



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES
3rd Floor, PCA Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 929-9597, 929-8074

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4 **FISHERIES ADMINISTRATIVE**

5 **ORDER NO. _____**

6 **Series of 2019**

7
8 **SUBJECT: REGULATION ON THE CATCHING, TRANSPORTING, SELLING AND**
9 **TRADING OF THE WILD JUVENILE GROUPERS (*Serranidae*).**

10
11 **WHEREAS**, Grouper is one of the prime commodities in the Live Reef Food Fish Trade
12 (LRFFT), and among the country's major fishery commodities exported which ranked
13 3rd most exported in terms quantity (MT) in 2014-2016 next to tuna and seaweeds
14 products (Fisheries Profile);

15
16 **WHEREAS**, catching of small groupers is widespread that causes growth overfishing
17 and resulting to reduced potential yield from the fishery and decreased economic and
18 other benefits that could be obtained from the stock;

19
20 **WHEREAS**, there are reported 26 species of groupers in the Philippines, 5 species are
21 native in the country and are listed as Vulnerable in the List of Threatened Fishes
22 reported from the Philippines (fishbase.org); 6 are vulnerable & nearly threatened
23 (IUCN);

24
25 **WHEREAS**, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) has already regulated
26 the catching of "*Suno*" or Red Groupers in the Province of Palawan based on the best
27 available science locally, imposing size limitations of 32cm to 47.5cm (TL);

28
29 **WHEREAS**, section 15 of Amended Fisheries Law requires auxiliary invoice from LGUs
30 in transporting fishery products from the point of origin to their point of destination
31 and/or export purposes;

32
33 **WHEREAS**, Rule 86.2 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 8550 as
34 amended by RA 10654 is the basis of the rule which determined the fishing gears that
35 are allowed in the municipal waters;

36
37 **WHEREAS**, the current grouper hatcheries cannot fully supply the need for seed stocks
38 of various species for Aquaculture. Further, BFAR, Academe and other related
39 institutions need to sufficiently support the needs of grouper fry by the aquaculture in
40 the country and conduct further research/studies that would determine the
41 reproductive seasonality in all areas;

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43 **NOW THEREFORE**, the following provisions of this Order are hereby adopted and
44 implemented:

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50 **SECTION 1. Definition of Terms**

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- 52 1) **Grouper** - locally known as *lapu-lapu*, is a fish species belonging to a number of
- 53 genera in the subfamily *Epinephelinae* of the family *Serranidae*, in the order
- 54 *Perciformes*;
- 55
- 56 2) **Growth overfishing** - is a form of biological overfishing where fish are caught
- 57 when they immature or are harvested before their growth potential is fully
- 58 reached that prevents the fishery to produce its maximum yield.
- 59
- 60 3) **Length at first maturity (L_m/L_{50})** - length at maturity, defined as minimal size
- 61 attained at maturity or the size at which 50% of the fish at that size are mature
- 62
- 63 4) **Juvenile grouper** - size of the species that is less than the Length at first
- 64 maturity (L_m/L_{50}).
- 65
- 66 5) **Total Length (TL)** - is the length of a fish measured from the tip of the snout to
- 67 the tip of the longer lobe of the caudal fin, usually measured with the lobes
- 68 compressed along the midline. It is a straight-line measure, not measured over
- 69 the curve of the body.
- 70

71 **SECTION 2. Prohibition.** It shall be unlawful for any person, association, cooperative,

72 partnership or corporation to catch, transport, trade and sell juvenile groupers from the

73 wild measuring less than the Total Length at first maturity (L_m) as prescribed in Table 1

74 of this Order;

75

76 Further, it shall be unlawful for any person, association, cooperative, partnership or

77 corporation to catch, transport, sell and trade species listed under CITES under

78 Appendix 3 (check spp.).

79

80 Furthermore, the exportation of breeders, spawners, eggs or fry is prohibited as per

81 provision of Section 104 of the Amended Fisheries Law.

82

83 **SECTION 3. Exemption.** Aside from those listed in CITES appendix 3, the collection,

84 transport, selling and trading of juvenile grouper from wild are allowed under

85 following conditions, pending the development of grouper hatcheries to suffice the

86 need for aquaculture and the conduct of reproductive biological studies to

87 determine specific allowable lengths for species in key fishing areas:

88

89 a. Collection of juvenile groupers for local aquaculture purposes is allowed,

90 provided that the collectors should be registered/licensed/permitted and

91 certified by the Local Government Unit. Further, their transport and trading for

92 aquaculture purposes should be accompanied by Local Transport Permit.

