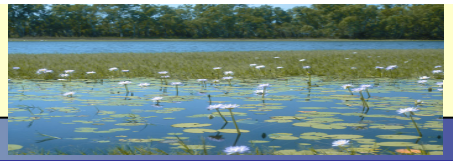
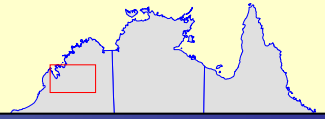
Fishes of the Fitzroy River, Western Australia, and their Nyikina names





23 freshwater species (i.e. those that breed in freshwater) are found in the Fitzroy River. A number of these species are restricted to the Kimberley.

A number of marine/estuarine species migrate large distances into the freshwaters of the Fitzroy River, where they use the river as a nursery and/or feeding ground. The Freshwater Sawfish and Dwarf Sawfish are listed as Critically Endangered (IUCN). The Critically Endangered Northern River Shark has also been found near the river mouth.

Lesser Salmon Catfish

Bony Bream

Indian Short-finned Eel

Toothless Catfish

Black Catfish

False-spine Catfish

Hyrtl's Tandan

Rendahl's catfish

Freshwater Longtom

Western Rainbowfish

Prince Regent Hardyhead

Northwest Glassfish

Fitzroy Glassfish

Mouth Almighty

Kimberley Archerfish

Barred Grunter

Greenway's Grunter

Photographs by: David Morgan, Mark Allen, Simon Visser & Dean Thorburn (Murdoch University)

Black Bream (or Jenkin's Grunter)

Spangled Perch

Barnett River Gudgeon

Kimberley Mogurnda

Giant Gudgeon

Flathead Goby

Bull Shark

Freshwater Sawfish

Dwarf Sawfish

Freshwater Whipray

Tarpon or Ox-eye Herring

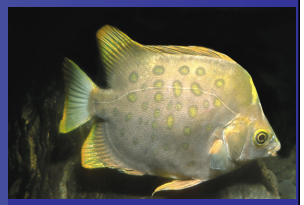
Greenback Mullet

Diamond Mullet

Barramundi

Northern River Shark

Whipfin Silver-biddy



Spotted Scat

Striped Butterfish

Merauke Toadfish

Nyikina is the traditional language spoken in the lower Fitzroy River. Language names of the fish were provided by Nyikina elders during field trips in 2001 and 2002 through a joint project by the Kimberley Land Council, Kimberley Language Resource Centre, Murdoch University's Centre for Fish & Fisheries Research and the communities in the Fitzroy River. The project was funded by the Natural Heritage Trust and the poster production was funded by the Recreational Fishing Community Grants Programme. Contact the Department of Fisheries WA regarding fishing regulations in the river.

Language provided by: Rosie Mulligan, Grace Mulligan, Joanie Wartie, Lucy Walgarne, Doreen Button, Lucy Marshall, Lena Buckle-Fraser, Yiriman Rangers (Binguzz, Emily Knight, Colleen Hatterslay)

For more information email: fish@murdoch.edu.au or visit wwwscieng.murdoch.edu.au/centres/fish/ to download this poster or posters in Bunuba, Gooniyandi, Ngarinyin or Walmajarri.

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MURDOCH UNIVERSITY PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Kimberley Land Council
Kimberley Language Resource Centre
Yiriman Project
Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Recreational Fishing Community Grants Programme
Natural Heritage Trust