grouper Red List reassessments.

Conservation action

Policy advice: publish report on live fish trade (which is a major threatening factor for groupers and humphead wrasse).

Increasing diversity of SSC

Membership: enhance GWSG membership in Asia (increase number to at least eight members in Asia).

Policy

Policy advice: publish outcomes of six years of surveys of Napoleon fish in Indonesia following its CITES App II listing.

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

By the end of 2020, we would like to see conservation and management attention paid to groupers that are threatened and near-threatened and international trade reduced to sustainable levels in the case of the CITES listed Napoleon wrasse. We hope to increase our representation in Asia, which will support the development of national planning in the region and will stimulate research into species that are listed as Data Deficient. More educational materials, especially for children, will be developed on species that are important for fisheries.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 5/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Bolster work at national scales (1 activity)
- Capacity building (1 activity)
- Communications (1 activity)
- Conservation action (1 activity)
- Policy (1 activity)

Main KSRs addressed: 2, 26, 27, 28

KSR: Key Species Result