

Generic names and mislabelling conceal high species diversity in global fisheries markets

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1 **TITLE: Generic names and mislabelling conceal high species diversity in global**
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3

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27 **Abstract**

28

29 Consumers have the power to influence conservation of marine fishes by selectively
30 purchasing sustainably-harvested species. Yet, this power is hindered by vague labelling and
31 seafood fraud, which may mask market biodiversity and lead to inadvertent consumption of
32 threatened species. Here, we investigate the repercussions of such labelling inaccuracies for
33 one of the world's most highly-prized families of fishes – snappers (Family: Lutjanidae). By
34 DNA barcoding 300 'snapper' samples collected from six countries, we show that the lax
35 application of this umbrella term and widespread mislabelling (40%) conceal the identities of
36 at least 67 species from 16 families in global marketplaces, effectively lumping taxa for sale
37 that derive from an array of disparately-managed fisheries and have markedly different
38 conservation concerns. Bringing this trade into the open should compel a revision of
39 international labelling and traceability policies, as well as enforcement measures, which
40 currently allow such extensive biodiversity to be consumed unknowingly.

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52 **Introduction**

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54 | In an era of rising seafood demand, [impaired ocean health](#), and perturbing rates of illegal,
55 | unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing (FAO 2016), consumers are increasingly urged to
56 | source species from responsibly-managed fisheries (Gutiérrez *et al.* 2012). While there is
57 | general accord that detailed and accurate information on fishery products is crucial to
58 | empower consumer choice and promote legal and sustainable seafood trade (Barendse &
59 | Francis 2015), these provisions have not necessarily been translated into policy. The
60 | European Union (EU) has arguably the most robust seafood labelling legislation, requiring
61 | declaration of the commercial designation, scientific name, production method, geographical
62 | origin and fishing-gear category on retail seafood products ([Reg. \[EU\] 1379/2013](#)),
63 | complemented with comprehensive traceability requirements ([\[EC\] 178/2002; 1224/2009;](#)
64 | [\[EU\] 404/2011](#)). In comparison, labelling regulations in other countries are lenient, often
65 | necessitating little more than a common name on seafood packaging (Table S1). Furthermore,
66 | the approved common names for fish in the seafood naming lists of different countries (Table
67 | S1) introduce confusion, since these [lack harmonisation between regions](#) and frequently
68 | group multiple species under generic market labels. As fisheries trade expands, supply chains
69 | lengthen, and a growing number of ‘new’ and exotic species enter world markets ([Watson *et*](#)
70 | [al. 2016; Di Muri *et al.* 2018](#)), it becomes increasingly clear that weak and/or poorly-
71 | enforced regulations promote the proliferation of seafood fraud, undermining sustainable
72 | fisheries management and offering avenues for laundering of IUU products into legitimate
73 | marketplaces (Jacquet & Pauly 2008). Yet, no studies have empirically tested the extent to
74 | which generic labels and non-compliance conceal market biodiversity, hamper consumer
75 | choice and potentially imperil species on a global scale.

76 Here, we tackle this critical issue using an iconic but diverse family of fishes as a case
77 example – snappers (Family: Lutjanidae). Members of this family represent major fisheries
78 resources throughout their circumtropical range (Fig. 1) and are among the world’s most
79 valued marine species (Amorim *et al.* 2018). However, in addition to several life-history
80 traits that render them vulnerable to overexploitation, the taxon embodies all the complexities
81 associated with modern seafood supply chains: caught mainly in poorly-managed and data-
82 scarce fisheries in developing countries, exported primarily to the affluent global North, and
83 permitted to be marketed under ‘umbrella’ terms that may mask the diversity of >100 species
84 comprising the family, and sometimes also those from other families (Cawthorn & Mariani
85 2017) (Table S2). For instance, ‘snapper’ can refer to 56 Lutjanid species in the [United States](#)
86 [\(US\)](#) (FDA 2017), and 112 Lutjanid species in the United Kingdom (UK) (DEFRA 2013).
87 Canada’s ‘Fish List’ allows 108 species to be called ‘snapper’ or ‘Pacific snapper’, including
88 both Lutjanids and *Sebastes* spp. (rockfishes) (CFIA 2017). In Australia, ‘snapper’ appears in
89 the standard names of 96 species (AFNC 2017), whereas New Zealand’s (NZ’s) designations
90 exclude Lutjanids altogether and rather include Sparidae (seabream) and Berycidae
91 (alfonsino) species (MPI 2013). Adding to this obscurity, ‘snappers’ are exceptionally prone
92 to market fraud (77–100%; Table S3), expanding the diversity under this umbrella term
93 further.

94 In this most geographically-widespread seafood authentication study conducted to date,
95 we employ a forensically-validated DNA barcoding technique ([Dawnay et al.](#) 2007) to
96 unravel the species diversity underpinning the global ‘snapper’ trade, using the results to map
97 patterns in labelling inconsistencies, assess the likely origins of collected ‘snapper’ samples,
98 and investigate the conservation impacts of ‘snapper’ misrepresentation. Illuminating this
99 trade, and the ripple effects on sustainability outcomes, should identify the path towards
100 addressing the issue and oblige stakeholders to take necessary actions.

101

102 **Methods**

103

104 *Sampling*

105

106 To evaluate the variety of species sold as ‘snapper’ on world markets, we chose six English-
107 speaking countries for sample collection, namely Canada, US, UK, Singapore, Australia and
108 NZ. We visited multiple sites in each country, covering 21 states/counties and 26 cities/towns
109 (Fig. 1, [Table S4](#)). We screened 300 samples sold with ‘snapper’ in the description, including
110 fresh, frozen and cooked products, ranging from portions to whole fish, obtained from
111 fishmongers, fish markets, supermarkets and restaurants over a 12-month period (August
112 2016–July 2017). The ratio of samples from different outlets and in different forms was based
113 on availability in the given country. We submitted photographs of each sample and product-
114 associated metadata to the Barcode of Life Database (BOLD, www.boldsystems.org), under
115 the project ‘SNAP-TRACE’ (Database S1). Duplicate tissue sub-samples were excised from
116 each sample and stored in 95%-ethanol tubes until shipping to the UK laboratory with pre-
117 approved import permits.

118

119 *Species identification*

120

121 We used a Chelex® resin protocol (Estoup *et al.* 1996) to extract sample DNA and amplified
122 a ~650 base-pair fragment of the cytochrome oxidase I (COI) gene using the primers,
123 reaction mixtures and cycling conditions described in Cawthorn *et al.* (2015). PCR products
124 were purified and sequenced by Macrogen (Europe) and quality-trimmed sequences were
125 uploaded to the BOLD ‘SNAP-TRACE’ project. Sequences were subsequently identified in

126 GenBank (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov), cross-referencing results in the BOLD ‘Species-Level’
127 and ‘Public-Records’ databases. We used a similarity threshold of $\geq 98\%$ to assign sequences
128 to potential species, as most analysed marine fishes have intra-specific COI divergences well
129 below 2% (Ward 2009). Next, we aligned all COI sequences and constructed a maximum-
130 likelihood (ML) tree (File S1). For each sample, we inferred a ‘most likely’ species from top
131 matches across the three sequence databases and positions in the ML tree and/or BOLD
132 ‘Tree-Based Identification’ (TBI) tool, but also recorded possible candidate species with $< 2\%$
133 divergence (Database S1). Where top matches included two or more taxa with identical
134 sequence similarities, and where explicit identification could not be resolved from the ML
135 tree or BOLD TBI, both/all taxa were designated ‘most likely’ species. We considered both
136 ‘most likely’ species and possible candidates ($< 2\%$ divergence) when evaluating ‘snapper’
137 misrepresentation. However, we included only ‘most likely’ species in downstream analyses,
138 weighting scores equally across taxa when identifications could not be resolved.

