

# »»» A CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT OUR WAY OF LIFE

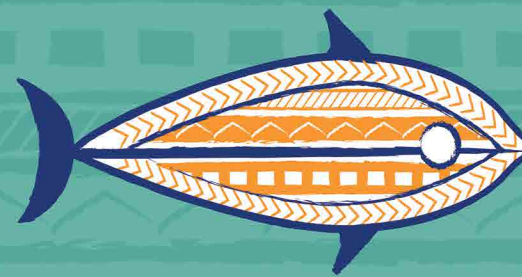
The Fan Itach Chuuk campaign is a movement to revive grouper fisheries, so we can better meet our needs today and tomorrow. For it work, we need everyone's help. That's why we are asking everyone to make the Fan Itach Chuuk Pledge to Say No to Grouper, January 1 through April 30.

We also ask once you pledge, to help spread the word and get your friends and families to make the pledge.

The campaign name, Fan Itach Chuuk, is intended to call on each and every one of us to step up and together meet our responsibilities to our island history and our traditions by better managing the ocean's gifts that support us.

Together, we can ensure we have more and bigger fish and sustain our Chuukese way of life.

To learn more visit: [facebook.com/fanitachchuuk](https://facebook.com/fanitachchuuk)



## FAN ITACH CHUUK

# SAY NO TO GROUPEER, JANUARY 1 TO APRIL 30

Chuuk State has banned the fishing, sale and export of grouper during their peak breeding months, January 1 to April 30, to help ensure sustainable catches today and tomorrow.

The ban is needed because grouper is an important commercial fish for export markets and is vulnerable to overfishing. Grouper are at risk because they gather in large numbers and in the same places and times every year to breed. That fact makes it easy to fish out breeding stock.

The grouper ban is intended to ensure grouper fish are able to breed each year, so we catch more later. The goal is bigger, better catches, today and tomorrow.

For fishers, fish sellers and exporters, violations may result in confiscations and fines.

## IT'S THE LAW

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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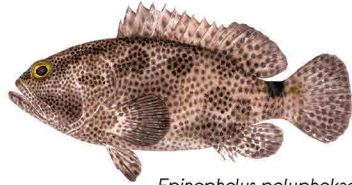
# ABOUT THE BAN

## WHAT FISH EXACTLY?

The law bans all grouper species. Pictured here are the most common and vulnerable groupers.



*Epinephelus fuscoguttatus*  
Brown-marbled grouper



*Epinephelus polyphekadion*  
Camouflage grouper



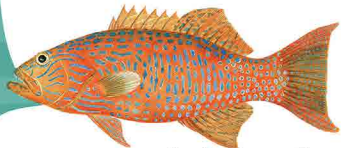
*Epinephelus tauvina*  
Greasy grouper



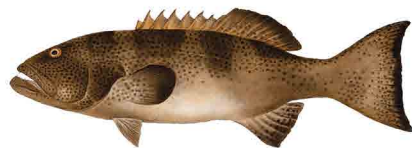
*Epinephelus maculatus*  
Highfin grouper



*Plectropomus leopardus*  
Leopard coral grouper



*Plectropomus oligacanthus*  
Highfin coral grouper



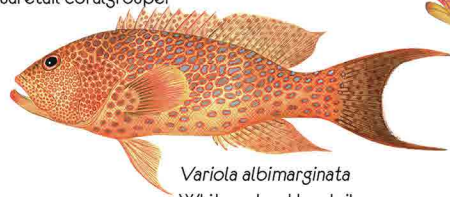
*Plectropomus laevis*  
Blacksaddled coral grouper



*Plectropomus areolatus*  
Squaretail coral grouper



*Variola louti*  
Yellow-edged lyretail



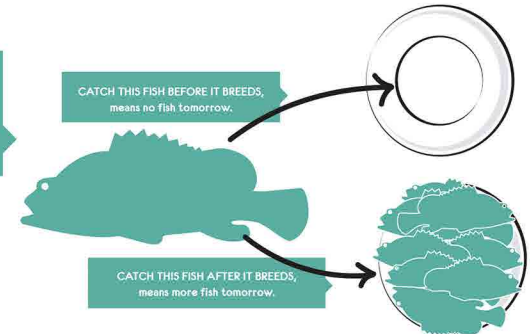
*Variola albimarginata*  
White-edged lyretail

Fish illustrations reproduced with permission from SPC & cChange



Grouper fisheries are especially vulnerable to overfishing as grouper gather in large groups every year at the same time, in the same places to breed. If we catch them before they have a chance to breed, there will be less grouper tomorrow.

## IT'S SIMPLE MATH



## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THIS BAN? MORE FOOD, MORE MONEY

The ban is about getting more food on our plates, and more money in our pockets. It's important to acknowledge that fishers are having a harder time making a living in Chuuk as fishing grounds become more depleted, particularly near population centers.

Fishers are spending longer hours in the water, catching less, and making less money than before. This ban will help increase fish stocks of one of the most valuable commercial fish, which means our fishers can in turn earn more money and better provide for their families. That's the benefit of the ban.

And even if you don't rely on grouper yourself, these fish still matter to you. Grouper are on top of our coastal fisheries food chain. So just like sharks, they play an important role in keeping our fishing grounds healthy and providing lots of other fish you might depend on. So if we lose them, it will effect other fish we like to eat and the overall health of our fishing grounds.

The future of fishing in Chuuk will be about ensuring fishers get the maximum amount of fish from our fishing grounds and can make more money on each fish. That will mean fishing smarter, and for grouper, that means making sure they breed each year.



## WHAT IF I CATCH ONE BY MISTAKE?

If you accidentally catch a grouper, you should let it go. Because that fish could bring you far more fish in years to come, if it gets a chance to breed before you eat it. The reason these fish are declining so rapidly is because fishers target their breeding sites. The good news is that fishers are well aware of where the fish breed and can easily avoid the channels where they typically are breeding.

In other words, fishing in a breeding site is not an accident. So avoid those sites and fishing around those sites.

And it's important to note, anyone attempting to sell accidental catches of grouper can be prosecuted.