



Humphead Wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*)

Size: Body length, up to 2.3 m **Weight:** Up to approx. 190 kg **Habitat:** Coral reefs and inshore habitats throughout the tropical Indo-Pacific **Surviving number:** Unknown



Photographed by Keith Ellenbogen

WILDLIFE AS CANON SEES IT

Hero of the reef. As one of the few predators of toxic reef animals such as sea hares and crown-of-thorns starfish, the humphead wrasse performs a valuable service in keeping its home range healthy. A sequential hermaphrodite, every individual spends its first 15 years as a female; some then turn into males, often doubling in size. But the perils this remarkable

fish must overcome are enormous, including habitat loss, the live reef food fish trade and destructive fishing practices. Will the hero win in the end?

As Canon sees it, images have the power to raise awareness of the threats facing endangered species and the natural environment, helping us make the world a better place.

