

IUCN SSC Snapper, Seabream and Grunt Specialist Group

2019 Report



Barry Russell



Ken Lindeman

Co-Chairs

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Red List Authority Coordinator

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Location/Affiliation

(1) Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Australia
(2) Program in Sustainability, Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, Florida, US

Number of members

70

Social networks

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 through the application of improved scientific knowledge and community engagement to management decision-making.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, the Snapper, Seabream and Grunt Specialist Group (SSG SG) aims to complete over 90% of the Red Listing of all snapper, seabream and grunt (SSG) families (more than 4500 species), with conservation planning underway for at least two species. Given limited resources, there is a focus on the conservation of threatened spawning aggregations of major SSG species. We also plan to develop Red List training workshops and assessments in understudied regions with diverse SSG species. Some species are highly vulnerable and need conservation planning linked with applied fishery management and increased engagement with user communities. We will also examine climate change vulnerabilities of key species in the SSG and continued efforts to bring fisher knowledge (FK) further into management and conservation.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Red List: (1) complete global assessment of Family Nemipteridae (target completion of 73 species total); (2) complete global assessment of Family Lutjanidae (target completion of 113 species total); (3) complete global assessment

of Family Haemulidae (target completion of 136 species total); (4) complete global assessment of Family Lethrinidae (target completion of 44 species total); (5) complete global assessment of Family Caesionidae (target completion of 23 species total); (6) update global assessment of Family Sparidae (target completion of 166 species total).

Research activities: (1) assess potential climate change impacts on 5 haemulid and lutjanid species; (2) develop collaborative report on FK in fishery science and management.

Plan

Planning: educate users on best planning practices in species conservation that the SSG SG co-developed in the IUCN guidelines document: Species Conservation Planning Sub-Committee. 2017. *Guidelines for Species Conservation Planning*. Version 1.0. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Act

Conservation actions: (1) assist Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO) implementation of five new spawning reserves; (2) provide technical consultations on SSG information availability, reviews of reports, species identifications, and management suggestions to RFMOs, NGOs and coastal habitat management agencies in several regions.

Network

Capacity building: foster training of at least two members per region using species conservation planning tools, with preliminary development of new conservation planning efforts in two regions.

Communicate

Communication: (1) complete and expand a website for the Specialist Group and other users; (2) produce guides in three languages for common, difficult to identify life stages of near-shore snappers, grunts, and porgies.



A mixed species school of snappers and grunts, Little Bahamas Bank, Bahamas
Photo: D.B. Snyder

Red Stumpnose Seabream, *Chrysolephus gibbiceps*, an Endangered species (family Sparidae), endemic to the South African south and east coasts
Photo: B.C. Russell



Activities and results 2019

Assess

Red List

- i.** Family Nemipteridae: in conjunction with the Global Marine Species Assessment Project (GMSA), a cumulative total of 42 (57%) species Red Listed. (KSR #1)
- ii.** Family Lutjanidae: in conjunction with GMSA, a cumulative total of 104 (93%) species Red Listed. (KSR #1)
- iii.** Family Haemulidae: in conjunction with GMSA, a cumulative total of 101 (75%) species Red Listed. (KSR #1)
- iv.** Family Lethrinidae: in conjunction with GMSA, a cumulative total of 42 (84%) species Red Listed. (KSR #1)
- v.** Family Caesionidae: in conjunction with GMSA, a cumulative total of 20 (87%) species Red Listed. (KSR #1)
- vi.** Family Sparidae: in conjunction with GMSA, a cumulative total of 152 (92%) species Red Listed. (KSR #1)

Research activities

- i.** We began a climate change vulnerability assessment for five species of lutjanids and haemulids with resolution at the scale of 5-7 life stages per species. (KSR #12)
- ii.** The complete multi-group report on guidelines for the use of fisher knowledge in science and management is in final review with IUCN. (KSR #32)

Plan

Planning

- i.** Marine components of the Species Conservation Planning document have been widely distributed within and outside of our Specialist Group. SSG SG members are encouraged to learn the guidelines and get formally trained. (KSR #18)

Act

Conservation actions

- i.** The complete multi-group report on guidelines for the use of fisher knowledge in science and management is in final review with IUCN. (KSR #32)
- ii.** Members provided technical consultations on SSG issues to RFMOs, NGOs and government agencies in several regions, including information availability, species identifications, management recommendations, and document reviews.

Network

Capacity building

- i.** We generated information for all SSG SG members on training opportunities using species conservation planning tools. We will follow up with members and develop ways to increase that percentage via applications in fishery management processes. (KSR #17)

Communicate

Communication

- i.** The SSG website has been widely used since its completion. (KSR #28)
- ii.** Progress has been made on guides for common, but difficult to identify, life stages of nearshore snappers, grunts, and porgies. Substantial work is planned for the summer of 2020. (KSR #28)

Acknowledgements

We thank the many members of the SSG SG for their input, particularly for efforts on the hundreds of first Red List assessments of these species among diverse global regions, often with limited data. We greatly appreciate the support and assistance of Prof. Kent Carpenter and his staff, IUCN Global Marine Species Assessment/IUCN Species Programme Marine Biodiversity Unit. We also appreciate the assistance of Rob Bullock and the efforts of Amanda Vincent and the IUCN Marine Conservation Committee.

Summary of activities 2019

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 5/5

Assess	8	
Plan	1	
Act	2	
Network	1	
Communicate	2	

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 12, 17, 18, 22, 28, 32

KSR: Key Species Result