



Marine Life Society of South Australia Inc.

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"Understanding, enjoying & caring for our oceans"

06/08/06

The Hon Rory McEwen MP,
Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries,
GPO Box 2832,
Port Adelaide,
SA 5015

cc:

Mr. Andrew Dalgety,
PIRSA Fishwatch,
PO Box 282,
Port Adelaide,
SA 5015

Dear Sir,

It was recently reported to MLSSA that there were strong indicators to suggest fishers are taking the Blue Grouper fish as part of their catch.

We suspect this may be partially, if not primarily, caused by fishers failing to be able to correctly identify the juvenile Blue Grouper, because the juvenile, which is female and green in colour, will remain a shade of green unless 'she' changes into a male, in which case she will turn blue.

Depending on the stage of maturity, the Grouper may even be blue with a green tail. (A fact sheet on the Eastern Blue Grouper may be found at <http://www.amonline.net.au/fishes/students/focus/aviridis.htm>)

MLSSA believes if a Fact Sheet was made readily available to fishers that clearly showed the colouring of the various stages of maturity of the Blue Grouper, then this would allow fishers to correctly identify these fish, and therefore avoid taking them. Would the Minister be prepared to authorise the production and distribution of such a pamphlet by the appropriate government agencies?

We look forward to your reply, and would be happy to help provide photographs for such an identification guide if called upon to do so.

Yours sincerely

Neville Skinner
Secretary

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initiative.

