

The next fish species to go extinct?

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The Napoleon Wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*) is one of those fish that once encountered you can never forget. This is mainly on account of the sheer size of this gentle giant which can reach 230 cm and can weigh as much as 190 kilograms. It is a beautiful fish, with scales of a myriad of colours from green, mixed up with blue,

and a tinge of yellow and purple close to its eyes resembling eyelashes. "Madanm Tonbe" or "Aya Zerar" in Creole is also called different names in different countries such as Maori Wrasse or the Humphead Wrasse. The latter is on account of the hump above its head which protrudes more as the fish matures and is said to look like the hat worn by the French revolutionary army led by Na-

poleon Bonaparte.

"The Napoleon Wrasse is a slow-growing fish which makes it naturally rare. However, it plays an important role in the ecosystem as they feed on predatory species such as thorns-of-crowns, and therefore allowing a healthier ecosystem to thrive," states Gregory Berke, the Director of Conservation and Science at the Island Conservation Society (ICS).

