

# Caribbean Snapper Species:

## SUPPORTING FISHERIES IN THE MESOAMERICAN REEF



### Did You Know?



- 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 snapper spawning sites in the Caribbean.
- The biggest fish in the sea, **the whale shark**, often frequents spawning sites to eat the eggs.



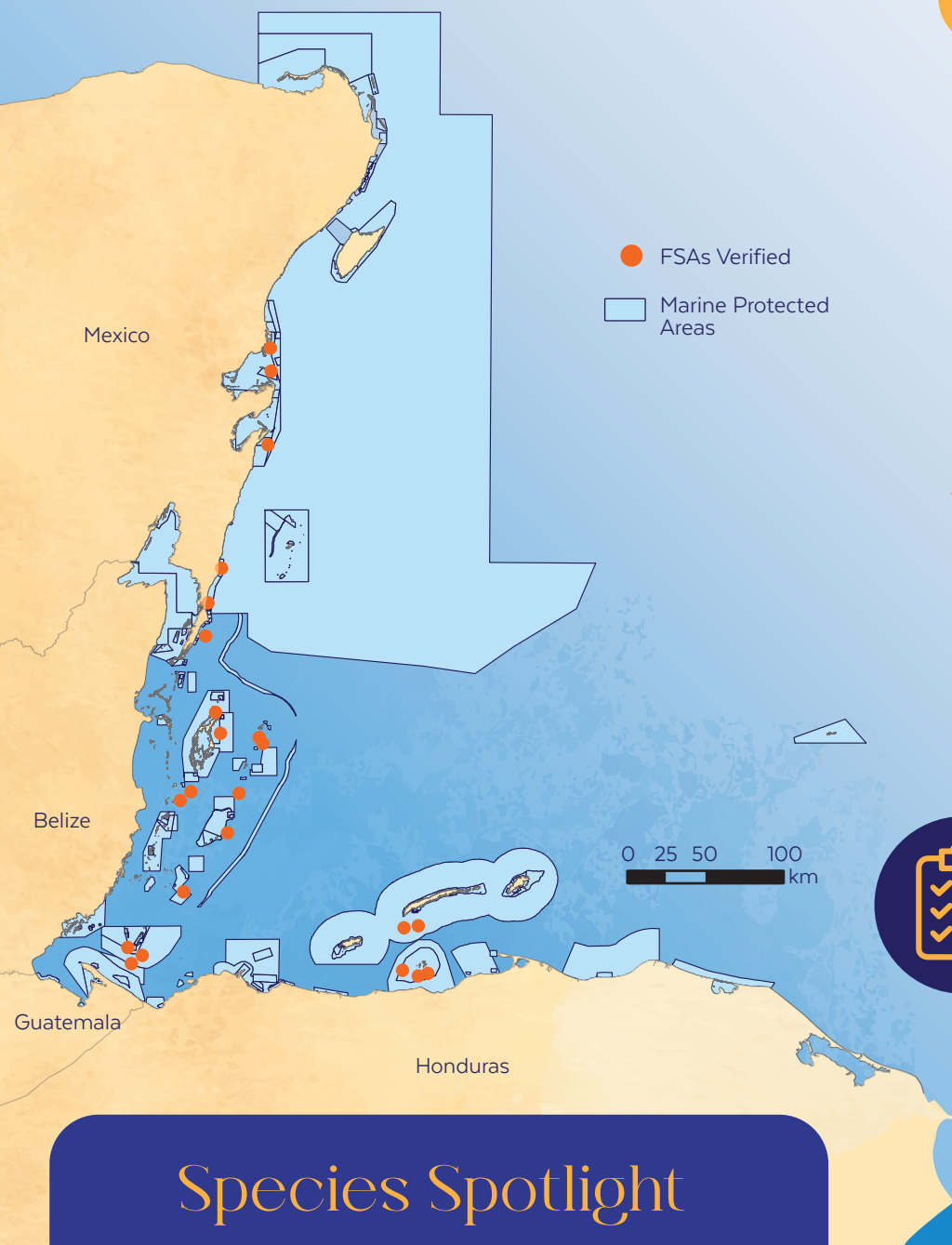
### SPAWNING AGGREGATION FACTS

**What are they?** Large gatherings of thousands of fish for reproduction.

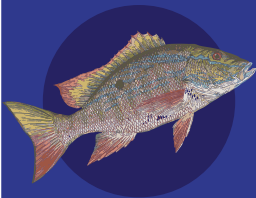
**When do they occur?** Typically during full moons in the spring and summer months.

