



#StoptheKill – #NoDeadGoliaths!

### Goliath Grouper Fact Sheet

Goliath grouper are the largest reef associated fish in the Tropical Western Atlantic (including Florida), reaching a length of over 7 feet and a weight of almost 700 lbs.

Goliath grouper are long lived, with a maximum reported age of well over 30 years, and slow growing, taking around 6 years to reach sexual maturity.

Goliath grouper have historically ranged throughout the Tropical Western Atlantic from North Carolina all the way to Brazil and throughout the Gulf of Mexico.

Goliath grouper have been protected in both Federal and Florida Waters for more than 30 years, since 1990, after having been almost completely wiped out by fishing.

Goliath grouper aggregate in large numbers to reproduce in the early fall each year, sometimes traveling distances of over 300 miles to reproduce before returning home.

Goliath grouper are primarily crustacean feeders though they also will occasionally consume other fish.

Goliath grouper population size is unknown. No scientific studies have yet determined the numbers and distribution of goliath grouper.

Goliath grouper are docile, lumbering giants that can often be closely approached by divers and snorkelers. Their defense mechanism is to either swim away slowly or to drum their swim bladders making a very strong low frequency “boom”.

Goliath grouper have been shown to have very high mercury content and are subject to heavy parasite loads.

Goliath grouper can suffer barotrauma (pressure change injuries) when hauled up from depth during fishing activities, though they can be vented to aid in their ability to return to their original habitat upon release.

Goliath grouper are economically important for tourism activities as a reusable resource.

The State of Florida is allowing 200 juvenile Goliath grouper to be killed by fishermen in 2023.

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Visit [www.WAVAlliance.org](http://www.WAVAlliance.org) for more information on how to help save Goliath Grouper.