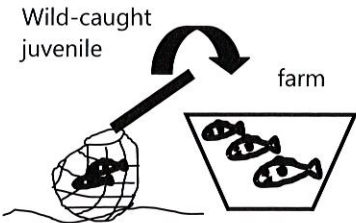


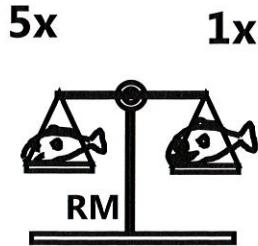
Current unhealthy practices

Most groupers caught in the LRFT never get the chance to reproduce because they have **not reached sexual maturity** before being served on restaurant tables.

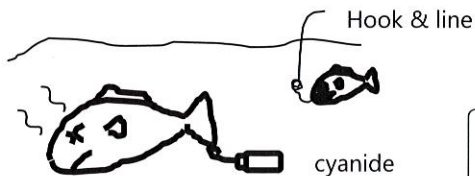


Fish farming using wild-caught juveniles is only "retaining fish" and not a true aquaculture operation. These juveniles are sourced from the sea and are **grown to serving size in farms**, so the practice is not sustainable!

High mortality during transportation means more fish need to be caught just to compensate for those that die in transit since a live reef fish is valued 5 times more than a dead fish.



High demand for the live reef fishes, destructive fishing method such as cyanide fishing are being used so these fishes can be caught easily compared to conventional fishing method such as hook and line.



EFFORTS ON THE WAY

To ensure the sustainability of the trade, the **ban on the exports of humphead wrasse**—one of the endangered fish species traded for the LRFT, has been imposed by the Department of Fisheries Sabah (DoFS) starting January 2010, although the fish can still be marketed and consumed locally.

WWF-Malaysia through interviews and roundtables with local Sabah traders has proposed the adoption of **Best Management Practice (BMP)** for the culture of fish species marketed for the trade, and working towards formation of **Sabah Traders Group**. A recent consumer survey indicates consumer willingness to shift to farmed fish as alternative to wild-caught reef fishes. Therefore, WWF is working with fish farmers to pilot **full-cycle aquaculture of Tiger Grouper (*Epinephelus fuscoguttatus*)** to reduce the pressure on the wild-caught live fishes. As consumer's choice is vital in the conservation of these threatened and endangered species, you can help save our seafood by **choosing wisely**.

What you can do to help:

- ✓ **Ask how your fish is caught.**
- ✓ **Eat or buy fish sustainably caught or farmed fish.**
- ✓ **Check the status of the fish species before buying or consuming.**
- ✓ **Choose fish from the green list on the SOS guide.**

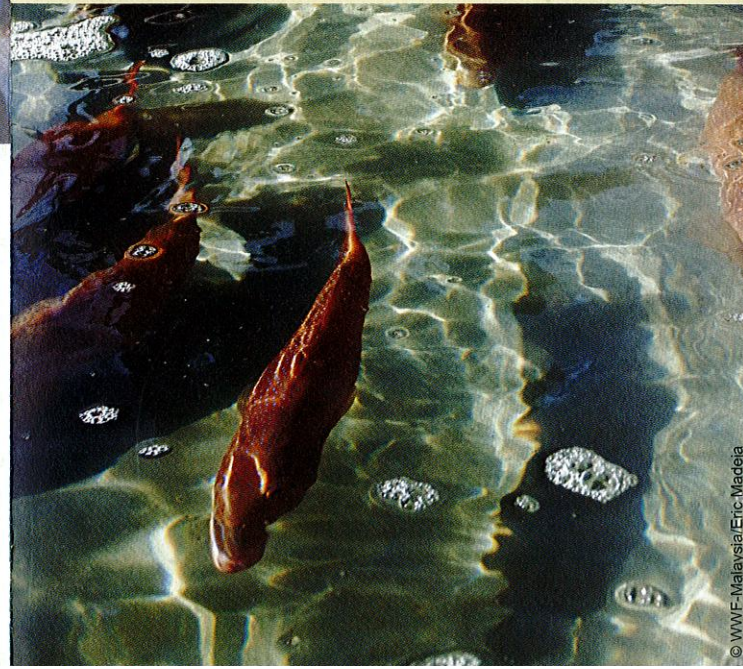


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Live Reef Fish Trade (LRFT) in Sabah



LRFT is the trade of live food fishes which mostly targeted the reef-dwelling groupers, snappers and certain species of wrasses, such as humphead wrasse. As the trade has grown significantly in Sabah since the early '90s when the price for live fish started to increase dramatically, many of these reef fishes are in decline due to intensive fishing pressure and the use of destructive fishing method such as cyanide fishing.



Destructive fishing method such as cyanide fishing and fish bombs could lead to deteriorating coral reefs and eventually decreasing fish stocks.

Cyanide fishing is used to stun fish so they can easily be caught by net or collected by hand. At the same time, other non-targeted fish and corals are affected, as repeated applications of cyanide may lead to eventual coral death and inevitably disrupt the reef ecosystem. This chemical leaves the reef structure intact but kills live corals living within. Plus, long term practice of diving with a compressor or skin diving to put cyanide on corals can be detrimental to the fishermen.

No more reef fish on reefs means:

LESS fish landed for economic growth,
LESS fish on coral reefs as attraction for divers,
and LESS fish to eat.



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The most commonly available species for the LRFT

By TRAFFIC & WWF Hong Kong



EN

Humphead Wrasse
Mameng
曲紋唇魚
(*Cheilinus undulatus*)



NT

Leopard Coral Trout
Sunoh
紅東星斑
(*Plectropomus leopardus*)



NT

Tiger Grouper
Kerapu harimau
老虎斑
(*Epinephelus fuscoguttatus*)



VU

High-finned Grouper
Kerapu tikus / kumbing
老鼠斑
(*Cromileptes altivelis*)



NT

Flowery Grouper
Kerapu samaran
油斑魚
(*Epinephelus polyphekadion*)



NT

Dusky-tail Grouper
Kerapu tenggarong
石斑魚
(*Epinephelus bleekeri*)



VU

Giant Grouper
Kertang
龍膽
(*Epinephelus lanceolatus*)



VU

Spotted Coral Trout
Sunoh
太星斑
(*Plectropomus areolatus*)



NT

Green Grouper
Kerapu hijau
清斑魚
(*Epinephelus coioides*)



NE

Mangrove Red Snapper
Ikan merah
銀紋笛鯛
(*Lutjanus argentimaculatus*)

EN- ENDANGERED; VU- VULNERABLE; NT- NEAR THREATENED; NE- NOT EVALUATED

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