

*Deep-bottom fish  
identification cards  
for small-scale  
fishermen*



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These identification cards are produced by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) to help improve catch data and statistics from small-scale vessels that regularly target deep-bottom fish species. With a better understanding of small-scale vessel catches, regional fisheries managers can ensure that stocks are better managed throughout their range and that small-scale fishermen get more recognition and support for their contribution to food security and employment at the local level. The most likely users of these cards are small-scale fishers who actively target deep-bottom fish stocks, along with fishery officers who are tasked with monitoring these fisheries. Fisheries training institutions are other potential users.

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This publication is based on the *Fish species identification manual for deep-bottom snapper fishermen* by Chapman et al. (2008).

#### **Secretariat of the Pacific Community Cataloguing-in-publication data**

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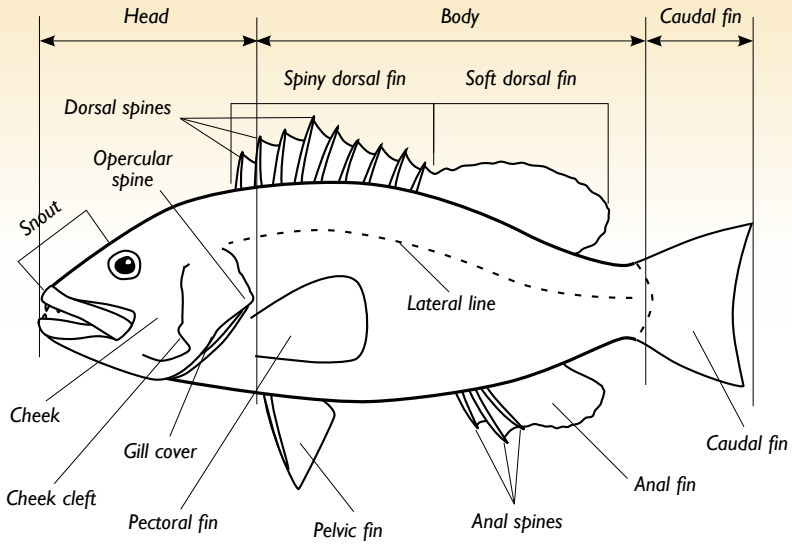
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AACR2



**Different caudal fin types**

Rounded



Truncate



Emarginate



Lunate



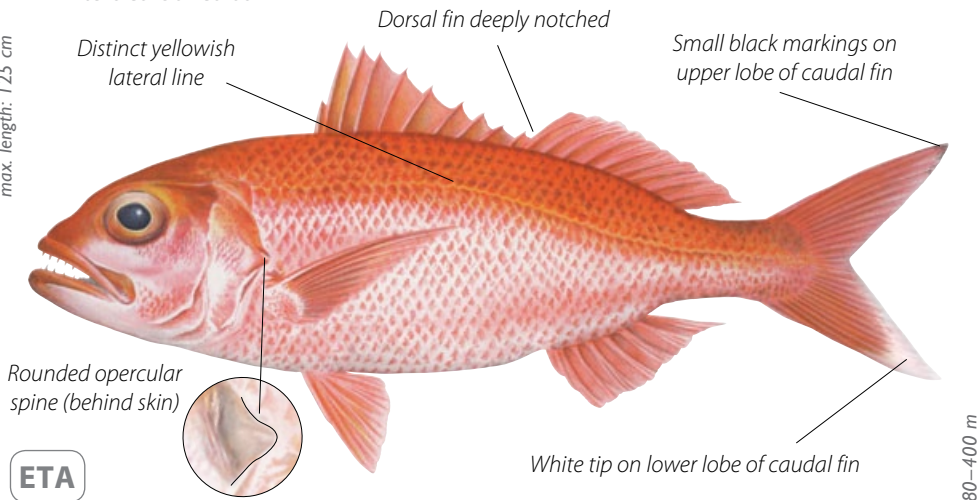
Forked



# Ruby snapper

*Etelis carbunculus*

max. length: 125 cm



ETA

80–400 m

# Pygmy ruby snapper

*Etelis marshi*

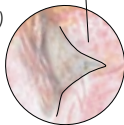
max. length: 70 cm

Dorsal fin deeply notched

Distinct yellowish lateral line

No black markings on upper lobe of caudal fin

Pointed opercular spine (behind skin)



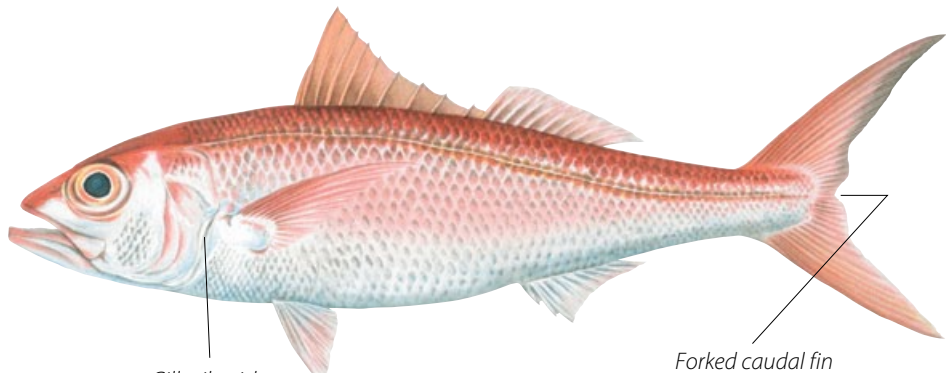
White tip on lower lobe of caudal fin

F96

80–400 m

# Pale snapper

*Etelis radiosus*



Gills silverish

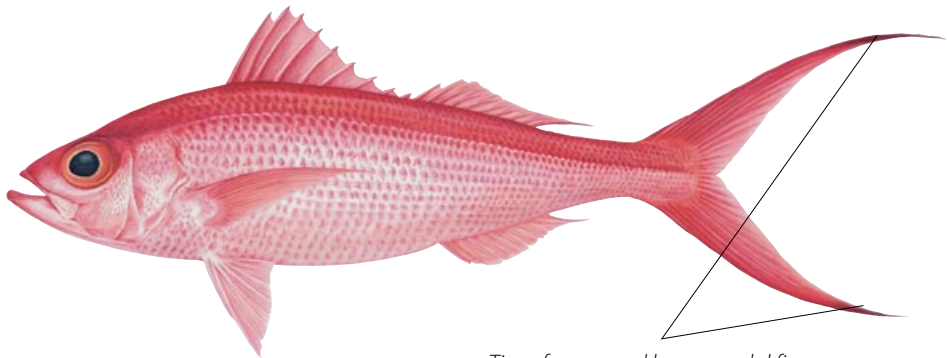
Forked caudal fin  
with notch in centre

EEW

90–360 m

# Flame snapper

*Etelis coruscans*



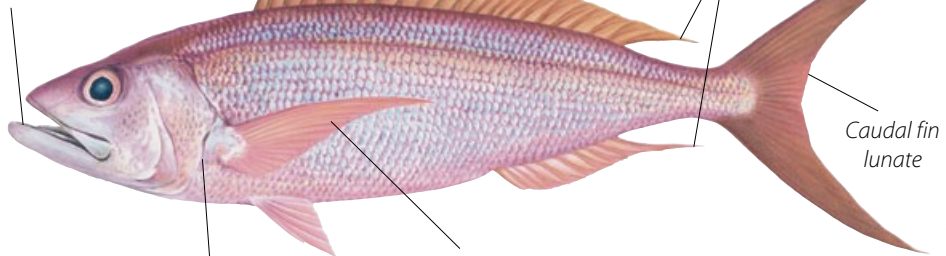
*Tips of upper and lower caudal fin  
elongated to form filaments, often black*

