

## Palauan Fish Names<sup>1</sup>

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**ABSTRACT:** Palauans have names for most fishes of importance to them. Three hundred thirty-six vernacular fish names and their 312 scientific equivalents are listed. Palauan names show little similarity to Yapese and Guamanian names. Different native names exist for different life stages and sexes of many fishes, and some variation in names occurs between northern and southern Palau. Earlier publications of Palauan fish names are discussed.

PALAU is a compact archipelago in the Western Caroline Islands approximately 800 km north of New Guinea and 800 km east of Mindanao (Fig. 1). It is made up of numerous islands, which vary in size from volcanic Babeldaub (45 × 15 km) to small limestone islets. Except for two atolls in the north and Angaur in the south, the islands are largely enclosed within a barrier reef.

The Micronesian people who inhabit these islands rely on the sea as their principal source of protein. They are fortunate in having extensive areas of coral reefs, turtle grass flats, and other marine and freshwater habitats which support a rich diversity of aquatic life. This diversity is due not only to the variety of habitats but also to the proximity of the Palau group to the Indo-Malayan region, which has the greatest number of species of marine organisms.

As would be expected of a people with a dependence on fishes for food, the Palauans have distinct names for the many fish species of importance to them. Fishes of little value as food either have no native name or only a general name for an entire family. We have not listed those species for which there are no Palauan names.

We obtained most of the names in the present study from informants who viewed fresh or preserved specimens. Illustrations from books

or photographs by the junior author were used when whole specimens of fish we knew to occur in Palau or surrounding areas were unavailable. Our best informants were generally the older fishermen. When arguments ensued among the informants about the name of a particular fish, they were solved by a majority, a militant minority, or through deference to the oldest man or member of the highest ranking clan present. Many of the Palauan names in this paper would not appear in a similar study conducted 10 to 15 years in the future. As Western civilization continues to make its intrusions on Palauan culture, it is less common for young men to fish and hence to learn the many names of their fishes. Consequently, names and practical knowledge of the natural history of many fishes—and other animals and plants—will be lost with the older generation in Palau.

We were unable to obtain specimens or illustrations of fishes for some Palauan names and have identified them only at the generic or family level. A few others for which we have specimens appear to be undescribed. For many more, our scientific names are provisional. Most families of tropical Indo-Pacific fishes are in great need of systematic revision. There is little doubt that some of the scientific names used here will have to be altered when such revisions are completed.

This study was conducted over a 3-year period from October 1967 to August 1970 while the senior author was a United States Peace Corps Volunteer in Palau. The junior author has made three visits to the islands. Fishes collected during these visits have been deposited at the Bernice P. Bishop Museum in Honolulu.

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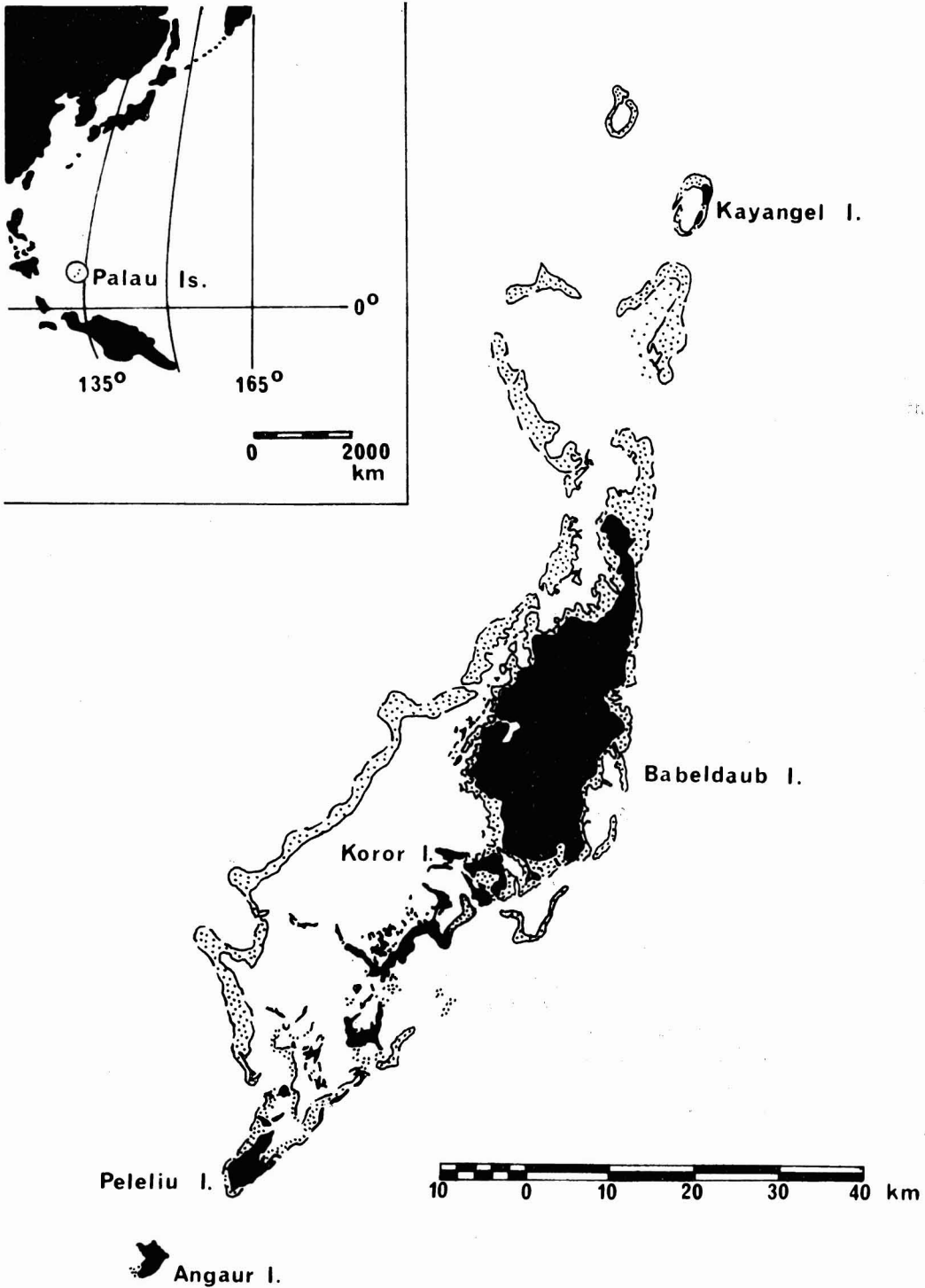


Fig. 1. The Palau Islands. The northern sector consists of Babeldaub and Kayangel; the southern sector, Koror, Peleliu, and Angaur. Redrawn from Yamaguchi et al. (1969).

HISTORIC AND GEOGRAPHIC COMPARISON  
OF PALAUAN FISH NAMES

Palau has been under the domination of Spain (1885-1889), Germany (1889-1914), Japan (1914-1945), and the United States (1945-present). Little Spanish or German influence is shown in the current fish names. The Japanese occupation resulted in some name changes which are discussed for the individual species below. No American names are commonly used.

The earliest known publication in which Palauan fish names appeared was Keate (1788). He used the word **neckell** for "fish" and **arool** for "skaite, or large flatfish." There has been little change in these two words: fishes, in general, are called **ngikel**, and stingrays are referred to as **rull**. We have found only three publications since Keate which include more than a few Palauan fish names. Walleser (1913) gave 99 Palauan fish names; he identified 25 of these by common name, but gave no scientific names. Krämer (1929) listed 375 native fish names with 120 line drawings, but gave only 64 scientific identifications. Abe (1939) identified 376 species of fishes by scientific name from Palau; for 60 of these he also recorded the vernacular names. The present paper contains 336 Palauan names and 312 scientific names.

