

Guide for the Identification of Commonly Caught Fish in the Bottom Set Gillnet Fishery in the Gambia



USAID/Ba Nafaa Project The Gambia



Acknowledgements

The proper classification and identification of fish species is one of the most important components of data collection. This guide provides some species identification facts and hints for field agents and consumers.

This guide was produced by Gibril Gabis, Emily K. Nichols and Lina Kelpsaite from the USAID/Ba-Nafaa Project and Christopher Parkins, Kathleen Castro and Barbara Somers from the University of Rhode Island. Photos were provided by the aforementioned USAID/Ba-Nafaa and University of Rhode Island staff members, as well as sources listed in the reference section of the guide.

This guide could not have been completed without the help of the fishermen who have played a valuable role in creating a sustainable future for Gambian fisheries.

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Preface

These are photos of species captured in the bottom set gillnet fishery in Sanyang, Kartong, Brufut, and Gunjur in The Gambia. This fishery captures sole destined for the export market but also catches many other species for market.

The species are listed in three tables following this preface. The tables are organized by the species common name, local name and scientific or Latin name respectively. Within each table the species are further organized into pelagic, benthic and invertebrate species.

The pages that follow the species list include a photo of each species with additional identification characteristics and references to similar species to further assist with identification.

Identification characteristics were obtained from the Guide to Senegalese Fish.



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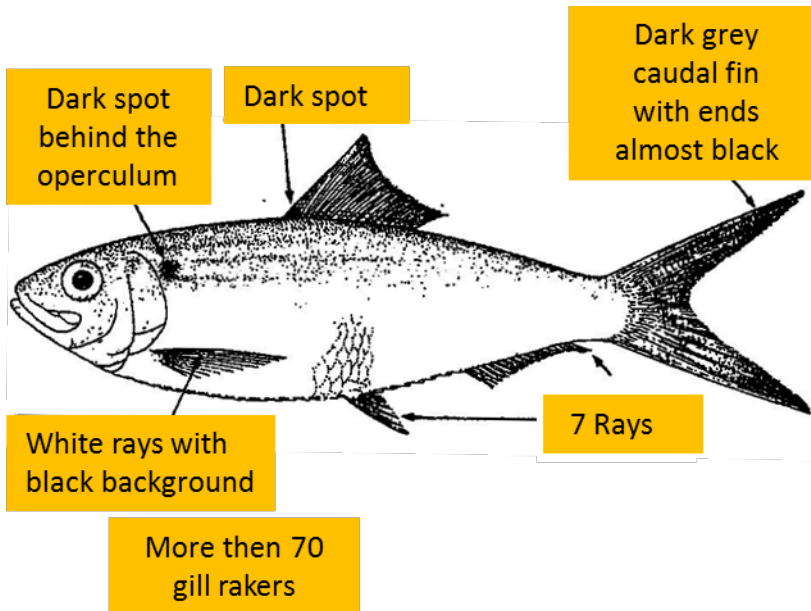


Common Name: Madeiran sardinella

Local Name: Yaboye tass

Scientific Name: *Sardinella maderensis*

The Madeiran sardinella is a pelagic, coastal zone, subtropical climate species that is found in brackish and marine environments; usually at depths of 0 to 80-meters. It inhabits coastal waters and primarily feeds on small planktonic invertebrates, fish larvae, and phytoplankton. Breeding occurs from July to September; adults and juveniles show north-south migrations in their range, which correlates with the seasonal upwelling.



Common Length: 25 cm

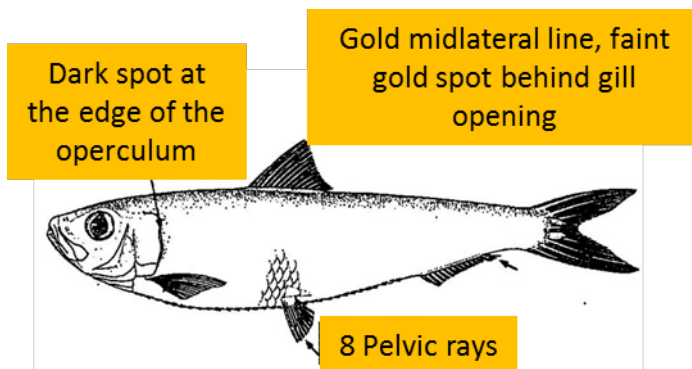
Maximum Length: 37 cm



Common Name: Round sardinella

Local Name: Spanish sardine/Yaboe moroc

Scientific Name: *Sardinella aurita*



The round sardinella is a coastal, pelagic species that prefers clear saline water. It ranges from inshore and near surface to the edge of shelf down to 350 m. Breeding occurs throughout the year with distinct peaks in mid-June through September. There are two principal spawning periods in areas linked with upwelling regimes. Juveniles stay in nursery areas (off Senegal/Gambia) but upon maturity rejoin adult stocks in the colder offshore waters. Feeds mainly on zooplankton, especially copepods, with phytoplankton being eaten by juveniles.

Common length: 25 cm

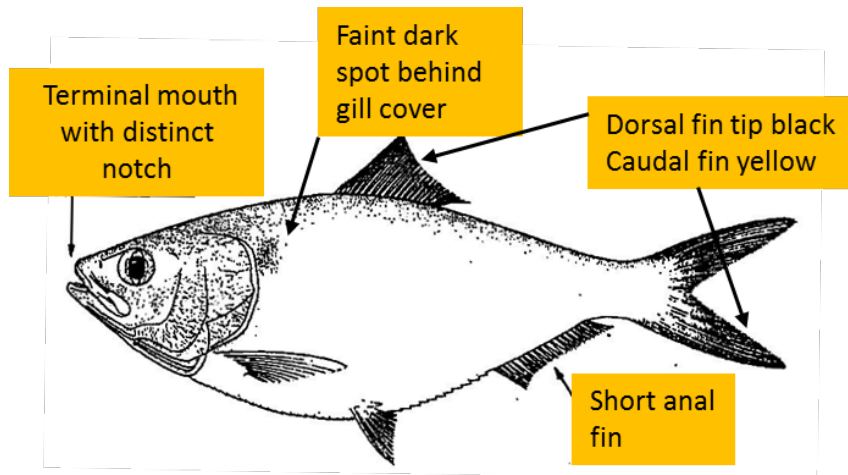
Maximum length 35 cm



Common Name: Shad

Local Name: Bonga/Kobo/Chalow

Scientific Name: *Ethmalosa fimbriata*



The shad is a pelagic, catadromous, tropical climate species that is found in marine, freshwater, and brackish environments; usually at depths of 0 to 50 meters. It inhabits in shore waters, lagoons, and upstream rivers (approximately 300 km). Breeding occurs throughout the year in waters with salinities up to 38 ppt with peaks at the mouth of the River Gambia in June/July and October/November. Spawning occurs in the sea, estuaries, and rivers. Feeds by filtering phytoplankton.

Common Length: 25 cm

Maximum Length: 45 cm



Common Name: West African Spanish mackerel

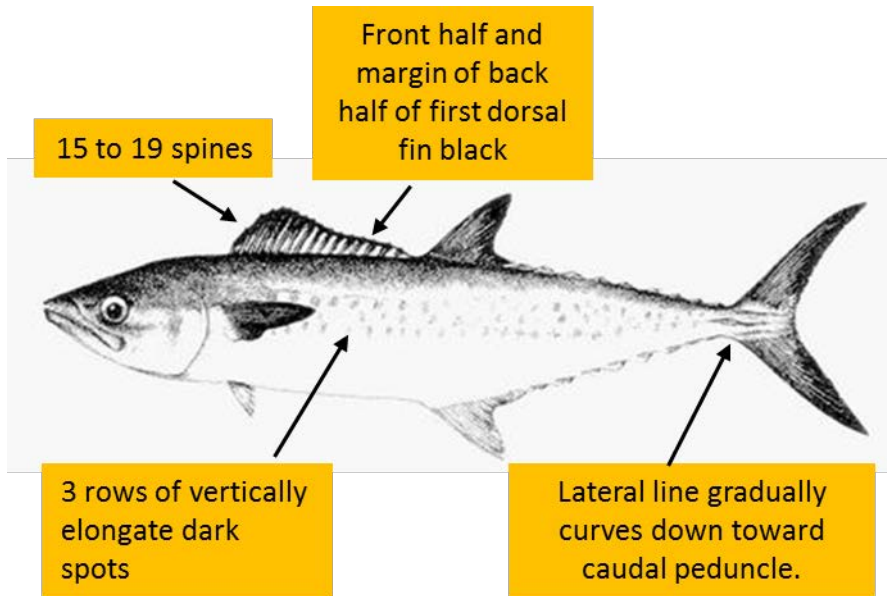
Local Name: Njuna

Scientific Name: *Scomberomorus tritor*

The West African Spanish mackerel is a pelagic, tropical climate species that is found in brackish and marine environments; usually at depths of 20 to 25 meters. It is found in warm waters and forms schools close to shore. It reproduces in July to August in Mauritania and April to October in Senegal. Eggs and larvae are pelagic. It enters coastal lagoons to feed and eats primarily clupeids, particularly Shad.

Common Length: 75 cm

Maximum Length: 100 cm

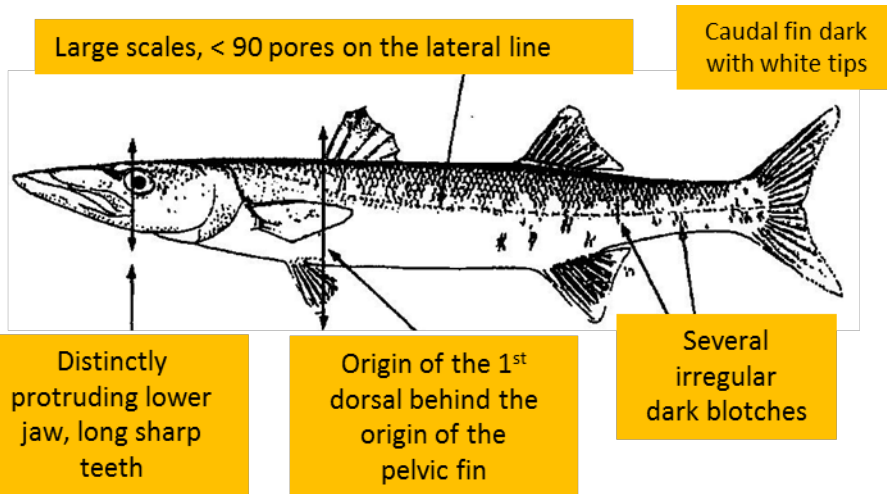




Common Name: Great barracuda

Local Name: Sedda

Scientific Name: *Sphyraena barracuda*



The great barracuda is a reef-associated subtropical climate species that is found in brackish and marine environments worldwide usually at depths of 3 to 30 meters. Adults are found near the water's surface while juveniles inhabit mangroves, estuaries, and shallow inner reef areas. Reproduction patterns are unclear with reports ranging from spawning associated with particular phases of the moon to spawning occurring year round with the exception of winter. Most likely, spawning patterns differ by region. They primarily feed on fish, cephalopods, and shrimp. Typical life span is 14 years.

Common Length: 180 cm

Maximum Length: 200 cm



Common Name: Milk shark

Local Name: Gainde gauge

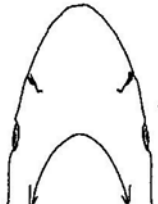
Scientific Name: *Rhizoprionodon acutus*

The milk shark is a benthopelagic tropical climate species that is found in brackish, freshwater, and marine environments. It inhabits continental shelves, and occurs near the surface in shallow waters. They give birth to live young with approximately 2-5 young per litter. They feed primarily on small pelagic and benthic bony fish, but also cephalopods and other invertebrates.

Common Length: 100 cm

Maximum Length: 175 cm

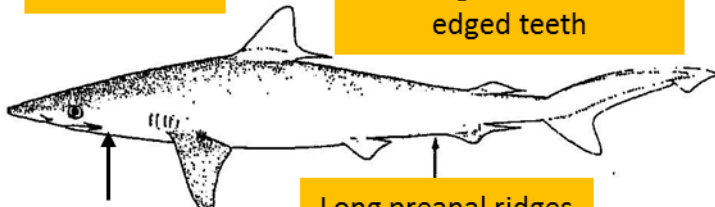
***IUCN listed as Least Concern (LC)**



Ventral view of the head



Upper and lower triangular smooth edged teeth



Long folds at mouth corner

Long preanal ridges

First dorsal fin much larger than second



Common Name: Atlantic bonito

Local Name: Woyain/Walass

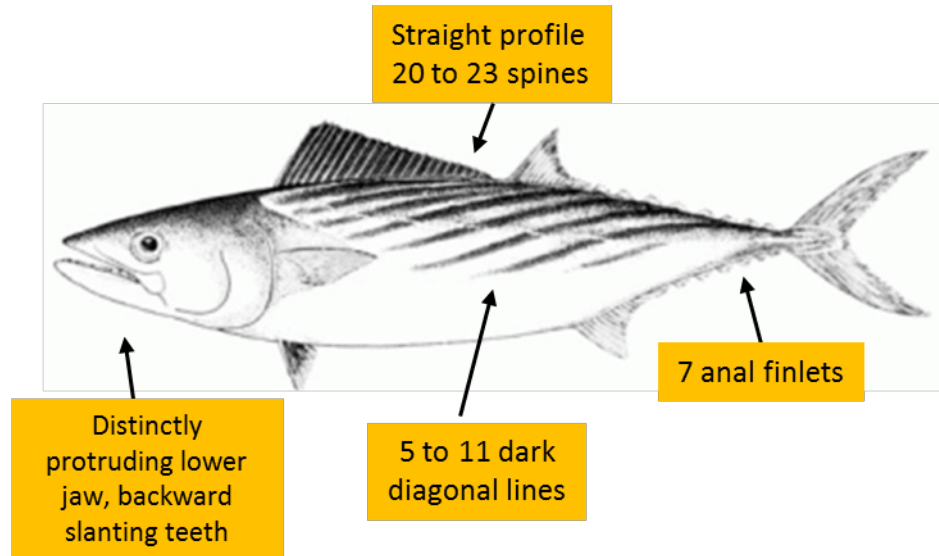
Scientific Name: *Sarda sarda*

The Atlantic bonito is a pelagic subtropical climate species that is found in brackish and shallow marine environments; usually at depths of 80 to 200 meters. It is able to adapt to temperatures between 12° to 27° C, and salinities between 14 and 39 ppt. Spawning occurs from December to June, including peaks in January and April, off Senegal and The Gambia. It primarily feeds on small schooling fish, squid, and shrimp; but is also known to be cannibalistic.