ETC

# Rusty jobfish

*Aphareus rutilans*

Lower jaw  
projecting



Gills silver

Pectoral fin long,  
reaching to above the anus

Dorsal and anal rays  
greatly prolonged

Caudal fin  
lunate

ARQ

40–330 m



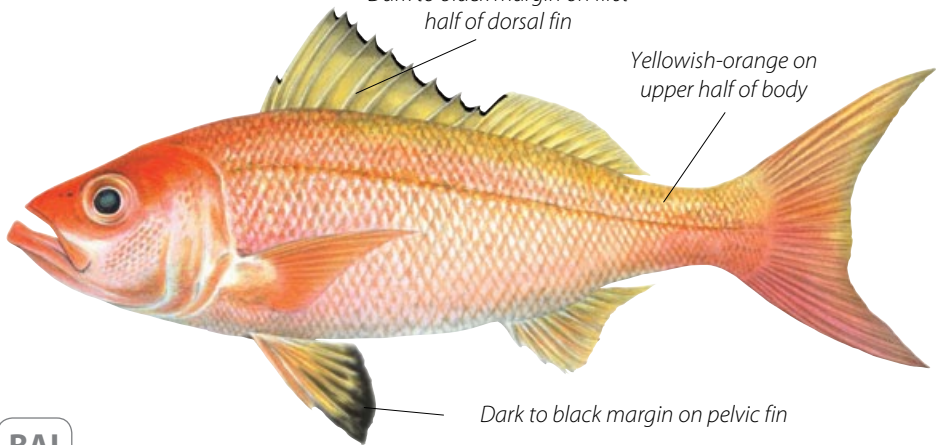
# Randall's snapper

*Randallichthys filamentosus*

Dark to black margin on first half of dorsal fin

Yellowish-orange on upper half of body

Dark to black margin on pelvic fin



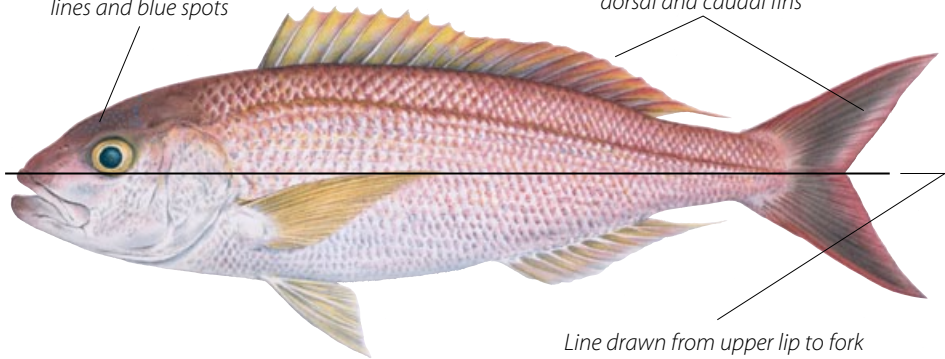
RAI

# Crimson jobfish

*Pristipomoides filamentosus*

Top of head has yellow lines and blue spots

Crimson to reddish margin on dorsal and caudal fins



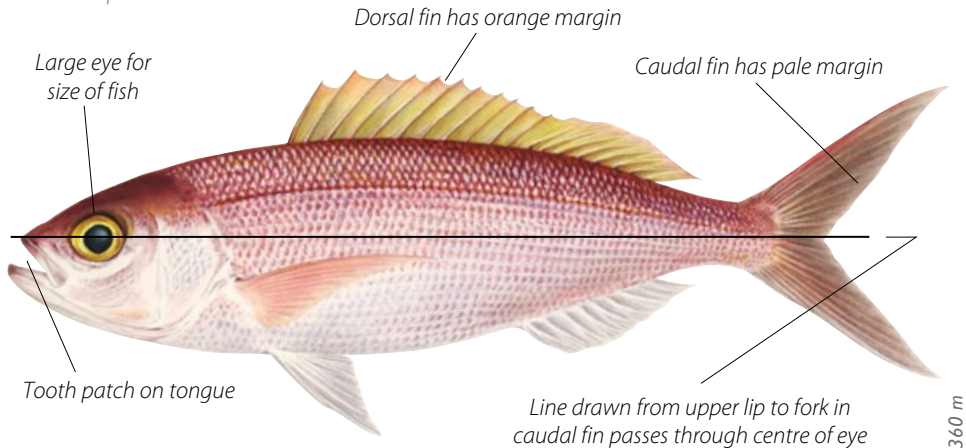
Line drawn from upper lip to fork in caudal fin passes below eye

