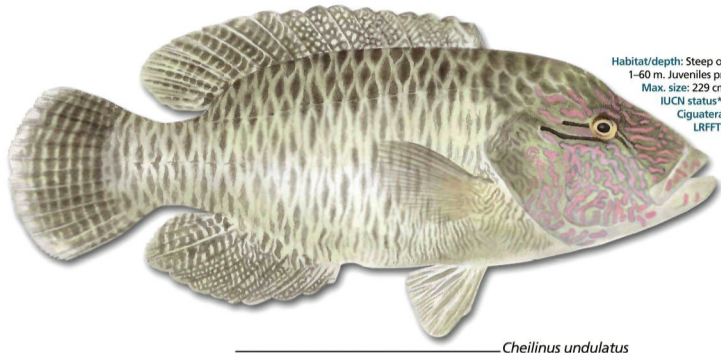


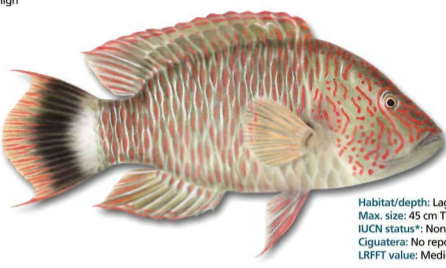
# MAIN SPECIES TARGETED BY THE LIVE REEF FOOD FISH TRADE

## in the Pacific Islands Region




*Cheilinus undulatus*  
Humphead wrasse

Habitat/depth: Steep outer reef slopes, channel slopes and lagoon reefs. 1–60 m. Juveniles prefer *Acropora*-rich lagoon reefs.  
Max. size: 229 cm TL (max. wt: 191 kg)  
IUCN status\*: Vulnerable; status being re-evaluated  
Ciguatera: Occasional reports  
LRFFT value: Very high



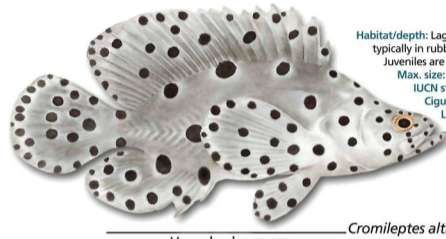
*Cheilinus trilobatus*  
Tripletail wrasse

Habitat/depth: Lagoon and seaward reefs. 1–30 m.  
Max. size: 45 cm TL  
IUCN status\*: None  
Ciguatera: No reports  
LRFFT value: Medium



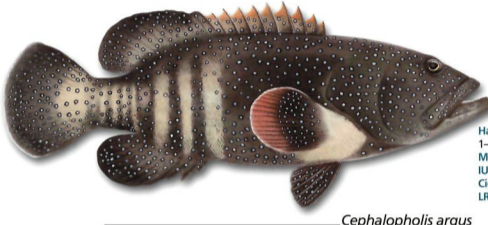
*Choerodon schoenleinii*  
Blackspot tuskfish

Habitat/depth: Flat sandy or weedy areas near lagoon and seaward reefs. 10–60 m.  
Max. size: 100 cm TL  
IUCN status\*: None, but under assessment  
Ciguatera: No reports  
LRFFT value: High



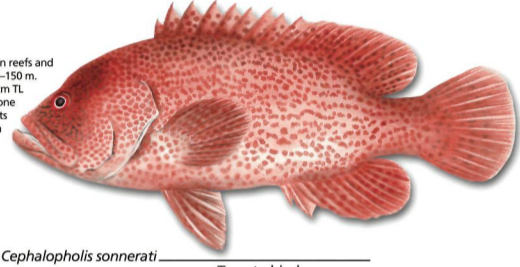
*Cromileptes altivelis*  
Humpback grouper

Habitat/depth: Lagoon and seaward reefs, typically in rubble silty areas. 2–40 m. Juveniles are common on shallow seagrass flats.  
Max. size: 70 cm TL  
IUCN status\*: Under assessment  
Ciguatera: No reports  
LRFFT value: Very high



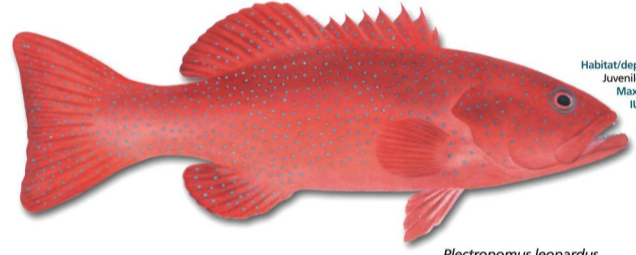
*Cephalopholis argus*  
Peacock hind

Habitat/depth: Tide pools and reef flats to reef slopes. 1–40 m but commonly from 1–10 m.  
Max. size: 60 cm TL  
IUCN status\*: None  
Ciguatera: Numerous reports  
LRFFT value: Low




