

IUCN SSC Grouper and Wrasse Specialist Group

2018 Report



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Co-Chairs

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Location/Affiliation

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Number of members

40

Social networks

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



Groupers & 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.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

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 threatened groupers and the CITES-listed Humphead (Napoleon) Wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*). We hope to increase our representation in Asia, which will support the development of national planning in the region to encourage conservation of threatened species, and to stimulate research into species that are listed as Data Deficient. More educational materials, especially for government officials, will be developed on species that are important for fisheries.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

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

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

Plan

Policy advice: (1) publish report on live reef fish trade, which is a major threatening factor for groupers and Humphead Wrasse; (2) publish outcomes of 6 years of surveys of Humphead Wrasse in Indonesia following its CITES Appendix II listing.

Network

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

Activities and results 2018

Assess

Red List

i. We have completed re-assessments for all grouper species. (KSR #2)

Research activities

i. A draft of the paper is currently in review for publication, co-authored by most of the assessors. Three publications for the Humphead Wrasse are now in press or recently published (in *Aquatic Conservation* and *Frontiers of Biogeography*) on field surveys, follow up to the CITES listing and on global population structuring, with another in review on follow up work to the 2004 CITES listing in Indonesia, issues around illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and methods to detect legally traded fishes in Hong Kong. One report on the live reef fish trade, which covers Humphead Wrasse and also groupers in Southeast Asia, has also been published. (KSR #43)

Plan

Policy

i. Information was provided on Humphead Wrasse regional trade to Indonesia, Hong Kong and mainland China management authorities. Summaries of activities relevant to this CITES-listed species were also provided to IUCN, WWF



Cheilinus undulatus, Endangered
Photo: Eric Clua



One-meter long *Cheilinus undulatus*, Endangered
Photo: Yvonne Sadovy

and United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). (KSR #26)

ii. Information and advice is regularly provided to the governments of Indonesia and Hong Kong regarding trade in Humphead Wrasse. A facial recognition method is being developed for use online and with laptop and iPhone for detection of legally imported fish or fish laundering. There is collaboration with the Hong Kong government. The report on the live reef fish trade has been released, and a publication is now out for multi-year surveys. (KSR #27)

Network

Membership

i. Asian groupers: a proposal was approved by Ocean Park Conservation Foundation in Hong Kong to fund a regional workshop for national grouper assessments as well as to train and recruit more members from Asia. The workshop will take place in May 2020 in Hong Kong.

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Vulnerable Camouflage Grouper *Epinephelus polyphekadion* in spawning aggregation, French Polynesia
Photo: Yvonne Sadovy

Summary of activities 2018

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 3/5

Assess	2	
Plan	2	
Network	1	

Main KSRs addressed: 2, 26, 27, 43