PFM

40–400 m

# Lavender jobfish

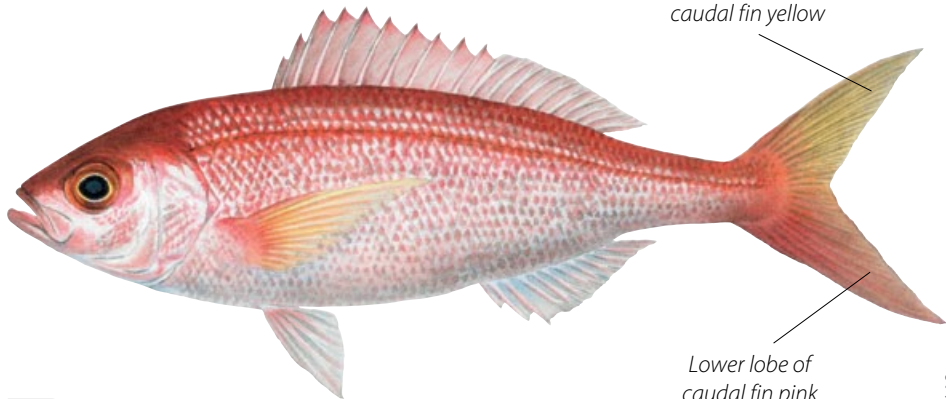
*Pristipomoides sieboldii*



LRB

# Scalemouth jobfish

*Parapristipomoides squamimaxillaris*



Upper lobe of  
caudal fin yellow

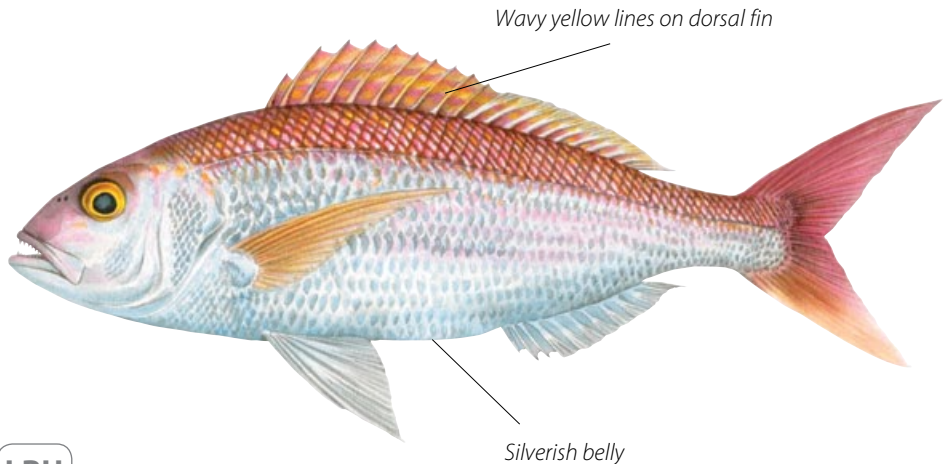
Lower lobe of  
caudal fin pink

PQM

130–460 m

# Sharptooth jobfish

*Pristipomoides typus*



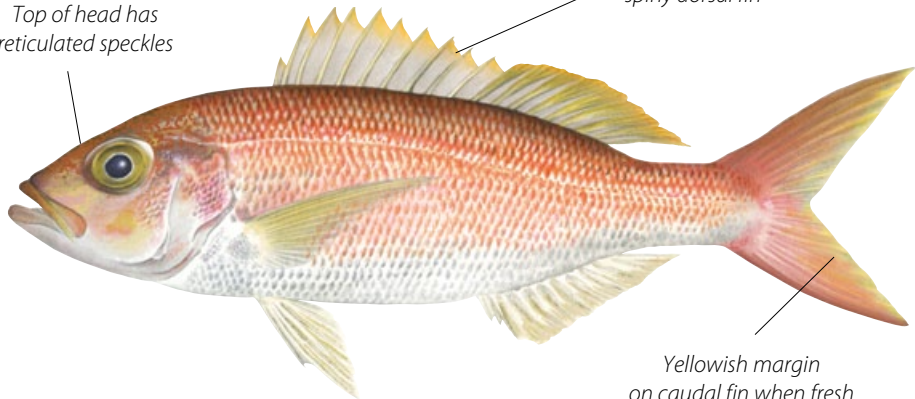
LRU

# Golden eye jobfish

*Pristipomoides flavipinnis*

Top of head has  
reticulated speckles

Yellow margin on  
spiny dorsal fin

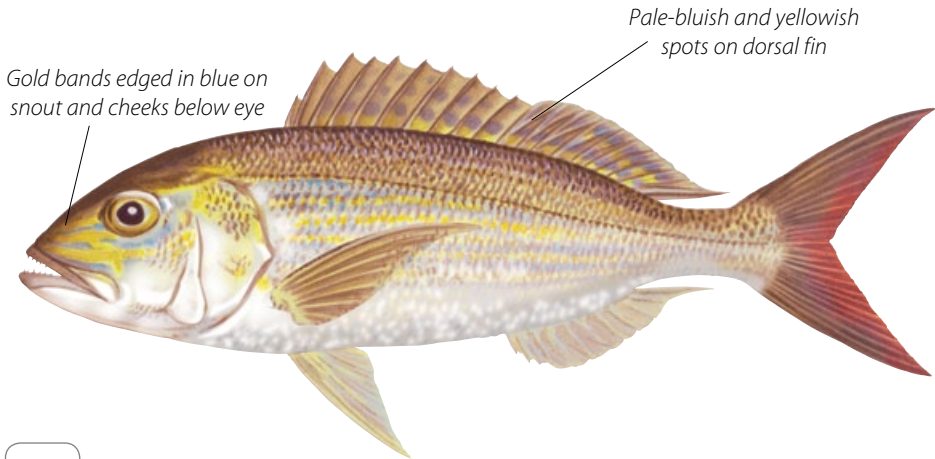


Yellowish margin  
on caudal fin when fresh

LWF

# Goldbanded jobfish

*Pristipomoides multidentis*

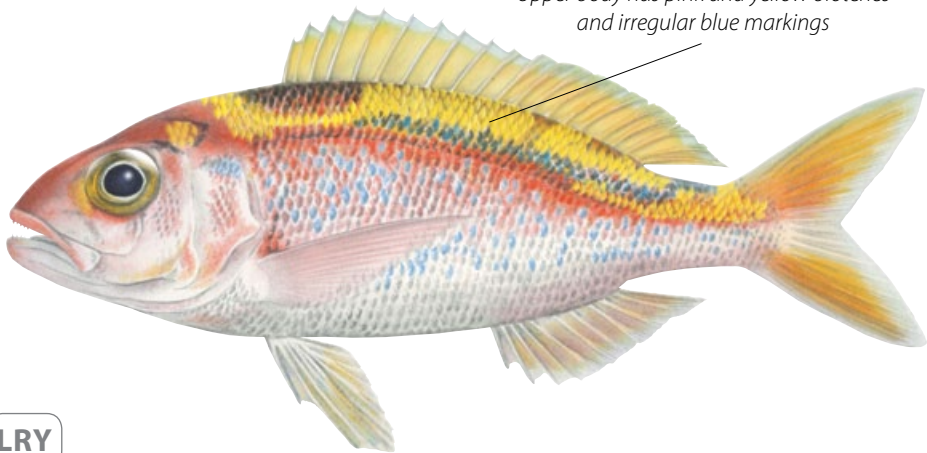


LRI

# Ornate jobfish

*Pristipomoides argyrogrammicus*

Upper body has pink and yellow blotches  
and irregular blue markings



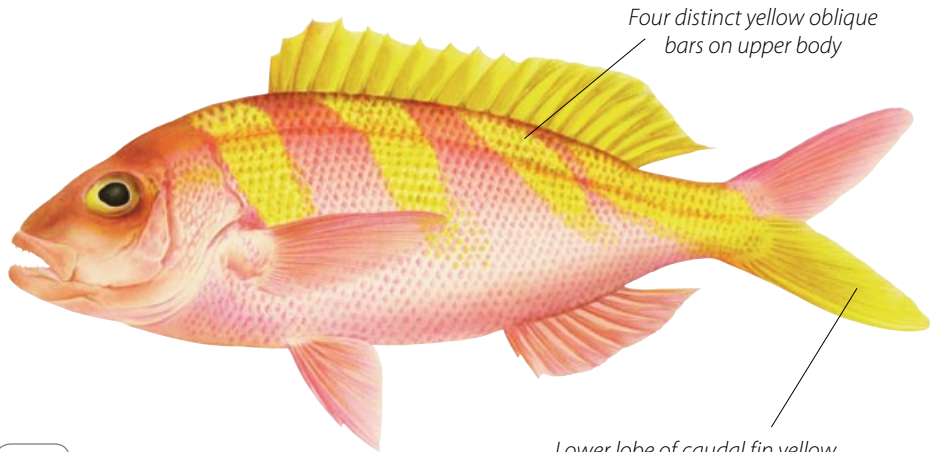
LRY

70–300 m



# *Oblique-banded snapper*

*Pristipomoides zonatus*



Four distinct yellow oblique bars on upper body

Lower lobe of caudal fin yellow

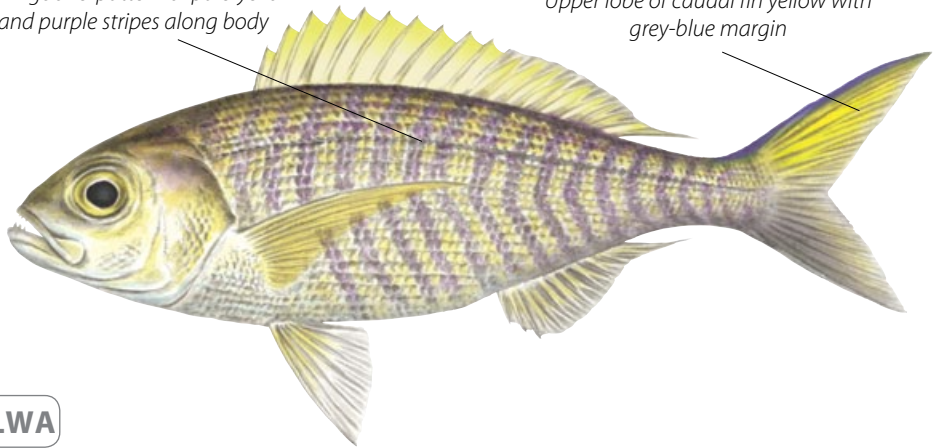


# Goldflag jobfish

*Pristipomoides auricilla*