139

140 *Market biodiversity and misrepresentation*

141

142 To evaluate species diversity across countries and overall, we calculated Shannon (H')
143 indices in PAST 3.x. As a check for potential bias introduced by variations in country-specific
144 sample sizes, we repeated the analyses using rarefaction in PAST 3.x to compare expected
145 diversity ($E[S_n]$) in a standard sub-sample of 13 (i.e. smallest sample size).

146

We used the seafood labelling regulations and naming lists of each sample-collection
147 country (Tables S1, S2), as well as a decision tree (Fig. S1), to define ‘snapper’
148 misrepresentation on two levels, i.e. ‘misnamed’ and/or ‘mislabelled’ by species. Samples
149 were considered misnamed if an incorrect version of an approved common name was used at
150 the point-of-sale, but this did not implicate another species in the relevant country’s naming

151 list. Samples were deemed mislabelled when either the declared species, or species inferred
152 from the declared common name, did not correspond with the top genetic match or any
153 candidate species (Database S1). For Singapore, where no seafood naming list exists, samples
154 were not considered misnamed, but were considered mislabelled when identified as non-
155 Lutjanid species. We statistically analysed misrepresentation rates across countries and
156 sectors using likelihood-ratio Chi-squared tests with the GTest function of the R package
157 DescTools v 0.99.24.

158

159 ***Likely origin***

160

161 We followed a three-step approach to trace samples to potential source fisheries, using
162 FishBase (www.fishbase.org) to determine the FAO areas in which genetically-identified
163 species are natively distributed. Firstly, where a catch (FAO) area was declared, we verified
164 the occurrence of the identified species in that area and considered this the most likely
165 geographical origin (assigned a score of 1). Where a country of origin was declared on fresh
166 (unprocessed) samples without a catch area, we recorded only FAO areas within the declared
167 country's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in which the identified species occurs. Where no
168 provenance information was provided, or where the declared origin was possibly the country
169 of processing, we assumed equal probability of deriving from any FAO area in which the
170 identified species occurs. In the latter two cases, fractional scores were equally assigned to
171 each recorded area as proportions of 1. Scores were subsequently summed across sampling
172 countries and areas. Lastly, to evaluate the state of fisheries in each area, we tabulated
173 information on overall catch trends and percentages of overfished stocks (FAO 2016), IUU
174 fishing rates (Agnew et al. 2009) and snapper fisheries management (Amorim et al. 2018;
175 FishSource [www.fishsource.org]). We nevertheless highlight that, although catch trends can

176 be useful indicators of stock status particularly in fisheries lacking formal assessment (i.e.
177 majority of global fisheries), declining catches may result from numerous factors, including
178 improved management and legislation, and do not necessarily reflect abundance or
179 mismanagement (Pauly *et al.* 2013). Conversely, high IUU rates strongly correlate with weak
180 governance and fisheries mismanagement (MRAG 2005; Agnew *et al.* 2009).

182 ***Conservation status***

183
184 We evaluated the conservation status of genetically-identified species using the IUCN Red
185 List (IUCN 2017), as well as scores of ‘intrinsic vulnerability to fishing’ (IV) based on
186 ecological and life-history traits and expressed on a scale from 1 to 100 (IV increases from 1
187 and is considered high at ≥ 55) (Cheung *et al.* 2005). We chose these metrics over individual
188 stock assessments (e.g. FAO, RAM database) since most identified species are not covered
189 by such assessments and because catch locations required to match samples with
190 populations/stocks were seldom declared (Database S1). For comparison, all valid members
191 of the Lutjanidae family (112 species) were also evaluated. To statistically analyse IV scores,
192 we conducted a two-way ANOVA, verified acceptable normality, and used Fisher LSD post-
193 hoc testing.

195 **Results**

196
197 We identified at least 67 species, representing 16 families and five orders, sold as ‘snapper’
198 globally (Fig. 2). Approximately one-third of all samples comprised non-Lutjanids, 32% were
199 misnamed and 40% were mislabelled (Fig. 3). Mislabelled samples encompassed no less than
200 50 species, with the most common non-Lutjanid substitutes including seabreams (Sparidae

201 spp.), rockfishes (*Sebastes* spp.), threadfin breams (*Nemipterus* spp.), tilapia (*Oreochromis*
202 spp.) and fusiliers (*Caesio* spp.)¹ (Fig. 2, Database S1). By country, the UK samples exhibited
203 the highest species diversity (38 species; $H' = 3.5$; $E(S_{13}) = 11.2$) (Fig. 2), 42% of which were
204 non-Lutjanid spp. (Fig. 3). Diversity indices were similar for the US, Canada, Singapore and
205 Australia ($H' = 2.0-2.5$; $E(S_{13}) = 6.9-7.9$), but the US had the largest proportion of Lutjanids
206 and a high frequency of certain species within the family (e.g. *Lutjanus campechanus*). NZ
207 had the lowest diversity (5 species; $H' = 1.0$), with a predominance of Sparids rather than
208 Lutjanids.

209 Misnaming and mislabelling rates differed by country and sector (Fig. 3), although
210 variations in sample size should be considered in proportional comparisons. The UK had the
211 highest incidence of misnaming (67%), mostly involving samples from fishmongers and
212 markets. Additionally, >80% of UK samples did not carry mandatory information (scientific
213 name, production method, geographical origin, fishing-gear category) required by EU
214 regulations ([EU] 1379/2013) (Fig. S2). Mislabelling rates were highest in the UK and
215 Canada (55%), followed by the US (38%), with restaurant samples most frequently
216 implicated (Fig. 3). Paradoxically, although NZ had the highest proportion of non-Lutjanids
217 (85%), it had the lowest mislabelling rates, given that non-Lutjanids are permitted to be
218 called 'snapper' in the country. By designation, 'red snapper' was most frequently
219 mislabelled overall, and in the US, UK and Canada (Fig. 4).

220 Samples were predicted to have the highest probability of originating from the Western-
221 Central Atlantic (FAO 31), including the bulk of Lutjanids from the US, where overall
222 catches are declining but IUU fishing is low (Fig. 5). This was followed by Indo-Pacific
223 regions (FAO 57, 71, 61) and the Southwest Atlantic (FAO 41), where IUU fishing is

¹ Although Caesionidae are phylogenetically nested within Lutjanidae (see File S1), they cannot be called 'snapper' in the seafood naming lists of sample-collection countries.