Little work has been published on fish names from other Micronesian areas. Randall (1955) listed the Gilbertese names for 151 fishes obtained at Onotoa. Kami, Ikehara, and Deleon (1968) reported 465 species of fishes from Guam, including vernacular names for 191 species. There are only two possible similarities between the Guamanian and Palauan fish names. Exocoetids (flyingfishes) are called **gaaga** in Guam and **kok** in Palau. The silverside *Pranesus insularum insularum* (family Atherinidae) is called **ginyo** in Guamanian, which is close to the Palauan name **kingyo** for the guppy *Poecilia reticulatus* (family Poeciliidae). Both are small silvery fishes, and it appears that the name in each case has been borrowed from the Japanese.

Marjorie V. Cushing-Falanruw of the University of Guam was kind enough to send us a copy of her unpublished report on the ethnoichthyology of Yap, an island group approximately 500 km northeast of Palau. She listed 102 Yapese names and 48 scientific names. Seven

of these appear similar to the Palauan designations:

ENGLISH	YAPESE	PALAUAN
rays	<b>rol</b>	<b>rull</b>
conger eel (Congridae)	<b>mar</b>	<b>mar</b>
flyingfish (Exocoetidae)	<b>gog</b>	<b>kok</b>
angelfish (Pomacanthidae)	<b>er</b>	<b>cher</b>
unicorn fish (Acanthuridae)	<b>um</b>	<b>chum</b>
yellowfin tuna (Scombridae)	<b>taguw</b>	<b>tekuu</b>
tuna (Scombridae)	<b>garngab</b>	<b>kerengob</b>

The lack of similarity is predictable, since Palauan shares little linguistic affinity with Yapese. The Palauan language is closer to Indonesian than to any of the Micronesian languages (Capell, 1962). Similarity in the Palauan and Yapese names of pelagic fishes, such as the exocoetids and scombrids, is probably due to name-borrowing. For further discussion of this practice, see the introduction to the family Scombridae.

The native names of fishes are not the same throughout Palau. Pronunciation differences, and even different names for the same fish, occur in villages only a few miles apart. Names in this paper followed by (N) or (S) indicate primary usage in the northern and southern sectors of Palau, respectively. Where two native names appear for a fish, the first is the more commonly used or was obtained from more positive informants. Where different names apply to different developmental stages or sexes of a single species, all names are given and the size or sex noted accordingly.

SPELLING AND PRONUNCIATION

Palauan spelling has not been standardized. We have attempted to use the spelling system currently accepted in Palau. Spellings of fish names were often contested by Palauans almost as much as the names themselves.

The following is an approximate key to the pronunciation of the more commonly used sounds in this paper. The examples are from an anonymous, undated (ca. 1966), U.S. Peace Corps language training text on Palauan.

VOWELS: a, like the *a* in *father*; e, like the *e* in *bet*; i, like the *e* in *Pete*; o, like the *o* in *bore*; u, like the *oo* in *boot*.

DIPHTHONGS: ai, like the *ie* in *tie*; ao, au, like the *ou* in *about*; ea, like the *ay o* of *stay on*; ei, like the *ay* in *bay*; eyo, like the *ay o* of *stay over*; ia, like the *ea o* of *tea on Friday*; iu, combine the *e* of *me* with the *ue* of *Sue*; oa, like the *oa* in *moa*; oi, like the *oy* of *boy*; ou, like the *oa* of *boat*; ui, like the *ouie* of *Louie*.

CONSONANTS: d, similar to *th* in *then*; ng, like the *ng* in *song*; r, usually trilled slightly, as in Spanish; ch, a glottal stop, similar to the beginning of the expression, ugh!

#### NAMES OF BODY PARTS

Fig. 2 gives the Palauan names for anatomical features of a fish.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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#### PALAUAN FISH NAMES

The families of fishes are given in phylogenetic sequence; genera and species are listed under each family alphabetically.

#### SQUALIFORMES (SHARKS)

The general Palauan name for sharks is **chedeng**. We have been unable to obtain specimens of the following reported names: **chedenguchi rulluriul** ("shark in front, ray

in back"), similar to pictures of *Squatina* spp.; **koklchedeng** ("flying shark"); **yaoslchedeng**, a spotted shark.

#### 1. CARCHARHINIDAE (REQUIEM SHARKS)

Two offshore species, *Carcharhinus falciformis* Bibron in Müller & Henle and *C. maou* (Lesson) (= *longimanus* [Poey]), are known to some Palauans, but there are no accepted vernacular names for these sharks. **Melkaki** is a Koror name for an unknown species in this family. **Matukeyoll** comes from a word that means "to dash at and turn quickly" and refers to a common behavior of the blacktip reef shark.

<i>Carcharhinus albimarginatus</i> (Rüppell)	<b>besachel</b> (N)
<i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i> (Bleeker)	<b>mederart,</b> <b>teongt</b>
<i>Carcharhinus melanopterus</i> (Quoy & Gaimard)	<b>matukeyoll</b>
<i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i> (Peron & Lesueur)	<b>mochelas</b>
<i>Negaprion acutidens</i> (Rüppell)	<b>metal</b>
<i>Triaenodon obesus</i> (Rüppell)	<b>ulupsuchl</b>

#### 2. SPHYRNIDAE (HAMMERHEAD SHARKS)

Hammerhead sharks are called **ulach**, which is the same name as that for the base of a coconut palm frond and refers to the lateral expansion of the head of these sharks. Hammerheads are often called **ulachlchedeng**, to distinguish them from *Fistularia petimba*, which is also known as **ulach**.

<i>Sphyrna</i> spp.	<b>ulach</b>
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#### 3. ORECTOLOBIDAE (NURSE SHARKS AND CARPET SHARKS)

The name **metmut** is from the verb "to suck." One informant attributes the name to the unfounded belief that this shark attaches itself to large fish and sucks body fluids from them. **Biall** means "wide-eyed," as in a young child.

<i>Ginglymostoma ferrugineum</i> (Lesson)	<b>metmut</b>
<i>Stegostoma varium</i> (Seba)	<b>biall</b>