'Herringbone' pattern of pale-yellow and purple stripes along body

Upper lobe of caudal fin yellow with grey-blue margin



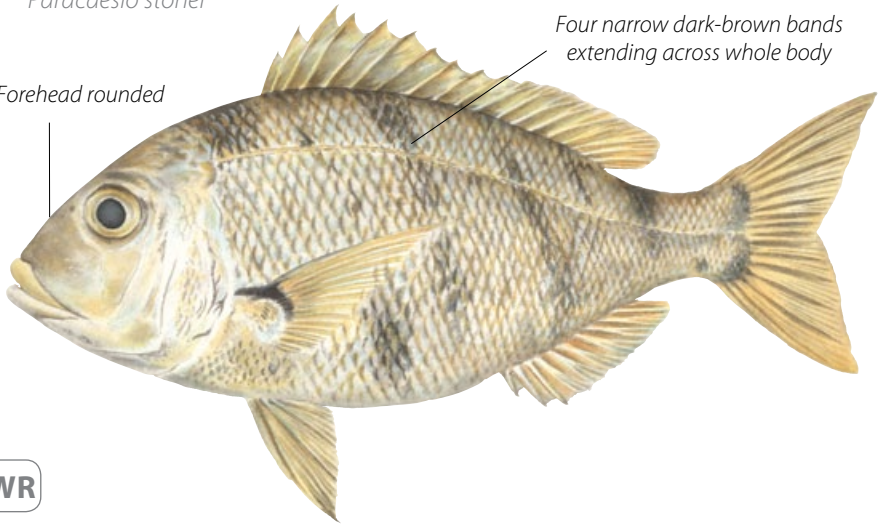
LWA

# Cocoa snapper

*Paracaesio stonei*

Four narrow dark-brown bands  
extending across whole body

Forehead rounded



LWR

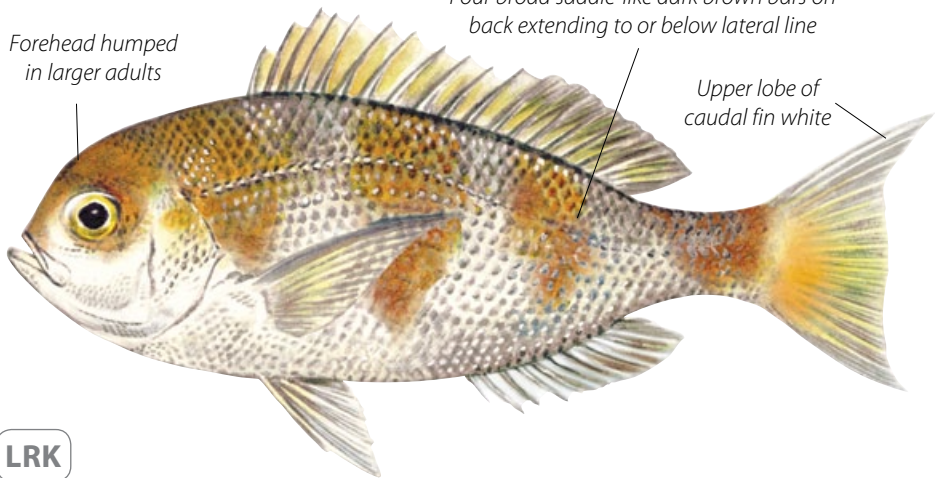
# Saddle-back snapper

*Paracaesio kusakarii*

Forehead humped  
in larger adults

Four broad saddle-like dark brown bars on  
back extending to or below lateral line

Upper lobe of  
caudal fin white

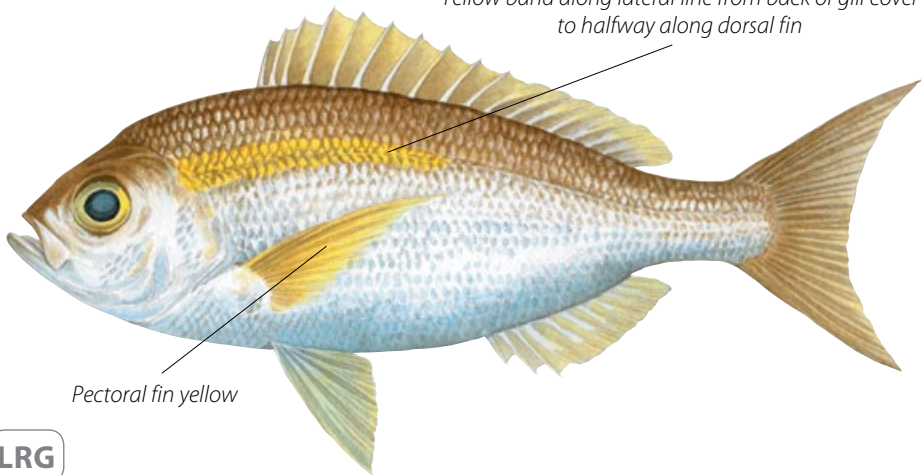


LRK

# Vanuatu snapper

*Paracaesio gonzalesi*

Yellow band along lateral line from back of gill cover to halfway along dorsal fin



Pectoral fin yellow

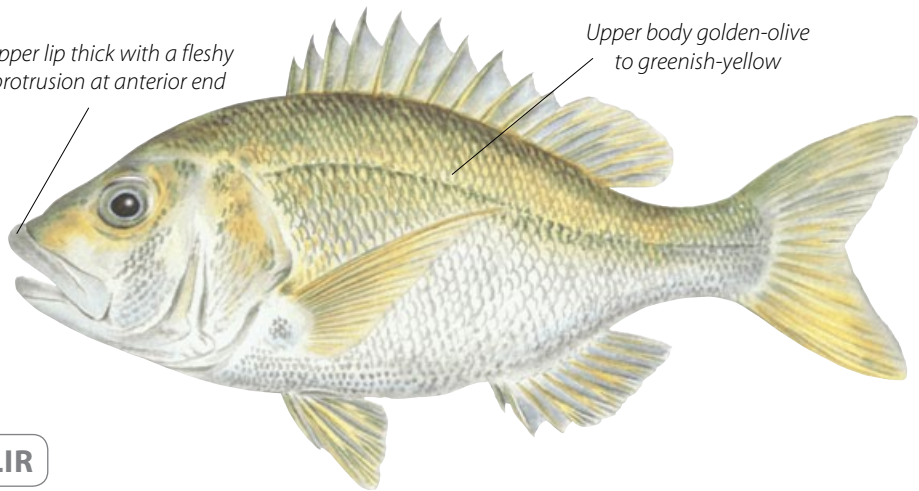
LRG

# Tang's snapper

*Lipocheilus carnolabrum*

Upper lip thick with a fleshy protrusion at anterior end

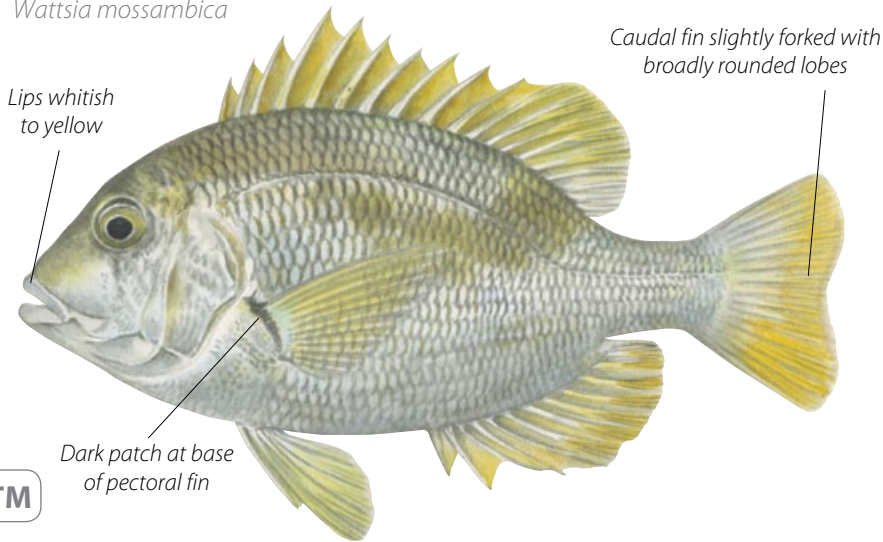
Upper body golden-olive to greenish-yellow



LIR

# Mozambique large-eye bream

*Wattsia mossambica*



Lips whitish  
to yellow

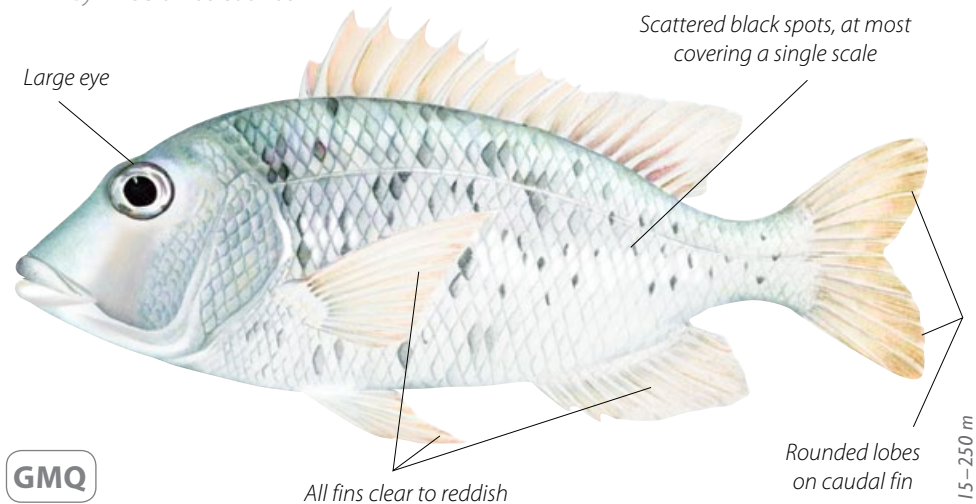
Caudal fin slightly forked with  
broadly rounded lobes