224 | exceptionally high and snapper fisheries are considered poorly managed. Non-Lutjanids
225 | appeared to mainly originate from the Southwest Pacific (FAO 81) where IUU fishing is low,
226 | although several other areas with high IUU levels were among probable sources (Fig. 5). For
227 | most countries, samples were most likely to derive from surrounding areas. The UK
228 | represents an exception, with a high number of diverse likely source fisheries.

229 | Correctly labelled Lutjanids in our study set had similar IUCN status but higher mean
230 | IV than mislabelled Lutjanids ($p = 0.04$), with both groups exhibiting poorer conservation
231 | status than the Lutjanidae family as a whole (Fig. 6). The most notable conservation impact
232 | was observed for non-Lutjanids labelled in accordance with country-specific naming lists,
233 | with this group having higher mean IV (66.1) than correctly labelled Lutjanids (50.6) (p
234 | <0.01).

235 |

236 | **Discussion**

237 |

238 | The data presented underscore that misleading generic names and widespread mislabelling
239 | conceal substantial biodiversity in global marketplaces, with far-reaching impacts on market-
240 | based efforts to conserve wild fishes. Overall, we discovered at least 67 species from 16
241 | families lumped under the ‘snapper’ umbrella, potentially deriving from an array of
242 | disparately-managed fisheries and having different conservation concerns. Moreover, over
243 | half of these are reef-dwelling species and are likely threatened by habitat loss/degradation,
244 | overfishing and insufficient protection (Newton *et al.* 2007; Mouillot *et al.* 2016). While
245 | inconclusive in proving intent, or assigning blame within supply chains, our study also
246 | reveals several substitutions with lower-value species (e.g. *Oreochromis* spp., *Nemipterus*
247 | spp., *Pagellus* spp., *Sebastes* spp., *Pollachius virens*) that hint at economic motives (Sumaila
248 | *et al.* 2007).

249 Seafood naming lists are in place to reduce confusion in fish nomenclature, yet our
250 results raise questions as to whether these are achieving their goals – which at minimum
251 should alert consumers to a product’s true nature. Members of the Lutjanidae are ecologically
252 diverse, vary in vulnerability and value, and are frequently caught in poorly-managed
253 fisheries, with no stock assessments, and high IUU fishing [rates](#) (Wagey *et al.* 2009; Amorim
254 *et al.* 2018). Even when legal, grouping these species under single market names drastically
255 reduces consumer power to make informed choices. Allowing members of other families to
256 be labelled as ‘snapper’ (Canada, Australia, NZ) exacerbates confusion, and may distort
257 fisheries statistics (Cawthorn & Mariani 2017) and promote unintentional mislabelling in
258 importing countries (Wong & Hanner 2008).

259 The high rates of ‘snapper’ misrepresentation uncovered here indicate shortcomings in
260 industry management and policy enforcement. This is perhaps most aptly illustrated by the
261 UK, which follows the world’s most stringent seafood labelling regulations, but where
262 misnamed and mislabelled non-Lutjanids appeared more frequently than in a country like
263 Singapore, with minimal labelling requirements and no seafood naming list. Beyond labelling
264 legislation, country-specific variations in misrepresentation rates may have stemmed from
265 various geographical, social and economic factors. Australia, Singapore and the US are in key
266 Lutjanid-producing regions, which might increase local supply and familiarity with these
267 species, and partially explain the lower mislabelling rates in at least Australia and Singapore.
268 The US is the single largest market for ‘snappers’, fed primarily by imports that may derive
269 from over 60 partner countries (Cawthorn & Mariani 2017). The US Presidential IUU Task
270 Force recently declared ‘red snapper’ (*L. campechanus*) a ‘high-risk’ species for IUU fishing
271 and fraud (NOAA 2015), mandating full-chain traceability for imports of this species (NOAA
272 2016), although overlooking the many species traded under other ‘snapper’ designations. In
273 light of this action, the current US mislabelling rates of ‘snapper’ (38%) and specifically ‘red

274 snapper' (36%) are lower than in previous studies (Table S3) but remain problematic
275 considering the volumes traded. In non-Lutjanid-producing countries like the UK and
276 Canada, a heavy reliance on imports and lack of species familiarity potentially contributed to
277 the high mislabelling rates (55%) observed. Additionally, our results suggest that the UK
278 faces momentous traceability challenges in the context of 'snappers', given the wide species
279 diversity sold under this label, the many different likely source fisheries, and the high IUU
280 rates in numerous source fisheries.

281 Considering the conservation impacts of this hidden trade more closely, we demonstrate
282 that countries that allow non-Lutjanids to be labelled as 'snappers' essentially conceal the
283 identities of species with high vulnerability to fishing (e.g. *Pagrus auratus* [Australia, NZ],
284 *Centroberyx gerrardi* [NZ], several *Sebastes* spp. [Canada]). Logan *et al.* (2008) have
285 similarly shown that the permitted use of 'Pacific red snapper' masks the sale of overfished
286 *Sebastes* spp. Nonetheless, we find the repercussions arising from unauthorised mislabelling
287 more difficult to disentangle. Whereas substitutions within the Lutjanid family might favour
288 more resilient species, non-Lutjanid substitutes vary widely in their IUCN ratings and
289 vulnerabilities, but may include threatened species (e.g. VUL *Lachnolaimus maximus*) and
290 those from unassessed stocks from poorly-managed fisheries. Moreover, even when
291 substitutes are not endangered, mislabelling can indirectly impact conservation efforts by (1)
292 misrepresenting the abundance of potentially-dwindling labelled species, and (2) allowing
293 overharvesting of substitute species to go unmonitored when disguised under different names
294 (Pitcher *et al.* 2002). The case of 'red snapper', the most frequently marketed and mislabelled
295 samples in this study, exemplifies the former point. Following decades of overexploitation,
296 stocks of this highly-prized taxon (*L. campechanus*) are overfished in both the US South
297 Atlantic and Gulf (SEDAR 2015; 2017). While limited supply juxtaposed against high
298 consumer expectations may promote substitution of red snapper, the widespread misuse of

299 this market name likely belies the true stock status and sustains demand. Perhaps most
300 disconcertingly, these high mislabelling rates indicate failings in traceability systems in
301 global snapper supply chains and, when traceability is inadequate, the chances of substitutes
302 originating from IUU sources are vastly increased (Helyar *et al.* 2014).

