



CORAL REEF RECOVERY

Please don't take these fish — the Reef needs them

Mass coral bleaching has occurred on the Great Barrier Reef due to above average ocean temperatures.

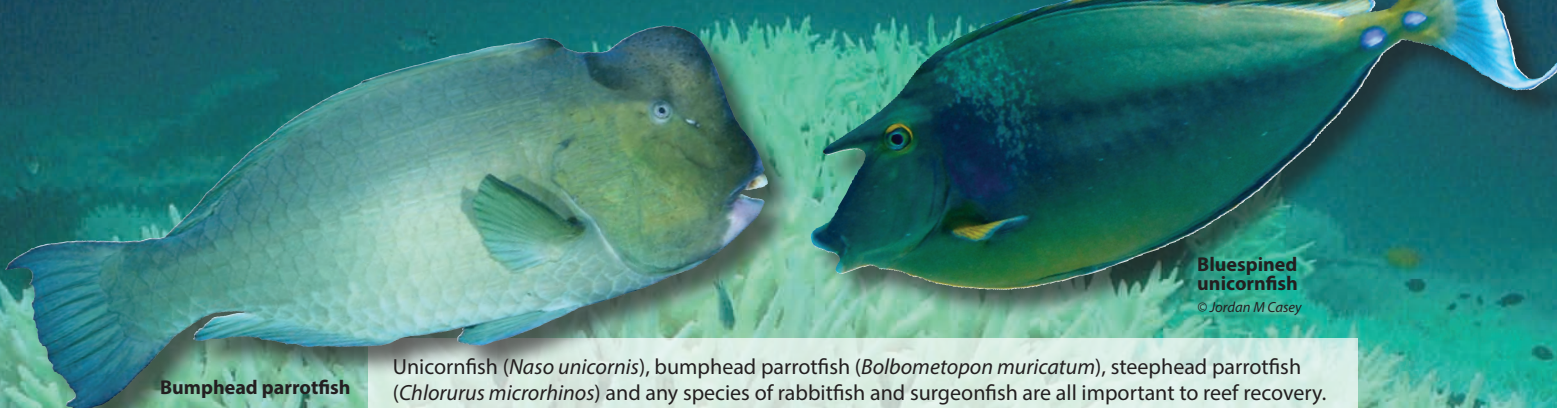
If left to grow, seaweed can quickly dominate reefs and stop coral larvae settling and starting the next generation of coral colonies.

Plant-eating fish, or herbivores, remove seaweed from reefs. In normal conditions, these fish act as nature's lawnmowers and keep seaweed levels under control by grazing close to the bottom of the reef.

Following coral bleaching, these fish are critical to reef recovery because their grazing removes seaweed and provides space for new corals to grow.

How can you help?

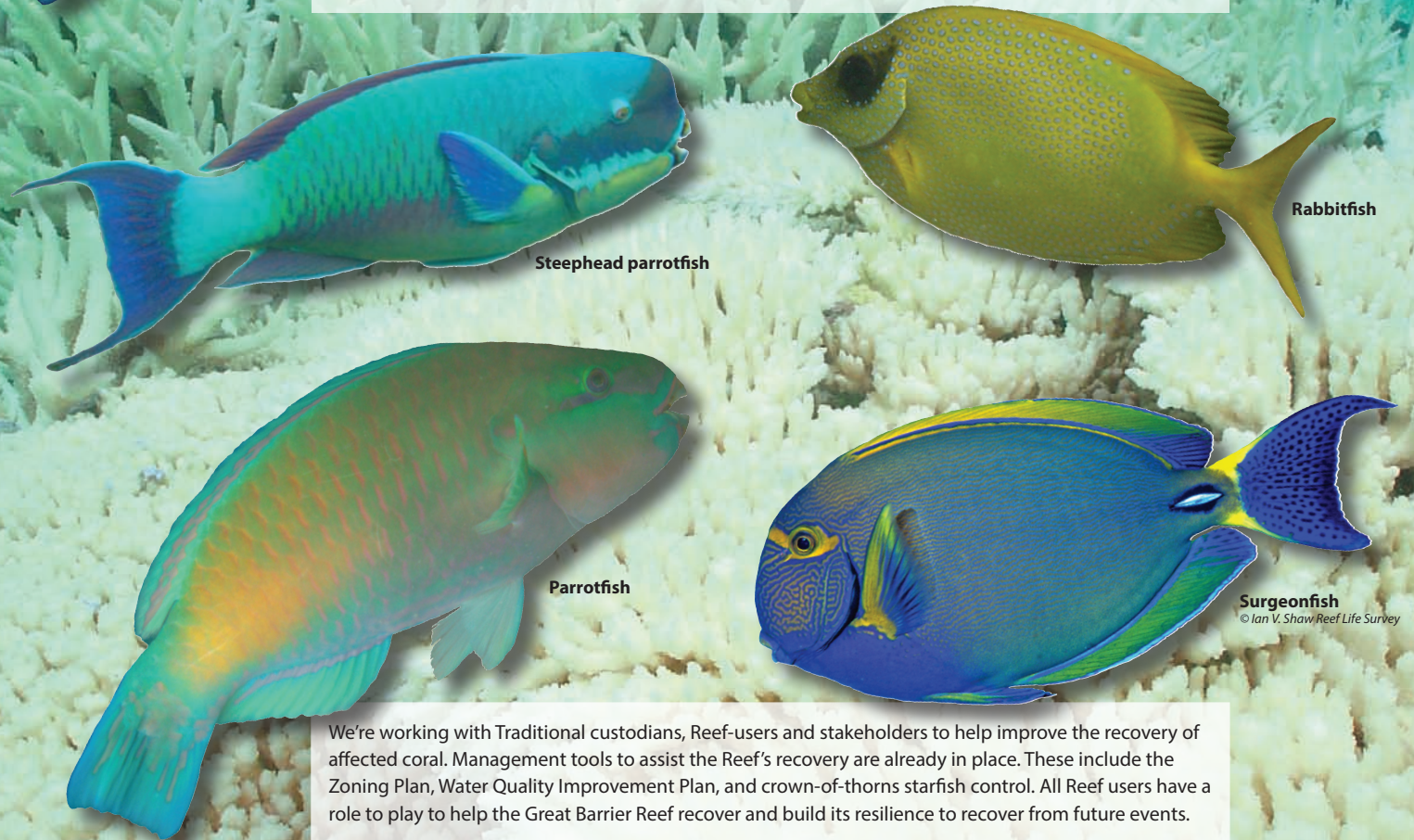
If you are fishing or spearfishing consider leaving these species on the Great Barrier Reef to help build new coral colonies.



Bumphead parrotfish

Bluespined unicornfish
© Jordan M Casey

Unicornfish (*Naso unicornis*), bumphead parrotfish (*Bolbometopon muricatum*), steephead parrotfish (*Chlorurus microrhinos*) and any species of rabbitfish and surgeonfish are all important to reef recovery.



Steephead parrotfish

Rabbitfish

Parrotfish

Surgeonfish
© Ian V. Shaw Reef Life Survey

We're working with Traditional custodians, Reef-users and stakeholders to help improve the recovery of affected coral. Management tools to assist the Reef's recovery are already in place. These include the Zoning Plan, Water Quality Improvement Plan, and crown-of-thorns starfish control. All Reef users have a role to play to help the Great Barrier Reef recover and build its resilience to recover from future events.