Dark patch at base  
of pectoral fin

WTM

# Japanese large-eye bream

*Gymnocranius euanus*



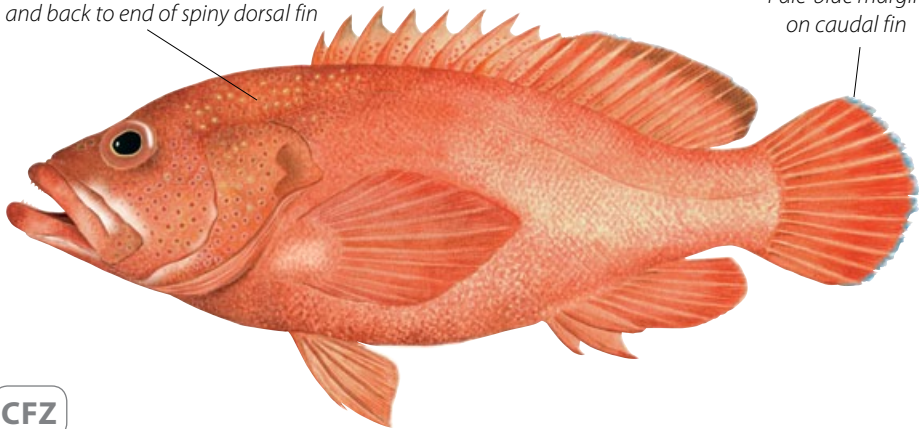


# Golden hind

*Cephalopholis aurantia*

Small red or yellow dots on head  
and back to end of spiny dorsal fin

Pale-blue margin  
on caudal fin



CFZ

# *Eightbar grouper*

*Hyporthodus octofasciatus*

Eight pale vertical bands across body extending over dorsal fin

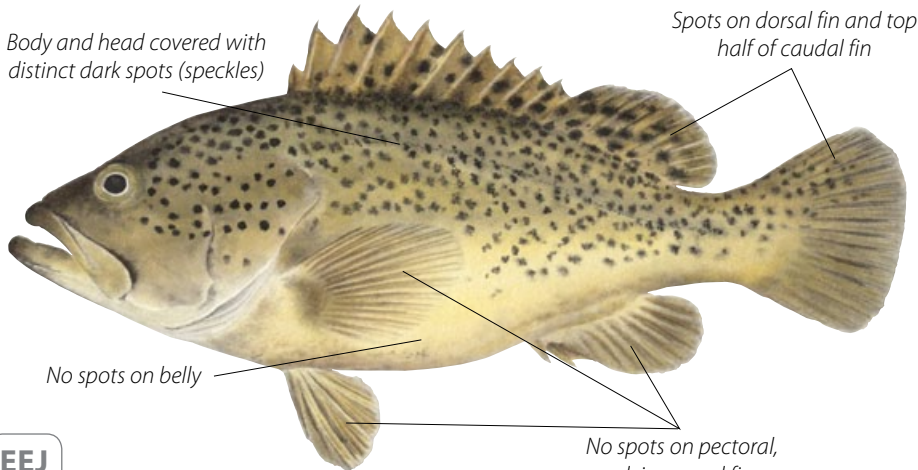


# Speckled grouper

*Epinephelus magniscuttis*

Body and head covered with distinct dark spots (speckles)

