Calotomus zonarchus male
Courtesy Keoki Stender

Marine Fishes

Spectacled parrotfish
Uhu
Chlorurus perspicillatus

Yellowbar parrotfish
Uhu
Calotomus zonarchus

SPECIES STATUS:
IUCN Red List – Not considered
Endemic, except spectacled parrotfish which also occurs at Johnston Atoll

SPECIES INFORMATION: These species are herbivorous and reach over 30 centimeters (one foot) in length. They are protogynous hermaphrodites. Terminal phase males maintain haremic territories. These species have relatively fast growth and maturity. They graze algae from rock and coral surfaces. Young can sometimes be aggregated.

DISTRIBUTION: Spectacled parrotfish occur throughout the State. Yellowbar parrotfish occur from O'ahu and northwest throughout the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

ABUNDANCE: They are surveyed for in surveys of coral reef fishes in the Main and NWHI, both by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Division of Aquatic Resources and available online. Spectacled parrotfish numbers have declined in the populated areas of the main islands.

LOCATION AND CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT: Both species occur in coral reef areas. Spectacled parrotfish occur from the surface to over 60 meters (200 feet) deep, while yellowbar parrotfish only occur deeper than ten meters (35 feet).

THREATS:

- They are fished commercially and recreationally. They are sensitive to night-time spear fishing because members of this family rest at night in exposed reef crevices protected by a thin mucus covering they produce across the opening to the crevice.

CONSERVATION ACTIONS: The goals of conservation actions are to not only protect current populations, but to also establish further populations to reduce the risk of extinction. Regulations set minimum catch size at 12 inches (30 centimeters). In addition to common statewide and island conservation actions, specific actions include:

- Maintain healthy populations with appropriate fishing regulations and education.

MONITORING:

- Continue to survey for populations and distribution in known and likely habitats.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES:

- Improve understanding of factors affecting the species population size.

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