



NAPOLEON FISH (HUMPHEAD WRASSE) *Cheilinus undulatus*

Map shows global distribution of the humphead wrasse (Napoleon fish) – the species occurs in the areas shown by the thick lines.

Body shape and colour change markedly with growth. All phases have a pair of distinctive lines running through the eye (see arrow and note that the lines are more distinct behind the eye and in juveniles; these marks are not found in any similar wrasses)

Photos on reverse side: (a) small juveniles are light with dark bands; (b) larger juveniles are pale green; (c) adults are olive to green; (d) the largest fish have pronounced forehead and are blue-green. Most fish (except (a)) have bright yellow dorsal margin to caudal fin.

Note: there are two related species that can be distinguished as follows. (1) do not have the strong eye stripes or a distinct bright yellow dorsal edge to the caudal fin (2) do have rows of white spots (*C. chlorourus*) (3) do have pink dots and rows (*C. trilobatus*)

(Photographs by kind courtesy of J.E. Randall [a,b,c] and R. F. Myers [d].).

Courtesy: Groupers and Wrasses Specialist Group, IUCN (www.humpheadwrasse.info)

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