Early juveniles settle from the plankton into a variety of nursery areas including inshore algal beds, where they will live for up to one year.

Early juvenile
30 – 150 mm TL (1.9 – 5.9 in)
10 – 12 months

Some Nassau grouper may change sex from female to male when they reach a total length of between 300 and 800 mm (11.9 – 31.5 in).

At 10 – 12 months Nassau grouper move to patch reefs in shallow-water areas where they remain for several years. As they reach adulthood, Nassau grouper move to deeper reefs.

Life Cycle

Pelagic juvenile stage
(early larval to early juvenile)
25 – 30 mm total length (TL)
(1.0 – 1.2 in) 1 – 35 – 50 days

Fertilized pelagic eggs up to 1 m hatch 23 – 40 hours following fertilization.

Spawning aggregations may have consisted of up to 100,000 individuals historically. Most existing spawning aggregations consist of hundreds or a few thousand fish at most.

Natural Prey

Groupers change their diet as they grow. Juveniles feed mostly on crustaceans, while adults forage on both invertebrates and fish.

Natural Predators

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Phone: (561) 741-0192
Email: cmrc@cmrc.org
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