Common Length: 50 cm

Maximum Length: 90 cm

***Reports of ciguatera poisoning**

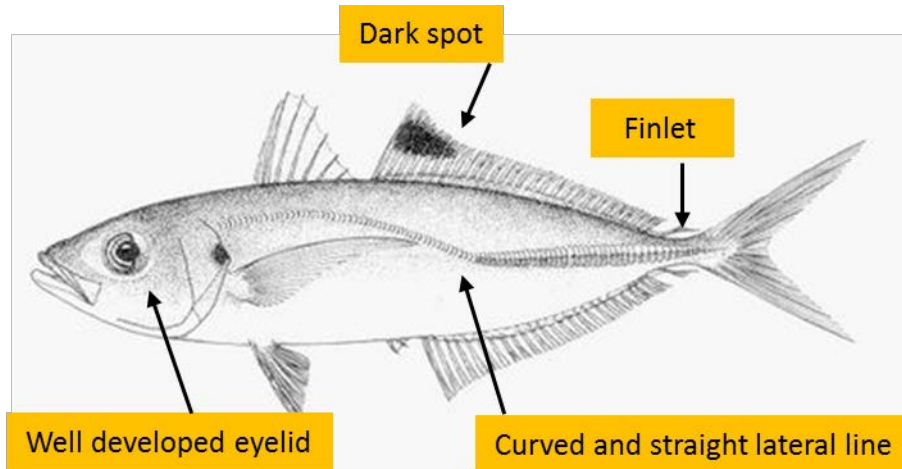




Common Name: False scad

Local Name: Jai

Scientific Name: *Decapterus rhonchus*



The false scad is a subtropical species that is found in marine and brackish environments; usually at depths of 30 to 50 meters. It tends to form schools and occurs frequently near the bottom, but can also be pelagic and sometimes found near the surface. It spawns in shallow waters and the eggs are pelagic. It primarily feeds on invertebrates and small fish.

Common Length: 35 cm

Maximum Length: 60 cm



Common Name: Atlantic bumper

Local Name: Lanya lanya

Scientific Name: *Chloroscombrus chrysurus*

The Atlantic bumper is a pelagic, coastal zone, tropical species that is found in brackish and marine environments; usually at depths of 0 to 55 meters. It inhabits soft bottoms, but sometimes forms schools near the surface. Juveniles are often found in more oceanic waters. It primarily feeds on fish, cephalopods, and zooplankton.

Common Length: 25 cm

Maximum Length: 65 cm

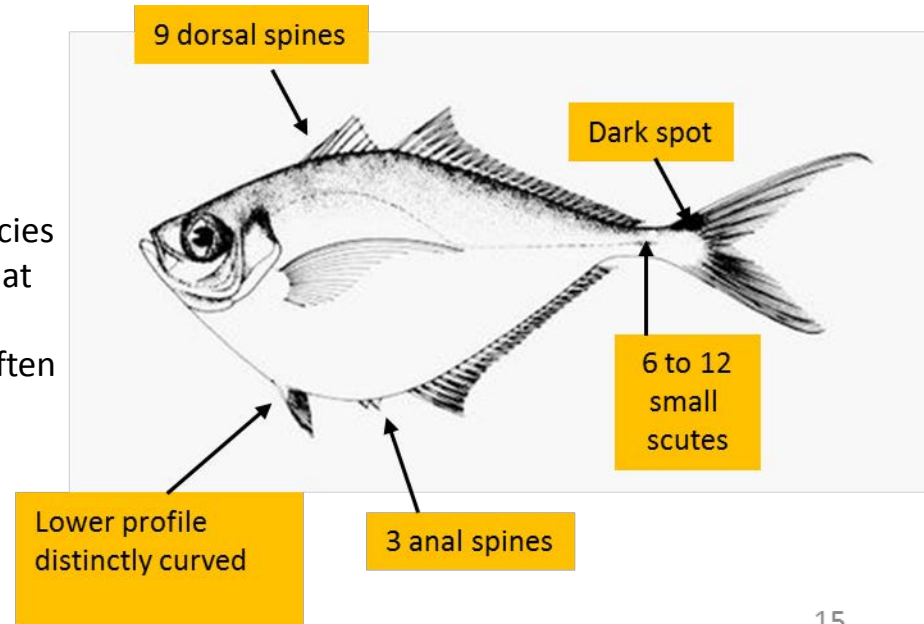




Photo courtesy of Google images: © Mads Scheibye & Claus Qvist Jessen

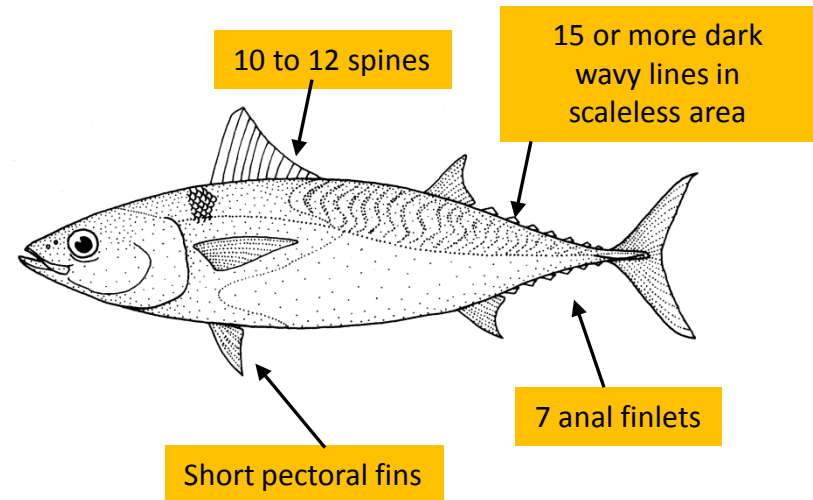
Common Name: Frigate tuna

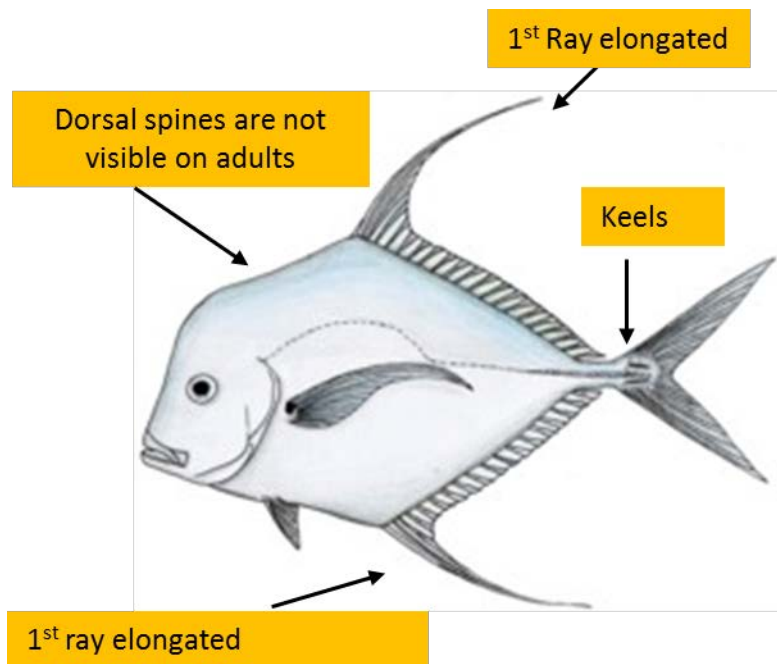
Local name: Kiri kiri

Scientific Name: *Auxis thazard*

The frigate tuna is a pelagic, coastal zone as well as oceanic species. Adults are coastal or near-coastal, while juveniles are more widely spread throughout the world's ocean. Spawning occurs in open water close to the surface where temperatures are greater than 24°C. Eggs are released by females in several batches. It feeds on small fish, squids, planktonic crustaceans, and stomatopod larvae.

Common Length : 30 cm
Maximum Length: 55 cm





Common Name: Alexandria pompano

Local Name: Yawal

Scientific Name: *Alectis alexandrinus*

The alexandria pompano is a pelagic, coastal zone subtropical climate species that is found in marine environments; usually at depths up to 70 meters. Adults are solitary strong swimmers that inhabit coastal waters down to 70 m, while juveniles are usually pelagic and drifting. Spawning occurs in summer months and eggs are pelagic. It primarily feeds on squid and other fishes.

Common Length: 60 cm

Maximum Length: 100 cm



Common Name: Butterfish

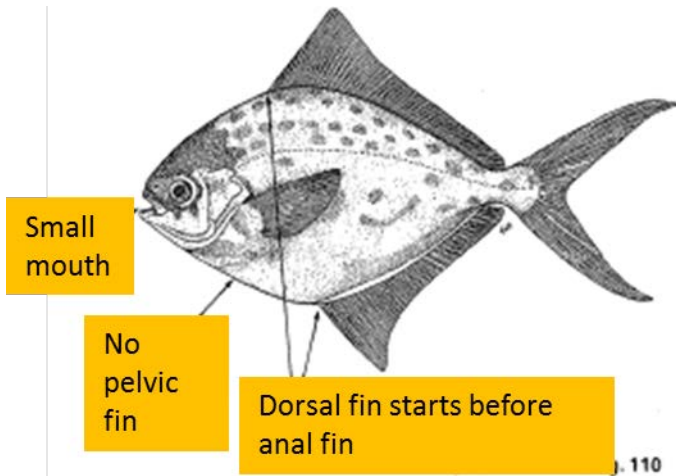
Local Name: Hassaw

Scientific Name: *Stromateus fiatola*

The Butterfish is a pelagic, subtropical climate species that is found in marine environments; usually at depths of 10 to 70 meters. It inhabits waters over continental shelves and juveniles are often associated with pelagic medusae. It feeds primarily on zooplankton, small fishes, and sometimes medusae.

Common Length: 40 cm

Maximum Length: 50 cm





Common Name: Bluespotted seabream

Local Name: Kibaro

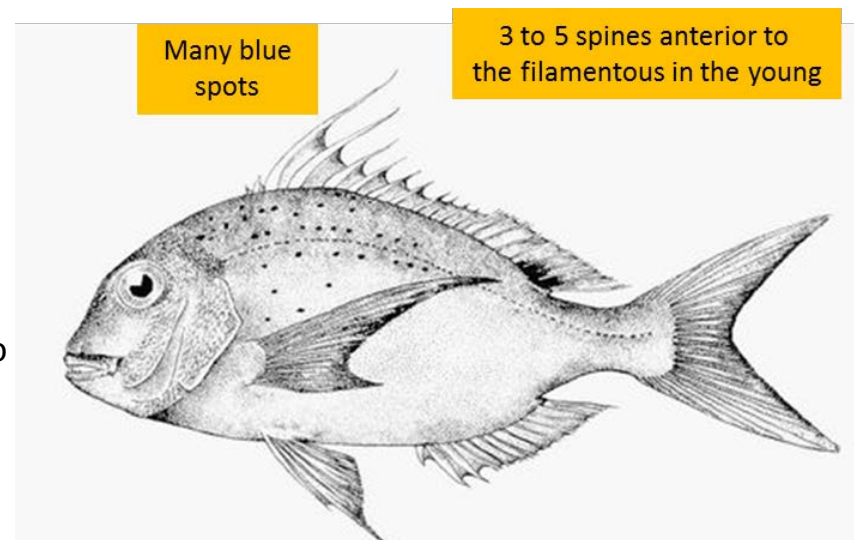
Scientific Name: *Pagrus caeruleostictus*

The bluespotted seabream is a pelagic marine species with a depth range of 30-50 meters. It is generally found in hard bottoms (rocks and rubble), the older individuals in the deeper part of the range, the young in inshore areas. Sexual maturity at 2 years old. Spawning migration occurs parallel to the coast with intermittent spawning between spring and autumn over soft bottoms in shallow waters. Feed mainly on bivalves and also on crustaceans and fish.

Common Length: 55 cm

Maximum Length: 90 cm

Similar Species: Red pandora and West African red snapper





Common Name: African sicklefish

Local Name: Tapandarr

Scientific Name: *Drepane africana*

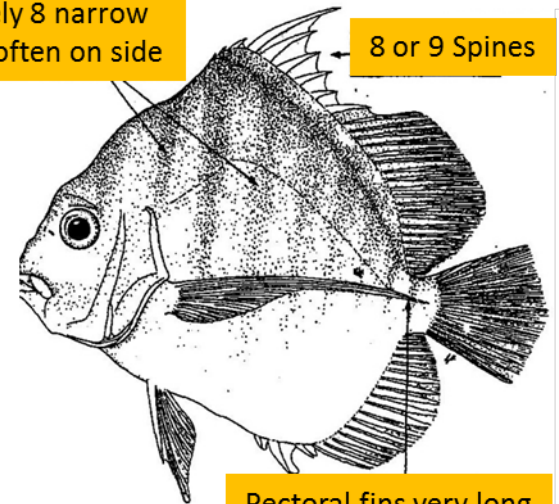
The African sicklefish is a pelagic tropical climate species that is found in brackish and marine environments; usually at depths of 10 to 75 meters. It inhabits sandy and muddy bottoms, and feeds on fish eggs, benthic invertebrates, and detritus.