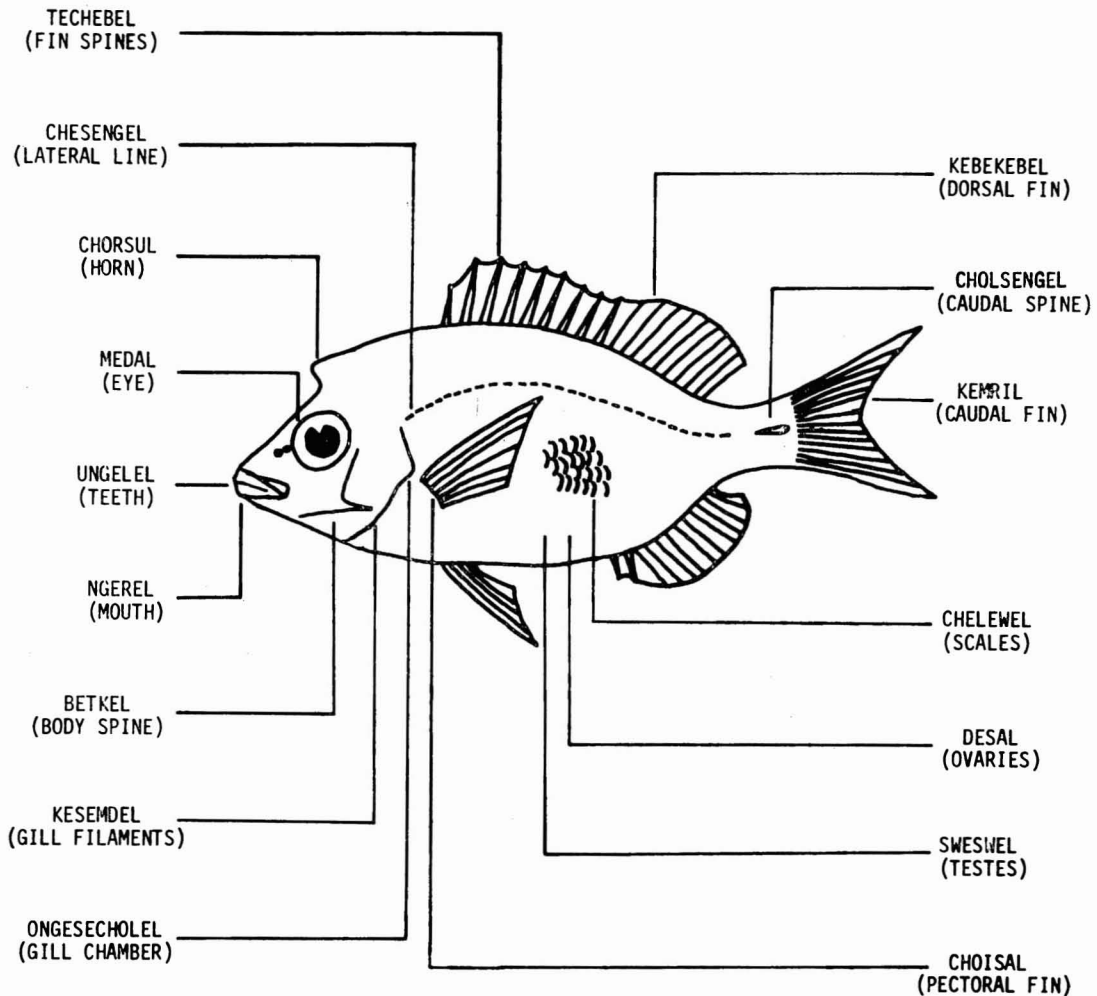


FIG. 2. Major parts of the fish. Palauan names are given in the third person singular possessive.

#### RAJIFORMES (RAYS)

The general name for rays is **rull**. We collected no specimens of rays for study. They are not common in Palau, yet they are very popular food fishes (with the exception of *Aetobatus*, which has totemic restrictions on its capture). Therefore, very few of these fishes ever reach the market, and those that do are quickly purchased. All of our names were obtained from pictures in books shown to our informants. These illustrations were often of rays which probably do not occur in the Palau Islands but merely resemble species that do. **Rulluchei edenguriul** ("ray in front, shark in back") and **rullelchedeng** have been given for photo-

graphs of *Rhinobatos* spp. **Tebekbuk** is an additional name for which we have found no pictures.

#### 4. MYLIOBATIDAE (EAGLE RAYS)

*Aetobatus narinari* chochaio  
(Euphrasen)

#### 5. DASYATIDAE (STING RAYS)

In addition to **dudek** we have obtained the following ray names which seem to belong to dasyatids: **ilachetoil**, **kim** (also a general name for tridacnid clams), **kultalchelbeab**, **ngiilch**,

**tuboklmerand**, and **ruetuu** (a large ray of at least 150 cm in width; we have seen a barb 25 cm long attributed to this species).

*Dasyatis* sp.

**dudek**

6. MOBULIDAE (MANTAS)

*Manta* sp., *Mobula* sp.

**choukledaol**  
(N), **chokle-**  
**medaol** (S)

7. MEGALOPIDAE (TARPONS)

Palauans often distinguish fishes from mangrove, lagoon, deepwater, or oceanic areas with a suffix. The ox eye, *Megalops cyprinoides*, is **chaol diong** (**chaol** "from brackish water areas"); the young of *Chanos chanos* is **chaol kereker** (**chaol** "from the lagoon").

*Megalops cyprinoides*  
(Broussonet)

**chaol diong**

8. ALBULIDAE (BONEFISHES)

*Albula vulpes* (Linnaeus)

**suld**

ANGUILLIFORMES (EELS)

**Dilch** is a general name for brackish water eels. We have been able to link Palauan names with some of the more common and distinctive species of eels, such as certain morays, but we have been given a number of Palauan names for which we have no specimens nor sufficient information to tie the names even to family. These names are as follows: **butelkaeb**, **deb-debeschelangel**, **didalatang**, **kilch** (a freshwater eel living in the larger limestone islands), **klaeb**, **tukidolch**, and **utuitch** (similar to *Anguilla*, but very thin). **Tukidolch** is applied to a congridlike eel about 10 cm in diameter which supposedly attains a length of 5.5 m. This eel lives in a burrow in mud bottoms at depths of about 4 to 6 meters near the mangrove regions of western Babeldaub. It is said to extend itself from its burrow only at night (and hence has been seen only on moonlit nights) with its head just beneath the surface of the

water. Its name means "tide gauge," in reference to its habit of maintaining its head just beneath the surface regardless of tidal oscillation.

9. ANGUILLIDAE (FRESHWATER EELS)

*Anguilla* spp.

**kitlel**

10. CONGRIDAE (CONGER EELS)

*Conger cinereus* Rüppell

**mar**

11. MURAENIDAE (MORAYS)

Most moray eels are called **kesebekuu**, although a few of the larger species are recognized by different names. In addition to the identifications given here, we have on several occasions been told of an aggressive muraenid called **cholechulach** which has a long mouth and large teeth and is said to reach a length of 4 meters. This is the name given to the photograph in Schultz et al. (1953), Plate 13A, of *Enchelynassa canina* (Quoy & Gaimard). It is doubtful, however, that this species exceeds 1.5 m in length. The largest moray of which we have positive record in the Pacific is a specimen of *Gymnothorax javanicus* (Bleeker) from Hawaii which measured 2.2 m (R. E. Brock, personal communication). We have collected *javanicus* in Palau, but none approaching this size. When shown this species, our informants provided only the general moray name, **kesebekuu**.

*Gymnothorax* spp.

**kesebekuu**

*Gymnothorax meleagris* (Shaw  
& Nodder)

**sekelekoll**

*Gymnothorax undulatus*  
(Lacépède)

**luleu**

*Uropterygius* spp.

**kesebekuu**

12. OPHICHTHIDAE (SNAKE EELS)

Because of their fossorial habits, the snake eels as a group are not well known to native peoples. Although many species occur in Palau, only the general name **mar** is used, and this is usually applied to black-barred species such as *Leiuranus semicinctus* and *Myricibthys colubrinus*.

In southern Palau the latter species is called **bsipslngechal**.

*Leiuranus semicinctus* (Lay & Bennett) **mar**

*Myrichthys colubrinus* (Boddaert) **mar** (N),  
**bsipslngechal** (S)

#### 13. CLUPEIDAE (HERRINGS)

An unidentified clupeid bears the Palauan name **mams**. The additional names **chedings** and **ulekiued** are recorded for fishes believed to be clupeids. **Ulekiued** is also the general name for species of *Caesio* and *Pterocaesio*.

*Herklotsichthyes* sp. **mekebud**  
*Spratelloides delicatulus* (Bennett) **kwaol**

#### 14. ENGRAULIDAE (ANCHOVIES)

One other Palauan name for an anchovy we have not seen is **merau**.

*Stolephorus heterolobus* (Rüppell) **telai**

#### 15. SYNODONTIDAE (LIZARDFISHES)

*Saurida gracilis* (Quoy & Gaimard) **desomel**  
*Synodus* spp. **desomel**

#### 16. CHANIDAE (MILKFISH FAMILY)

**Mesekelat** is also the name for the female of *Scarus sexvittatus*.

*Chanos chanos* Forsskål **chaol kereker** (small),  
**mesekelat** (large)

#### 17. PLOTOSIDAE (MARINE CATFISHES)

*Plotosus anguillaris* (Bloch) **kebes**

#### 18. CARAPIDAE (PEARLFISHES)

Carapids are called **eremelamolch**, which means "animal of the sea cucumber," in reference to the endobiotic habits of these fishes,

most of which are found in holothurians. **Molch** is a commonly eaten holothurian which derives its name from its resemblance to a human penis. A less commonly used name for pearlfishes is **derirk**.

#### 19. ANTENNARIIDAE (FROGFISHES)

The Palauan frogfish name is **cholik**, which is the same as that for the fruit bat *Pteropus* sp.

*Antennarius* spp. **cholik**

#### 20. ATHERINIDAE (SILVERSIDES)

The general name for atherinid fishes is **teber**. Our only Palauan specimens of the family are *Pranesus pinguis*. Abe (1939) listed this and four other atherinids from Palau.

*Pranesus pinguis* (Lacépède) **teber**

#### 21. MUGILIDAE (MULLET)

**Sebus** has been reported as applying to a fish in this family, but we have been unable to obtain specimens for identification.

