



Protected Species

Over one hundred species are protected on the Great Barrier Reef. Match the protected species on the left with the reason why they are protected on the right.

1. Freshwater Sawfish

2. Humphead Maori Wrasse

3. Hawksbill Turtle

4. Seahorse

5. Crocodile

6. Sea Snake

7. Seabirds

8. Dugong

9. Barramundi Cod

10. Queensland Grouper

a

The taking of eggs from nests and the destruction of nesting beaches are some of the many factors that have led to an 80% decline in number.

b

This fish is highly valued as food. Its slow growth rate makes it impossible for fish to be bred in captivity and released into the wild.

c

Because they nest in large numbers on the ground, the young are severely affected by sea level changes and by intense storms.

d

The largest reef-dwelling fish in the world, it has been highly overfished by line and spear fishing. As a large predator, numbers are naturally low.

e

A reptile that lives on coral reefs, they are susceptible to trawling by-catch and are often caught before they can reproduce.

f

Declining numbers have been caused by getting caught in nets, decreasing seagrass habitats and being captured for their oil.

g

This slow moving fish attaches itself to things with its tail, making it easy prey for larger fish and likely to be caught in trawling nets. It is also very popular in the aquarium trade.

h

Large fish with long generation time, juveniles are captured for the live aquarium trade before they are able to reproduce. Their curious nature results in easy catch by spear fishers.

i

Listed as critically endangered, populations declined due to recreational "trophy" fishing for their rostrum (long, saw-like nose) and by-catch in fishing nets.

j

This large reptile is hunted for its meat and eggs. Its skin is the most valuable of its kind.