303 Given the extent to which snappers are marketed globally, our findings call for a co-
304 ordinated revision of international policies and practices that permit this extensive
305 biodiversity to be consumed unknowingly. We recommend several actions to promote more
306 transparent and sustainable snapper trade. At the national level, ambiguities in seafood
307 naming lists might be reduced by adopting a ‘one species, one name’ approach, as in
308 Australia (AFNC 2017), and by omitting references to ‘snapper’ for non-Lutjanids.
309 Nevertheless, recognising the confusion with colloquial names in global marketplaces, we
310 suggest that country-specific labelling regulations be aligned with those of the EU in
311 requiring scientific names on seafood, as well as mandating additional criteria (geographical
312 origin, production- and harvest-methods) to benefit consumer choice. Internationally, the
313 Codex Alimentarius Commission could play a leading role in establishing standards and
314 guidelines for responsible seafood labelling as part of its ‘food fraud initiative’ (CAC 2017).
315 Along with more robust legislation, post-regulatory monitoring regimes will likely require
316 consolidation and strengthening to overcome known barriers to enforcement, such as split or
317 unclear governmental-agency mandates, inadequacies in agency funding, human-resource
318 allocations, laboratory capacity and inspection rates, corruption and bribery of officials, and
319 minimal penalties for non-compliance (Hofherr *et al.* 2016; Friedman 2017). Improving
320 supply-chain traceability is imperative and could be facilitated by emerging technologies (e.g.
321 electronic interoperable systems, DNA-based verification), however, such measures will
322 require co-operation from both domestic fisheries and exporting nations. Developing
323 countries, principal suppliers of snappers, often suffer from weak governance and insufficient

324 financial and technical resources to achieve end-to-end traceability, opening doors for illicit
325 conduct (Cawthorn & Mariani 2017). Fostering strategic partnerships between supply-chain
326 actors, non-governmental organisations and foreign governments could assist in building
327 infrastructure, expertise, and monitoring- and enforcement-capacity in developing-world
328 fisheries, whilst preventing stricter regulations from becoming trade barriers and jeopardising
329 livelihoods in such nations (Willette & Cheng 2018). Lastly, we recommend that all policies
330 be complemented by appropriate public awareness campaigns on seafood sustainability, fraud
331 and potential substitutes, creating bottom-up pressure for transparent labelling and a
332 marketplace less susceptible to trickery through mislabelling.

333

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341

342 **Author contributions**

343

344 **DMC** conceived and designed the experiments, performed the experiments, analysed the
345 data, prepared figures and tables, and wrote the paper. **CB** analysed the data and reviewed
346 drafts of the paper. **SM** conceived and designed the experiments, contributed
347 reagents/materials, and reviewed drafts of the paper.

348

349 **DNA sequence deposition**

350

351 DNA sequences and accompanying metadata have been submitted to the Barcode of Life
352 Database (BOLD, www.boldsystems.org) Barcoding Applications Campaign, under the
353 project 'SNAP-TRACE'. Sample IDs and BOLD process IDs are included in Database S1.

354

355 **Supporting Information**

356 Additional Supporting Information may be found in the online version of this article at the
357 publisher's web site:

358

359 **Database S1.** Database of (A) product-associated metadata recorded during sample
360 collections, (B) species identifications made through DNA barcoding and evaluations of
361 misnaming and mislabelling, and (C) conservation status of genetically-identified species
362 based on IUCN ratings and 'intrinsic vulnerability' scores.

363

364 **Table S1** Comparison of seafood labelling requirements and seafood naming lists in different
365 world regions.

366 **Table S2** Species across various families permitted to labelled as 'snapper' according to the
367 relevant seafood naming lists of different countries.

368 **Table S3** Rates of 'snapper' mislabelling reported in various studies around the world.

369 **Table S4** Full sampling protocol, including sample numbers collected at state/county- and
370 city/town-levels.

371 **Figure S1** Decision tree used to evaluate misnaming and species mislabelling of 'snapper'
372 samples.

373 **Figure S2** Numbers and percentages of samples collected from UK fishmongers / fish
374 markets and supermarkets that lacked mandatory labelling information required by current
375 EU regulations (Regulation [EU] No. 1379/2013).

376 **Figure S3** Numbers and percentages of samples not mislabelled and mislabelled according to
377 the seafood naming lists of sample-collection countries, by city/town.

378

379 **File S1** Phylogenetic analysis: Methodology, maximum-likelihood tree, taxonomic notes.

380

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506 | Main text figure legends

507 |
508 | **Figure 1** Sampling locations overlaid on the global species-richness map for the family
509 | Lutjanidae, with a breakdown of sample numbers collected per country, site and sector.
510 | Species-richness point data (GPS co-ordinates) for all assessed Lutjanidae species (n = 98)
511 | were derived from AquaMaps (Kaschner *et al.* 2016) and were plotted along with GPS co-
512 | ordinates of individual sampling sites in ArcGIS Online (www.arcgis.com).

513 |
514 | **Figure 2** Proportional diversity of species and families identified in the global ‘snapper’
515 | sample set (n = 300) (right) linked with the countries of sample collection (left), where the
516 | left-panel shows the relative contributions of individual families, the number of species and

517 families, the Shannon diversity (H') indices and expected diversity ($E[S_n]$) indices estimated
518 by rarefaction (i.e. number of taxa expected at the smallest sample size of 13) for each
519 country. CAN = Canada; US = United States; UK = United Kingdom; AUS = Australia; NZ =
520 New Zealand; SGP = Singapore.

521

522 **Figure 3** Proportions of samples (numbers and percentages) identified as being (A) correctly
523 named vs. misnamed, (B) not mislabelled vs. mislabelled by species, and (C) Lutjanidae vs.
524 non-Lutjanidae spp., by country, sector and overall. CAN = Canada; US = United States; UK
525 = United Kingdom; AUS = Australia; NZ = New Zealand; SGP = Singapore; FM/M =
526 Fishmongers and fish markets; SUP = Supermarkets; RES = Restaurants; X^2 = Chi-squared;
527 df = degrees of freedom.