Common Length: 30 cm

Maximum Length: 45 cm

Approximately 8 narrow dark stripes often on side

8 or 9 Spines



Pectoral fins very long



Common Name: Lusitanian cownose ray

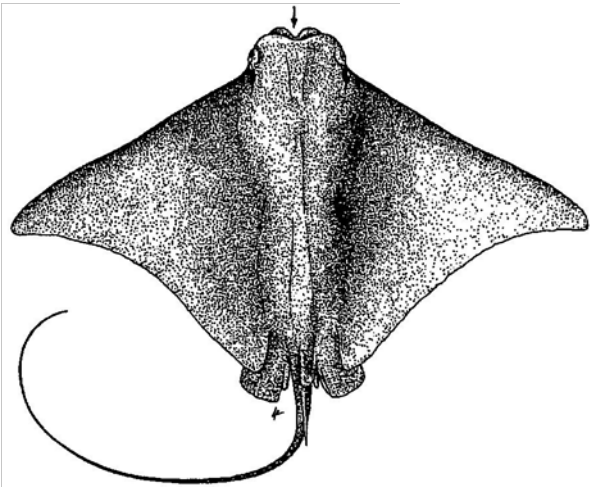
Local Name: Souki

Scientific Name: *Rhinoptera marginata*

The Lusitanian cownose ray is a subtropical pelagic species that is found in marine environments. It inhabits warm temperate coastal waters, and often swims near the surface in large groups. It primarily feeds on crustaceans, fishes, and bottom-living mollusks. It is ovoviviparous with a gestation period of 1-year with 2 to 6 embryos.

Maximum Length: 200 cm

* IUCN listed as Near Threatened (NT)





Common Name: Dusky grouper

Local Name: Coacher

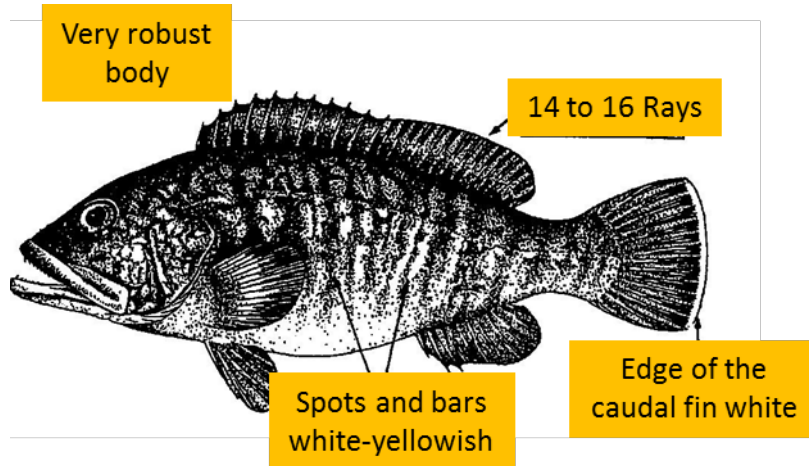
Scientific Name: *Epinephelus guaza*

The dusky grouper is a demersal marine species that is commonly associated with reef habitat. They prefer rocky bottom, in depth ranges of 8-300 meters, where they lead a solitary and territorial life. Juveniles inhabit inshore waters. Juveniles diets include crabs and octopi; while larger individuals diets consist mostly of fish, the majority of which are reef-associated species.

Common Length: unknown

Maximum Length: 150.0 cm

***IUCN listed as Endangered (EN)**





Common Name: Dungat grouper

Local Name: Doye

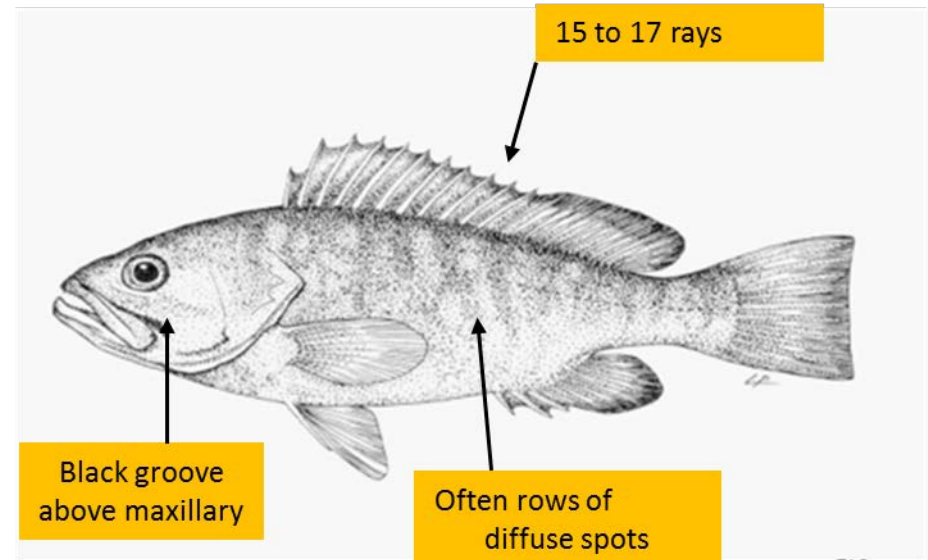
Scientific Name: *Epinephelus gorensis*

The dungat grouper is a demersal, tropical climate species that is found in marine environments; usually at depths of 80 to 300 meters (adults are found in deeper waters). It inhabits rocky, sandy, and muddy bottoms. Little is known about spawning habits of this species. It feeds primarily on crustaceans and fish.

Common Length: 50 cm

Maximum Length: 140 cm

Can be confused with the White and Dusky grouper.



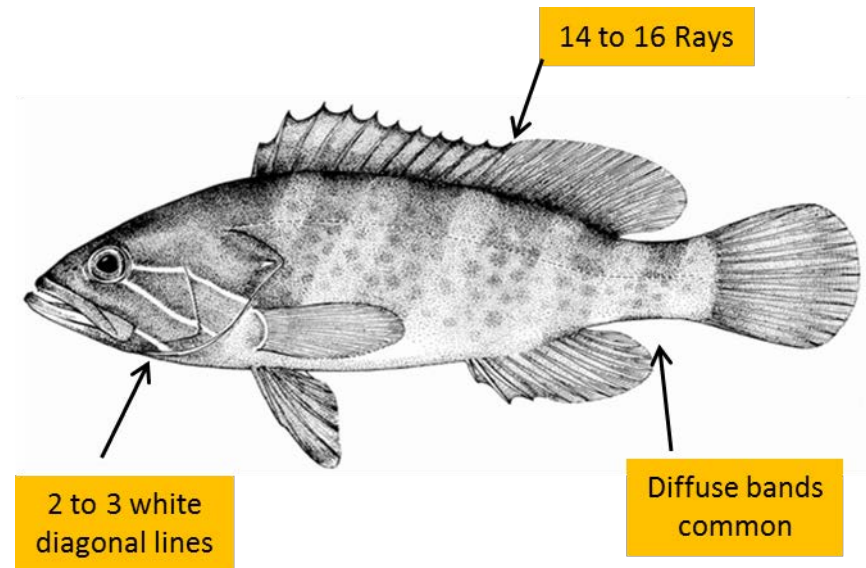


Common Name: White grouper

Local Name: Choff

Scientific Name: *Epinephelus aeneus*

The white grouper is a demersal, tropical climate species that is found in brackish and marine environments; usually at depths of 20 to 200 meters. Adults inhabit rocky and mud-sand bottoms, and juveniles inhabit coastal lagoons and estuaries. Most groupers spawn between May and August and are protogynous hermaphrodites being females first and then males. It primarily feeds on fish, crabs, and cephalopods.

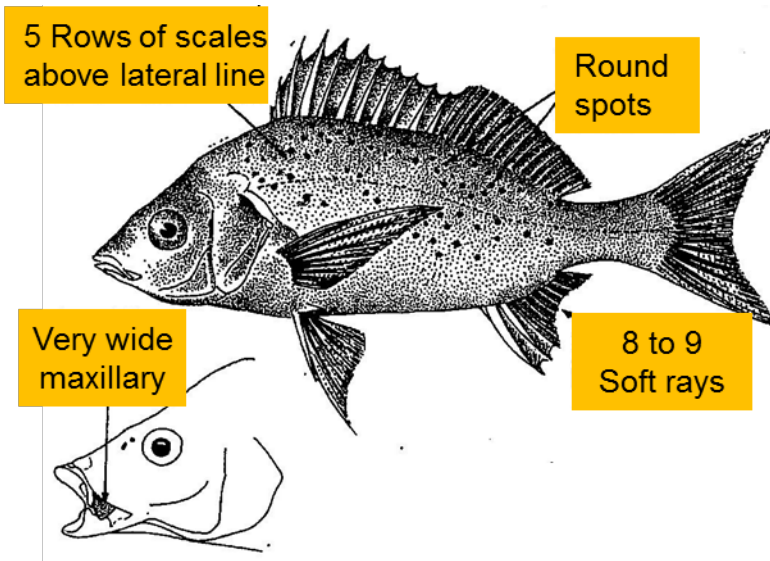


Common Length: 60 cm

Maximum Length: 120 cm

Can be confused with the Dungat and Dusky groupers

***IUCN listed as Near Threatened (NT)**



Common Name: Sompat grunt

Local Name: Sompat

Scientific Name: *Pomadasys jubelini*

The sompat grunt is a demersal tropical climate species that is found in brackish and marine environments; usually at depths of 20 to 50 meters. It inhabits sandy and muddy bottoms of coastal waters and estuaries, and feeds on fish and benthic crustaceans.

Common Length: 45 cm

Maximum Length: 60 cm



Common Name: Bastard grunt

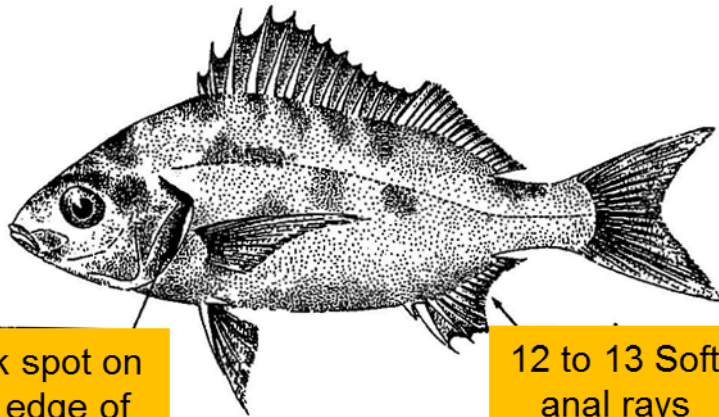
Local Name: Daha

Scientific Name: *Pomadasys incisus*

The bastard grunt is a demersal tropical climate species that is found in brackish and marine environments; usually at depths of 10 to 100-meters. It inhabits rocky and sandy bottoms, and feeds primarily on bottom and near-bottom invertebrates.

Common Length: 25 cm

Maximum Length: 50 cm



Dark spot on the edge of the operculum

12 to 13 Soft anal rays



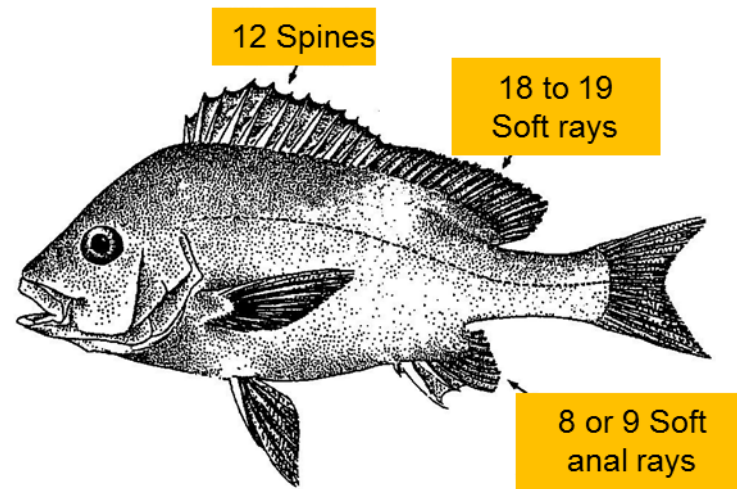
Common Name: Rubberlip grunt

Local Name: Banda

Scientific Name: *Plectorhynchus mediterraneus*

The rubberlip grunt is a demersal tropical climate species that is found in marine environments; usually at depths of 10 to 180-meters. It inhabits sandy and muddy bottoms, and primarily feeds on zoobenthos and zooplankton.

