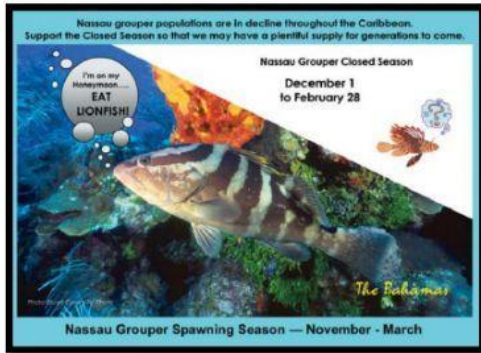


Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

The Nassau Grouper

An **ecosystem** is a place where living and non-living things interact with each other and depend on each other. The grouper lives in the **coral reef ecosystem**. They often rest on the seafloor under ledges, around caves and in cracks on the reef.



The Nassau grouper is endangered mainly because of overfishing. The overfishing of the Nassau grouper is common because they gather in predictable places and predictable times to mate and spawn. This makes them an easy target for fishermen. Catching the fish at this time before they are able to reproduce lessens the number of groupers we will have to eat, and will threaten the likelihood of people enjoying grouper in the future.

To protect the Nassau Grouper, a closed season from December 1st to February 28th was established. This gives the Nassau grouper a chance to reproduce. The more fish that successfully spawn now, the more fish there will be to catch and eat later. Other measures of protection are:

- Marine parks and reserves where fishing of the grouper is prohibited
- Enforcement of the minimum legal harvest size of three pounds.

Section A: True/False. Instructions: Write **True** on the line if the statement is True and write **False** on the line if the statement is False.

1. _____ The Nassau grouper breathes using gills
2. _____ The closed season gives groupers time to rest
3. _____ Groupers form spawning aggregations to mate
4. _____ The grouper changes color when it is ready to mate
5. _____ The eggs of the grouper are fertilized internally
6. _____ Nassau groupers can change their sex from female to male

Section B: Short Answer. Instructions: Use **information from the passage** to answer the following questions. Answer all questions in complete sentences.

1. In what ecosystem does the Nassau grouper live?

_____ [1]

2. State one measure that was put in place to conserve the grouper.

_____ [1]

3. What makes the Nassau grouper an easy target during the closed season?

_____ [1]

4. Which time is it against the law to catch the Nassau grouper?

_____ [1]

Total: [10]