*Cephalopholis sonnerati*  
Tomato hind

Habitat/depth: Deep lagoon reefs and steep outer reef slopes. 10–150 m.  
Max. size: 57 cm TL  
IUCN status\*: None  
Ciguatera: No reports  
LRFFT value: High



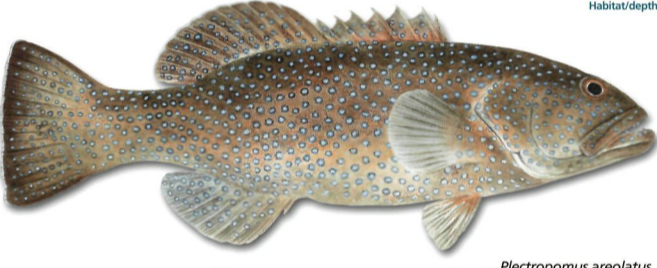
*Plectropomus leopardus*  
Leopard coral grouper

Habitat/depth: Lagoon and mid-shelf reefs. 3–100 m. Juveniles prefer shallow rubble areas.  
Max. size: 120 cm TL  
IUCN status\*: None  
Ciguatera: Occasional reports  
LRFFT value: High



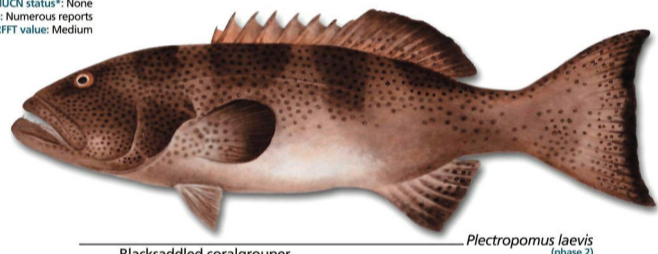
*Plectropomus laevis* (phase 1)  
Blacksaddled coral grouper

Habitat/depth: Channels and outer reef shelves. 4–100 m. Juveniles prefer shallow coral rubble areas.  
Max. size: 125 cm TL  
IUCN status\*: None  
Ciguatera: Numerous reports  
LRFFT value: Medium



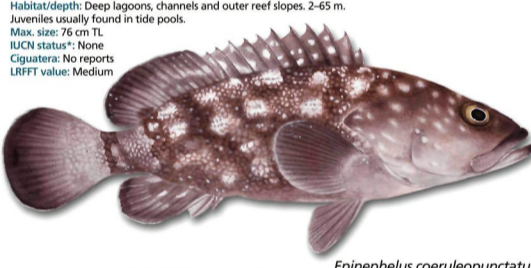
*Plectropomus areolatus*  
Squaretail coral grouper

Habitat/depth: Isolated coral heads in lagoons or bays but also on outer reefs. 2–150 m.  
Max. size: 122 cm TL  
IUCN status\*: None  
Ciguatera: Occasional reports  
LRFFT value: Medium



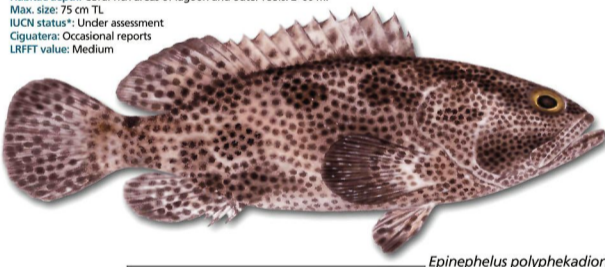
*Plectropomus laevis* (phase 2)  
Blacksaddled coral grouper

Habitat/depth: Channels and outer reef shelves. 4–100 m. Juveniles prefer shallow coral rubble areas.  
Max. size: 125 cm TL  
IUCN status\*: None  
Ciguatera: Numerous reports  
LRFFT value: Medium




*Epinephelus coeruleopunctatus*  
Whitespotted grouper

Habitat/depth: Deep lagoons, channels and outer reef slopes. 2–65 m. Juveniles usually found in tide pools.  
Max. size: 76 cm TL  
IUCN status\*: None  
Ciguatera: No reports  
LRFFT value: Medium



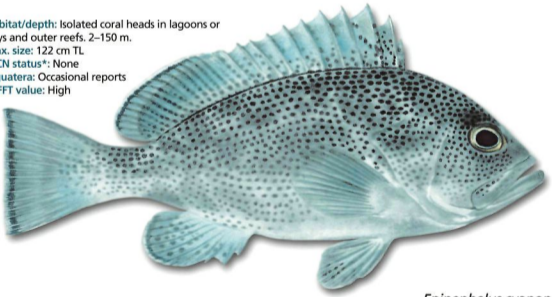
*Epinephelus polyphekadion*  
Camouflage grouper

Habitat/depth: Coral-rich areas of lagoon and outer reefs. 2–60 m.  
Max. size: 75 cm TL  
IUCN status\*: Under assessment  
Ciguatera: Occasional reports  
LRFFT value: Medium