Spots on dorsal fin and top half of caudal fin



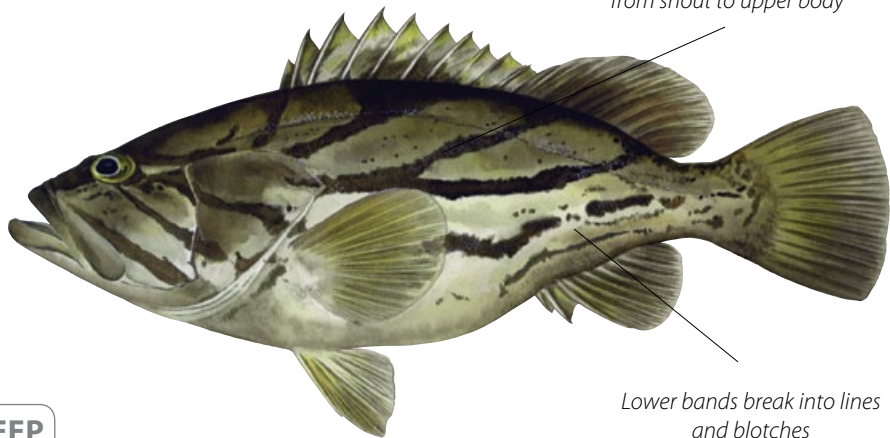
No spots on belly

No spots on pectoral, pelvic or anal fins

EEJ

# Comet grouper

*Epinephelus morrhua*



Distinct oblique bands running from snout to upper body

Lower bands break into lines and blotches

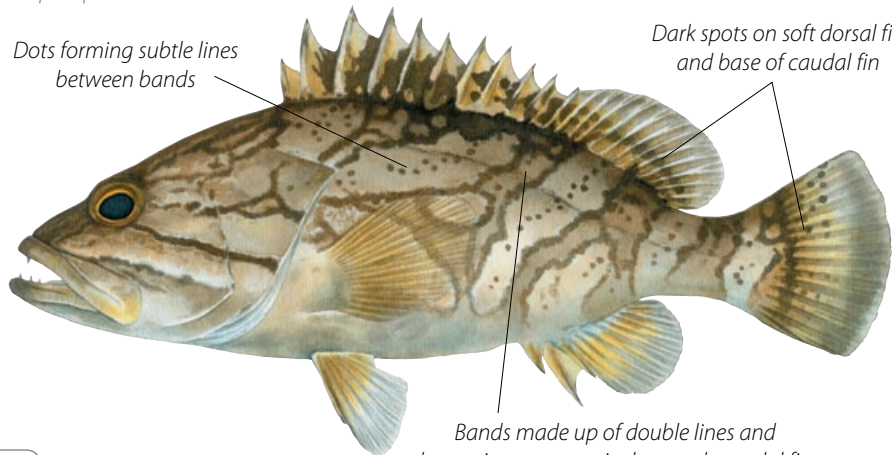
EEP

# *Oblique-banded grouper*

*Epinephelus radiatus*

Dots forming subtle lines  
between bands

Dark spots on soft dorsal fin  
and base of caudal fin

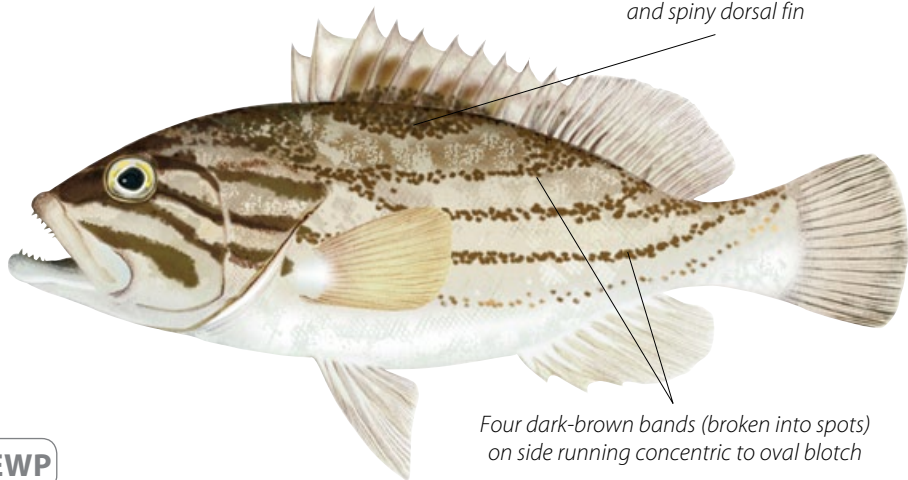


Bands made up of double lines and  
becoming more vertical towards caudal fin

EZR

# Dot-dash grouper

*Epinephelus poecilonotus*



EWP

# Reticulate grouper

*Epinephelus tuamotuensis*

Irregular coarse dark-brown reticulum  
on body and back of head

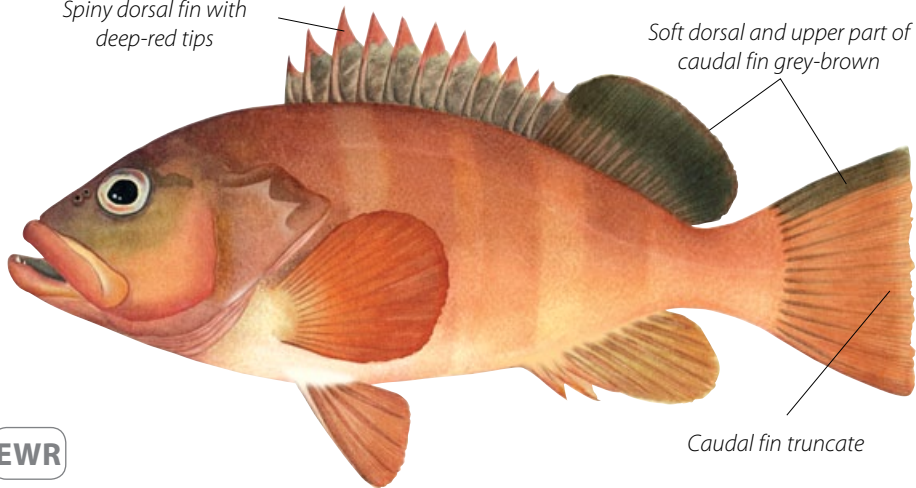


# Red-tipped grouper

*Epinephelus retouti*

Spiny dorsal fin with  
deep-red tips

Soft dorsal and upper part of  
caudal fin grey-brown



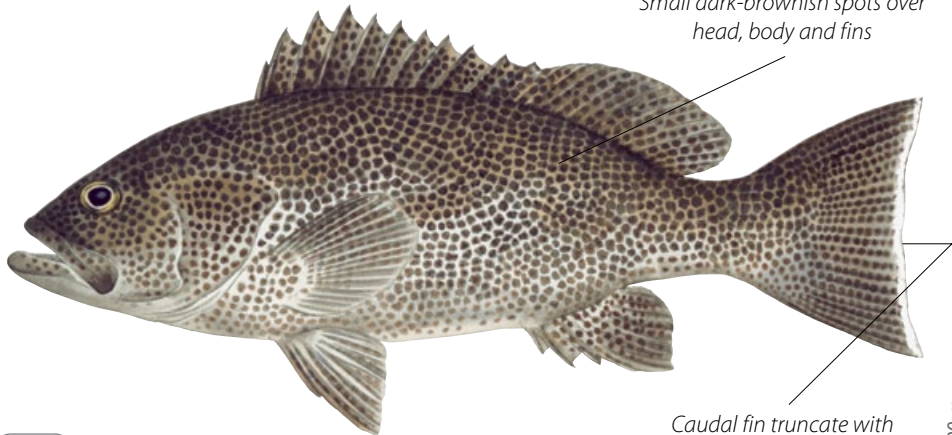
Caudal fin truncate

EWR



# Brownspeckled grouper

*Epinephelus chlorostigma*



Small dark-brownish spots over head, body and fins

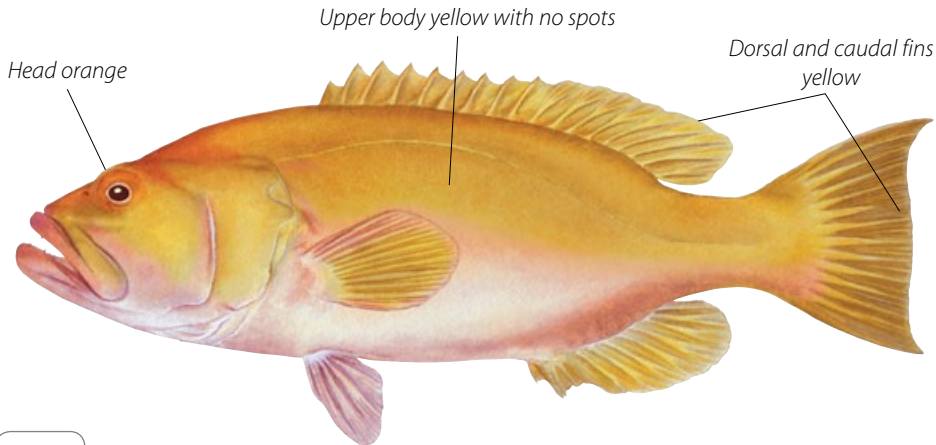
Caudal fin truncate with white margin

4–300 m

EFH

# Golden grouper

*Saloptia powelli*

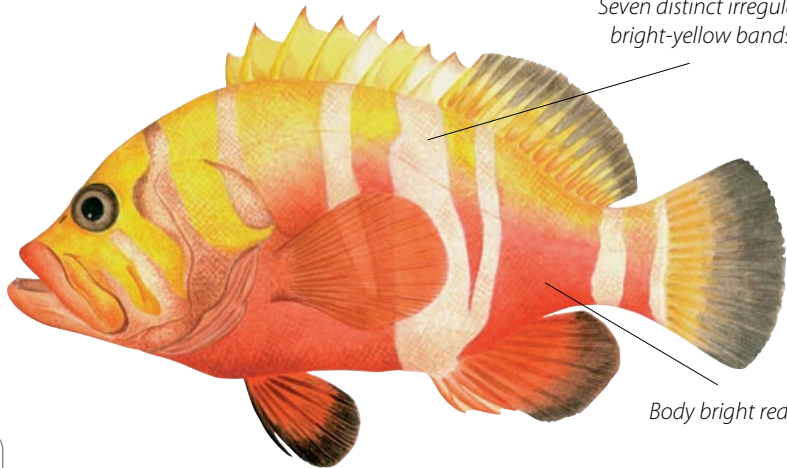


OOW

140–370 m

# Garish hind

*Cephalopholis igarashiensis*



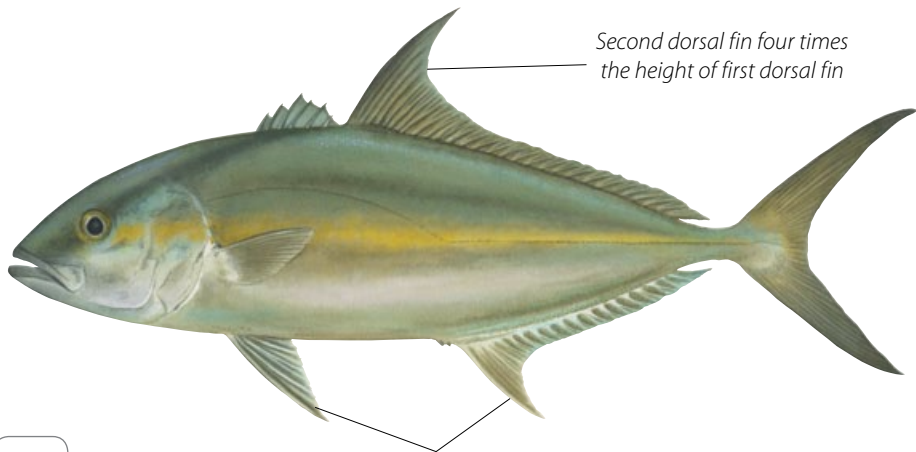
Seven distinct irregular  
bright-yellow bands