*Chelon vaigiensis* (Quoy & Gaimard) **chesau** (N),  
**uluu** (S)  
*Crenimugil crenilabis* (Forsskål) **blilch** (small),  
**kelat** (large)  
*Mugil ceramensis* Bleeker **iokedch**

#### 22. POLYNEMIDAE (THREADFINS)

*Polydactylus* spp. **klakmil**

#### 23. SPHYRAENIDAE (BARRACUDAS)

In addition to the names given below, there is a barracuda from Angaur called **babii** ("pig") because of the high fat content of its meat.

*Sphyraena barracuda* (Walbaum) **mersaad** (< 30 cm),  
**mordubch** (30–60 cm),  
**ai** (> 60 cm)

*Sphyraena forsteri* Cuvier & Valenciennes **meai**

*Sphyraena genie* Klungzinger **meai**

## 24. EXOCOETIDAE (FLYINGFISHES)

The general name for flyingfishes is **kok**.

## 25. HEMITRAMPHIDAE (HALFBEAKS)

The name **bolobel** is applied to marine species of halfbeaks, particularly the larger individuals. The genus *Zenarchopterus*, which inhabits rivers, is called **kieu**. A species with a short lower jaw in Peleliu is called **ngesur**; we have not seen a specimen.

<i>Hemiramphus</i> spp.	<b>bolobel</b>
<i>Hyporhamphus</i> spp.	<b>bolobel</b>
<i>Zenarchopterus</i> spp.	<b>kieu</b>

## 26. BELONIDAE (NEEDLEFISHES)

Needlefishes are known only by the general name **sekos**.

## 27. POECILIIDAE (LIVE-BEARERS)

The Japanese brought *Poecilia reticulatus*, the guppy of aquarium fame, to Palau for mosquito control. Palauans use a name derived from Japanese for this fish.

<i>Poecilia reticulatus</i> (Peters)	<b>kingyo</b>
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## 28. HOLOCENTRIDAE (SQUIRRELFISHES)

**Techelabilis** means "meat of a dog." Palauans do not eat dogs and the fish name implies that the small *Adioryx diadema* is not worth eating. All species of *Myripristis*, including the distinctive *M. kuntee* (Russell), are known by the single name **bsukl**.

<i>Adioryx</i> spp.	<b>kedaol</b>
<i>Adioryx diadema</i> (Lacépède)	<b>techelabilis</b> (N), <b>chomouchedekl</b> (S)
<i>Adioryx spinifer</i> (Forsskål)	<b>desachel</b>
<i>Adioryx tiere</i> (Cuvier & Valenciennes)	<b>techelabilis</b>
<i>Flammeo</i> spp.	<b>kedaol</b>
<i>Myripristis</i> spp.	<b>bsukl</b>

## 29. AULOSTOMIDAE (TRUMPETFISHES)

Although *Aulostomus chinensis* (Linnaeus) is not uncommon in Palau, we were unable to obtain a native name for this fish from any of our informants.

## 30. FISTULARIDAE (CORNETFISHES)

*Fistularia petimba* is called **ulach**, or **ulachlmerand** (**ulach** "from coral regions") to distinguish it from **ulachlchedeng**, the hammerhead sharks.

<i>Fistularia petimba</i> Lacépède	<b>ulach</b>
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## 31. CENTRISCIDAE (SHRIMPFISHES)

The local name for the one shrimpfish known from Palau is **kobesos**, which describes the paddling motion of the pectoral fins when this fish swims.

<i>Aeoliscus strigatus</i> (Günther)	<b>kobesos</b>
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## 32. SYNGNATHIDAE (PIPEFISHES AND SEA HORSES)

Although there are a number of pipefishes in Palau, we could discover no vernacular names. Abe (1939), however, listed the Palauan name **emdeb** for these fishes. The sea horse, *Hippocampus* sp., is today called **woseradaub**, which means literally "sea horse." An obsolete name for the sea horse is **kobesos**, now applied solely to *Aeoliscus*.

<i>Hippocampus</i> sp.	<b>woseradaub,</b> <b>kobesos</b>
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## 33. SCORPAENIDAE (SCORPIONFISHES)

The word **betaot**, the suffix for the name of most of the scorpionfishes in Palau, means both "bottom of the sea" and "spines."

<i>Pterois</i> spp.	<b>chesechid</b>
<i>Scorpaena</i> spp.	<b>koklbetaot</b>
<i>Scorpaenodes</i> spp.	<b>koklbetaot</b>
<i>Scorpaenopsis</i> spp.	<b>koklbetaot</b>
<i>Synanceia verrucosa</i> Bloch & Schneider	<b>smuuch</b> (N), <b>louch</b> (S)
<i>Taenianotus triacanthus</i> Lacépède	<b>louch</b>



## 34. PLATYCEPHALIDAE (FLATHEADS)

All platycephalids, the largest of which is *Platycephalus* sp., are called **debribr**.

35. DACTYLOPTERIDAE  
(FLYING GURNARDS)

*Dactyloptena orientalis* Cuvier & Valenciennes **koklbetaot**

## 36. APOGONIDAE (CARDINALFISHES)

All cardinalfishes are called **sebus**, or **sebusngmerand** (**sebus** "from coral") to distinguish them from *Etelis marsbi*, *Lutjanus malabaricus*, and a mugilid which are also called **sebus**.

## 37. SERRANIDAE (GROUPERS)

This family is generally divided by Palauans into two main divisions: **temekai**, which includes most species in the genera *Epinephelus* and *Cephalopholis*; and **tiau**, which covers fish in the genus *Plectropomus*. Often, when a fisherman did not know the particular name for a serranid, he would refer to it as "a kind of **temekai**" or "a kind of **tiau**." Small fish of the **temekai** group are often called **mirorch**. **Chubei** is the same name as that for *Scatophagus*.<sup>4</sup> **Katuultiau** means "cat **tiau**" and refers to the black saddle markings of this fish, similar to the coloration of the many piebald cats in Palau.

<i>Aethaloperca rogae</i> (Forsskål)	<b>chubei</b>
<i>Anyperodon leucogrammicus</i> (Cuvier & Valenciennes)	<b>choloteachi</b>
<i>Cephalopholis argus</i> Bloch & Schneider	<b>mengardelucheb, mengardeluu, mardelucheb</b>
<i>Cephalopholis leopardus</i> (Lacépède)	<b>elewikl</b>
<i>Cephalopholis miniatus</i> (Forsskål)	<b>rumekei</b>
<i>Cephalopholis sexmaculatus</i> (Rüppell)	<b>bachungor</b>

<sup>4</sup> **Elewikl** and **melech** are also the names for an unknown lethrinid and *Sillago* sp., respectively.

<i>Cephalopholis urodelus</i> (Bloch & Schneider)	<b>ollos</b>
<i>Cromileptes altivelis</i> (Cuvier & Valenciennes)	<b>melech</b>
<i>Epinephelus corallicola</i> (Cuvier & Valenciennes)	<b>chemirchorch, mirchorch</b>
<i>Epinephelus fasciatus</i> (Forsskål)	<b>temekai</b>
<i>Epinephelus flavocaeruleus</i> (Lacépède) (= <i>kobleri</i> Schultz)	<b>temekai</b>
<i>Epinephelus fuscoguttatus</i> (Forsskål)	<b>remochel</b>
<i>Epinephelus fuscus</i> Fourmanoir	<b>keksau</b>
<i>Epinephelus hexagonatus</i> (Bloch & Schneider)	<b>meratch</b> (N), <b>meratk</b> (S)
<i>Epinephelus merra</i> Bloch	<b>chemirchorch, mirchorch</b>
<i>Epinephelus microdon</i> (Bleeker)	<b>keksau</b>
<i>Epinephelus tawina</i> (Forsskål)	<b>bachungor</b>
<i>Gracila albomarginata</i> (Fowler & Bean)	<b>bekeurasengerruk, mardelucheb</b>
<i>Plectropomus leopardus</i> (Lacépède)	<b>mokas</b>
<i>Plectropomus melanoleucus</i> (Lacépède)	<b>katuultiau</b>
<i>Plectropomus oligacanthus</i> Bleeker	<b>basolokiil</b> (?)
<i>Plectropomus truncatus</i> Fowler	<b>mokas</b>
<i>Variola louti</i> (Forsskål)	<b>basongokiil, basolokiil</b>

## 38. TOXOTIDAE (ARCHERFISHES)

*Toxotes jaculatrix* (Pallas) **uloi**

## 39. CIRRHITIDAE (HAWKFISHES)

All of the Palauan names given below for cirrhitids are also used for fishes of other families. **Odiduerabong** is the name for the blennies of the genus *Cirripectes* and *Meiacanthus atrodorsalis*. **Merirchesengl** is the name for *Gomphosus varius*. **Basolokiil** is the name for *Variola louti*.

