

"LET THEM BREED!"



A LARGE GROUP OF ONE TYPE OF REEF FISH THAT GATHERS TOGETHER FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF MATING IS CALLED A "SPAWNING AGGREGATION".



REEF FISH GATHER IN SPAWNING AGGREGATIONS TO ENSURE THAT EACH FISH HAS A BETTER CHANCE OF FINDING ANOTHER FISH TO MATE WITH.



THE JUVENILE/BABY FISH THAT ARE LATER BORN, RESTOCK THE SURROUNDING REEFS SO THAT THERE IS A STEADY SUPPLY OF REEF FISH.



EACH KIND OF REEF FISH FORMS A SPAWNING AGGREGATION AT A CERTAIN TIME OF THE DAY, MONTH AND YEAR, AND AT A SPECIFIC LOCATION. SOME FISH TRAVEL GREAT DISTANCES TO REACH THEIR SPECIFIC SPAWNING AGGREGATION SITE.



THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF FISH THAT GATHER IN SPAWNING AGGREGATIONS TO BREED INCLUDE GROUPERS, TREVALLIES, SNAPPERS, PARROTFISH, RABBITFISH AND SURGEONFISH.



MANY FAMILIES IN PNG DEPEND ON CATCHING REEF FISH TO EARN CASH.



BAD FISHING PRACTICES, SUCH AS CATCHING SPAWNING FISH IN LARGE NUMBERS, AND CATCHING FEMALES WITH EGGS IN THEIR BELLIES, WILL EVENTUALLY MEAN NO MORE FISH. NO MORE FISH, MEANS NO MORE SOURCE OF CASH FOR FISHERMEN.



COMMUNITIES CAN MANAGE AND PROTECT SPAWNING AGGREGATIONS NEAR THEIR VILLAGES BY CLOSING KNOWN SPAWNING SITES TO FISHING WHEN THE REEF FISH ARE MATING.