528

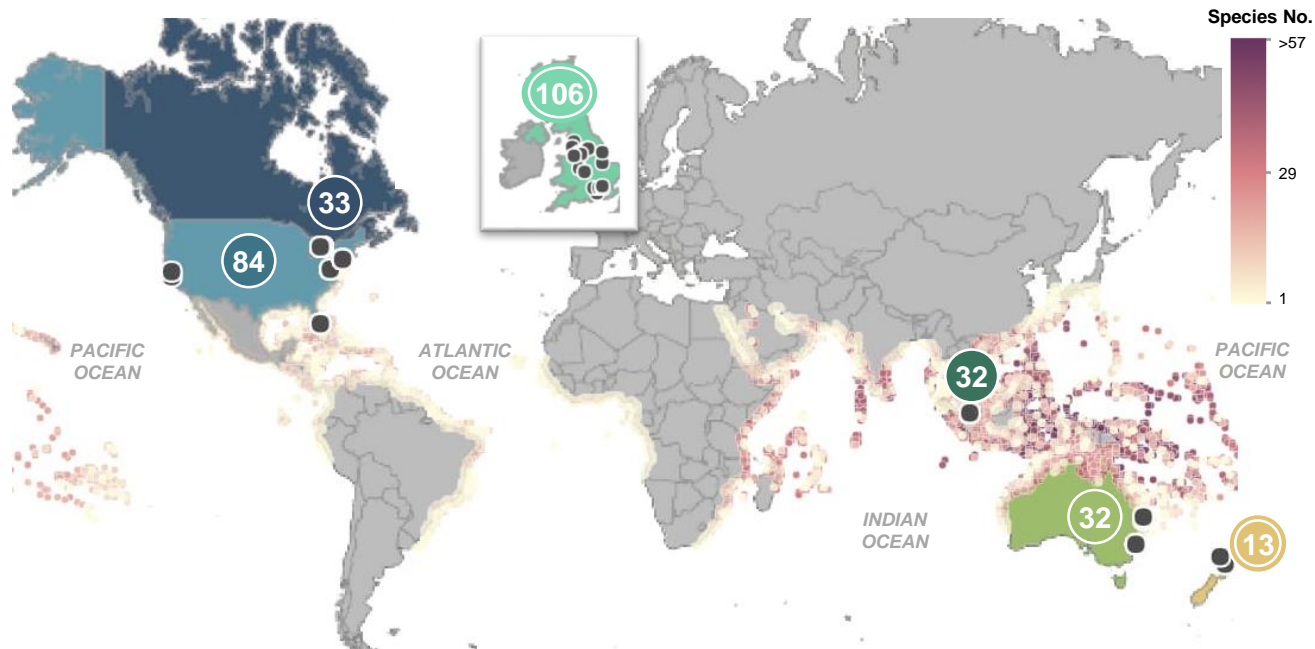
529 **Figure 4** Numbers and percentages of samples not mislabelled and mislabelled according to
530 the seafood naming lists of sample-collection countries, by designation and country.

531

532 **Figure 5** Likely geographical origins of 'snapper' samples and the status of prospective
533 source fisheries. The main circular diagram uses bands of varying width to indicate the
534 proportions of Lutjanids (LUT, white segments) and non-Lutjanids (NL, black segments)
535 identified from each country (left) that were linked with different FAO major fishing areas
536 (right). The top left-hand map shows FAO area boundaries, exclusive economic zones (EEZs)
537 and sampling locations. The top right-hand panel indicates overall fisheries landing trends,
538 percentages of overfished (O-F) stocks, estimated rates of IUU fishing, and the status of
539 snapper fisheries management for each FAO fishing area. The FAO boundaries map was
540 created in ArcGIS Online (www.arcgis.com) and the circular diagram was generated with
541 Circos software (Krzywinski *et al.* 2009). W = well managed; P = poorly managed.

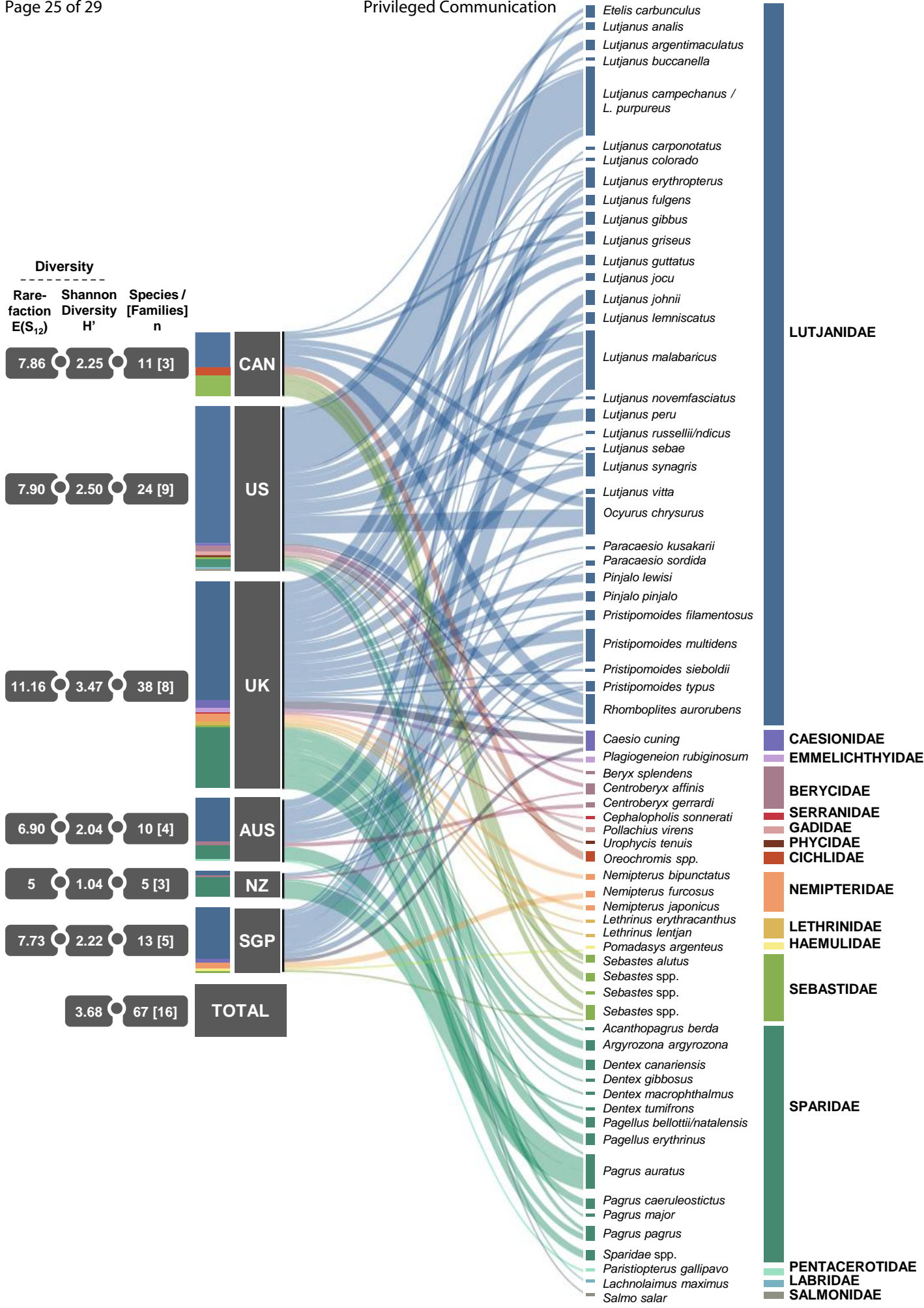
542

543 **Figure 6** Conservation status of valid species within the Lutjanidae family (row 1) and
544 genetically-identified species (rows 2–5) inferred from IUCN ratings and ‘intrinsic
545 vulnerability’ scores estimated by fuzzy logic modelling. (A) shows the percentage of
546 individuals falling into each IUCN category and (B) shows individual and mean ‘intrinsic
547 vulnerability’ scores (out of 100), where a significant interaction was found between ‘family’
548 and ‘labelling status’ ($F [1,291] = 22.93$, $MS_E = 2480.4$, $p < 0.01$) and lower-case letters
549 indicate differences (5% level) determined through LSD post-hoc tests (between $MS_E =$
550 108.17 , $df = 219$). IUCN ratings indicate global extinction risk based on population trends,
551 whereas the fuzzy logic model integrates ecological and life-history characteristics to
552 estimate vulnerability to fishing and proxy extinction risk. Four samples identified only to
553 family level and one sample very likely to be farmed (*Salmo salar*) were excluded from this
554 analysis. LUT = Lutjanidae spp.; NL = Non-Lutjanidae spp.; NA/DD = Not Assessed/Data
555 Deficient; LC = Least Concern; NT = Near Threatened; VUL = Vulnerable; EN =
556 Endangered; UNK = Unknown; INC = Increasing; STB = Stable and DEC = Decreasing.