*Cirrhitus pinnulatus* (Bloch & Schneider) **odiduerabong**

*Paracirrhites arcatus* (Cuvier & Valenciennes) **merirchesengl**

*Paracirrhites forsteri* (Bloch & Schneider) **basolokiil**

#### 40. THERAPONIDAE (TIGERFISHES)

*Therapon jarbua* (Forsskål) **kliklechol** (N),  
**keskus** (S)

#### 41. KUHLIIDAE (AHOLEHOLES)

**Besechaml** is also the name for adult *Monotaxis grandoculis* and juvenile *Pomadasya basta*.

*Kublia marginata* (Cuvier & Valenciennes) **besechaml**

*Kublia rupestris* (Lacépède) **besechaml**

#### 42. KYPHOSIDAE (RUDDERFISHES)

Both *Kyphosus cinerascens* (Forsskål) and *K. vaigiensis* (Quoy & Gaimard) occur in Palau, but there is no distinction by vernacular name. A dark color phase of these fishes is called **beab**, which is the same as the name for rats and *Balistoides viridescens*.

*Kyphosus* spp. **keichul** (small),  
**komud**  
(large)

#### 43. PRIACANTHIDAE (BIG EYES)

Species of *Priacanthus* are called **dechil ebakl** or **dechil a deil**. These names literally mean "feces from metal" and are the Palauan words for rust flakes. The names therefore refer to the rust color of these fishes.

*Priacanthus* spp. **dechil ebakl**,  
**dechil a deil**

#### 44. SILLAGINIDAE (WHITINGS)

*Sillago* sp. **melech**

#### 45. BRANCHIOSTEGIDAE (TILEFISHES)

**Tengadidik**, the name for *Malacanthus latovittatus*, is the same as that applied to the cleaner wrasse, *Labroides dimidiatus*, of similar blue and

black color; the cleaner's blenniid mimic, *Aspidontus taeniatus*; and the blue and black kingfisher bird, *Halcyon chloris*.

*Malacanthus latovittatus* (Lacépède) **tengadidik**

*Malacanthus boedtii* Bleeker **baiei**

#### 46. ECHENEIDAE (SHARKSUCKERS AND REMORAS)

The echeneids are called *rekereked*, which means "to stick to."

*Echeneis naucrates* Linnaeus **rekereked**

*Remora remora* (Linnaeus) **rekereked**

#### 47. CARANGIDAE (JACKS)

*Caranx melampygus* is sometimes called by its Japanese name, **hira aji**. **Esuuch**, the Palauan word for *C. sexfasciatus*, is the same as that for the Palau scops owl, *Otus podarginus*. We have been unable to obtain a specimen of a small carangid called **buuch**; the same name is given to the *Areca* or betelnut palm. *Megalaspis cordyla* (Linnaeus) occurs in Palau but has no vernacular name.

*Alectis ciliaris* (Bloch) **ulekreoul**

*Carangoides orthogrammus* (Jordan & Gilbert) **otewot**

*Carangoides fulvoguttatus* (Forsskål) **iab**

*Caranx ignobilis* (Forsskål) **cherobk** (N),  
**chederobk** (S)

*Caranx lugubris* Poey **chomuktutau**

*Caranx melampygus* Cuvier & Valenciennes **oruidl**

*Caranx mate* Cuvier & Valenciennes **klspeached**

*Caranx sexfasciatus* Quoy & Gaimard **esuuch**

*Elagatis bipinnulatus* Quoy & Gaimard **desui**

*Gnathanodon speciosus* (Forsskål) **wii**

*Scomberoides lysan* (Forsskål) **yas**

*Selar crumenophthalmus* (Bloch) **terekrik**

*Seriola rivoliana* Cuvier & Valenciennes **mekeim**

<i>Trachurus boops</i> (Cuvier & Valenciennes)	<b>terekrik</b>
<i>Trachinotus blochii</i> (Lacépède)	<b>luichlbuil</b>
<i>Uraspis helvola</i> (Bloch & Schneider)	<b>recherachd</b>

## 48. CORYPHAENIDAE (DOLPHINS)

<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i> Linnaeus	<b>chersuuch</b>
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## 49. LEIOGNATHIDAE (SOAPIES)

The general Palauan name for leiognathid fishes is **deluai**. **Keyam** is also the name for the monodactylids and a species of nut-bearing tree.

<i>Gaxxa minuta</i> (Bloch)	<b>deluai</b>
<i>Leiognathus equulus</i> (Forsskål)	<b>keyam</b>

## 50. LUTJANIDAE (SNAPPERS)

**Metngui** is also the name for a lethrinid. **Kedesaulyengl** means **kedesau** "so large that it takes up a whole fish stringer." **Sakuradai** is a Japanese name. The name **mengeselblad** means "jokes when biting." This is because of the fish's habit of picking at a baited hook as if it were a much smaller fish.

<i>Aphareus furcatus</i> (Lacépède)	<b>krong</b>
<i>Aphareus rutilans</i> Cuvier & Valenciennes	<b>metngui</b>
<i>Aprion virescens</i> Cuvier & Valenciennes	<b>udel</b>
<i>Caesio</i> spp.	<b>ulekiued</b>
<i>Etelis marshi</i> (Jenkins)	<b>sebus</b>
<i>Lutjanus argentimaculatus</i> (Forsskål)	<b>kedesaulyengl</b>
<i>Lutjanus biguttatus</i> (Cuvier & Valenciennes)	<b>kesebii</b>
<i>Lutjanus bohar</i> (Forsskål)	<b>kotongl</b> (< 25 cm), <b>kedesau</b> (large)
<i>Lutjanus gibbus</i> (Forsskål)	<b>keremlal</b>
<i>Lutjanus malabaricus</i> (Bloch & Schneider)	<b>sebus</b>
<i>Lutjanus monostigma</i> (Cuvier & Valenciennes)	<b>derringl</b>
<i>Lutjanus fulvus</i> (Bloch & Schneider) (= <i>vaigiensis</i> Quoy & Gaimard)	<b>reyall, kesebii</b>
<i>Lutjanus vitta</i> Day	<b>dodes</b>

<i>Lutjanus</i> sp.	<b>sakuradai</b>
<i>Lutjanus</i> sp.	<b>debull</b> (N), <b>mengeselblad</b> (S)
<i>Macolor niger</i> (Forsskål)	<b>ngkalalk</b>
<i>Pristipomoides brighami</i> (Seale)	<b>sebus</b>
<i>Pristipomoides zonatus</i> (Cuvier & Valenciennes)	<b>turang</b>
<i>Pterocaesio</i> spp.	<b>ulekiued</b>
<i>Symphorus spilurus</i> Günther	<b>edui</b>

## 51. POMADASYIDAE (GRUNTS AND SWEETLIPS)

The young stage of *Plectorbinchus obscurus* lives at mangrove edges near river mouths; it is called **melimralm**, which means "to drink fresh water."

