

Submission to NEMA from Melita Samoily (CORDIO east Africa) re: EIA on whale shark enclosure in Waa, Kwale District

2.4.2013

The location of the whale shark enclosure is over a spawning aggregation site of the marbled grouper *Epinephelus fuscoguttatus*, an uncommon and probably highly depleted grouper in Kenya, though data are scant, which is listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List. My research has documented this spawning aggregation site and as you can see in the attached chapter which is in press, we recommend that this site is protected. The Whale shark enclosure would unquestionably block and disrupt this aggregation site so that it is no longer functional. These spawning aggregations (we located another further south within the Diani-Chale Reserve) are likely to represent the total annual reproductive effort for this large grouper on this stretch of coast.

The attached chapter is in the following book which is in press:

Robinson R and Samoily MA (eds) (2013) Reef Fish Spawning Aggregations in the Western Indian Ocean: Research for Management. WIOMSA/SIDA/SFA/CORDIO. WIOMSA Book Series.