**Living Blue: Marine Reserves**  
Snapper Kina Game



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| **Aim of the Game**  Learn about what happens in a marine environment when species numbers get out of balance e.g. due to overfishing. |
| **Resources**  Kids, whistle |
| **How many can play?**  As many as you like. |
| **Rules**   * Teacher explains that the game will help the children see what happens when different sea creatures – fisher, snapper, kina, kelp (seaweed) interact – mention foodchain and what eats what. * One person is the fisher; rest of children evenly divided into snapper, kina and kelp groups. * Fisher can run and tag as many snapper as they can. Snapper have to swim (walk fast acting like a fish); kina can only crawl on feet and hands; kelp can only stay in one spot and sway like seaweed. Have children demonstrate different ways of moving about. * Teacher tells children that if the fisher tags the snapper, the snapper become fishers, if the snapper tag kina, the kina become snapper; if the kina tag kelp, the kelp become kina. Have representative children show how the species change from one to another as they are ‘eaten’. * Teacher asks children what they think will happen to the whole foodchain. * Teacher sends everyone except for the fisher out into a restricted area (not too large), then blows the whistle so all sea creatures start living a normal life. 10 seconds later the fisher is allowed to start fishing. * Teacher keeps an eye on the population dynamics; once the balance starts to change to less snapper more kina blow the whistle again. Everyone stops where they are. * Taeacher asks – what’s happened? Why are there more kina, less kelp, etc. How could things be done better to protect the whole food chain? |
| **Variations**   * Longer time period before stop whistle is blown. * Nets vs hooks. Nets = as more than one fisher is created (through catching snapper) the fishers can hold hands simulating a net and scoop up more fish. Be careful this doesn’t degenerate into Bullrush! Hooks = fishers act independent of each other and when they catch (tag) a snapper they have to go to the sidelines for 2 seconds to ‘rebait’ their hooks. |