<i>Plectorbinchus celebicus</i> Bleeker	<b>merar</b>
<i>Plectorbinchus chaetodonoides</i> Lacépède	<b>bochol</b>
<i>Plectorbinchus gaterinus</i> (Forsskål)	<b>korriu</b>
<i>Plectorbinchus goldmani</i> (Bleeker)	<b>yaos</b>
<i>Plectorbinchus obscurus</i> (Günther)	<b>melimralm</b> (small), <b>bikl</b> (large)
<i>Plectorbinchus orientalis</i> (Bloch)	<b>yaos</b>
<i>Pomadasyus basta</i> (Bloch)	<b>besechaml</b> (small), <b>mek-edchelewel</b> (large)

## 52. LETHRINIDAE (EMPERORS)

The suffix **toachl** means "deep water off the reef," and is used for two unidentified fish in this family, **mentnguiltoachl** and **klibeiltoachl**. **Metngui** is a shallow water *Lethrinus*, while **klibei** is the name given to large, barred pomacentrids of the genus *Abudefduf*. **Klibeiltoachl** appears to be a new genus and species and is allied to *Gnathodentex*. We are unable to identify five species of *Lethrinus*, a genus greatly in need of revision.

<i>Gnathodentex aureolineatus</i> (Lacépède)	<b>ulekiull, bodes</b>
<i>Lethrinus kallopterus</i> Bleeker	<b>menges</b>

<i>Lethrinus mahsena</i> (Forsskål)	<b>krol</b>
<i>Lethrinus microdon</i> Cuvier & Valenciennes	<b>mechur</b>
<i>Lethrinus miniatus</i> (Foster)	<b>mlangmud</b>
<i>Lethrinus</i> sp.	<b>elewikl</b>
<i>Lethrinus</i> sp.	<b>chudch</b>
<i>Lethrinus</i> sp.	<b>rekruk</b>
<i>Lethrinus</i> sp.	<b>metngui</b>
<i>Lethrinus</i> sp.	<b>itotch</b>
<i>Monotaxis grandoculis</i> (Forsskål)	<b>besechaml</b>
lethrinid	<b>kllibeitoachl</b>
lethrinid	<b>metnguiltoachl</b>
lethrinid	<b>chesichucher</b>

## 53. NEMIPTERIDAE (SPINE-CHEEKS)

*Scolopsis* spp. are called **madelcharm**, which means "bird's eye" and may refer to the relatively large eyes of these fishes. One unidentified nemipterid is named **chibars**.

<i>Scolopsis</i> spp.	<b>madelcharm</b>
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## 54. GERREIDAE (MOJARRAS)

The general Palauan name for gerreids is **chedochd**.

<i>Gerres abbreviatus</i> Bleeker	<b>chedochd</b>
<i>Gerres oblongus</i> Cuvier & Valenciennes	<b>chesall</b> (small), <b>kotikw</b> (large)
<i>Gerres punctatus</i> Cuvier & Valenciennes	<b>omoket</b>

## 55. MULLIDAE (GOATFISHES)

<i>Mulloidichthys flavolineatus</i> (Lacépède)	<b>dech</b>
<i>Mulloidichthys samoensis</i> (Günther)	<b>dech</b> (N), <b>chemisech</b> (S)
<i>Parupeneus barberinus</i> (Lacépède)	<b>bang</b>
<i>Parupeneus bifasciatus</i> (Lacépède)	<b>chedebedobr</b>
<i>Parupeneus cyclostomus</i> (Lacépède)	<b>oiachd, tur- anglbang</b> (yellow phase)
<i>Parupeneus indicus</i> (Shaw)	<b>ldebsungl</b>

<i>Parupeneus trifasciatus</i> (Lacépède)	<b>bang</b>
<i>Upeneus tragula</i> (Richardson)	<b>uleangl</b>
<i>Upeneus vittatus</i> (Forsskål)	<b>uleangl</b>

## 56. MONODACTYLIDAE (FINGERFISHES)

<i>Monodactylus argenteus</i> (Linnaeus)	<b>keyam</b>
<i>Monodactylus sebae</i> Lacépède	<b>keyam</b>

## 57. PEMIPHERIDAE (SWEEPERS)

<i>Pempheris oualensis</i> Cuvier & Valenciennes	<b>ubid</b>
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## 58. CHAETODONTIDAE (BUTTERFLYFISHES)

All fishes of the genera *Chaetodon*, *Forcipiger*, and *Coradion* have the same name, **chelebesoi**, with the interesting exception of *Chaetodon unimaculatus*. This fish has a large black spot on either side. Its Palauan name, **temengula melechtadui**, relates to its being held between two fingers when presented to a deity as food, thereby giving it the spots. The species of *Heniochus* are called **kaming**, the same as that for goats. Adults of some species of *Heniochus* have two horns on their foreheads.

<i>Chaetodon</i> spp.	<b>chelebesoi</b>
<i>Chaetodon unimaculatus</i> Bloch	<b>temengula melechtadui</b>
<i>Coradion</i> spp.	<b>chelebesoi</b>
<i>Forcipiger</i> spp.	<b>chelebesoi</b>
<i>Heniochus</i> spp.	<b>kaming</b>

## 59. EPHIPPIDAE (SPADEFISHES)

We have collected *Platax orbicularis* (Forsskål) and *P. pinnatus* (Linnaeus) in Palau. Both are called **llelameduu** when smaller than about 13 cm and **buls** when large. **Llelameduu** means "leaf of the breadfruit tree" in reference to the resemblance of the young *Platax orbicularis* to drifting leaves.

<i>Platax</i> spp.	<b>llelameduu</b> ( < 13 cm), <b>buls</b> (> 13 cm)
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## 60. SCATOPHAGIDAE (SCATS)

*Scatophagus argus* (Linnaeus) **chubei**

## 61. POMACANTHIDAE (ANGELFISHES)

The name **mud**, applied to most species of the small pomacanthid genus *Centropyge*, is also used for many of the damselfishes (see Pomacentridae). A similar confusion of pomacanthid and pomacentrid names has been found in Tahiti (Randall, in press).

*Centropyge bispinosus* (Günther) **ngemngumk***Centropyge* spp. **mud***Euxiphipops sexstriatus* **cher**

(Cuvier &amp; Valenciennes)

*Euxiphipops xanthometapon* **ngemngumk**

(Bleeker)

*Pomacanthus imperator* (Bloch) **klbou***Pygoplites diacanthus* (Boddaert) **ngemngumk**

## 62. ZANCLIDAE (MOORISH IDOL FAMILY)

*Zanclus cornutus* (Linnaeus) **karamarama-  
duu**

## 63. POMACENTRIDAE (DAMSELFISHES)

These small fishes are generally lumped together into two main groups by Palauans, a *Dascyllus-Chromis* division (**cheremelamerand**, "animal of the coral") and an *Abudefduf-Pomacentrus* division (**mud**). We employ the genus *Abudefduf* in the broad sense; it needs to be subdivided into several genera.

*Abudefduf bengalensis* (Bloch) **kllibei***Abudefduf sordidus* (Forsskål) **kllibei***Abudefduf* spp. **mud***Chromis* spp. **cheremela-  
merand***Dascyllus* spp. **cheremela-  
merand***Pomacentrus perspicillatus* **etitl**

Cuvier &amp; Valenciennes

*Pomacentrus* spp. **mud**

## 64. LABRIDAE (WRASSES)

An interesting nomenclatural distinction has arisen with the largest (and by Palauan standards most edible) fish of this family, *Cheilinus undulatus*. Fish smaller than 60 cm in length,

which are primarily creamy white and brown, are called **ngimr**. Larger fish undergo a color change to bluish green and are generally called **maml**. Two kinds of **maml** are distinguished: **didmecheilmaml**, which is almost entirely blue-green, and **triidmaml**, which is darker than **didmecheilmaml** and has more black in the bars on its scales. **Triid** is also the name for the white-browed rail, *Poliolimnas cinereus*. Palauans have nicknamed *Choerodon anchorago* **eitin** because of its comparative strength when fighting a spear—likening it to an 18-horsepower outboard motor. **Udoudungelel** is also the name for *Scarus xanthochir*. *Epibulus insidiator* is called **ngerengerodl**, which means "a boat with a sail that is hoisted," and refers to the highly extendable jaw of the fish. **Ngetngot** and **kayeb** are wrasse names for which we have not been able to determine scientific names.