Body bright red



# Almaco jack

*Seriola rivoliana*



Second dorsal fin four times  
the height of first dorsal fin

Leading edge of pelvic fin and margin of anal fin white

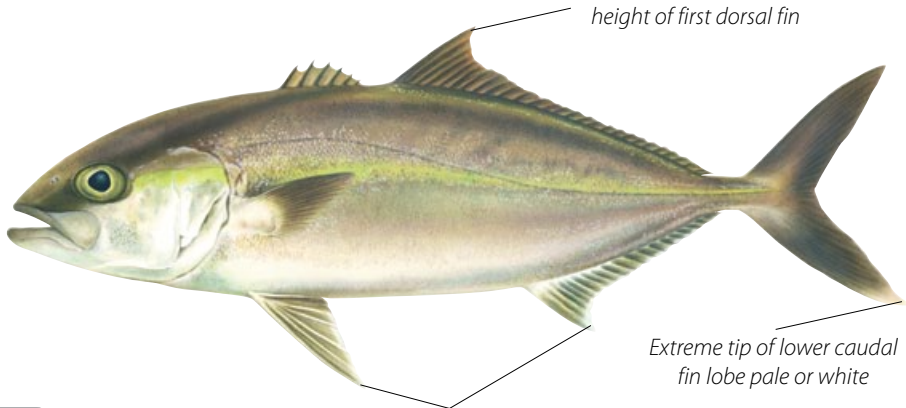
YTL

10–340 m

# Greater amberjack

*Seriola dumerili*

Second dorsal fin twice the height of first dorsal fin



Extreme tip of lower caudal fin lobe pale or white

Tip of pelvic fin and anal fin lobes white

AMB

# Black jack

*Caranx lugubris*



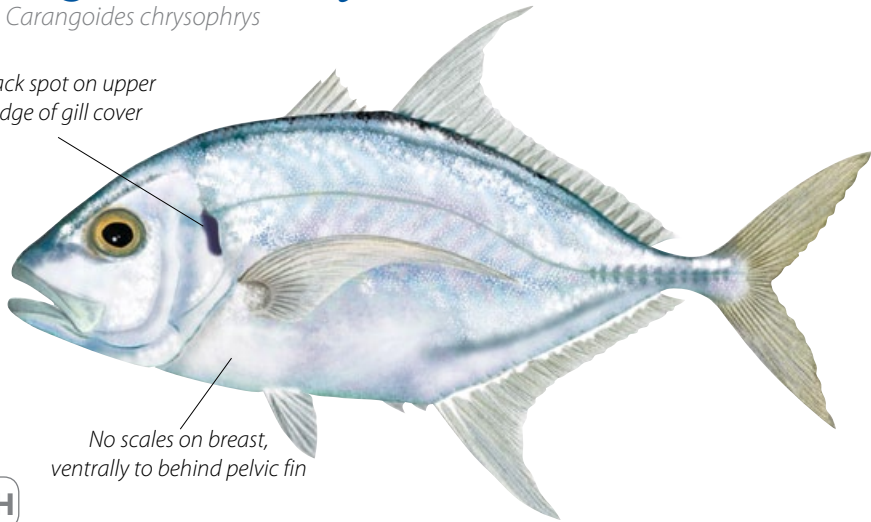
NXU

10–350 m

# Longnose trevally

*Carangoides chrysophrys*

Black spot on upper  
edge of gill cover



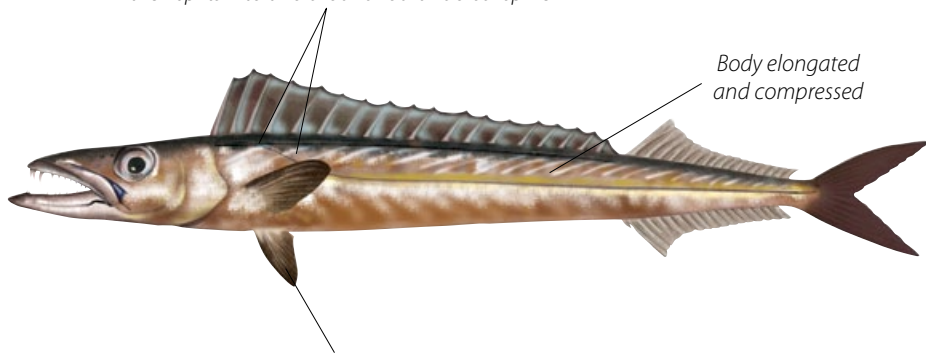
No scales on breast,  
ventrally to behind pelvic fin

NGH

# Black snoek

*Thyrsitoides marleyi*

*Lateral line starts level with back of gill cover, then splits into two around fourth dorsal spine*



