

Kermadecs

A SUCCESSFUL FOREST AND BIRD CAMPAIGN to protect the special features of the Kermadecs underwater world saw the seas surrounding the islands created a marine reserve in November 1990. Foremost among the ocean's inhabitants is the spotted black grouper, which grows to around 1.5 metres in length. Fiercely territorial, two males joust over boundaries in this photo. The fish change colour rapidly; when they meet each other they change white within a few seconds, stay that colour while performing, then change to black again. Sparring rarely erupts into violence. Photo: Roger Grace

THE CROWN OF THORNS STARFISH is widespread throughout tropical seas, but is at its southern limit at the Kermadecs. It occurs at the northern Kermadec Islands but not as far south as Curtis Island or L'Esperance Rock. It is associated with the reef-forming corals on the islands it feeds on. Photo: Roger Grace

