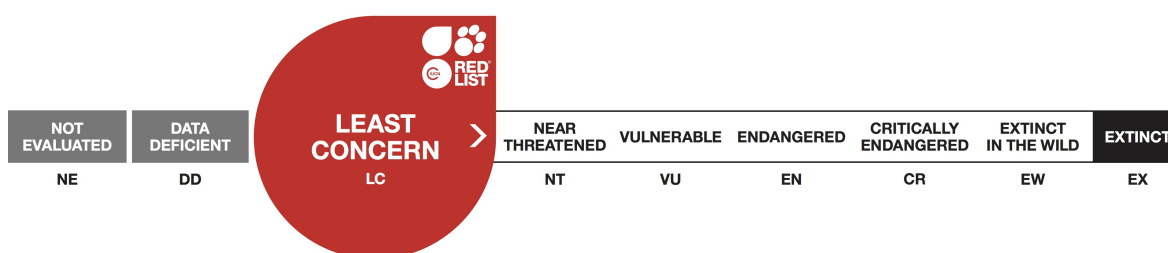


Epinephelus amblycephalus, Banded Grouper

Assessment by: Russell, B., Amorim, P., Rhodes, K., Ma, K., Nair, R., Samoilys, M., Suharti, S., Law, C., Myers, R. & Choat, J.H.



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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Actinopterygii	Perciformes	Epinephelidae

Taxon Name: *Epinephelus amblycephalus* (Bleeker, 1857)

Synonym(s):

- *Epinephelus amblycephalus* (Bleeker, 1857)
- *Serranus amblycephalus* Bleeker, 1857

Common Name(s):

- English: Banded Grouper, Bighead Grouper
- French: Mérou Bande
- Spanish: Cabrilla Venda

Taxonomic Notes:

Epinephelus amblycephalus has been split into two species, with *E. kupangensis* now recognized from the western central Pacific and Andaman Sea (Tucker *et al.* 2016).

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Least Concern [ver 3.1](#)

Year Published: 2018

Date Assessed: November 18, 2016

Justification:

Epinephelus amblycephalus is a widely distributed, deep-living, reef species. It only occasionally occurs in markets, and there are no known major threats; therefore, it is listed as Least Concern. The change in status from the previous assessment reflects an improved application of the Red List categories and criteria, as well as a better understanding of available data.

Previously Published Red List Assessments

2008 – Data Deficient (DD)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2008.RLTS.T132812A3458058.en>

Geographic Range

Range Description:

This western Pacific species is distributed from the Andaman Sea (w. Thailand; Satapoomin 1993) to southern Japan, Taiwan, China, Philippines, Viet Nam, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Arafura Sea, northwestern Australia, and Fiji (Heemstra and Randall 1993), although some records east of the Sunda Shelf and in the Andaman Sea may be based on misidentifications of the broadly sympatric *E. kupangensis*.

Country Occurrence:

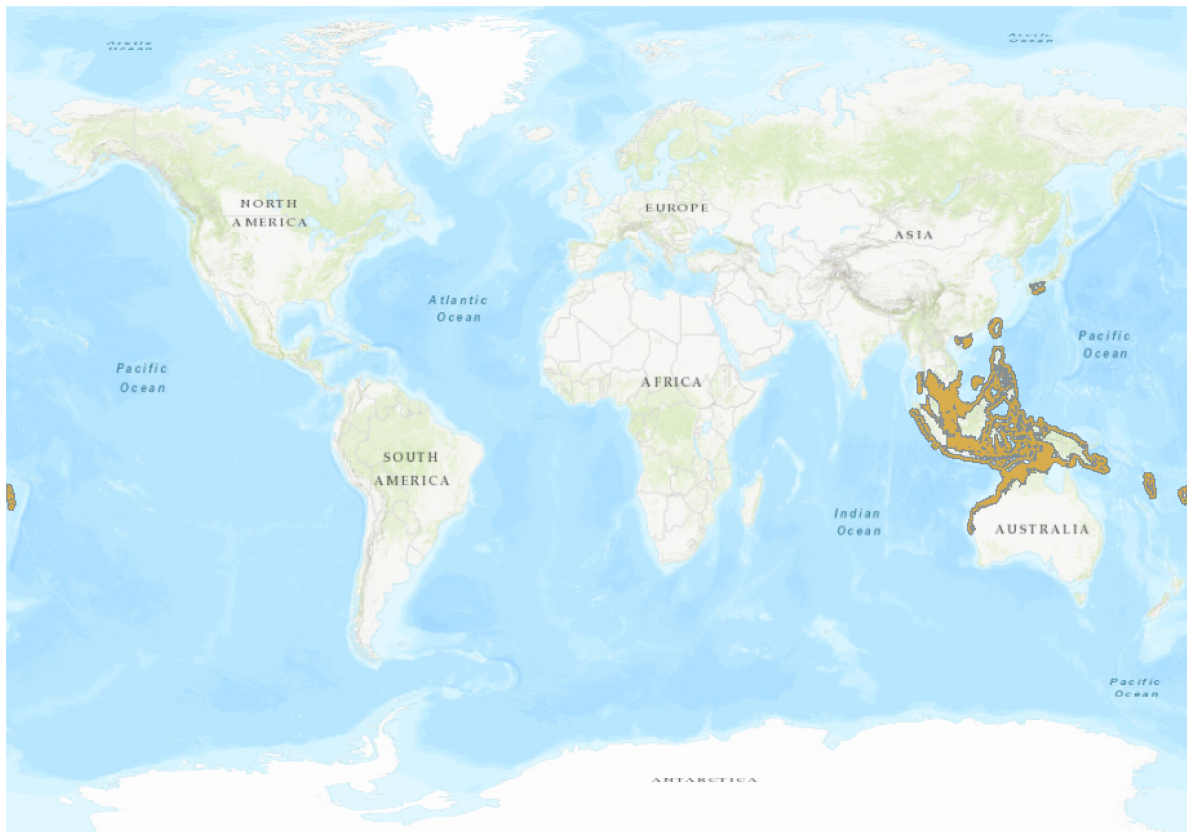
Native: Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; China; Disputed Territory (Spratly Is.); Fiji; Indonesia; Japan; Malaysia; Myanmar; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Singapore; Solomon Islands; Taiwan, Province of China; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Vanuatu; Viet Nam

