

# IUCN SSC Snapper, Seabream and Grunt Specialist Group

2020 Report



Barry Russell



Ken Lindeman

## Co-Chairs

Barry Russell (1)  
Ken Lindeman (2)

## Red List Authority Coordinator

Barry Russell (1)

## Location/Affiliation

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

## Number of members

70

## Social networks

Website:  
[www.iucn.org/commissions/ssc-groups/fishes/snapper-seabream-and-grunt-specialist-group](http://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 400 species) with conservation planning underway for at least two species in two regions (with implementation beginning by 2021). 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 of which are highly vulnerable and need species conservation planning linked to applied fishery management of snappers, seabreams and grunts: bread-basket fishes of global warm water shores. We also envision climate change research on key species in the SSG as well as continued efforts to bring fishers and other sources of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) into fishery 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 climate change impacts on 20 Haemulid and Lutjanid species; (2) develop a collaborative report on TEK in SSG Science and Management.

### Plan

Planning: build marine components of the Species Conservation Planning Guidelines as a representative on the Species Conservation Planning Sub-Committee (SCPSC) production of *IUCN Guidelines for Species Conservation Planning*: IUCN – SSC Species Conservation Planning Sub-Committee. (2017). *Guidelines for Species Conservation Planning*. Version 1.0. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

### Act

Conservation actions: assist Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO) implementation of five new spawning reserves.



Near Threatened Mutton Snapper, *Lutjanus analis*, juvenile, East Florida  
Photo: D. B. Snyder

### 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 maintain a website for the Specialist Group; (2) produce guides in three languages for common, difficult to identify life history species of nearshore snappers, grunts and porgies.

### Activities and results 2020

#### Assess

##### Red List

- i.** Reviews of 31 species in Family Nemipteridae are underway; we anticipate publication in late 2021. (KSR #1)
- ii.** Reviews of 10 species in Family Lutjanidae are underway; we anticipate publication in late 2021. (KSR #1)
- iii.** Reviews of 30 species in Family Haemulidae are underway; we anticipate publication in late 2021. (KSR #1)
- iv.** Reviews of five species in Family Lethrinidae are underway; we anticipate publication in late 2021. (KSR #1)
- v.** Review of one species in Family Caesionidae is underway; we anticipate publication in late 2021. (KSR #1)
- vi.** Reviews of 14 species in Family Sparidae are underway; we anticipate publication in late 2021. (KSR #1)

### Research activities

- i.** Completion of the Red List assessment text on climate change impacts for five species is underway for 2021. Manuscript completion is anticipated in 2022. (KSR #12)
- ii.** Major IUCN Guidelines on traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) in SSG science and management were published in 2020: Cowie, W., et al. (2020). *IUCN Guidelines for gathering of fishers' knowledge for policy development and applied use*. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland; and Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. (KSR #32)

### Act

#### Conservation actions

- i.** Evaluation efforts of five spawning reserves are underway by a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation team. (KSR #22)

### Communicate

#### Communication

- i.** Frequent use of the website continues; it is upgraded at intervals. (KSR #28)
- ii.** One and a half of three guides for common but difficult to identify life history species of nearshore snappers, grunts, and porgies have been drafted. (KSR #28)

### Acknowledgements

We thank the many members of the SSG SG for their input, particularly for efforts on the hundreds of species-scale Red List assessments among diverse global regions, often with limited data. We greatly appreciate the support and assistance of Kent Carpenter, Gina Ralph, and their staff at the Marine Biodiversity Unit, Old Dominion University, IUCN Species Programme. We also appreciate the assistance of the Steering Committee members of the SSG SG, and Amanda Vincent and the IUCN Marine Conservation Committee.

### Summary of activities 2020

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 3/5

Assess	8	
Act	1	
Communicate	2	

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

KSR: Key Species Result