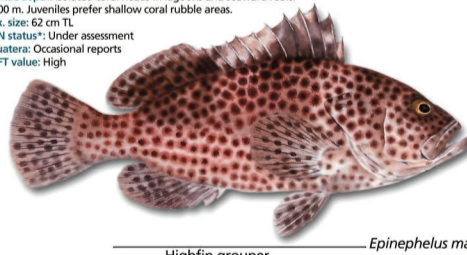
*Epinephelus fuscoguttatus*  
Brown-marbled grouper

Habitat/depth: Lagoon pinnacles, channels and outer reef slopes. 1–60 m.  
Max. size: 95 cm TL  
IUCN status\*: Under assessment  
Ciguatera: No reports  
LRFFT value: Medium



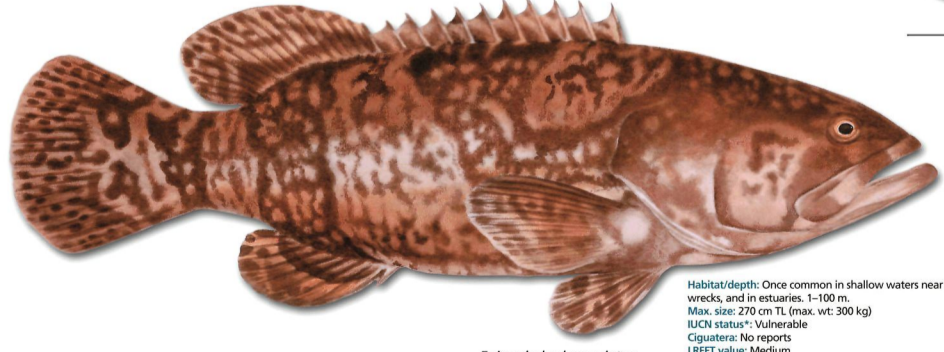
*Epinephelus cyanopodus*  
Speckled blue grouper

Habitat/depth: Isolated coral heads in lagoons or bays and outer reefs. 2–150 m.  
Max. size: 122 cm TL  
IUCN status\*: None  
Ciguatera: Occasional reports  
LRFFT value: High



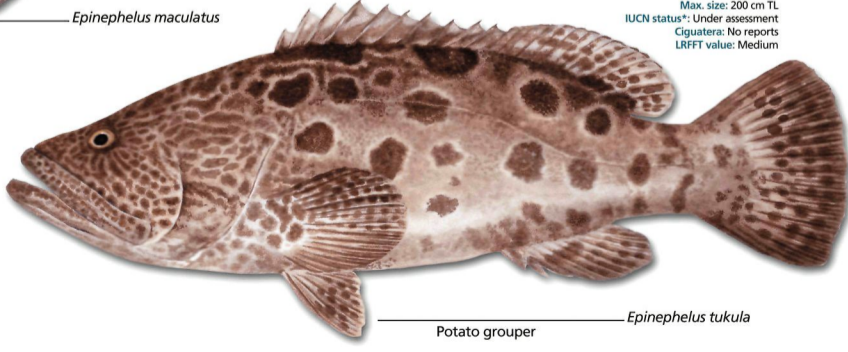
*Epinephelus maculatus*  
Highfin grouper

Habitat/depth: Isolated coral heads in lagoons and seaward reefs. 2–100 m. Juveniles prefer shallow coral rubble areas.  
Max. size: 62 cm TL  
IUCN status\*: Under assessment  
Ciguatera: Occasional reports  
LRFFT value: High



*Epinephelus lanceolatus*  
Giant grouper

Habitat/depth: Once common in shallow waters near caves, wrecks, and in estuaries. 1–100 m.  
Max. size: 270 cm TL (max. wt: 300 kg)  
IUCN status\*: Vulnerable  
Ciguatera: No reports  
LRFFT value: Medium



*Epinephelus tukula*  
Potato grouper

Habitat/depth: Outer lagoon and exposed reefs. 10–150 m. Juveniles may be found in tide pools.  
Max. size: 200 cm TL  
IUCN status\*: Under assessment  
Ciguatera: No reports  
LRFFT value: Medium

The live reef food fish trade is driven by affluent consumers in Hong Kong and southern China, who prefer eating live fish from tanks while dining in elegant restaurants. The groupers and wrasses presented on this poster are the main species targeted by the trade in the Pacific Islands region. These fish are strongly associated with coral-rich habitats. They are generally slow-growing and long-lived fish. Because they are close to the top of the food chain, they play a very important role in the structuring of reef communities, feeding mainly on fish and invertebrates such as molluscs (bivalves, cephalopods) and crustaceans (crabs, crayfish). All these fish have complicated reproductive systems — including, for some of them, the formation of spawning aggregations — and are therefore particularly vulnerable to overfishing.

\* IUCN (The World Conservation Union) issues a 'Red List' of threatened animals and plants. This list may be used by governments to limit or ban the trade of endangered species.