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### **Grouper spawning aggregations in Komodo National Park**

Spawning aggregation sites with *Epinephelis fuscoguttatus* and *Plectropomus areolatus*, were visually monitored in Komodo National Park, Indonesia, from March 1998 until May 2000. The main objective of the monitoring program was to track trends in numbers and sizes of species targeted by the live reef fish trade and aggregating at these sites, and to generate information on spawning aggregations for park zoning and management purposes. Based on observations on fish behavior, coloration and other indicators, the spawning season of *E. fuscoguttatus* and *P. areolatus* was determined to run from September through February with aggregation and spawning taking place during each full moon during this period. Size frequency distributions differed monthly. Many other reef fish species used the same sites at both lunar phases, indicating the importance of the sites for reef fishes and in relation to fishery management. All spawning sites in the Park have been heavily fished in the past. The few remaining aggregation sites are likely of great importance for the role of the Park as a source of recruits for surrounding fishing grounds. These sites need to be fully protected and therefore have been embedded well within the newly proposed no-take zones of the Park.