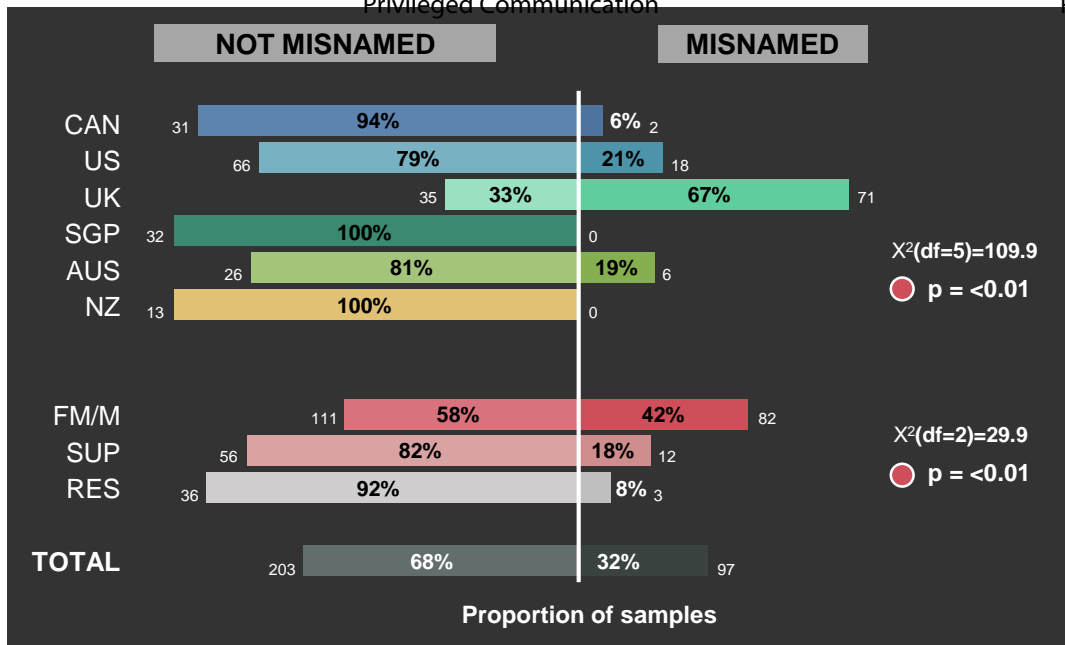


Country	State / county	City / town	Fishmonger / market (FM/M)	Supermarket (SUP)	Restaurant (RES)	Total
Canada (CAN)	1	2	15	8	10	33
United States (US)	4	5	39	27	18	84
United Kingdom (UK)	11	14	84	19	3	106
Singapore (SGP)	1	1	28	2	2	32
Australia (AUS)	2	2	21	6	5	32
New Zealand (NZ)	2	2	6	6	1	13
GRAND TOTAL	21	26	193	68	39	300

