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Press Release

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207 Napoleon Confiscated in Bunaken

Bunaken, North Sulawesi – North Sulawesi Water Police confiscated 207 Napoleon (Humphead Wrasse, *Cheilinus undulatus*) sized 5-30 cm from a 'keramba' (floating net for raising fish) near Nain Island, Bunaken National Park (13.1). The fisher said those fish have been kept for 2 months, waiting to be sold outside Indonesia.

The net was kept under another net full of live grouper and was hardly seen, but the Bunaken Joint Patrol has suspected the operation for several days. Undercover, the police approached the net and found more Napoleon wrasse than grouper. All evident were seized and the fisher was investigated in the police station.

Napoleon wrasse is one of endangered species listed in Appendix 2 CITES, which means trading of such species are regulated by quota and wild capture in protected areas is against the law and should be punished.

"We appreciate and are grateful with the law enforcement initiative by Water Police," said Luther Papalangi, Head of Bunaken NP Authority. "Following the action, we hope that there will be appropriate law procedures. The Park Authority will increase patrolling and management of the sustainable use of natural resources, to ensure fish stock for future generations," he continued.

Bunaken area in North Sulawesi Province, is an important marine ecology for spawning of Napoleon wrasse. Bunaken is also one of the highest marine biodiversity ecosystems in the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion and in Indo-Pacific.

"Those fish should be released back to the habitat in a proper way to maintain the ecosystem, especially in Bunaken," said Angelique Batuna, Project Leader Bunaken, WWF-Indonesia. The population of Napoleon wrasse and all other wrasse are declining in Indonesia due to the increase of unsustainable fishing practices and over fishing in this area. ###

This press release and associated material can be found on www.wwf.or.id

WWF– World Wide Fund For Nature (also known as World Wildlife Fund)