Common Length: 60-cm
Maximum Length: 80-cm





Common Name: Bigeye grunt

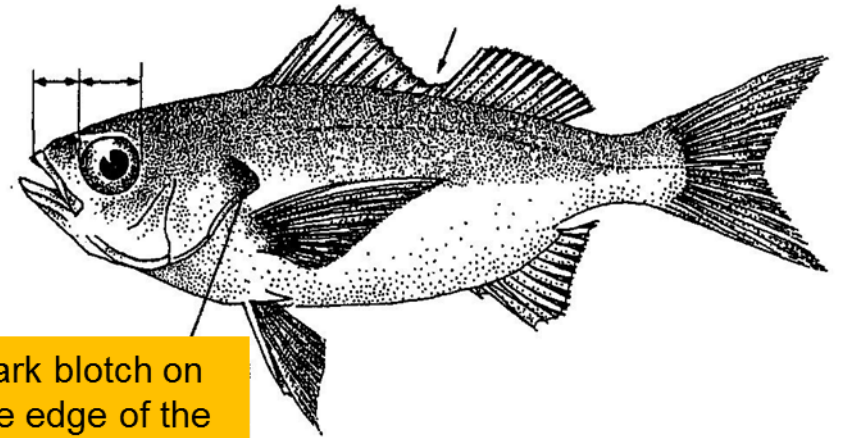
Local Name: Hurr hurr

Scientific Name: *Brachydeuterus auritus*

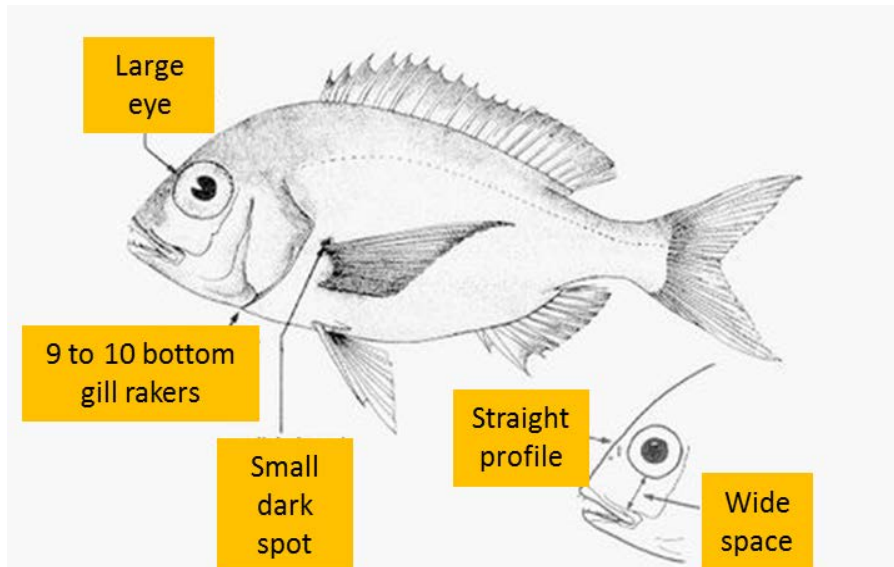
The bigeye grunt is a benthopelagic tropical climate species that is found in brackish and marine environments; usually at depths of 10 to 100-meters. It inhabits sandy and muddy bottoms, remaining near the bottom during the daytime and moving up to open water at night. It feeds primarily on invertebrates and small fish.

Common Length: 23-cm

Maximum Length: 30-cm



Dark blotch on the edge of the operculum



Common Name: Angolan dentex

Local Name: Camara camara/Butterfish

Scientific Name: *Dentex angolensis*

The angolan dentex is a demersal tropical climate species that is found in marine environments; usually at depths of 15 to 300 meters. It inhabits various types of bottoms on the continental shelf and slope. It is a protogynous hermaphrodite with most individuals beginning as females and changing to males at a length of 18–23 cm. It feeds primarily on crustaceans, but also fish, mollusks and worms.

Common Length: 25 cm

Maximum Length: 37 cm



Common Name: Gilthead seabream

Local Name: Warrange

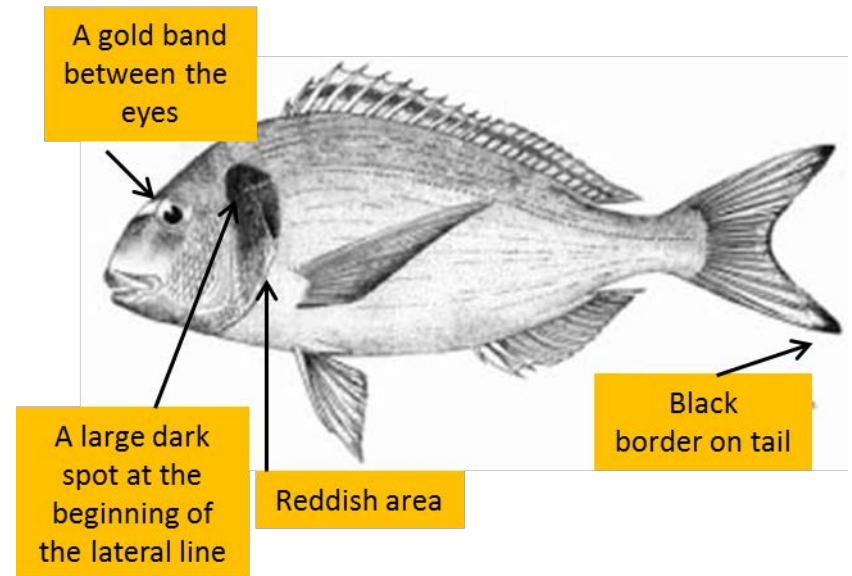
Scientific Name: *Sparus aurata*

The gilthead seabream is a demersal, subtropical climate species that is found in rocky and seaweed bottoms but is sometimes caught on sandy grounds. Young are usually at depths of 1 to 30 meters while adults can be up to 150 meters. They are protandric hermaphrodite; (first males, then females). Spawning occurs from October to December. They are mainly carnivorous, (shellfish which they can easily crush, crustaceans and fish) but can sometimes be herbivorous. They inhabit seagrass beds and sandy bottoms.

Common Length: 35 cm

Maximum Length: 70 cm

Photo courtesy of Google images: Dale Edmunds





Common Name: Cassava croaker

Local Name: Fotta

Scientific Name: *Pseudotolithus senegalensis*

The cassava croaker is a demersal tropical climate species that is found in brackish and marine environments; usually at depths up to 70 meters. It inhabits muddy, sandy, and rocky bottoms. Smaller individuals are found in shallow waters, but rarely enter estuaries. It primarily feeds on fish, shrimp, and crabs. Spawning occurs from November to March.

Common Length: 50 cm

Maximum Length: 114 cm

Can be confused with longneck, bobo, and law croakers.

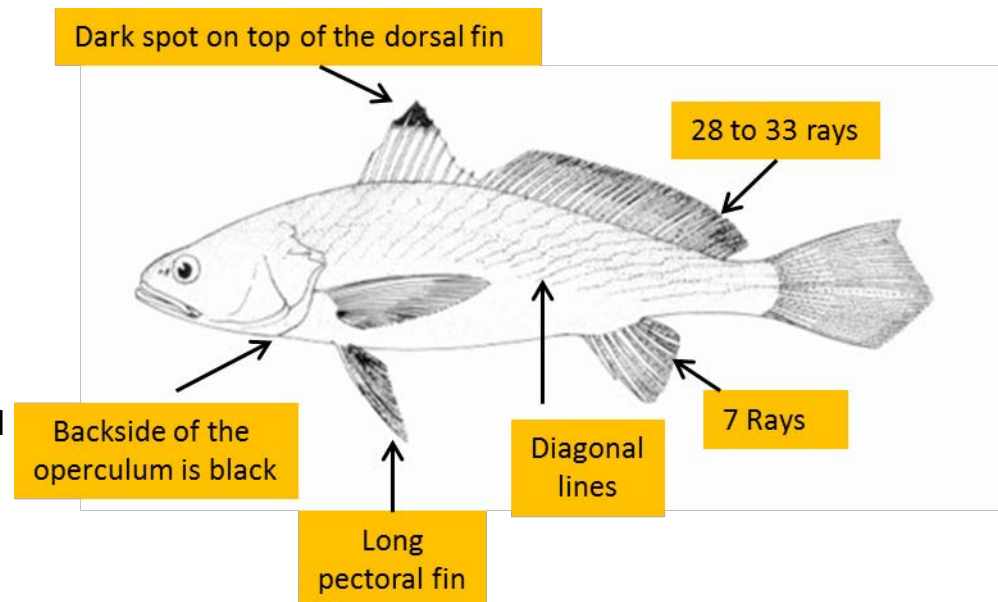




Photo courtesy of Google images: © Claus Helveg Hansen & Johnny Jensen

Common Name: Longneck croaker/Ladyfish

Local Name: Tonone

Scientific Name: *Pseudotolithus typus*

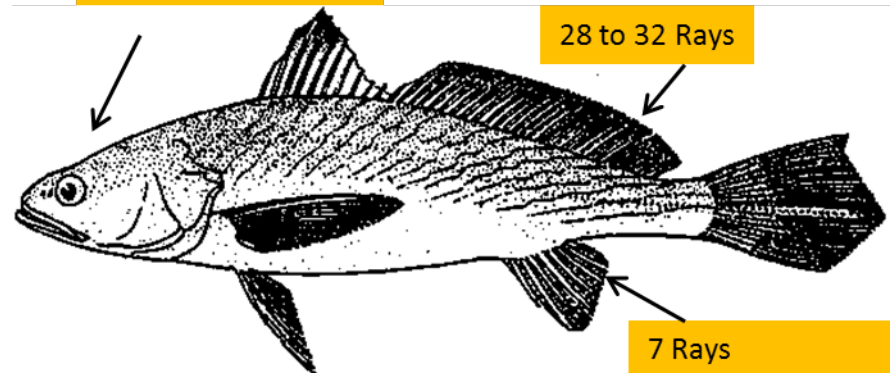
The longneck croaker, or ladyfish, is a demersal tropical climate species that is found in brackish and marine environments. It inhabits muddy and sandy bottoms at depths up to 150 meters, but is most abundant in waters less than 60 meters at temperatures above 18°C. It feeds primarily on small fishes and crustaceans. Spawning takes place from late spring to early fall.

Common Length: 50 cm

Maximum Length: 140 cm

Can be confused with the cassava croaker, law croaker and bobo croaker.

Distance between the eyes is less than the diameter of the eyes



Distinguished from Cassava croaker by a more elongated body, smaller that is turned upward



Common Name: Law croaker

Local Name: Nguka

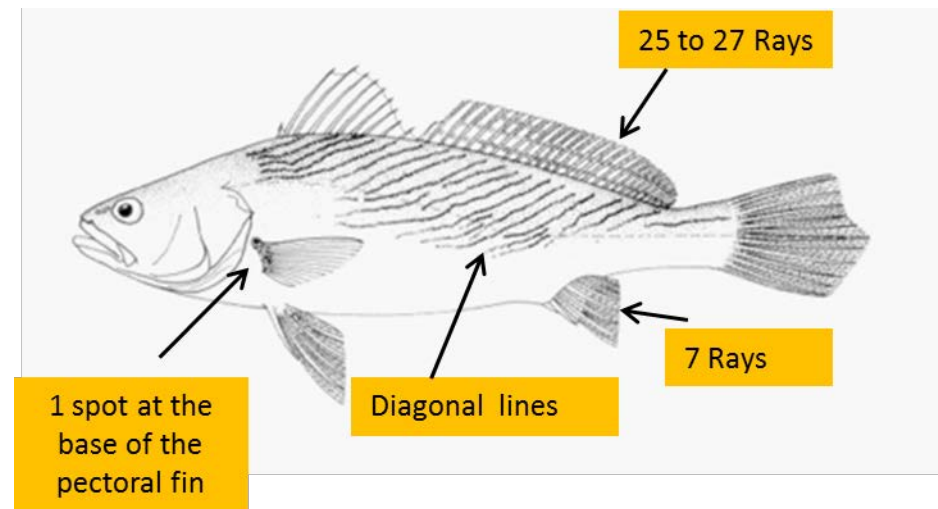
Scientific Name: *Pseudotolithus brachygnathus*

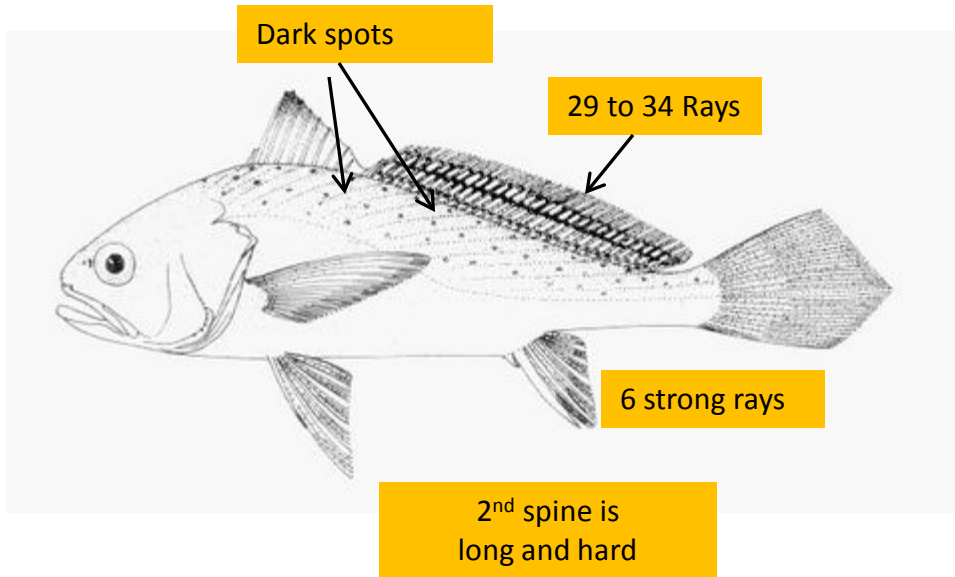
The law croaker is a demersal tropical climate species that is found in brackish and marine environments; usually at depths up to 150 meters. It inhabits muddy and sandy bottoms, and sometimes enters coastal lagoons and estuaries. It primarily feeds on small fish and cretaceans.

Common Length: 85 cm

Maximum Length: 230 cm

Can be confused with the cassava, longneck, and bobo croaker.