*Anampses caeruleopunctatus* **udoudungelel**

Rüppell

*Cheilinus fasciatus* (Bloch) **kerdeu***Cheilinus trilobatus* Lacépède **adeyaoch***Cheilinus undulatus* Rüppell **ngimr** (< 60cm), **did-****mecheil-****maml**

(&gt; 60 cm),

**triidmaml**

(&gt; 60 cm)

*Cheilio inermis* (Forsskål) **ngiuut***Choerodon anchorago* (Bloch) **budech, eitin***Coris aygula* Lacépède **uluch***Coris gaimard* (Quoy & **dudalm**

Gaimard)

*Epibulus insidiator* (Pallas) **ngerengerodl***Gomphosus varius* Lacépède **merirchesengl***Halichoeres* spp. **sisir***Hemigymnus melapterus* (Bloch) **klsieb***Hemipteronotus taeniourus* **dudalm**

(Lacépède)

*Labroides dimidiatus* (Cuvier **tengadidik**

&amp; Valenciennes)

*Pseudodax moluccanus* (Cuvier **udoudungelel**

&amp; Valenciennes)

*Stethojulis bandanensis* **tilobed recho-**(Bleeker) **mesangl***Thalassoma fuscum* (Lacépède) **telebakl** (male),**ngot** (female)*Thalassoma purpurum* **sechiir** (male),(Forsskål) **ngot** (female)

## 65. SCARIDAE (PARROTFISHES)

There are two general names for parrotfishes in Palauan. The most common is **butiliang**. This comes from **botella**, the Spanish word for bottle, and is now the Palauan word; it particularly applies to the blue and green Japanese sake and shoyu bottles. The other general name is **mellemau**, which is the Palauan word for both the colors blue and green. In both instances, the Palauan name for the family refers to the predominant blue and green colors of many of the fishes. An antiquated name for this family is **mengetaoch**, which means "eats the boat channel near the village," referring to the group's grazing habits. **Udoudungelel** means "money teeth," and describes the green teeth of *Scarus xanthochir*. **Kiuid** is also the name for the Micronesian starling, *Aplonis opacus*. **Uloiloaochl** distinguishes the females of *Scarus oviceps* and *S. scaber* from **uloi**, the archer fish. We have been unable to obtain specimens for three reported members of this family, **melchotchachau**, **mertebetabek**, and **kmull**. Parrotfishes may exhibit dramatic differences in color with sex. When two names are given for scarid fishes, and the second is labelled "(male)," it refers to the terminal male phase, which is often primarily green.

<i>Bolbometopon muricatus</i> (Cuvier & Valenciennes)	<b>berdebed</b> (small), <b>kemedukl</b> (large)
<i>Calotomus spinidens</i> (Quoy & Gaimard)	<b>dekedekuuked</b>
<i>Chlorurus bicolor</i> (Rüppell)	<b>beadl, ngesngis</b> (male)
<i>Leptoscarus vaigiensis</i> (Quoy & Gaimard)	<b>kesuu</b>
<i>Scarus rubroviolaceus</i> (Bleeker)	<b>mesekelatlelebt</b>
<i>Scarus bleekeri</i> (Weber & de Beaufort)	<b>besachelutengl</b>
<i>Scarus blochi</i> Cuvier & Valenciennes	<b>ngemoil</b>
<i>Scarus chlorodon</i> Jenyns	<b>mesekelat</b>
<i>Scarus forsteri</i> Cuvier & Valenciennes	<b>mul</b>
<i>Scarus gibbon</i> Forsskål	<b>telebakl, chelop- techukl, molo- kidubch</b> (male)
<i>Scarus gibbus</i> Rüppell	<b>chotord</b>

<i>Scarus globiceps</i> Cuvier & Valenciennes	<b>ngemoil, elebt, butiliang</b> (male)
<i>Scarus harid</i> (Forsskål)	<b>ngyaoch</b> (small), <b>bergism</b> (large)
<i>Scarus lepidus</i> Jenyns	<b>mesekelat</b>
<i>Scarus oviceps</i> Cuvier & Valenciennes	<b>uloiloaochl, butiliang</b> (male)
<i>Scarus scaber</i> Cuvier & Valenciennes	<b>uloiloaochl, mengetaoch</b> (male)
<i>Scarus sexvittatus</i> Rüppell	<b>mesekelat, ngesngis</b> (male)
<i>Scarus sordidus</i> Forsskål	<b>derbetelloi, butiliang</b> (male)
<i>Scarus venosus</i> Cuvier & Valenciennes	<b>kiuid, menge- taoch</b> (male)
<i>Scarus xanthochir</i> Bleeker	<b>udoudungelel</b>

## 66. BLENNIIDAE (BLENNIES)

**Chotord** is also the name for *Scarus gibbus*.

<i>Cirripectes</i> spp.	<b>odiduerabong</b>
<i>Entomacrodus</i> spp.	<b>bunguk</b>
<i>Istiblennius</i> spp.	<b>bunguk, chotord</b>

## 67. GOBIIDAE (GOBIES)

The general name for gobiid fishes, **modechel**, is also used for the eleotrid *Ophiocara porocephala*. The amphibious genus *Periophthalmus*, which is sometimes classified in a family by itself, is called **temaitolok**.

<i>Periophthalmus</i> spp.	<b>temaitolok</b>
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## 68. ELEOTRIDAE (SLEEPERS)

<i>Eleotris</i> spp.	<b>soloch</b>
<i>Ophiocara aporos</i> (Bleeker)	<b>soloch</b> (small), <b>klakesol</b> (large)
<i>Ophiocara porocephala</i> (Cuvier & Valenciennes)	<b>modechel</b>

## 69. ACANTHURIDAE (SURGEONFISHES)

No single general Palauan name applies to all of the surgeonfishes. Rather the family is broken into two groups: the species of *Naso* are called **borch**, and the fishes of the genus *Acanthurus* and other genera are termed **ches-**

**engl.** Several of the acanthurids, particularly those of the genus *Naso*, have different names in the northern and southern sectors of the Palau Islands.

**Mesekuuklbad** means **mesekuuk** "from rocky regions." **Sechou** is the name for *Naso brevirostris*, a species with a very long rostral horn as an adult. It is also the name for reef herons and cattle egrets, which have long bills. **Chongchutl** is the Palauan word for sucking on a piece of sugarcane; it applies also to two species of *Naso* because of the Palauan practice of sucking on the soft parts of the skull of these fishes. **Chum** is also the Palauan name for hermit crabs. **Daraboksos** is the word for "a file" and refers to the skin of *Naso vlamingii*. Finally, **bisch**, the name for *Zebrasoma veliferum*, is often used in connection with plants and animals that will cause a rash if eaten; *Z. veliferum* is not considered good food by many Palauans.

<i>Acanthurus gabhm</i> (Forsskål)	<b>mesekuuklbad</b>
<i>Acanthurus glaucopareius</i> Cuvier	<b>urur</b>
<i>Acanthurus guttatus</i> Bloch & Schneider	<b>isaseb</b>
<i>Acanthurus lineatus</i> (Linnaeus)	<b>belai</b>
<i>Acanthurus mata</i> (Cuvier)	<b>chesengl</b>
<i>Acanthurus nigrofuscus</i> (Forsskål)	<b>masch</b>
<i>Acanthurus nigroris</i> Cuvier & Valenciennes	<b>masch</b>
<i>Acanthurus olivaceus</i> Bloch & Schneider	<b>kalelaumai</b> (N), <b>merebas</b> (S)
<i>Acanthurus pyroferus</i> Kittlitz	<b>uais</b>
<i>Acanthurus triostegus</i> (Linnaeus)	<b>chelas</b>
<i>Acanthurus xanthopterus</i> Cuvier & Valenciennes	<b>mesekuuk</b>
<i>Ctenochaetus binotatus</i> Randall	<b>masch</b>
<i>Ctenochaetus striatus</i> (Quoy & Gaimard)	<b>masch</b>
<i>Naso brachycentron</i> (Cuvier & Valenciennes)	<b>chongchutl</b>
<i>Naso brevirostris</i> (Cuvier & Valenciennes)	<b>sechou</b> (N), <b>demrechl</b> (S)
<i>Naso hexacanthus</i> (Bleeker)	<b>demelengis</b> (N), <b>borch</b> (S)