93 Furthermore, the LGU through MAO/CAO in consultation with the Fisheries and

94 Aquatic Resources Management Council shall maintain a Registry of

95 consolidators, gatherers, buyers and traders pursuant to Rule 19.1 and 19.3 of

96 Amended Fisheries Code.

97

98 b. Collection of juvenile grouper for research and academic purposes is allowed

99 provided Permits to Conduct Research are secured in compliance with the
100 Fisheries Administrative Order No. 233 Series of 2010. The Secretary of
101 Agriculture through the BFAR Director may grant an exemption or special
102 permit to collect grouper juveniles and fry to support the development of
103 grouper hatchery technology.
104

105 c. Catching and trading of “suno” or red grouper (*Plectropomus leopardus*) as per
106 passage of Resolutions to sustainably managed grouper stocks in Palawan
107 Province by PCSO which have size limit not less than 32 to 47.5 centimeters (TL).
108

109 d. Transporting, selling and trading of hatchery-bred or captive-bred grouper fry
110 are allowed.
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112
113 **SECTION 4. Penal Clause.** Violation of this Order shall subject the offender to a fine of
114 One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) to Five million pesos (P5,000,000.00),
115 depending on the socioeconomic impact and seriousness of the violation, volume and
116 value of the fisheries product, damage to the environment due to the violation, and the
117 habituality of the offender, in accordance with Sec 128 of the amended Fisheries Law,
118

119 In case of exportation of breeders, spawners, eggs or fry, the offender shall be punished,
120 upon conviction by a court of law, of eight (8) to ten (10) years imprisonment, in
121 accordance with Section 104 of the Amended Fisheries Law.
122

123 **SECTION 5. Repealing clause.** All Orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with this
124 Order shall be deemed revoked.
125

126 **Section 6. Separability clause.** If any portion or provision of this Order is declared
127 unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions thereof which are not
128 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.
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130 **SECTION 7. Effectivity.** This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
131 publication in the official gazette and/or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
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133 Issued this ___ day of ___, 2019 at Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines
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136 Recommending Approval:
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139 **EDUARDO B. GONGONA**
140 Undersecretary of Fisheries, DA
141 Director, Bureau of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources
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143 Approved:
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145 **EMMANUEL F. PIÑOL**
146 Secretary
147 Department of Agriculture




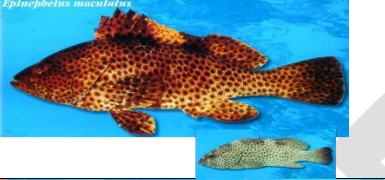

Table 1. List of Grouper species and their corresponding Total Length at first maturity (Lm)






		<i>Species</i>	Common Name	Local name	Maturity size (TL)	Max Length (TL)	Reference
1		<i>Aethaloperca rogaa</i>	Redmouth Grouper	Kubing, Lapu-lapung itim	34 cm	60 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)
2		<i>Cephalopholis miniata</i>	Coral Hind	Bantol, Baraka, Batu-bato, Iner, Inid, Kakab, Kaltang, Kiting, Kubing, Kugtong (large), Kulapo, Kurapu, Labunga, Lapu-lapu, Lapu-lapung senora, Liglig, Lilug, Lubo, Mambo (small), Salingukod, Singapo, Subia, Takulit, Tapog	26 cm	45 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)
3		<i>Cephalopholis polleni</i>	Harlequin Hind	Lapu-lapu	25 cm	43 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)
4		<i>Cephalopholis sonnerati</i>	Tomato Hind	Lapu-lapu, Uhami	33 cm	57 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)






		<i>Species</i>	Common Name	Local name	Maturity size (TL)	Max Length (TL)	Reference
5		<i>Cephalopholis urodeta</i>	Darkfin Hind	Lapu-lapu. Suno. Vahatan	17 cm	28 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)
6		<i>Cephalopholis boenak</i> <i>Dominant in Reg7</i>	Chocolate hind	Baraka, Dalor, Inid, Kulapo bugog, Kurapu, Lapu-lapu, Liglag, Mantis, Pugawo, Tingag	12.2 cm	30 cm	Fishbase
7		<i>Cromileptes altivelis</i>	Humpback Grouper	Badiangon. Bulgan. Inid. Kaltang, Kambabalo. Kubing. Kulapo. Kulapo kubing., Lapu-lapu, seniorita, Liglig, Mantis. Mero-mero. Milo-milo. Miro-miro	39 cm	70 cm	Fishbase, ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)
8		<i>Epinephelus fasciatus</i>	Blacktip Grouper	Bantol. Baraka, Batu-bato, Bulang, Iner, Inid, Kabab, Kaltang, Kiting, Kugton, Kulapo, Kurapu, Labunga	24 cm	40 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)
9		<i>Epinephelus akaa</i>	Hong Kong Grouper	Lapu-lapu	30 cm	51 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)