Common Name: Bobo croaker

Local Name: Jotor

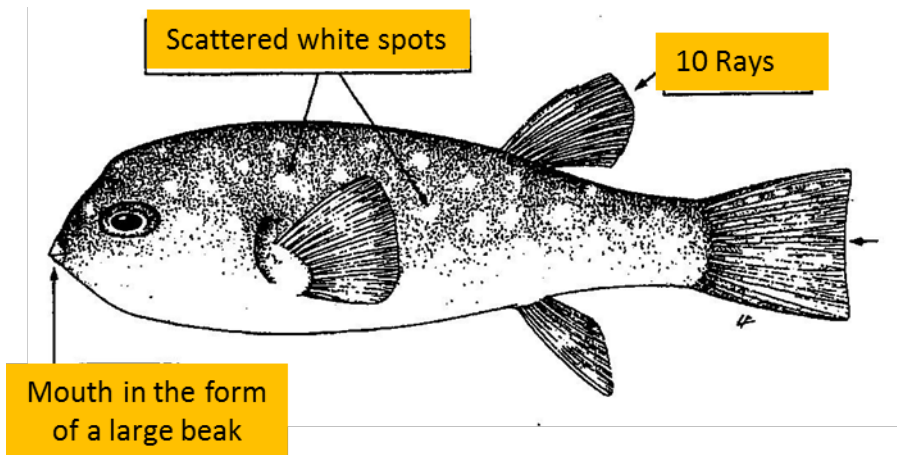
Scientific Name: *Pseudotolithus elongatus*

The bobo croaker is a demersal tropical climate species that is found in brackish and marine environments; usually at depths of 50 to 100 meters. It inhabits muddy bottoms and also enters estuaries and coastal lagoons. Spawning occurs from December to February. It primarily feeds on fish and shrimp.

Common Length: 30 cm

Maximum Length: 47 cm

Can be confused with the law, longneck, and cassava croaker



Common Name: Prickly puffer

Local Name: Konkareh

Scientific Name: *Ehippion guttifer*

The prickly puffer is a demersal, subtropical climate species that is found in marine and brackish environments; usually at depths of 10 to 100 meters. It inhabits hard substrate in shallow coastal waters, estuaries, bays, and lagoons. It feeds on crabs, echinoids, mollusks.

Common Length: 55 cm

Maximum Length: 80 cm



Common Name: Red pandora

Local Name: Tiki

Scientific Name: *Pagellus bellottii*

The red pandora is a demersal subtropical climate species that is found in marine environments; usually at depths of 10 to 50 meters. It is a protogynic hermaphrodite (female first, then changes to male) that occurs in schools over hard and sandy bottoms. It primarily feeds on crustaceans, cephalopods, and small fish.

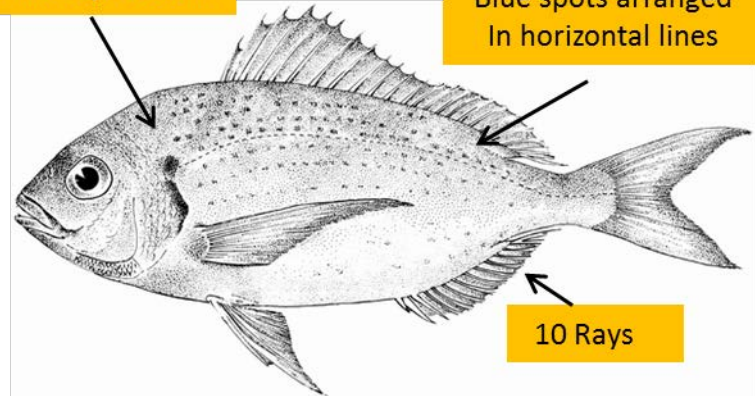
Common Length: 25 cm

Maximum Length: 42 cm

Similar Species: bluespotted seabream and West African red snapper

Dark red spot at the beginning of the lateral line on the edge of the operculum

Blue spots arranged in horizontal lines



10 Rays



Common Name: West African red snapper

Local Name: Yahk

Scientific Name: *Lutjanus agennes*

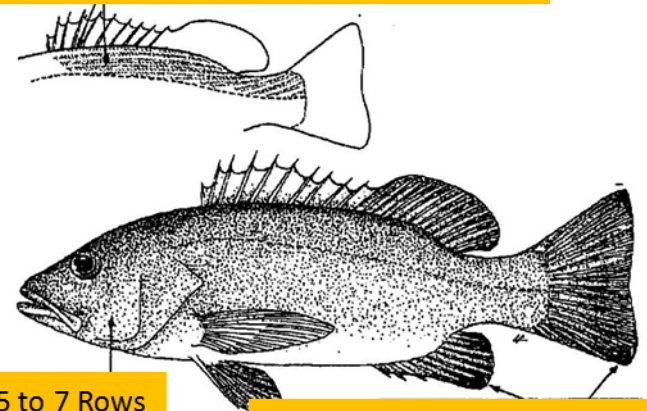
The West African red snapper is a reef-associated tropical climate species found in brackish, marine, environments. It inhabits rocky bottoms and coral reefs, and is also common in brackish lagoons and rivers (particularly juveniles).

Common Length: 50 cm

Maximum Length: 139 cm

Similar Species: Red pandora and bluespotted seabream

4 Horizontal rows of scales, except on the caudal peduncle

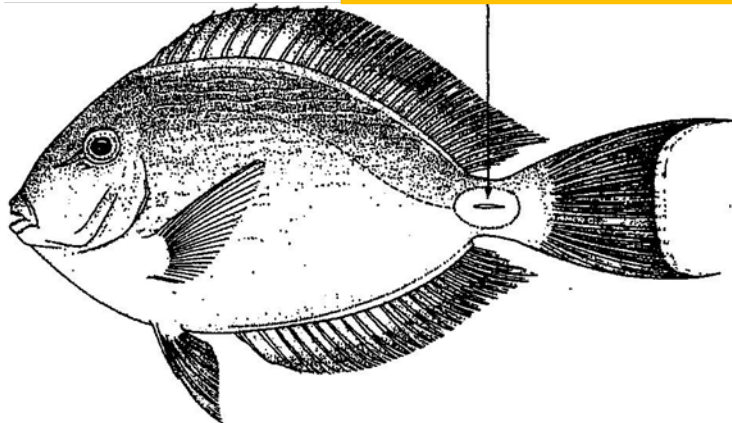


5 to 7 Rows of scales

Ends of the anal and caudal fin are black



Caudal spine surrounded by a yellow and bright orange spot



Common Name: Monrovia doctorfish

Local Name: Doctour gauge

Scientific Name: *Acanthurus monroviae*

The monrovia doctorfish is a demersal tropical climate species that is found in brackish and marine environments; usually at depths of 5 to 40 meters. It inhabits rocky and coral bottoms, and is sometimes found in mouths of rivers and lagoons. It primarily feeds on zooplankton, phytoplankton, and detritus.

Common Length: 38 cm

Maximum Length: 45 cm



Common Name: Crevalle jack

Local Name: Saka

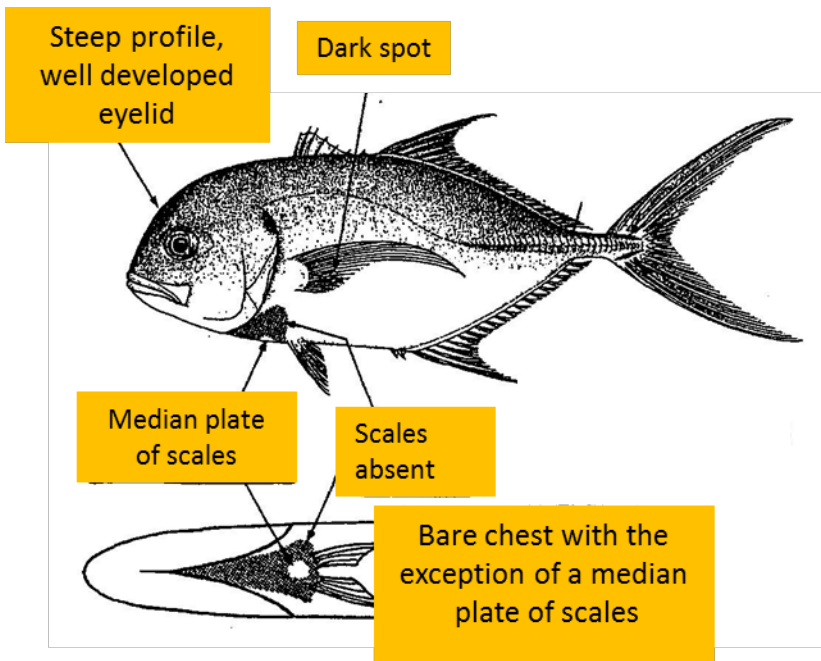
Scientific Name: *Caranx hippos*

The crevalle jack is a reef-associated subtropical species that is found in brackish and marine environments; usually at depths of 1 to 200 meters. It inhabits coastal zone waters over continental shelf; juveniles occur in brackish estuaries with muddy bottoms, near sandy beaches and on seagrass beds; Spawning occurs offshore and eggs are pelagic. It primarily feeds on small fish, shrimp, and other invertebrates, and is known to grunt or croak when caught.

Common Length: 60 cm

Maximum Length: 105 cm

* Reports of ciguatera poisoning





Common Name: West African goatfish

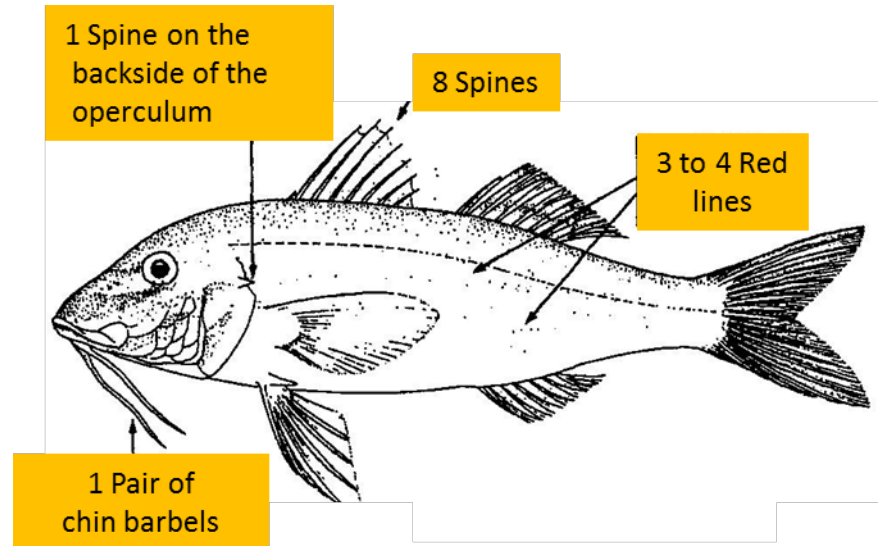
Local Name: Rousser

Scientific Name: *Pseudupeneus prayensis*

The West African goatfish is a demersal tropical climate species that is found in marine environments; usually at depths of 10 to 300 meters. It inhabits sandy and muddy bottoms in coastal waters over the continental shelf. It feeds on benthic invertebrates.

Common Length: 35 cm

Maximum Length: 50 cm





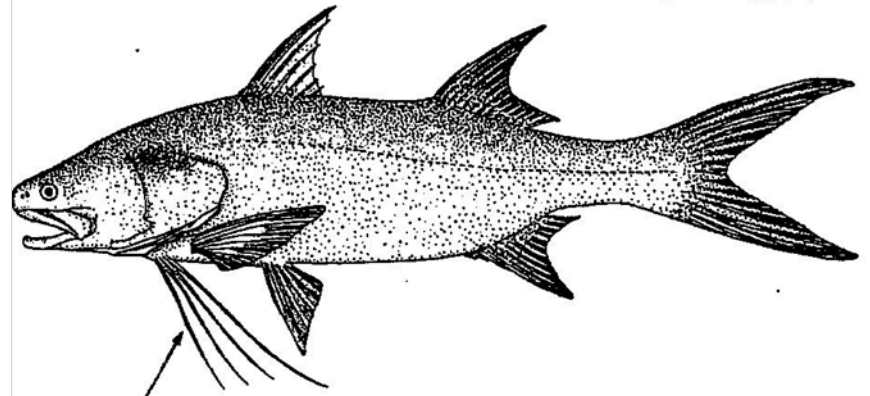
Common Name: Giant African threadfin

Local Name: Kujali

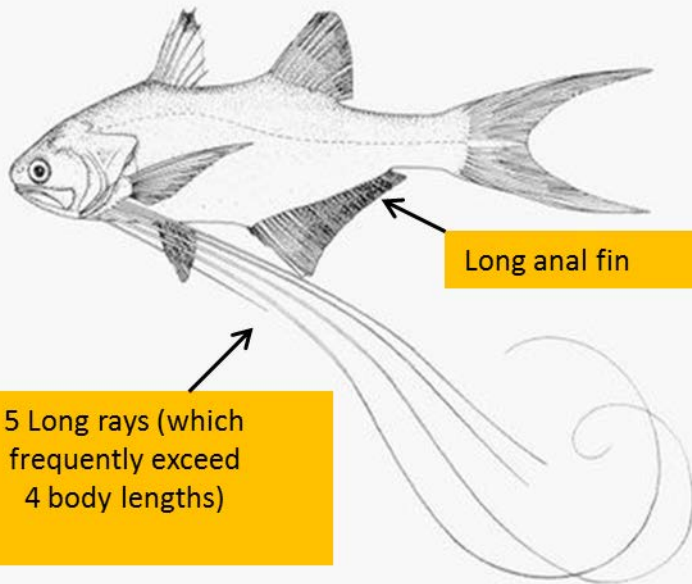
Scientific Name: *Polydactylus quadrifilis*

The giant African threadfin is a demersal tropical climate species that is found in brackish and marine environments; usually at depths of 15 to 55 meters. It inhabits sandy and muddy bottoms in shallow waters, and sometimes occurs in brackish habitats. It primarily feeds on crustaceans and fishes.