<i>Naso lituratus</i> (Bloch & Schneider)	<b>cherangl</b>
<i>Naso tuberosus</i> (Lacépède)	<b>chongchutl</b>
<i>Naso unicornis</i> (Forsskål)	<b>chum</b>
<i>Naso vlamingii</i> (Cuvier & Valenciennes)	<b>daraboksos</b> , <b>melangesaki</b>
<i>Paracanthurus hepatus</i> (Linnaeus)	<b>mases</b>
<i>Zebrasoma scopas</i> (Cuvier)	<b>masch</b>
<i>Zebrasoma veliferum</i> (Bloch)	<b>bisch</b>

#### 70. SIGANIDAE (RABBITFISHES)

Four species of this family have the same Palauan name, **reked**, which means "to be close to" an object. This refers to the pairing habit of all four predominantly yellow species. **Klels** is used as a nickname for *Siganus lineatus* and also applies to a siganid species we have not collected.<sup>5</sup>

<i>Siganus corallinus</i> (Cuvier & Valenciennes)	<b>reked</b>
<i>Siganus doliatus</i> (Cuvier)	<b>reked</b>
<i>Siganus canaliculatus</i> (Park)	<b>meyas</b>
<i>Siganus lineatus</i> (Cuvier & Valenciennes)	<b>klsebuul</b>
<i>Siganus puellus</i> (Schlegel)	<b>reked</b>
<i>Siganus punctatus</i> (Bloch & Schneider)	<b>bebail</b>
<i>Siganus argenteus</i> (Quoy & Gaimard)	<b>beduut</b>
<i>Siganus spinus</i> (Linnaeus)	<b>chepsall</b>
<i>Siganus vulpinus</i> (Schlegel & Muller)	<b>reked</b>
<i>Siganus</i> sp.	<b>klsebuulimerang</b>

#### 71. GEMPYLIDAE (SNAKE MACKERELS)

*Promethichthys prometheus* and the trichiurid *Trichiurus lepturus* have the same name, **telouchedui**; however, the Palauans are aware that they are different fishes.

<i>Promethichthys prometheus</i> (Cuvier & Valenciennes)	<b>telouchedui</b>
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#### 72. TRICHIURIDAE (CUTLASSFISHES)

<i>Trichiurus lepturus</i> Linnaeus	<b>telouchedui</b>
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<sup>5</sup> *S. punctatissimus* Fowler & Bean and *S. vermiculatus* (Cuvier & Valenciennes) occur rarely in Palau but have no native names. D. J. Woodland (personal communication) has advised us on the specific names of siganid fishes.

## 73. SCOMBRIDAE (TUNAS AND MACKERELS)

During the Japanese occupation of Palau between World War I and World War II, there was a long-line and bait-boat fishery for tunas. Many Palauans were employed in this fishing industry. At that time, they adopted the Japanese names for the three most important commercial tunas, and these are now the "native" designations. Since the early Palauans seldom fished outside the lagoon, the replacement of the little-used Palauan names by the Japanese names is readily understood. The Japanese names still in use are **soda katsuo**, **katsuo**, and **manguro**. A second name for the yellowfin tuna, **tekuu**, comes from Tobi, a small island 500 km southwest of Koror with an entirely different language and culture. The second name listed for *Grammatorcynus bicarinatus*, **biturturch**, means "smell of urine" because of the odor of the flesh while cooking. The old Palauan name for *Katsuwonus* was **mokorokor**, and for *Euthynnus*, **chesodm**. Large *Katsuwonus* are sometimes called **diba** (from the English "diver") because of their sounding habit when hooked.

<i>Acanthocybium solanderi</i> (Cuvier)	<b>keskas</b> (N), <b>mersad</b> (S)
<i>Auxis thazard</i> (Lacépède)	<b>chesodm</b>
<i>Euthynnus affinis</i> (Cantor)	<b>soda katsuo</b> , <b>chesodm</b>
<i>Grammatorcynus bicarinatus</i> (Quoy & Gaimard)	<b>mokorokor</b> , <b>biturturch</b>
<i>Gymnosarda unicolor</i> (Rüppell)	<b>kerengob</b>
<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i> (Linnaeus)	<b>katsuo</b> , <b>mokorokor</b>
<i>Rastrelliger brachysoma</i> (Bleeker)	<b>smaach</b>
<i>Scomber japonicus</i> Houttuyn	<b>smaach</b>
<i>Scomberomorus commersoni</i> (Lacépède)	<b>ngelngal</b>
<i>Thunnus albacares</i> (Bonnaterre)	<b>tekuu</b> , <b>manguro</b>

## 74. XIPHIIDAE (BROADBILL SWORDFISH FAMILY)

We are not certain if the swordfish, *Xiphias gladius* Linnaeus, occurs in Palauan waters, but

individual specimens unloaded from Japanese long-line vessels receive the name **meluis**, the same as for the various species of marlin. Kami et al. (1968) recorded one specimen of 2 meters from Guam, so it seems likely that this wide-ranging fish reaches Palau, 1,000 km to the south.

## 75. ISTIOPHORIDAE (BILLFISHES)

<i>Istiophorus platypterus</i> (Shaw & Nodder)	<b>tekrar</b>
<i>Makaira</i> spp.	<b>meluis</b>

## 76. BOTHIDAE (LEFTEYE FLOUNDERS)

<i>Bothus mancus</i> (Broussonet)	<b>rrai</b>
<i>Bothus pantherinus</i> (Rüppell)	<b>rrai</b>

## 77. OSTRACIONTIDAE (TRUNKFISHES)

**Riaml** is also the name for the tree *Pangium edule*, which has fruit similar in shape and color to *Ostracion*.

<i>Lactoria cornutus</i> (Linnaeus)	<b>karamasus</b>
<i>Ostracion cubicus</i> Linnaeus	<b>bubeu</b> (small), <b>riaml</b> (large)

## 78. BALISTIDAE (TRIGGERFISHES)

The following names refer to fishes of this family (or possibly to the related monacanthids), but we have not seen specimens: **brober**, **ewilt**, **klbeob**, **lungribtal**, **ngelengelt**, and **choliktungch**.

<i>Balistapus undulatus</i> (Mungo Park)	<b>ilambrokl</b>
<i>Balistoides niger</i> (Bonnaterre)	<b>tetachruchel</b> , <b>tungibball</b>
<i>Balistoides viridescens</i> (Bloch & Schneider)	<b>beab</b>
<i>Pseudobalistes flavimarginatus</i> (Rüppell)	<b>cherakl</b> , <b>dukl</b>
<i>Rhinecanthus aculeatus</i> (Linnaeus)	<b>tungch</b>
<i>Rhinecanthus rectangulus</i> (Bloch & Schneider)	<b>tungch</b>
<i>Rhinecanthus verrucosus</i> (Linnaeus)	<b>tungch</b>



*Sufflamen bursa* (Bloch & Schneider) **tungch**

*Sufflamen niger* (Mungo Park) **tungch**

79. MONACANTHIDAE (FILEFISHES)

The name **lung** comes from the word for "stupid." Palauans state that this refers to the general ease with which *Alutera* may be approached and speared.

*Alutera scripta* (Osbeck) **lung**

*Cantherbines pardalis* (Rüppell) **yalk**

*Oxymonacanthus longirostris* (Bloch & Schneider) **moichall**

80. TETRAODONTIDAE (PUFFERS)

*Arothron stellatus* (Bloch & Schneider) **tiaultelbudl**

*Arothron nigropunctatus* (Bloch & Schneider) **telbudl**

81. DIODONTIDAE (PORCUPINEFISHES)

**Drutm** is also one of the names for the cattle egret, *Bubulcus ibis*.

*Diodon hystrix* Linnaeus **drutm**

*Diodon holacanthus* Linnaeus **drutm**

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