



2016 WINTER PRINT: MANDARINFISH

Dear REEF Contributor:

Thank you for your generous contribution to REEF. Without your help, REEF could not continue to disseminate information about fish population trends and biodiversity. This information is needed by the marine life management and environmental communities to help save our marine life.

As you know, there are many changes afoot in our oceans. Sometimes these changes effect sensitive species. This year we are highlighting the Mandarinfish, one of the most colorful fishes on the planet! They are highly sensitive to changing conditions, and REEF's programs are helping to ensure their populations are being monitored.

Our 2016 limited-edition photo is a scene of two Mandarinfishes fighting for the chance to court a female. Mandarinfish spawn just after sunset into the early evening. They gather in relatively small groups, usually in shallow water, often in and around branching corals. Males fight for dominance by biting each other. The winner then starts courting several females and eventually chooses one with which to mate. Then as the pair raises a short distance above the corals in to more open water, the male rubs his body against the female's underside to stimulate the discharge of her eggs. As her eggs are extruded, he starts discharging sperm to fertilize the eggs.

For you photo buffs, the picture was taken in 2016 in Indonesia with a Canon EOS 5D and Sigma 70mm lens.

To view a photo sequence video that shows the entire mating sequence that this photo was part of, visit www.REEF.org/file/2016mandarinfish.

Best "Fishes"
Paul Humann

Thank you for supporting marine conservation!