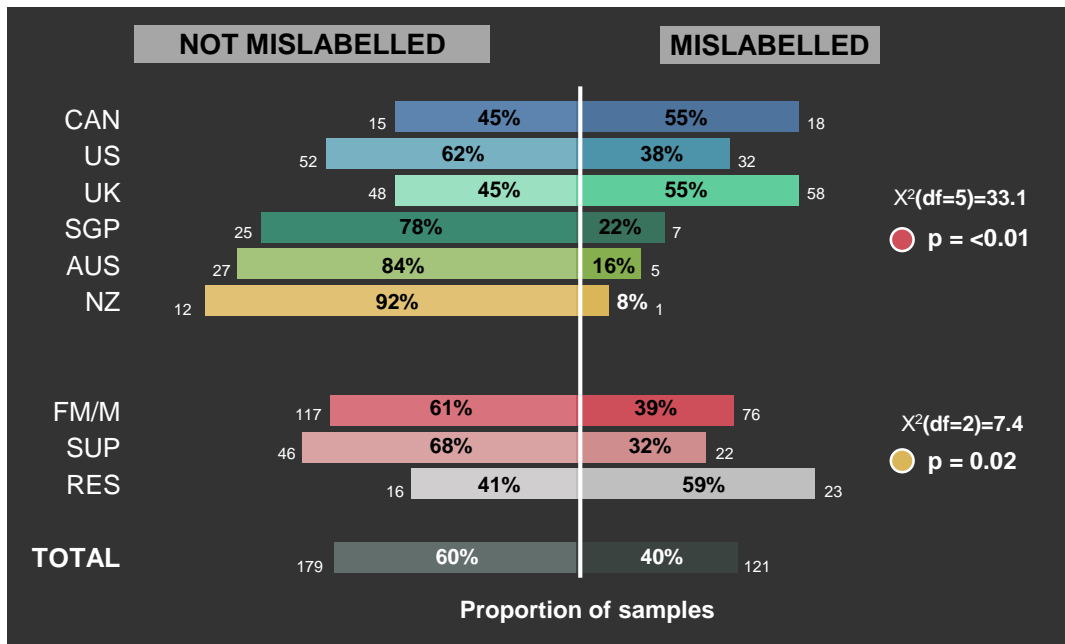
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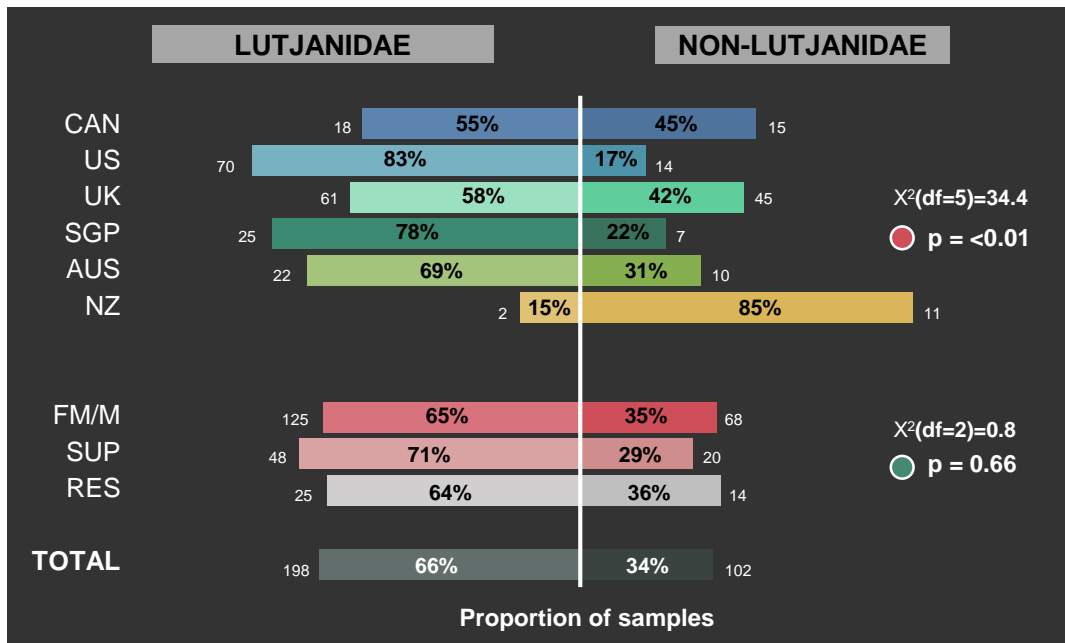
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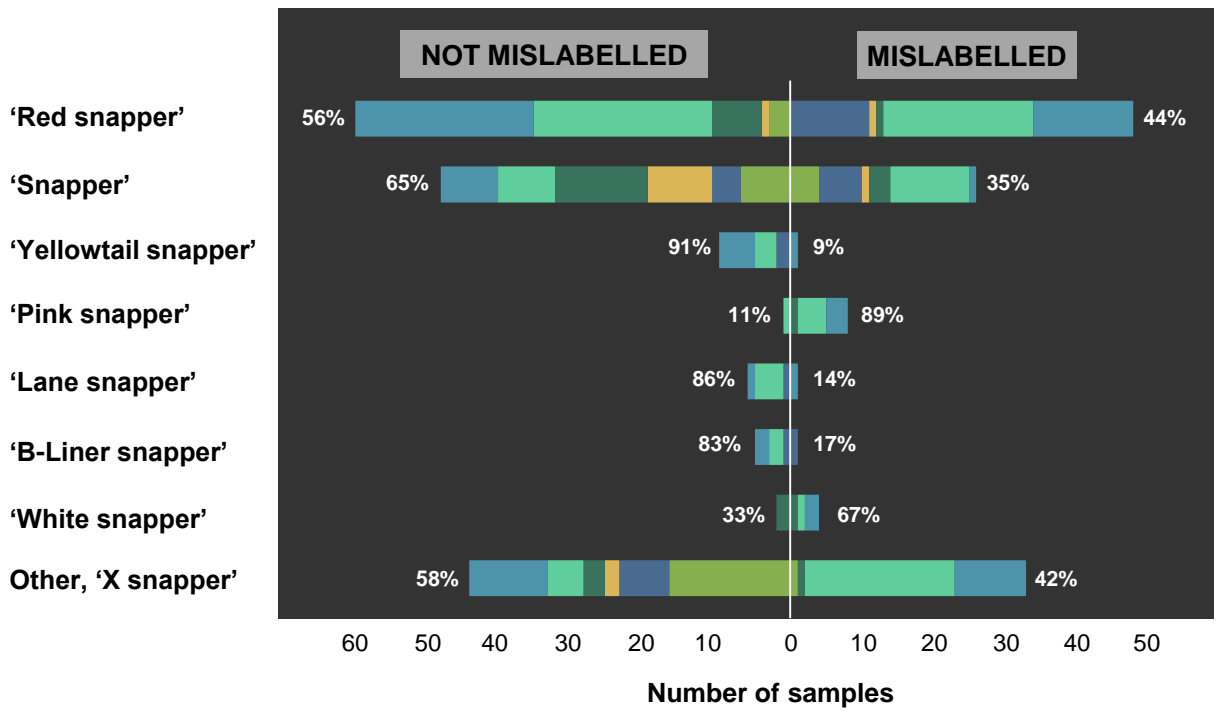


