



COLLECTORS' BULLETIN

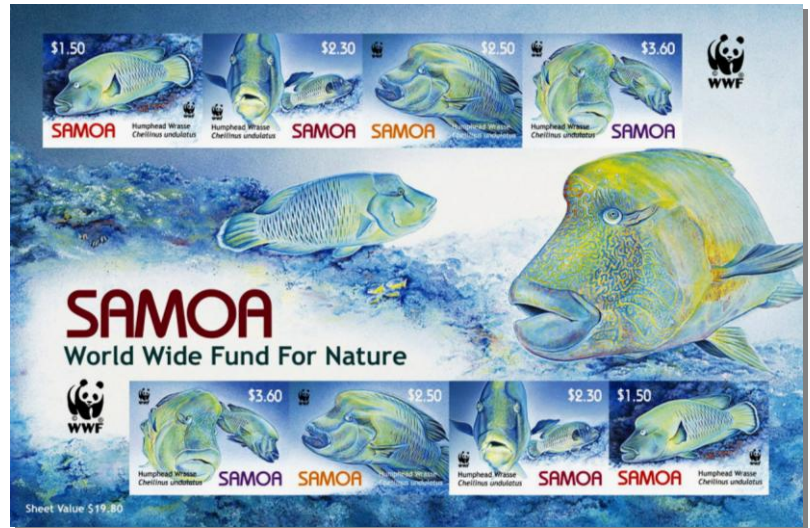


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Humphead Wrasse

The Humphead Wrasse is widely distributed throughout the tropical waters of the Indo-Pacific as well as from the Red Sea to South Africa. Inhabiting steep outer reef slopes, channel slopes, and lagoon reefs from 1-60M, the wrasse is usually solitary but may be found in pairs. They rove across the reefs by day and rest in reef caves and under coral ledges at night.

Adults of this species develop thick lips and a prominent bulbous hump on the forehead. The colouring can vary with males ranging from a bright electric blue to green, a purplish blue, or a relatively dull blue/green. Juveniles and females are red-orange above, and red-orange to white below. Some males grow very large, with one unconfirmed report showing 229cm long and 190.5 kg.



Primary food source are mollusks, fishes, sea urchins, crustaceans, and other invertebrates. They are one of the few predators of toxic animals such as sea hares, boxfishes and crown-of-thorns starfish.

The species is long lived, but has a very slow breeding rate and is highly conservation-dependent. It is not being replaced fast enough to compensate for the fishing rate, which despite having regulations in many places, is affected by much illegal, unregulated and unmonitored trade. Much of this trade is now in juvenile fish, which is the preferred market size for live fish. The species is now listed as Endangered in IUCN 2004 (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) Red List of threatened animals, and listed in Appendix II of CITES.

Collectors Notes:

Designer:	Donna McKenna, Wellington, New Zealand
Printer:	Wyatt and Wilson, Christchurch, New Zealand
Process:	Offset Litho
Stamp Size:	42.27mm x 30.23mm, 8 horizontal stamps
Mini Sheet Size:	135 mm x 205mm
Perforation Gauge:	14 per 2 cm
Denominations:	Stamps \$1.50, \$2.30, \$2.50 and \$3.60
Paper:	104 litho gummed stamp paper
Period of Sale:	20 September 2006 for a period of 2 years.

For further information please contact:

Tupe Ualolo Nun Yan,
Chief Executive Officer

SamoaPost Limited
Tel. + 0685 67640,
Fax + 0695 27643
E mail

tupe.ualolo@samoapost.ws



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