		<i>Species</i>	Common Name	Local name	Maturity size (TL)	Max Length (TL)	Reference
10		<i>Epinephelus areolatus</i>	Areolate Grouper	Baraka, Bulang, Inid, Kurapu, Lapu-lapu, Lapu-lapung aswang, Sebog Suno, Tingag, Pugapong Tiger	20cm 23 cm	47 cm	Fishbase, ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)
11		<i>Epinephelus awoara</i>	Yellow Grouper	Lapu-lapu	34 cm	60 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)
13		<i>Epinephelus bleekeri</i>	Duskytail Grouper	Baraka. Bulang, Inid. Kulapo. Kurapu. Lapu-lapu, Liglig, Mantis, Pugapo, Tingag	36 cm 42 cm	76 cm	Fishbase, ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)
14		<i>Epinephelus bruneus</i>	Longtooth Grouper	Lapu-lapu	54 cm	100 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)
15		<i>Epinephelus chlorostigma</i>	Brownspotted Grouper	Baraka, Bulang, Inid. Kubing. Kurapu. Lapu-lapu. Liglig, Mantis. Pugapo	28cm 35 cm	75 cm 80 cm	Fishbase, ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)




		<i>Species</i>	Common Name	Local name	Maturity size (TL)	Max Length (TL)	Reference
16		<i>Epinephelus coioides</i>	Orange-spotted Grouper	Lapu-lapu, Loba, Pugapo, Pugnong	49 cm	120 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)
17		<i>Epinephelus corallicola</i>	Coral Grouper	Bantol, Mambo(small), Maskad, Matkad, Patikan, Pugao, Pugapo, salingukod, Wakwakon, Tapog, Lapu-lapu	29 cm	49 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)
18		<i>Epinephelus cyanopodus</i>	Speckled Blue Grouper	Kobe, Lapu-lapu	64 cm	122 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)
19		<i>Epinephelus flavocaeruleus</i>	Blue-and-yellow Grouper	Lapu-lapu	49 cm	90 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)
20		<i>Epinephelus fuscoguttatus</i>	Brown Marbled Grouper	Baraka. Bulang. Garopa. Garupa, Inid' Kulapo' Kulapu bagahak' Kurnpu. Lapo-lapo , Lapu-lap II. Lapu lapu aswang.	50 cm	120 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)

		<i>Species</i>	Common Name	Local name	Maturity size (TL)	Max Length (TL)	Reference
21		<i>Epinephelus howlandi</i>	Blacksaddle Grouper	Lapu-lapu, Tumuvutuvo	24 cm	40 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)
22		<i>Epinephelus lanceolatus</i>	Giant Grouper	Bulang, Kugtong, Kurapu, Lapu-lapu	129 cm	270 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)
23		<i>Epinephelus latifasciatus</i>	Striped Grouper	Lapu-lapu	86 cm	171 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)
24		<i>Epinephelus maculatus</i>	Highfin Grouper	Bantulon, Baraka, Bulang, Kurapu, Lapu-lapu, Pugapo	35 cm	61 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)
		<i>Epinephelus trimaculatus</i>	Threespot Grouper	Bulang, Kurapu, Lapu-lapu, Pugapo	29 cm	49 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)

		<i>Species</i>	Common Name	Local name	Maturity size (TL)	Max Length (TL)	Reference
25		<i>Epinephelus merra</i>	Honeycomb Grouper	Takulit, Taleti-on, Tapog, Subia, Singapo, Maskad, Matkad, Lapu-lapung liglig, Lilug, Kugtong, Kiting, Iner, Inid, Baghak, Bantol, Bantulon, Baraka	11cm	32 cm	Fishbase
26		<i>Epinephelus polyphkadion</i>	Camouflage Grouper	Lapu-lapu. Tingag	58 cm	109 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)
27		<i>Epinephelus quoyanus</i>	Longfin Grouper	Baghak, Baraka, Bulang, Gayot, Kurapu, Langogan, Lapu-dianing, Lapu-lapu mennirip	24 cm	40 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)
28		<i>Epinephelus spilotoceps</i>	Foursaddle Grouper	Lapu-lapu	19 cm	31 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)
29		<i>Epinephelus tukula</i>	Potato Grouper	Inid orig. Lapu-lapu	99 cm	200 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)