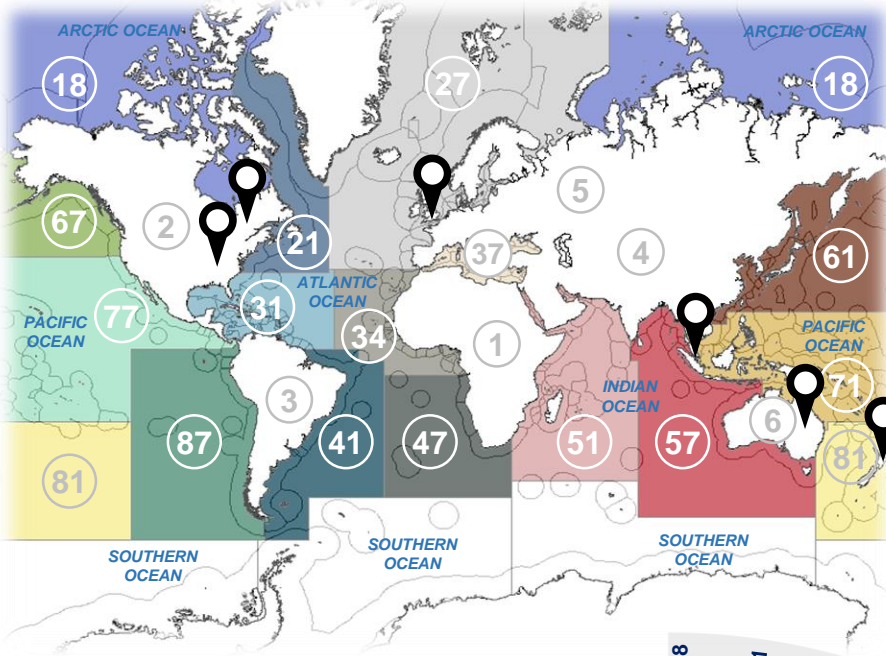
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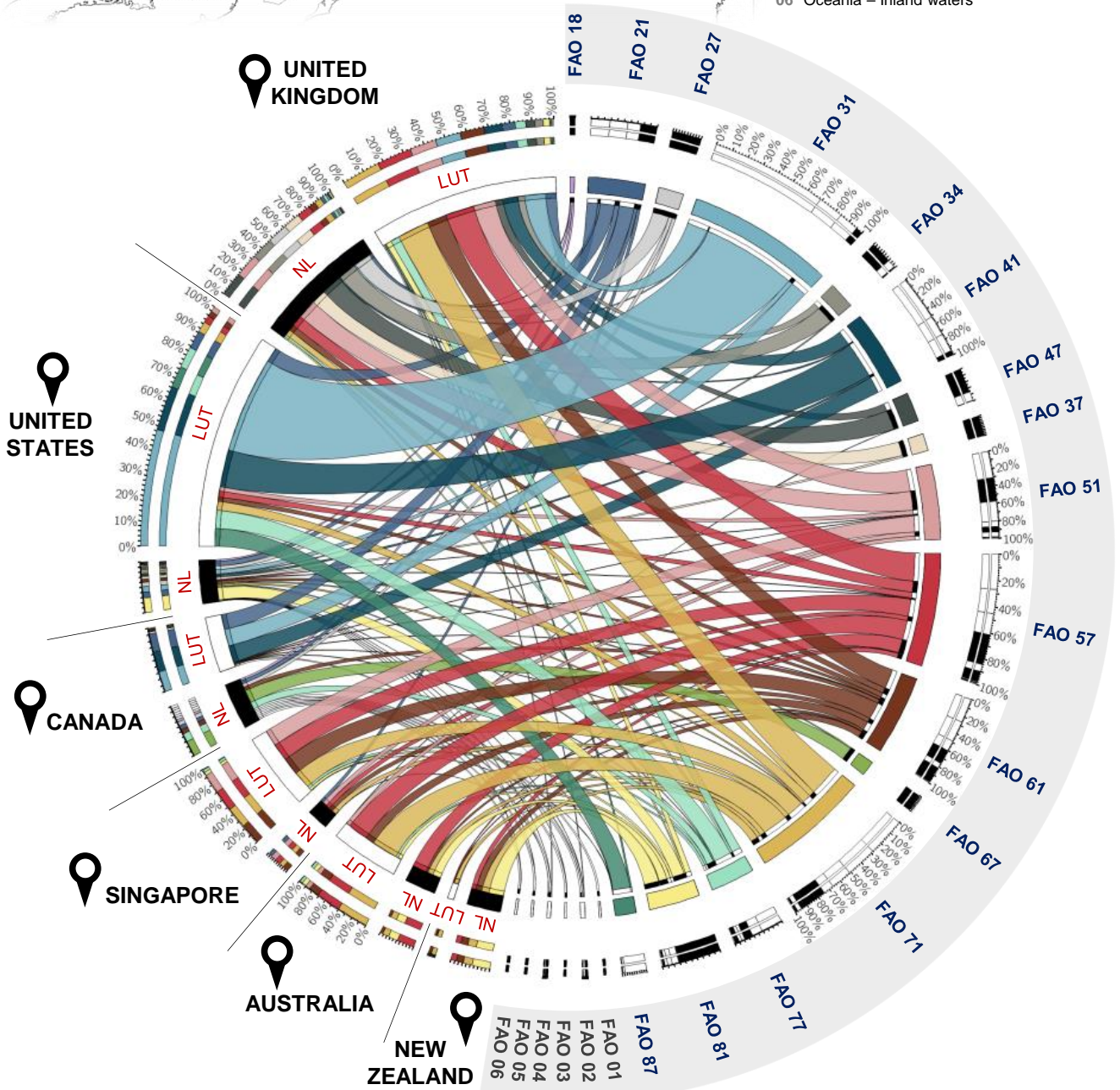
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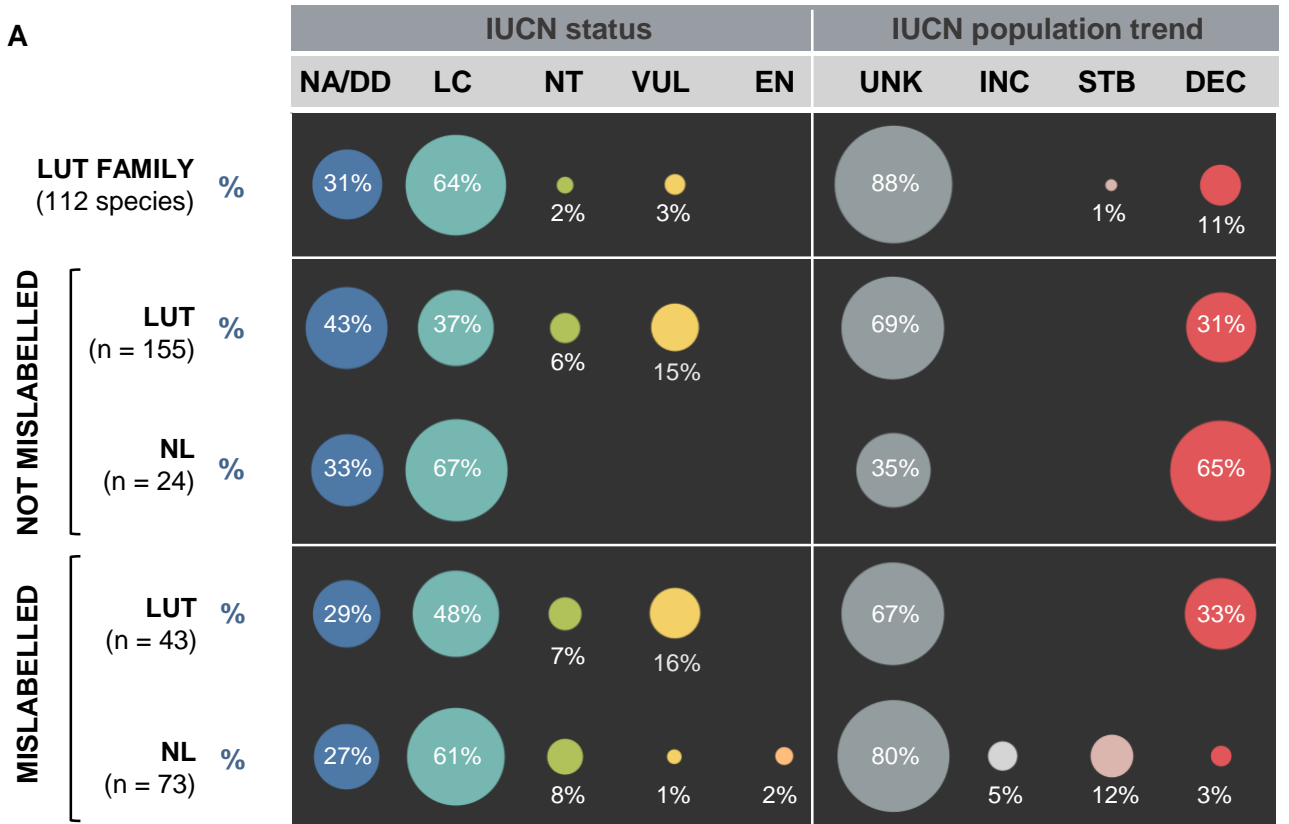




FAO fishing areas	Catch trend	O-F %	IUU %	Snapper
18 Arctic				
21 Atlantic, NW	↓	31	9	
27 Atlantic, NE	↓	21	9	
31 Atlantic, W central	↓	44	10	W / P
34 Atlantic, E central	≈	47	37	
37 Med. & Black Sea	↓	59		
41 Atlantic, SW	≈	50	32	P
47 Atlantic, SE	↓	50	7	
51 Indian, W	↑	32	18	
57 Indian, E	↑	15	32	P
61 Pacific, NW	≈	24	33	
67 Pacific, NE	≈	14	3	
71 Pacific, W central	↑	23	34	P
77 Pacific, E central	≈	9	15	W / P
81 Pacific, SW	↓	12	4	
87 Pacific, SE	≈	41	19	
01 Africa – Inland waters				
02 America, North – Inland waters				
03 America, South – Inland waters				
04 Asia – Inland waters				
05 Europe – Inland waters				
06 Oceania – Inland waters				



A



B