FAO Marine Fishing Areas:

Native: Indian Ocean - eastern, Pacific - western central, Pacific - northwest

Distribution Map

Epinephelus amblycephalus



0 7,200
Kilometer

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Range

Extant (resident)

Compiled by:

IUCN Grouper and Wrasse Specialist Group



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptance or opinion by IUCN.



Population

Population data are limited for this deep-living species. It was occasionally observed during a market survey in Taiwan (To, KT Shao, Taiwan Fish Database pers. comm. 2016).

Current Population Trend: Unknown

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

This deep-living species inhabits coral and rocky reefs from 50 to 150 m depth (Heemstra and Randall 1993, Rome and Newman 2010). Underwater surveys conducted in Indonesia suggests it may occur as shallow as seven metres (Suharti pers. comm. 2016). Its maximum total length is 50 cm. Tseng and Chan (1985) rearing procedures and larval development for this species.

Systems: Marine

Use and Trade

Epinephelus amblycephalus is not a targeted species throughout most of its range because of its deep rocky reef habitats and is only occasionally recorded in markets in parts of its range. It is a popular and commercially important species in Hong Kong (Tseng and Chan 1985), but in Singapore is “Not a popular grouper in the market” (Tan *et al.* 1982). The species is presently rarely observed in Hong Kong markets (Min and To pers. comm. 2016). This species forms a part of the deepwater reef fishery in Indonesia (Mous and Pet 2016): at least 90% of the catch was mature; the fishery does not depend on immature size classes and the risk category is considered low; however the trade limit is significantly lower than age at first maturity so that the trade encourage capture of immature fish even though current catch is only 2% immature. Reports of this species in aquaculture may be a misidentification of *Epinephelus coioides* (Tseng and Chan 1985, Tupper *et al.* 2008, To pers. comm. 2016).

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

Fishing may cause localised declines, but this is not considered a major threat to its population on a global level.

Conservation Actions

There are no species-specific conservation measures. A large marine protected along the Australian Kimberly coast covers deep water and overlaps with this species' range (H. Choat pers. comm. 2016).

Credits

Assessor(s): Russell, B., Amorim, P., Rhodes, K., Ma, K., Nair, R., Samoilys, M., Suharti, S., Law, C., Myers, R. & Choat, J.H.

Reviewer(s): Linardich, C.

Facilitators(s) and Carpenter, K.E.

Compiler(s):

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Citation

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External Resources

For [Images and External Links to Additional Information](#), please see the Red List website.

Appendix

Habitats

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Habitat	Season	Suitability	Major Importance?
9. Marine Neritic -> 9.2. Marine Neritic - Subtidal Rock and Rocky Reefs	Resident	Suitable	Yes

Threats

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
5. Biological resource use -> 5.4. Fishing & harvesting aquatic resources -> 5.4.1. Intentional use: (subsistence/small scale) [harvest]	Ongoing	-	-	-
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		
5. Biological resource use -> 5.4. Fishing & harvesting aquatic resources -> 5.4.2. Intentional use: (large scale) [harvest]	Ongoing	-	-	-
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		

Research Needed

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Research Needed
1. Research -> 1.2. Population size, distribution & trends
1. Research -> 1.3. Life history & ecology
3. Monitoring -> 3.1. Population trends

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Lower depth limit (m): 150
Upper depth limit (m): 50
Population
Population severely fragmented: No

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