		<i>Species</i>	Common Name	Local name	Maturity size (TL)	Max Length (TL)	Reference
30		<i>Epinephelus undulosus</i>	Wavy-lined Grouper	Abo-abo' Baraka. Bulalw. Bllluan. Kulapo abu, Kurapu. Mantis' Pugapo. Pugaro. Puol. Tingag	41 cm	73 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)
31		<i>Epinephelus andersoni</i>	Catface grouper		49.2 cm	87 cm	Fishbase
32		<i>Epinephelus hexagonatus</i>	Starspotted grouper		19 cm	27.5 cm	Fishbase
33		<i>Epinephelus malabaricus</i>	Malabar grouper	Anid, Baraka, Bulang, Inid, Kubing, Kurapu, Lapu-lapu, Mantis, Pugapo	Female: 64 cm Male: 82 cm	234 cm	Fishbase
34		<i>Epinephelus taurina</i>	Greasy grouper	Baraka, Bulang, Kugtong, Kulapo, Kurapo, Lapu-lapu, Pugaro, Tingag	61.1 cm	100-107 cm	Fishbase ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)

		<i>Species</i>	Common Name	Local name	Maturity size (TL)	Max Length (TL)	Reference
35		<i>Plectropomus areolatus</i>	Squaretail Coralgrouper	Baraka, Lapu-lapu. Lilog, Suno	41 cm	73 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)
36		<i>Plectropomus laevis</i>	Blacksaddled Coralgrouper		60 cm	115 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)
37		<i>Plectropomus oligacanthus</i>	Highfin Coralgrouper	Baghak, Baghak-pula, Baraka, Bulang, Kurapu, Lapu-lapu, Pugapong Tiger Suno	42 cm	75 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)
38		<i>Plectropomus leopardus</i>	Leopard Coralgrouper	Bulang, Kurapu . Lapu-lapu. Red lapu.Sono. Suno Valenten	Male: 42 cm Female: 36 cm	120 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)
39		<i>Plectropomus maculatus</i>	Spotted Coralgrouper	Baghak. Bantol, Kakab, Kaltang, Kugtong (large) Labunga, Lapu-lapu, Lubo, Mambo, Maskad. Matka, Pugao, Pugapo, Salingukod. Tapog, Takulil	54 cm	100 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)

		<i>Species</i>	Common Name	Local name	Maturity size (TL)	Max Length (TL)	Reference
40		<i>Plectropomus pessuliferus</i>	Roving Coralgroupers	Lapu-lapu	63 cm	120 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)
41		<i>Variola louti</i>	Yellow-edged Lyretail	Banghak, Inid, Lulapo, Sunoh Kurapu. Lapu-lapu. Lapu-lapung seniorita, Mantis, Pugapong gamay, Rana, Sunolawian, valenten	41 cm	81 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)
42		<i>Variola albimarginata</i>	White-edged Lyretail	Bulantin. Kaying, Lapu-lapung seniorita, Sunolawian. Valenten	34 cm	60 cm	ID Guide (Live Seafood Trade)

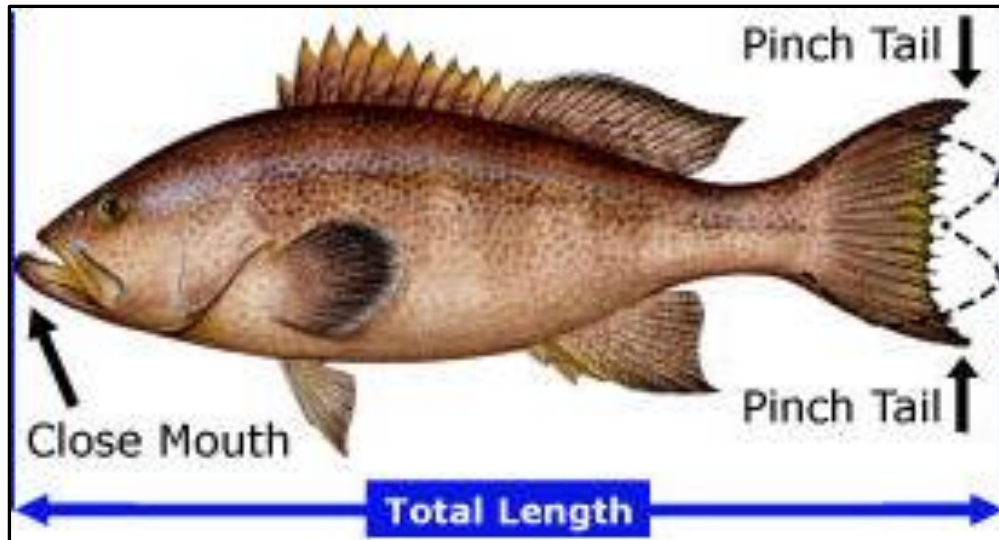


Figure 1. Diagram for the measurement of Total Length for Fish