

# Caribbean Grouper Species:

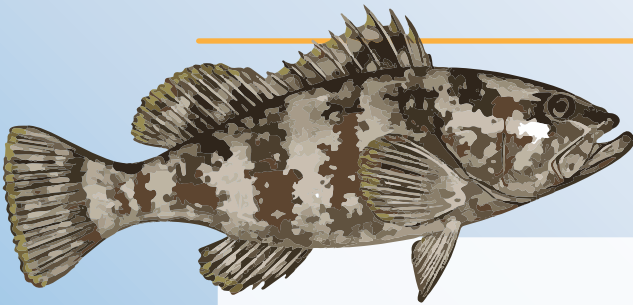
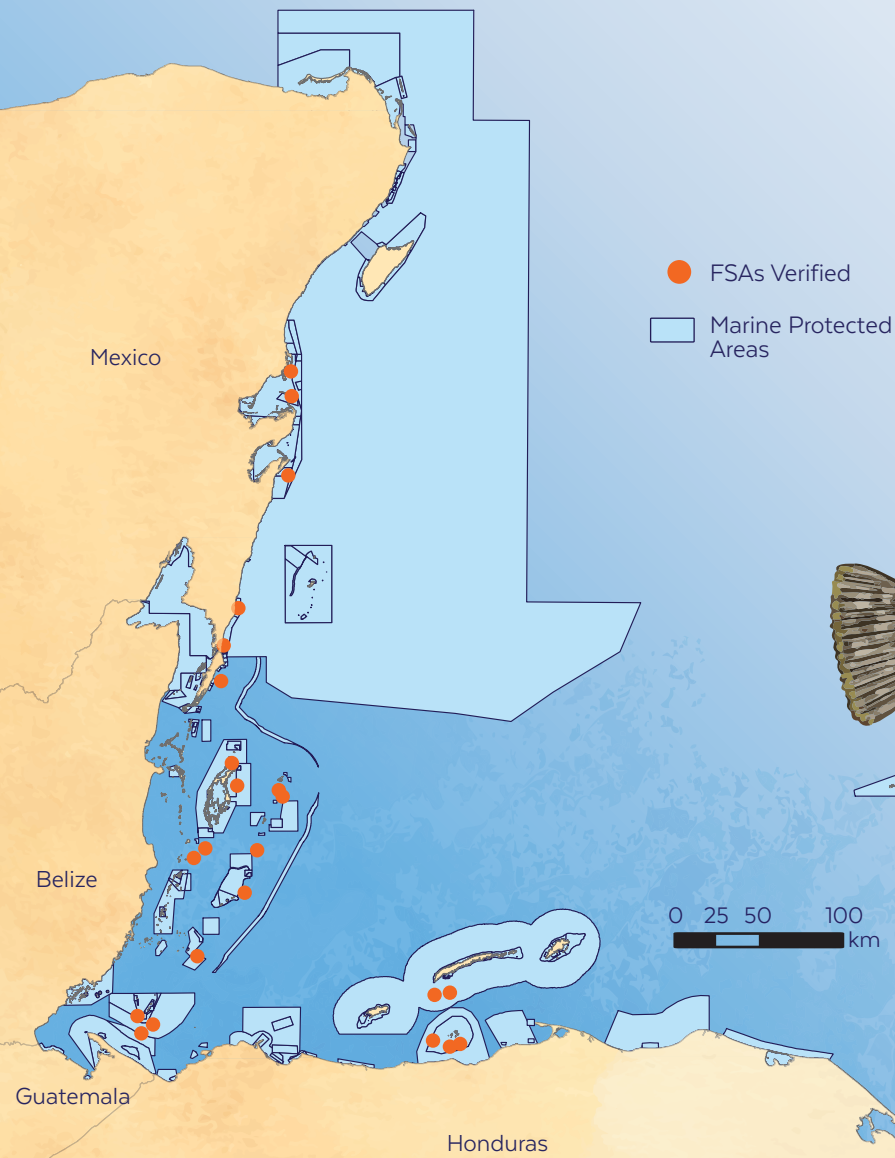
## GUARDIANS OF THE MESOAMERICAN REEF



### Did You Know?



- Some groupers **can change sex** during their lifetime.
- Individual fish may **travel over 100 km** to reach spawning sites.
- **Spawning sites** have been used for generations and are crucial for population survival.
- **The Mesoamerican Reef** contains some of the most important grouper spawning sites in the Caribbean.



### SPAWNING AGGREGATION FACTS

- What are they?** Massive concentrations of thousands of fish coming together to reproduce.
- When do they occur?** Typically around the full moons during the winter months.
- Where do they happen?** In specific reef locations with unique depth and current patterns.
- How long do they last?** Between 7 and 14 days per spawning event, usually at dawn and dusk.



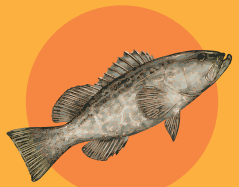
### Species Spotlight



#### NASSAU GROUPER

(*Epinephelus striatus*)

- ➦ **Size:** Up to 1.2 meters long, weighing up to 25 kilograms.
- ✎ **Characteristics:** Vertical dark bars and diagonal black band through eye.
- 📅 **Spawning** December to March. Forms large spawning aggregations during full moons.
- ⚠️ **Status:** Critically endangered.



#### BLACK GROUPER

(*Mycteroperca bonaci*)

- ➦ **Size:** It can reach 1.5 meters in length and weigh up to 82 kilograms.
- ✎ **Characteristics:** Dark brown to grey coloration with irregular blocks.
- 📅 **Spawning** season: January to March. Prefers deeper reef environments.
- ⚠️ **Status:** Near threatened.

### CONSERVATION CHALLENGES



Overfishing during spawning events.



Habitat degradation.



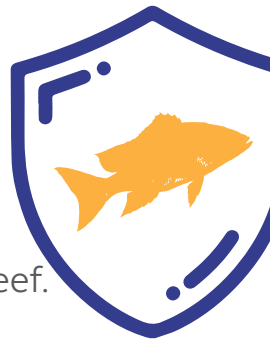
Climate change impacts.



Limited number of spawning sites.

### PROTECTION MEASURES

- Marine reserves at key spawning sites.
- Seasonal fishing bans during spawning periods.
- Size limits and catch quotas.
- Community-based monitoring programs.
- Regional coordination across the Mesoamerican Reef.



### Species

