

# IUCN SSC Snapper, Seabream and Grunt Specialist Group

2016-2017 Report



Barry Russell



Ken Lindeman

## Co-Chairs

Barry Russell <sup>(1)</sup>  
Ken Lindeman <sup>(2)</sup>

## Red List Authority Coordinator

Barry Russell <sup>(1)</sup>

## Location/Affiliation

<sup>(1)</sup> Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Australia  
<sup>(2)</sup> Sustainability Studies Program, Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, Florida, US

## Number of members

70

## Social networks

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/greenpawprint/>

Website:

<https://www.iucn.org/commissions/ssc-groups/fishes/snapper-seabream-and-grunt-specialist-group>



## Mission statement

To achieve conservation and sustainable use of snappers, seabreams, grunts and associated reef-fish species throughout their current and future ranges through improved scientific knowledge and community engagement in management.

## Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

### Barometer of life

#### ■ Red List

i. Concluded project with IUCN Global Marine Species Assessment (GMSA) on red listing of >50 spp. of E. Central Atlantic families in our SG. This resulted in publication of Regional Red List assessments for the Eastern Central Atlantic reef fish fauna in *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Systems*. (KSR #2)

ii. Concluded project with IUCN GMSA on Regional Red List workshop assessments for 116 species from our SG families in the Pacific Islands (Suva, Fiji). (KSR #2)

iii. Concluded project with IUCN GMSA on Regional Red List workshop assessments for the Greater Caribbean for over 40 species from our SG. (KSR #2) ARTICLE in journal *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Systems*

iv. We collaborated with IUCN GMSA in completion of Regional Red List workshop assessments for the Persian Gulf. Article in journal *Biological Conservation*. (KSR #2)

## Communications

### ■ Communication

i. Service on SuLi production of IUCN Guidelines for TEK in Red List assessments. (KSR #18)

### Conservation action

#### ■ Conservation activities

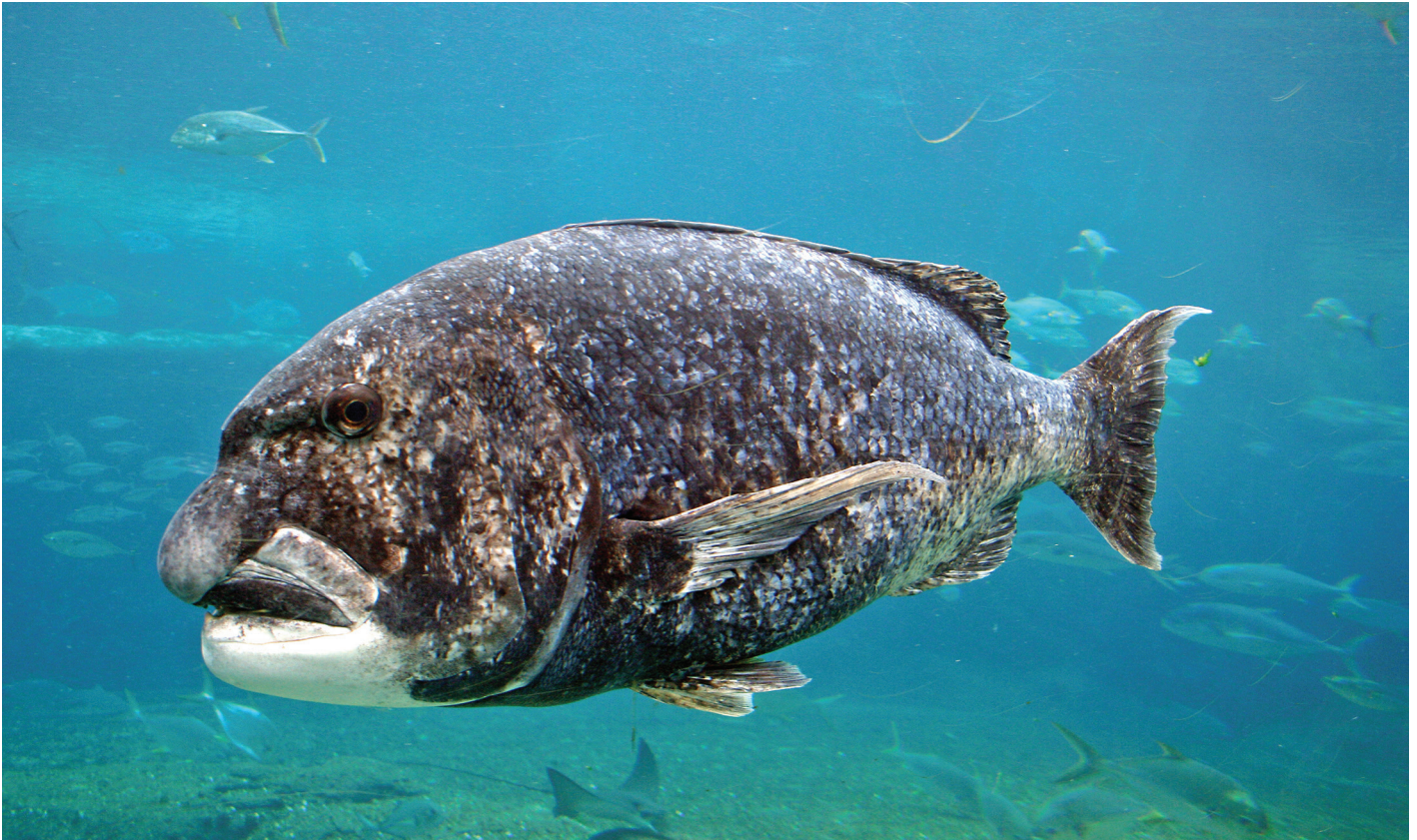
i. Five new US federal spawning reserves were created between Florida and North Carolina, US, by the regional RFMO, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and many workers. This was based on six years of work to design spawning reserves including SG member services on the MPA Expert Workgroup (composed of scientists and fishery industry representatives). This work included writing the first System Management Plan for the SAFMC's MPA array and service on the SAFMC Interdisciplinary Science Team. Article in journal *PLoS One*. (KSR #22)