Common Length: 150 cm
Maximum Length: 200 cm



4 to 5 free pectoral rays
slightly longer than the
major rays



Common Name: Royal threadfin

Local Name: Ngorr sikim

Scientific Name: *Pentanemus quinquarius*

The royal threadfin is a demersal tropical species that is found in brackish and marine environments; usually at depths of 10 to 70 meters. It inhabits sandy and muddy bottoms in shallow waters and frequently occurs in brackish habitats. It primarily feeds on fish and shrimp.

Common Length: 25 cm

Maximum Length: 35 cm



Common Name: Lesser African threadfin

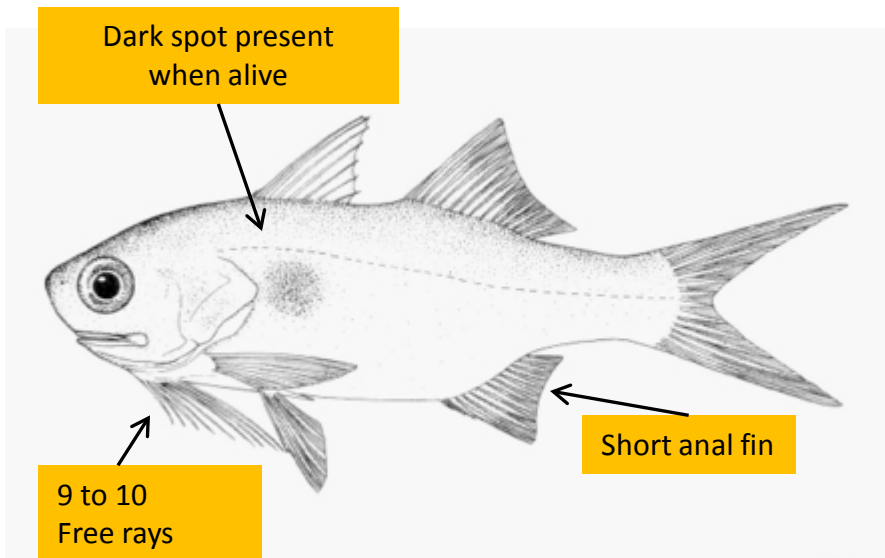
Local Name: Chekem

Scientific Name: *Galeoides decadactylus*

The lesser African threadfin is a demersal subtropical climate species that is found in brackish and marine environments; usually at depths of 10 to 70 meters. It inhabits sandy and muddy bottoms in shallow waters, and feeds primarily on benthic invertebrates.

Common Length is: 30 cm

Maximum Length: 50 cm





Common Name: Rough-head sea catfish

Local Name: Kong

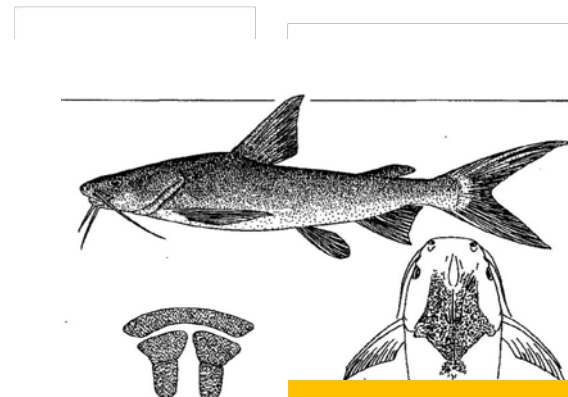
Scientific Name: *Arius laticulatus*

The rough-head sea catfish is a demersal tropical climate species that is found in marine and brackish environments; usually at depths of 30 to 70 meters. It is frequently found in brackish estuaries and will sometimes enter freshwater. It primarily feeds on fish, benthic invertebrates, zooplankton, and detritus.

Common Length: 40 cm

Maximum Length: 70 cm

Check Dental Plates: Can be confused with smooth-mouth sea catfish and Guinean sea catfish



Dental plates on the arch of the mouth

Broad base of the supraoccipital process (dorsal view of the head)



Common Name: Smooth mouth sea catfish

Local Name: Ngunja

Scientific Name: *Arius heudelontii*

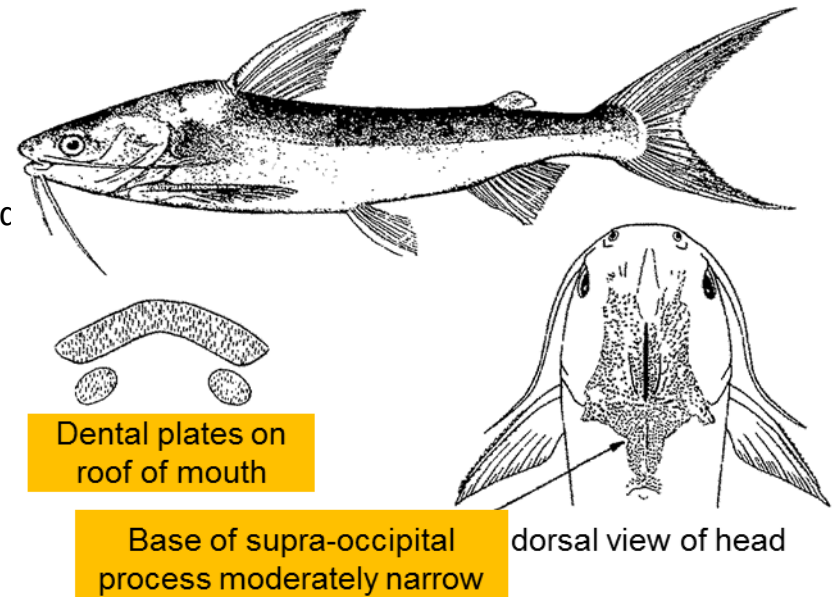
The smooth mouthed sea catfish is a demersal tropical climate species that is found in marine and brackish environments and along continental shelf. It has a red pectoral fin and a wide mouth.

The rays of the fins are venomous and the wound inflicted is extremely painful

Common Length: 35 cm

Maximum Length: 85 cm

Check Dental Plates: Can be confused with rough head sea catfish and Guinean sea catfish





Common Name: Guinean sea catfish

Local Name: White Kong

Scientific Name: *Arius parkii*

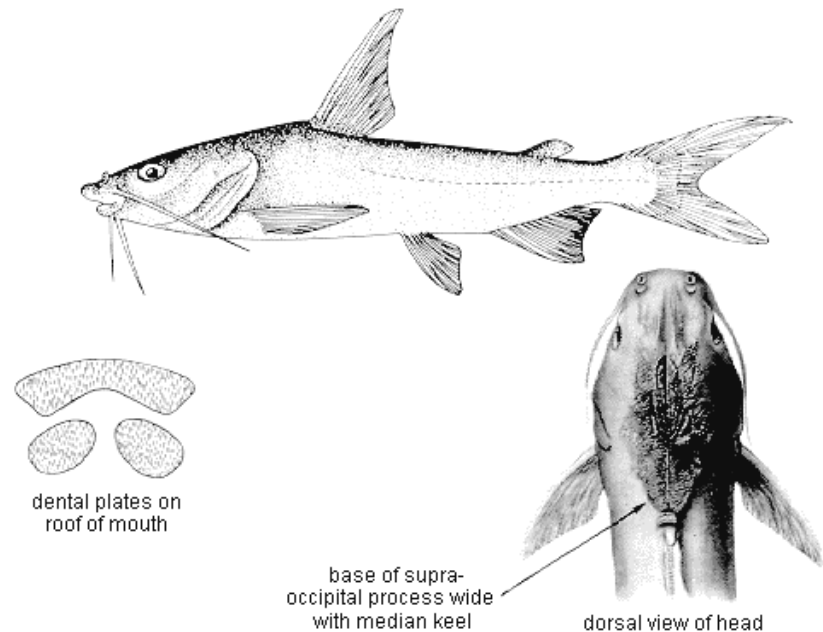
The Guinean sea catfish is a demersal tropical climate species that is found in marine and brackish environments and along continental shelf. It inhabits shallow coastal waters and river estuaries. It has a smaller mouth than the Black Kong

The rays of the fins are venomous and the wound inflicted is extremely painful

Common Length: 35 cm

Maximum Length: 50 cm

Check Dental Plates: Can be confused with rough head sea catfish and smooth mouth sea catfish





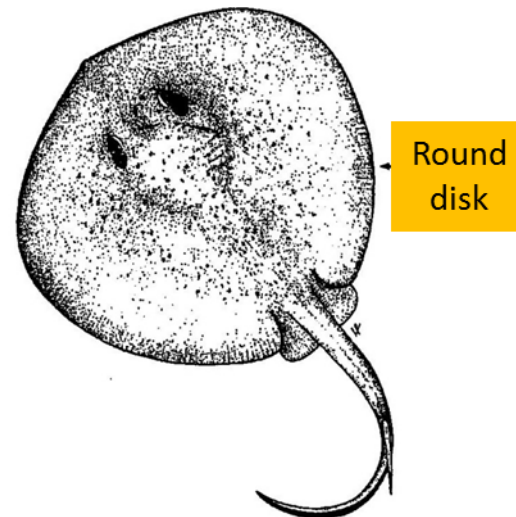
Common Name: Round stingray

Local Name: Raiyentan

Scientific Name: *Taeniura grabata*

The round stingray is a demersal tropical species that is found in marine environments; usually at depths of 10 to 300 meters. It inhabits sandy and rocky bottoms, partially covered with sand or mud, and feeds on bottom-dwelling fish and crustaceans.

Maximum Length: 250 cm





Common Name: Common guitarfish

Local Name: Dakouna

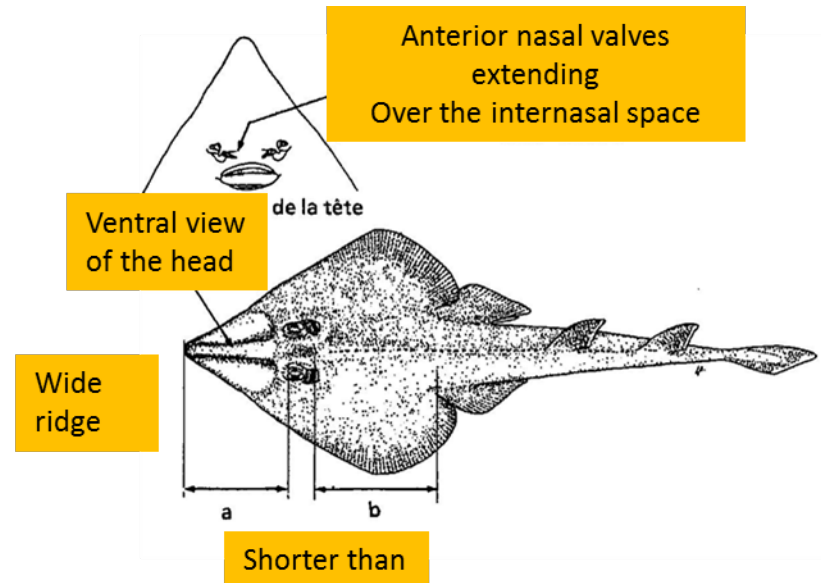
Scientific Name: *Rhinobatos rhinobatos*

The common guitarfish is a demersal subtropical species that is found in marine and brackish environments; usually at depths up to 100 meters. It inhabits sandy and muddy bottoms and sometimes rocky reefs. It swims slowly over the bottom or is partially buried. It is ovoviviparous and has 1 to 2 litters per year of about 4 to 10 embryos. It primarily feeds on benthic invertebrates and fishes.

Common Length: 80 cm

Maximum Length: 100 cm

*IUCN listed as Endangered (EN)





Common Name: Flying gurnard

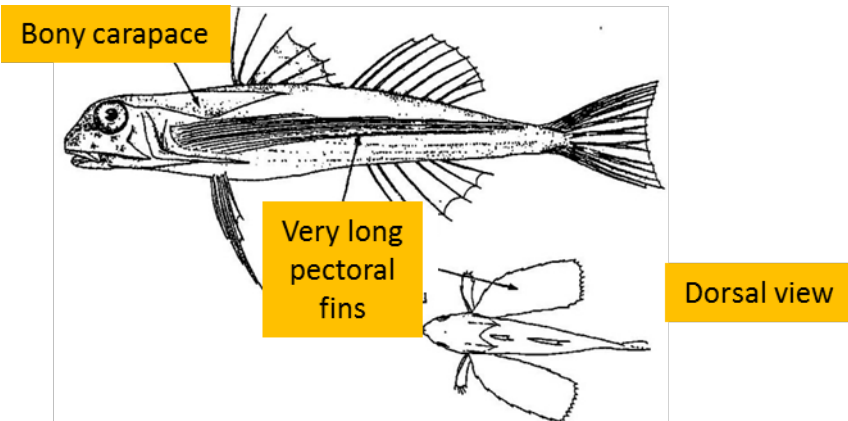
Local Name: Ganarr-ri-gauge

Scientific Name: *Dactylopterus volitans*

The flying gurnard is a reef-associated subtropical species that is found in marine and brackish environments. It inhabits sandy, muddy, and rocky bottoms and uses its pectoral fins to explore the bottom surface. It primarily feeds on benthic crustaceans.

