

IUCN SSC Groupers and Wrasses Specialist Group

2020 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>



IUCN SSC
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 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, and to stimulate research into species that are listed as Data Deficient. More educational materials 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), an Indicator Analysis could be conducted if sufficient changes in status are determined.

Research activities: (1) publish one high impact paper on the outcomes of the grouper Red List reassessments; (2) publish proof of concept paper on the use of facial recognition to improve enforcement of the CITES listing of Humphead Wrasse in Hong Kong; (3) publish a report on Live Reef Fish Trade for the International Coral Reef Initiative.

Plan

Planning: develop an Action Plan for Asia focusing on Data Deficient and threatened species.

Policy: (1) publish a report on live reef fish trade, which is a major threatening factor for groupers and Humphead Wrasse; (2) publish outcomes of 10 years of surveys of Humphead Wrasse in Indonesia following its CITES Appendix II listing.

Act

Conservation actions: develop educational materials for Humphead Wrasse for selected aquaria exhibits.

Network

Membership: (1) enhance GWSG membership in Asia (increase the number to at least eight members in Asia); (2) review and update membership of GWSG.



The Goliath Grouper, *Epinephelus itajara*, of the Western Tropical Atlantic and Caribbean shown during a spawning aggregation off Florida, US. This largest of all reef fishes was reassessed as Vulnerable; a non-genuine status change from the initial assessment of Critically Endangered, which reflects an improved application of the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria. There is a premature move to open up its fishery in Florida in the absence of supportive scientific data
Photo: Walt Stearns

Activities and results 2020

Network

Membership

- i. GWSG membership in Asia has increased to at least eight members.
- ii. Membership of GWSG has been updated.

Acknowledgements

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Summary of activities 2020

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 3/5

Network **2** ||

Main KSRs addressed:

KSR: Key Species Result