ii. Service as marine rep on Species Conservation Planning Sub-Committee (SCPSC), including production of IUCN Species Conservation Planning. (KSR #18)

iii. Service on Species Conservation Planning Sub-committee production of *IUCN Guidelines for Species Conservation Planning*. (KSR #18)

## Acknowledgements

We thank the many members of the Snapper, Seabream and Grunt SG for their input, particularly for efforts on the first Red List assessments of hundreds of species among diverse global regions. We worked closely with the Marine Biodiversity Unit at Old Dominion University, as well as offices of the IUCN Global Species Programme. The Marine Biodiversity Unit, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and Coastal Science & Policy supported travel expenses.



#### **Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020**

##### **Barometer of life**

Red List: (1) complete global assessment of Family Nemipteridae (target completion of total 70 species); (2) complete global assessment of Family Lutjanidae (target completion of total 112 species); (3) complete global assessment of Family Haemulidae (target completion of total 135 species); (4) complete global assessment of Family Lethrinidae (target completion of total 43 species); (5) complete global assessment of Family Caesionidae (target completion of total 23 species); (6) update global assessment of Family Sparidae (target completion of total 163 species).

Research activities: develop report on traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) in Snapper, Seabream and Grunt science & management.

##### **Capacity building**

Capacity building: foster efforts to train members in species conservation planning tools with early applications for at least two species or species groups in two regions by 2021-22.

##### **Communications**

Communication: (1) complete and maintain website for Specialist Group (done); (2) guides in three languages for common, difficult to identify life history species of common nearshore snappers, grunts, and porgies.

##### **Conservation action**

Conservation activities: (1) assist RFMO implementation of five new spawning reserves; (2) build marine components of Species Conservation Planning (SCP) Guidelines (done).

Research activities: assessment of climate change affects select twenty haemulid, lutjanid, and sparid species.

##### **Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020**

By the end of 2020, we aim to complete 100% of the Red Listing of all snapper, seabream and grunt families (> 500 species). We will also aid efforts to train members in species conservation planning for two species or species groups in two regions by early in the next quadrennium. There will be a focus on the conservation of threatened spawning aggregations of major SG species. If resources are available, Red List training workshops and assessments in understudied regions will also help link species conservation planning to fishery management to more effectively sustain populations.

##### **Summary of activities (2016-2017)**

Key Priority Area ratio: 3/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Barometer of life (4 activities)
- Communications (1 activity)
- Conservation action (3 activities)

Main KSRs addressed: 2, 18, 22

KSR: Key Species Result