Common Length: 38 cm

Maximum Length: 50 cm





Common Name: Bluespotted triggerfish

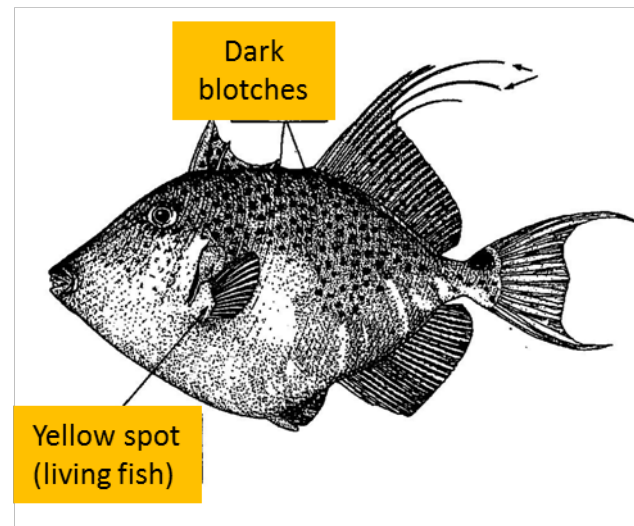
Local Name: Ndorr

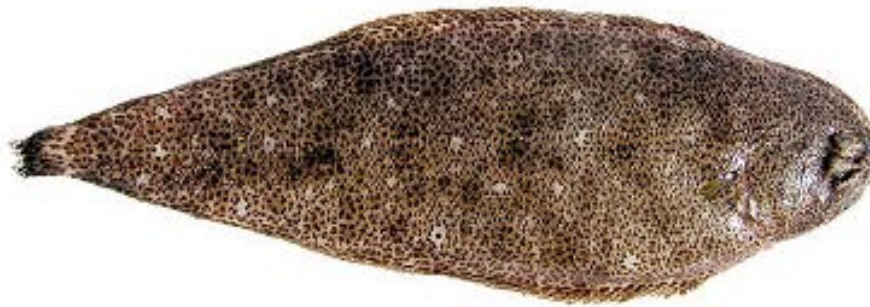
Scientific Name: *Balistes punctatus*

The bluespotted triggerfish is a demersal species. It is commonly found in the tropical marine environment, in depth ranges from 0-200 meters. It inhabits sandy and rocky bottoms of coastal waters where it feeds on crabs and bivalves.

Common Length: 25.0 cm

Maximum Length: 60.0 cm





Common Name: Guinean tonguesole

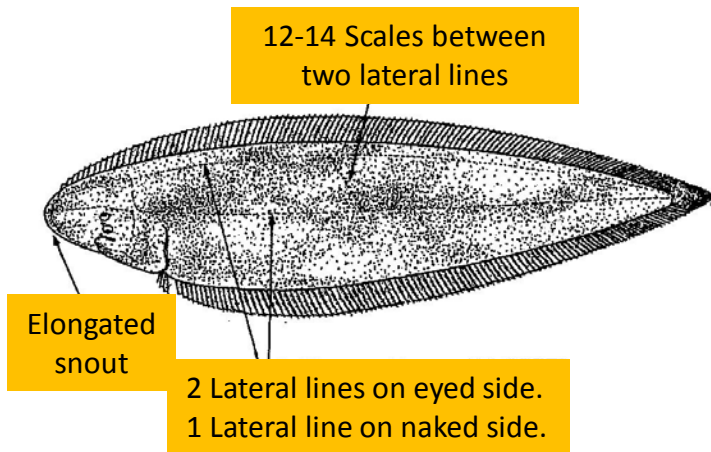
Local Name: Sole ngress/Ndedere

Scientific Name: *Cynoglossus monodi*

The Guinean tonguesole is a demersal tropical species that can be found in both marine and brackish waters. It inhabits the sand and mud bottoms of coastal waters, in a depth range of 10-30 meters. Their diet consists mainly of mollusks.

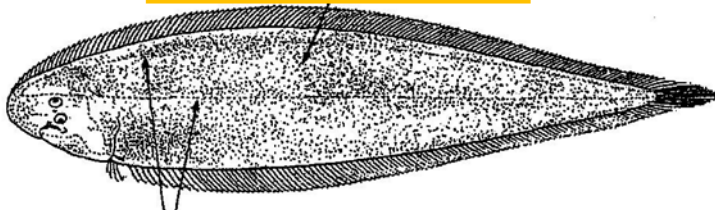
Common Length: 30.0 cm

Maximum Length: 40.0 cm





15-20 Scales between lateral lines



2 Lateral lines on eyed side.
1 Lateral line on naked side.

Common Name: Senegalese tonguesole

Local Name: Sole longue

Scientific Name: *Cynoglossus senegalensis*

The senegalese tonguesole is a demersal tropical species found in both marine and brackish water environments. This species is commonly found on the sand and mud bottoms of coastal waters, in a depth range of 10-110 meters . Their diet consists of mollusks, shrimps, crabs and fish .

Common Length: 25.0 cm

Maximum Length: 66.0 cm



Common Name: Thickback sole

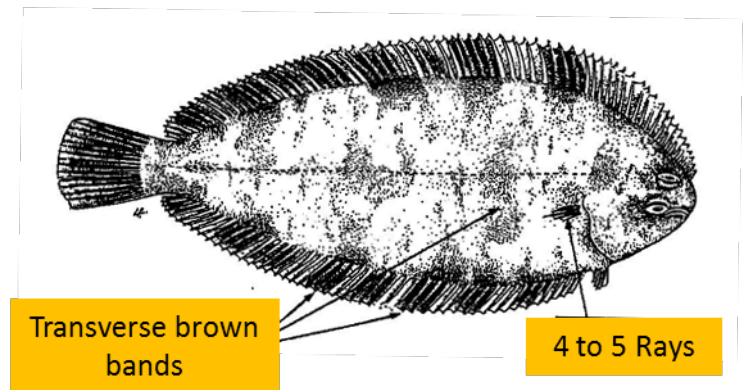
Local Name: Palpal

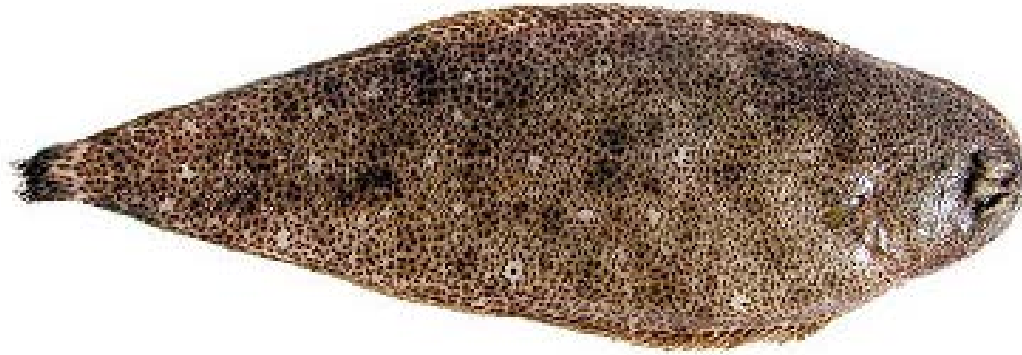
Scientific Name: *Microchirus variegatus*

The thickback sole is a demersal subtropical species that lives in the marine environment. It inhabits mud or sand bottoms in a depth range of 20-400 meters. Their diet consists of a wide range of small bottom-living organisms, mainly crustaceans (amphipods, shrimps), also polychaete worms and bivalve mollusks .

Common Length: 14.0 cm

Maximum Length: 35.0 cm





Common Name: Black/Tiger sole

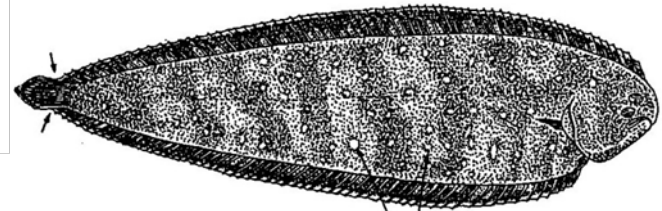
Local Name: Sole teegirr

Scientific Name: *Synaptura cadenati*

The tiger sole is a demersal tropical species which lives in the marine environment. It is commonly found on sand and mud bottoms in depths up to 50 meters.

Common Length: unknown

Maximum Length: 35.0 cm



Small white spots



Common Name: Spottail spiny turbot

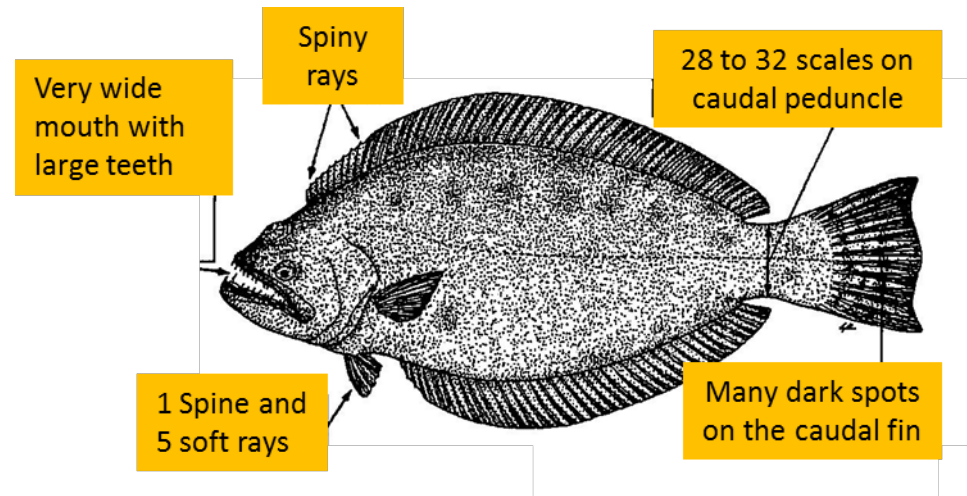
Local Name: Trippo

Scientific Name: *Psettodes belcheri*

The spiny turbot is a demersal tropical species that lives in both marine and brackish waters. It can be found in depths of up to 150 meters. Though this species is considered a demersal fish, it can chase its prey by swimming off the bottom. Their diet consists of fish and shrimps.

Common Length: 45.0 cm

Maximum Length: 80.0 cm





Common Name: Bearded brotula

Local Name: Loos

Scientific Name: *Brotula barbata*

The bearded brotula is a benthopelagic marine species commonly found around reef structure. It inhabits the continental shelf, on sandy and muddy bottoms out to depths of 650 meters. Juveniles common in reefs.

Common Length: 50.0 cm

Maximum Length: 94.0 cm





Canary drum

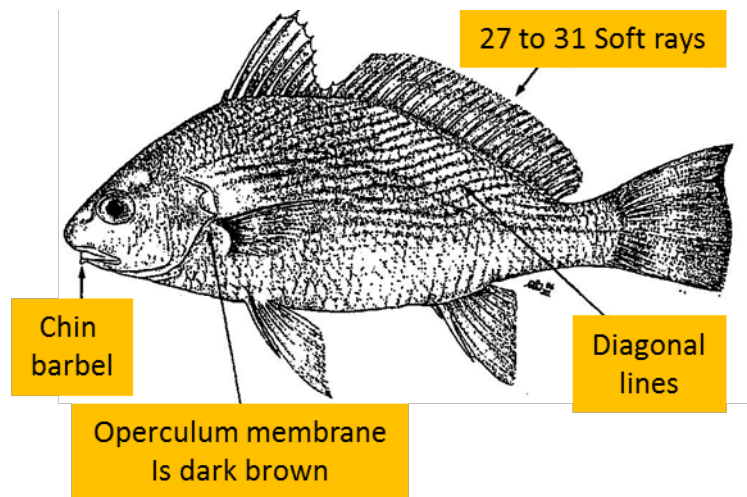
Local Name: Nyaw neeh

Scientific Name: *Umbrina canariensis*

The canary drum is a demersal subtropical species which inhabits the marine environment. It is commonly found in mud and sand bottoms of the shelf and upper slope in depth ranges from 50-300 meters. Their diet consists of small shrimps, worms and other bottom invertebrates .

Common Length: 40.0 cm

Maximum Length:80.0 cm





Common Name: Saddled seabream

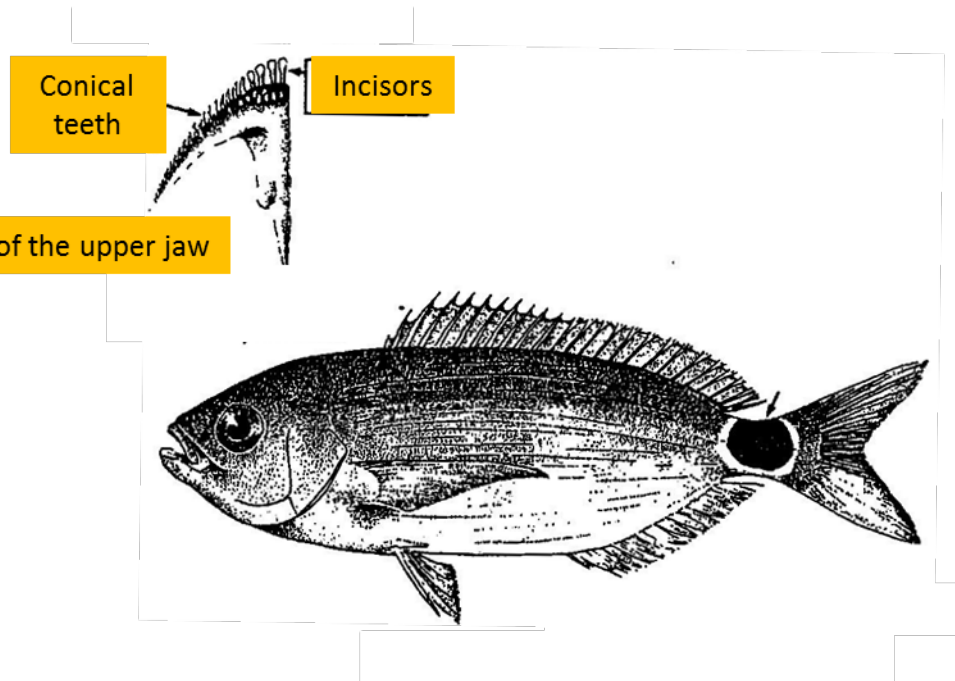
Local Name:

Scientific Name: *Oblada melanura*

The saddled seabream is a subtropical marine species that is known to be both benthopelagic and oceanodromous. Tends to travel in large schools, forms aggregations over rocky bottoms or seagrass beds (*Zostera* and seaweeds), in a depths up to 30 meters. Omnivorous but their diet consists mainly of small invertebrates .