**Where are they found?** In specific reef sites with particular depth and current patterns.

**How long do they last?** Between 7 and 14 days per spawning event, usually at dawn and dusk.



### Species Spotlight



#### MUTTON SNAPPER

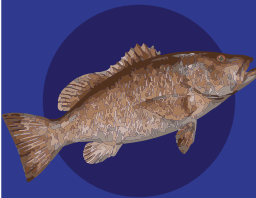
(*Lutjanus analis*)

📏 **Size:** Up to 0.9 meters long, weighing up to 13.6 kilograms.

🔗 **Characteristics:** Olive-gray to red coloration, blue stripes near eye.

📅 **Spawning:** May-July, full moon periods.

⚠️ **Status:** Vulnerable.



#### CUBERA SNAPPER

(*Lutjanus cyanopterus*)

Largest snapper in Caribbean.

📏 **Size:** Up to 1.52 meters long, weighing up to 56.7 kilograms.

🔗 **Characteristics:** Gray-bronze coloration.

📅 **Spawning:** June-August.

⚠️ **Status:** Vulnerable.

### 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

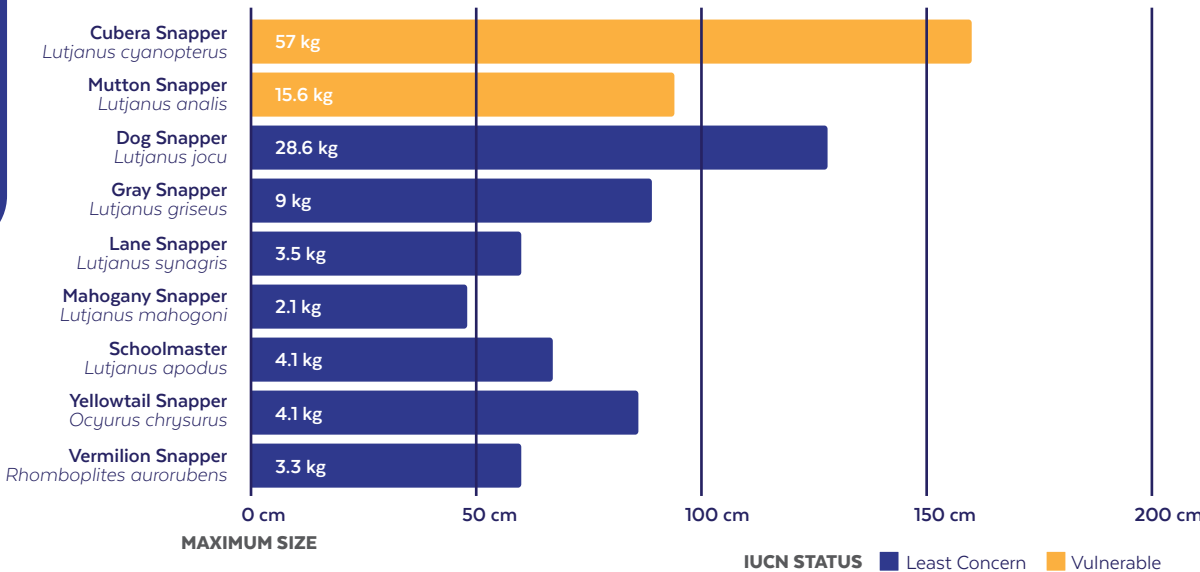


Photo: Richard Barnden