

WAKING UP



ON THE REEF

Habitat Highlight - where do we hangout?

- Small caves and crevices in the reef slopes or lagoons
- Areas with rich coral cover and minimal fishing pressures
- Prefer massive hard corals like Porites or overhangs in rocky reef zones



Distribution

Indo-Pacific region

- Christmas Island
- Cocos (Keeling) Island
- Great-barrier reef
- Indonesia
- Micronesia



click the map for more info

Hi! I'm a **bumphead parrotfish** (*Bombometopon muricatum*), a reef-cleaning, coral-crunching herbivore!



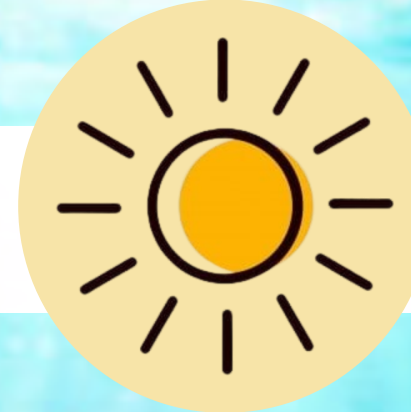
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Click the speaker icon for an audio journey of my story (eng/malay/chin)



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WHAT'S FOR



LUNCH?



Biomineral Superpower

The Parrotfish Beak

The beak is made of some of the strongest biomineralised material in nature - great for scraping coral!

[Diamond]		10
[Fluorapatite]		5
[Gold (Au)]		2.5-3
[Silver (Ag)]		2.5-3
[Copper (Cu)]		2.5-3

*Mohs Hardness Scale

Ecological Importance

Parrotfish use their beaks to scrape off algae and bite bits of dead coral helping clean the reef and create new sand

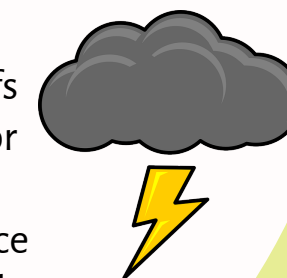
How much sand?

Each fish can produce hundreds of kilograms of sand per year!



Supporting reef recovery

Healthy parrotfish populations help coral reefs bounce back after storms or bleaching events by supporting a healthy balance between corals, algae, and invertebrates



WINDING



DOWN



Navigation Instincts

- Bumphead Parrotfish exhibit a behaviour known as **site fidelity**, meaning even without a GPS, they can return to the same sleeping spots and feeding zones
- They rely on visual cues from coral formations, water depth, and light



Bumphead parrotfish used to be spotted regularly, but now they're quite difficult to find.

If you see one, send a picture to Dr Jennie!
jennie.mallela@anu.edu.au



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"Not-so-great at hide-and-seek"

- Sleeping in groups in shallow, predictable spots makes it easy for fishers to find them night after night
- Listed on the IUCN Red List as **vulnerable** - meaning their population is declining