Common Length: 20.0 cm

Maximum Length:34.0 cm





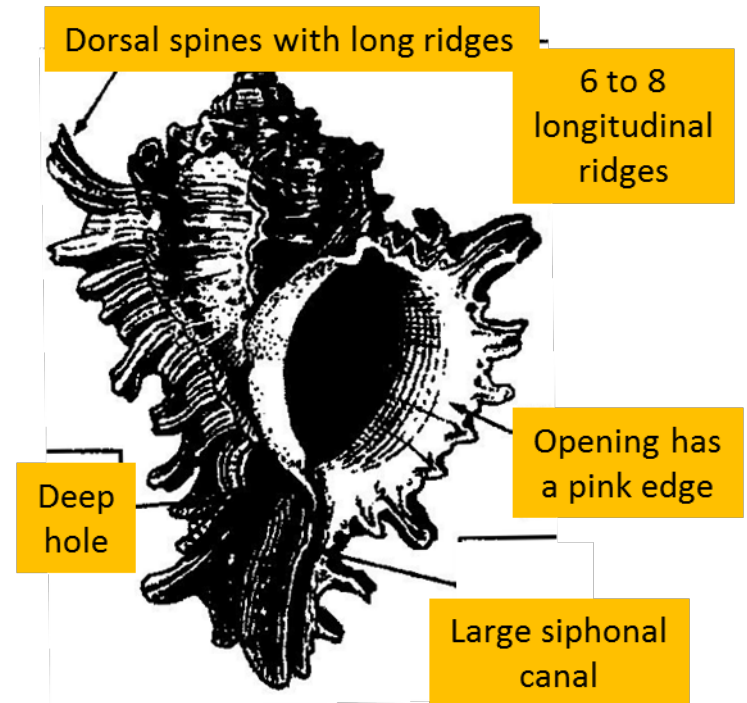
Common Name: Duplex murex

Local Name: Red toufa

Scientific Name: *Murex duplex*

The duplex murex is a demersal subtropical climate snail species that is found in marine environments.

Common Length: 20 cm





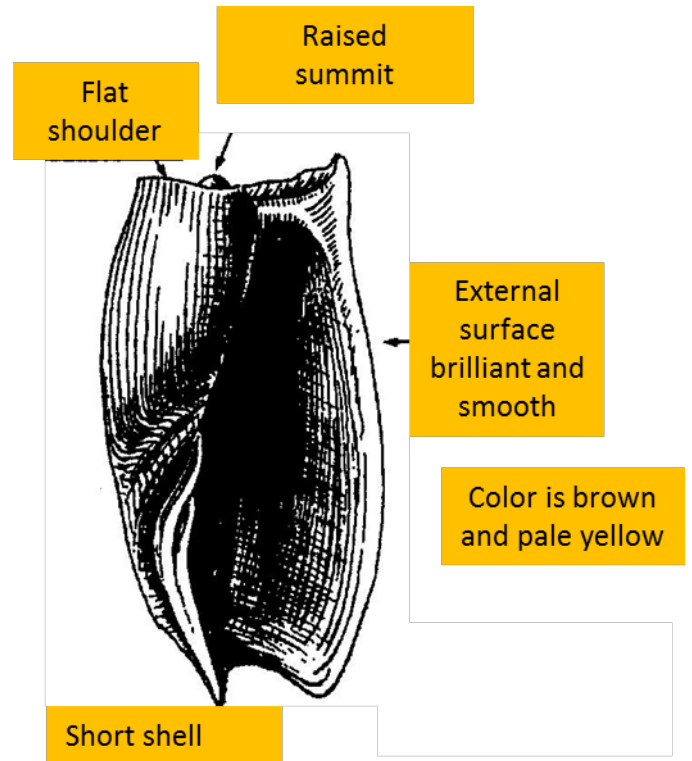
Common Name: Pig's snout volute

Local Name: Walarr

Scientific Name: *Cymbium cymbium*

The pig's snout volute is a demersal subtropical snail species that is found in marine environments.

Common Length: 15 cm





Common Name: Elephant's snout volute

Local Name: Warr waran

Scientific Name: *Cymbium glans*

The elephant's snout volute is a demersal subtropical snail species that is found in marine environments.

Common Length: 35 cm

Depressed summit



Thin but strong shell, cylindrical

Brown grey color, brilliant



Common Name: Neptune's volute

Local Name: Yeat

Scientific Name: *Cymbium pepo*

The neptune's volute is a demersal subtropical climate snail species that is found in marine environments.

Summit length: 27 cm

Summit
is barely
visible

Round
shell



Very large
opening

Orange color,
periostracum brown

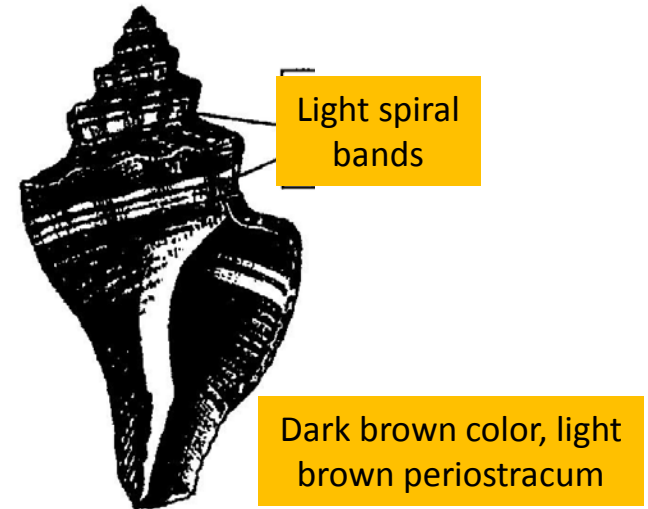


Local Name: Bunyul toufa

Scientific Name: *Pugelina morio*

The giant hairy melongena is a demersal tropical snail species that is found in marine environments. It inhabits muddy bottoms, often near river estuaries. It primarily feeds on carrion.

Common Length: 16 cm





Common Name: Elegant cuttlefish

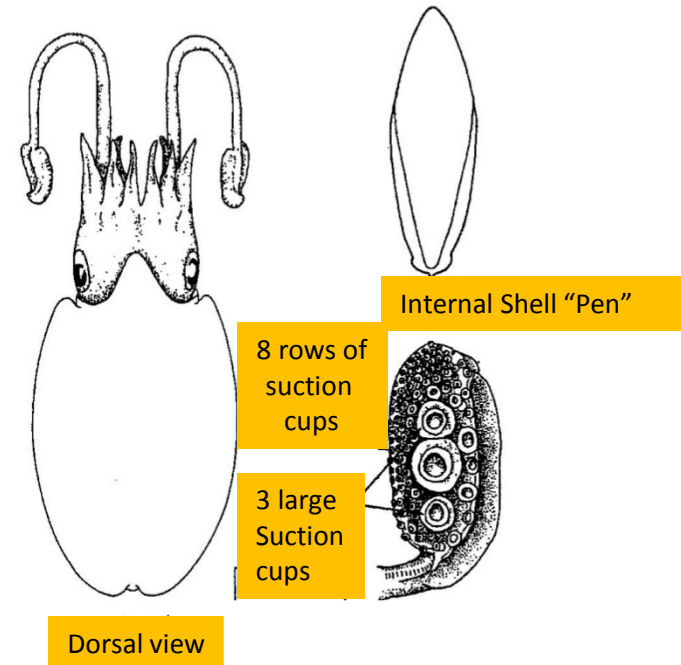
Local Name: Yeredeh

Scientific Name: *Sepia elegans*

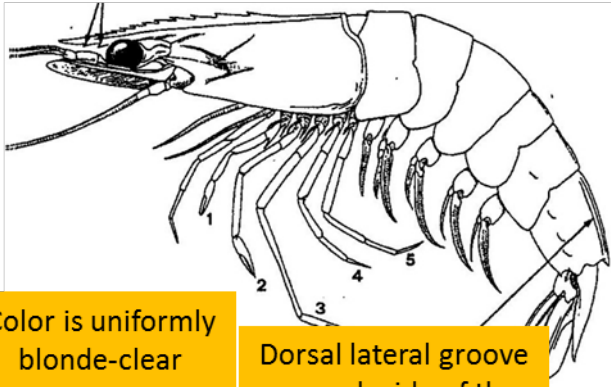
The elegant cuttlefish is a demersal tropical species that is found in marine environments; usually at depths of 150 m.

Female Maximum Length: 9 cm

Male Maximum Length: 7 cm



2 teeth on the ventral
Side of the rostrum



Color is uniformly
blonde-clear

Dorsal lateral groove
on each side of the
dorsal ridge



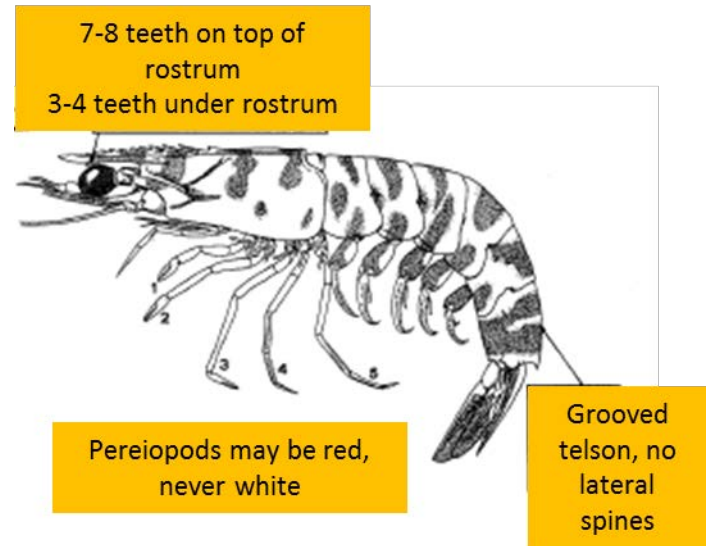
Common Name: Pink shrimp

Local Name: Sipah

Scientific Name: *Penaeus notialis*

The pink shrimp is a demersal tropical climate species that is found in marine environments; usually at depths of 11 to 36-meters. It inhabits firm bottoms of sand, mud, silt, and shells. Juvenile Shrimp are able to thrive in waters with low salinities.

Maximum Length: 23 cm Male; 17 cm female



Common Name: Tiger shrimp

Local Name: Sipah/Tiger

Scientific Name: *Penaeus monodon*

The tiger shrimp is a demersal tropical climate species that is found in marine environments to depths of 90 meters. It inhabits muddy bottoms.

Maximum Length: 33.6 cm, 60-130 grams weight

May be confused with *Peneaus kerathurus*

INTRODUCED SPECIES



Common Name: Pink spiny lobster

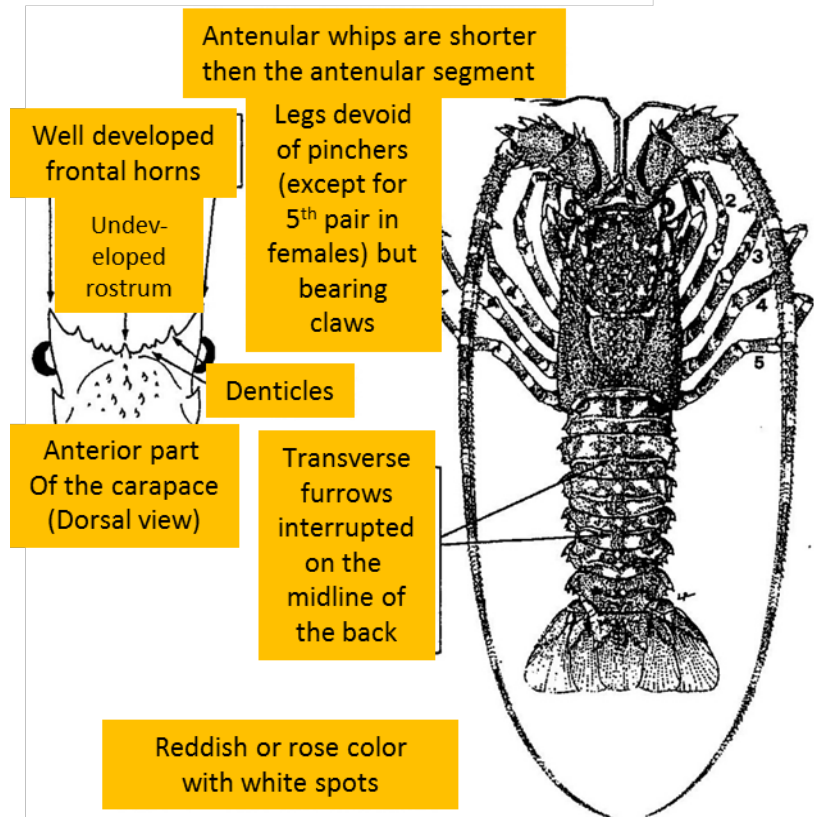
Local Name: Soum

Scientific Name: *Palinurus mauritanicus*

The pink spiny lobster is a demersal subtropical climate species that is found in marine environments. It inhabits sandy, rocky, and coral bottoms of the continental shelf; usually at depths of 200 to 400 meters. Reproduction occurs in late summer and fall.

Common Length: 45 cm

Maximum Length: 75 cm



References

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SEALIFEBASE	http://www.sealifebase.org
NETHERLANDS BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION FACILITY	http://www.nlbif.nl
HARDY'S INTERNET GUIDE TO MARINE GASTROPODS	http://www.gastropods.com
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Schneider, W., 1990. FAO species identification sheets for fishery purposes. Field guide to the commercial marine resources of the Gulf of Guinea. Prepared and published with the support of the FAO Regional Office for Africa. Rome. FAO. 269 p.