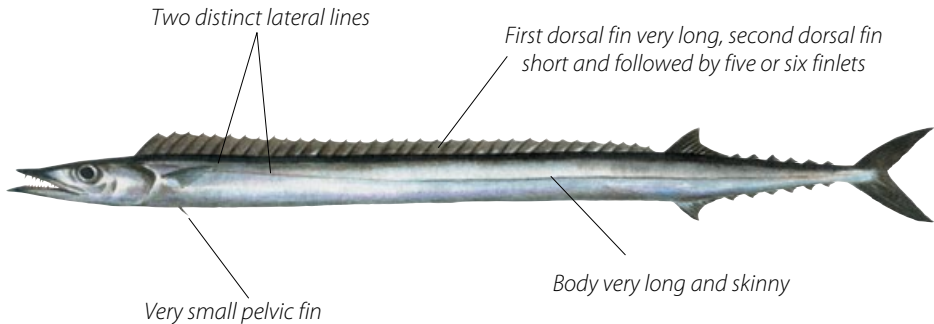
*Body elongated and compressed*

*Well-developed pelvic fin, as long as pectoral fin*



# Snake mackerel

*Gempylus serpens*



GES

# Oilfish

*Ruvettus pretiosus*

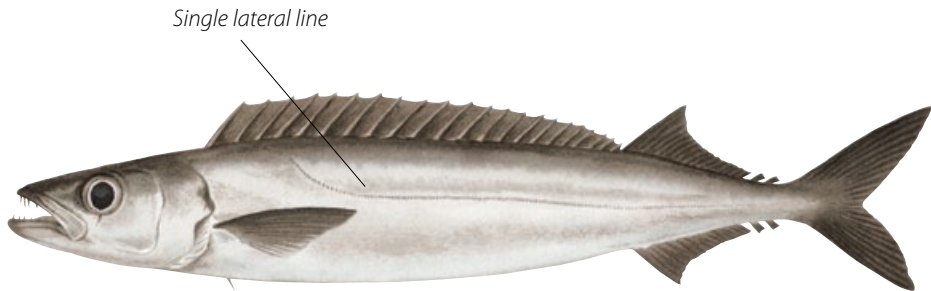


OIL

100–800 m

# *Roudi escolar*

*Promethichthys prometheus*



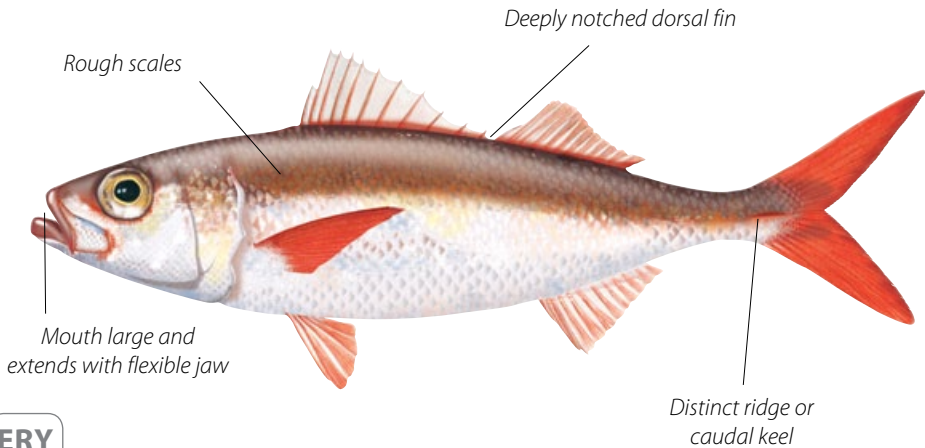
*Single lateral line*

*Small pelvic fin, represented by a single very small spine and soft ray*

PRP

# Japanese rubyfish

*Erythrocles schlegelii*

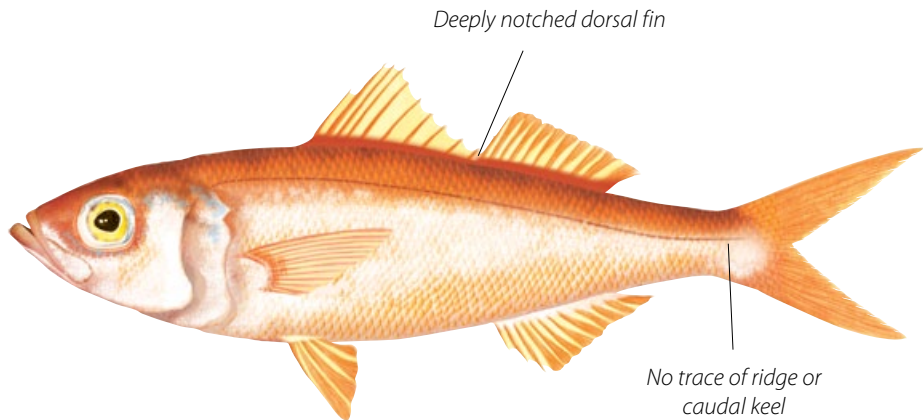


ERY

50–250 m

# Golden kalikali

*Erythrocles scintillans*



ERZ

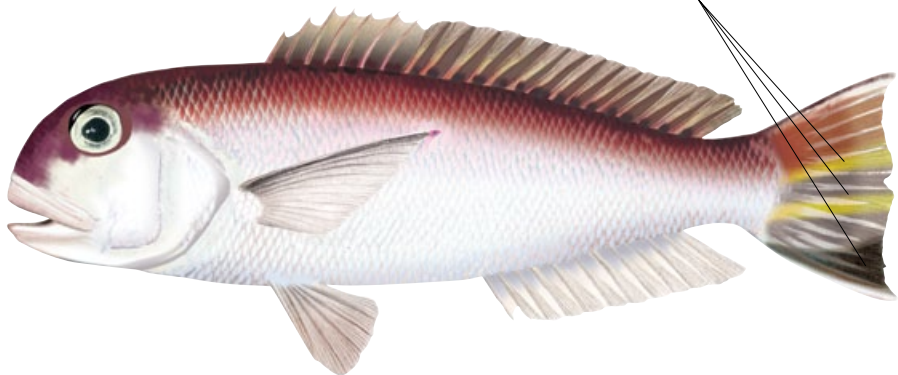
Other deep-bottom fish

250–350 m

# Ward's tilefish

*Branchiostegus wardi*

Caudal fin has dark triangle on lower lobe and two yellow stripes above

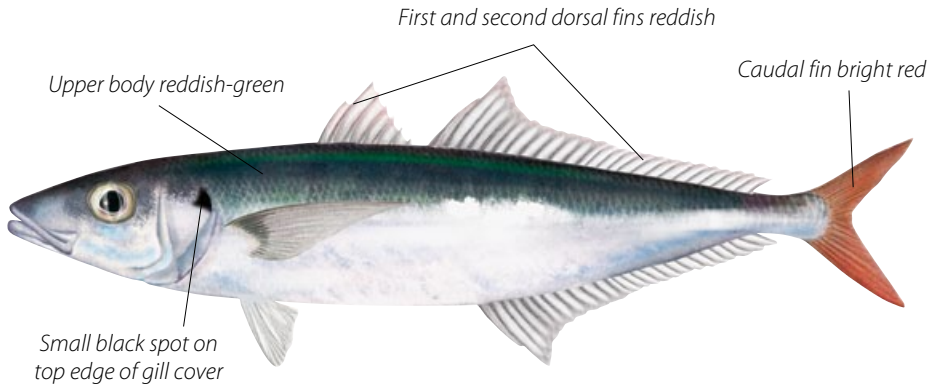


TIZ

100–250 m

# Roughear scad

*Decapterus tabl*



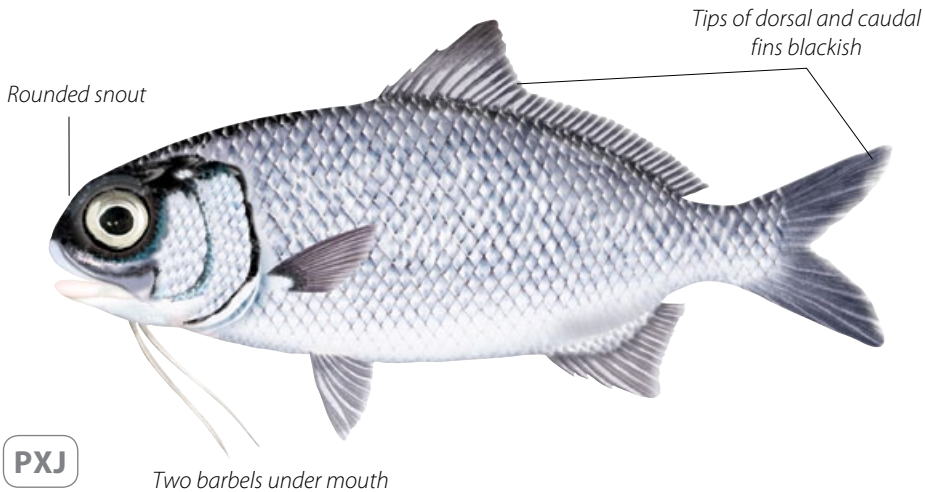
DCT

Other deep-bottom fish

200–360 m

# Silver eye

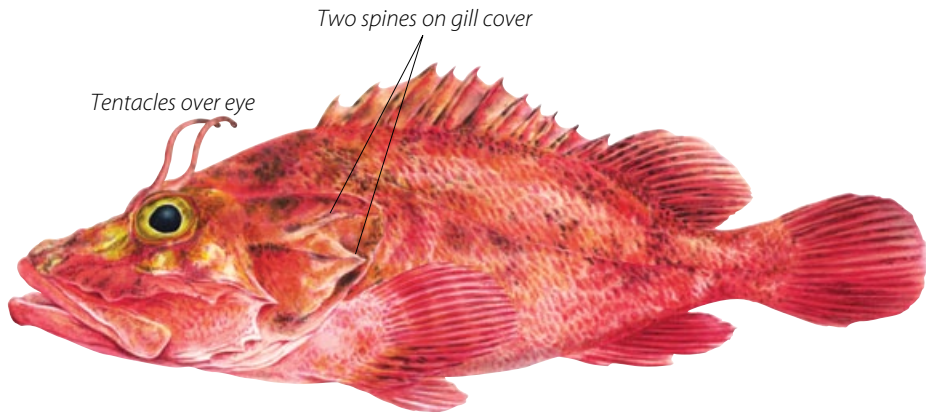
*Polymixia japonica*





# Large-headed scorpionfish

*Pontinus macrocephalus*



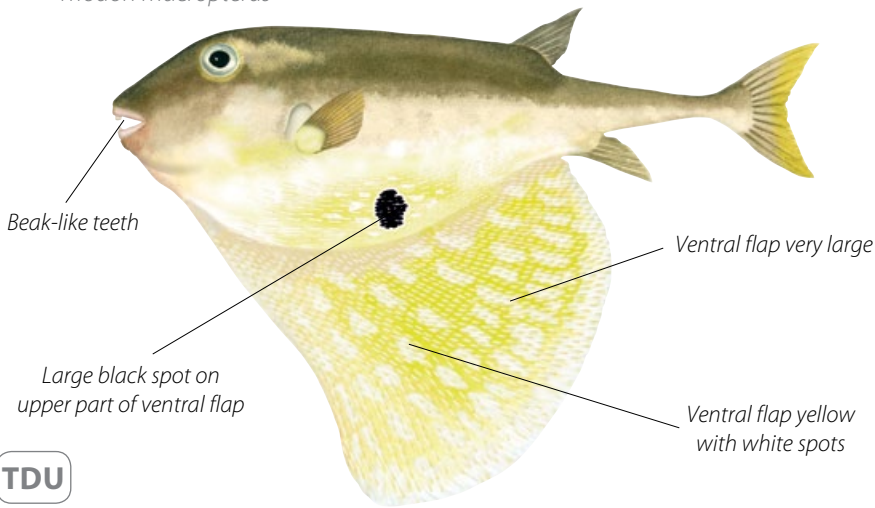
PZM

Other deep-bottom fish

170–275 m

# Threetooth puffer

*Triodon macropterus*



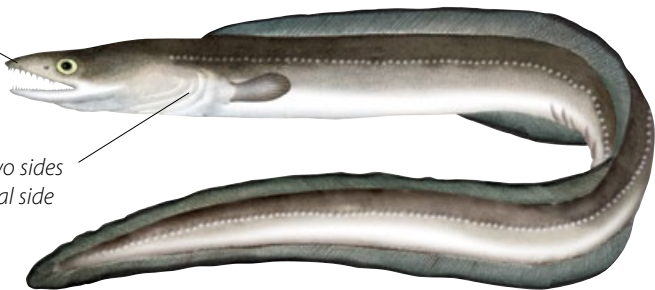
**TDU**

# Daggertooth pike conger

*Muraenesox cinereus*

Elongated snout

Gill openings of the two sides  
nearly meet on ventral side



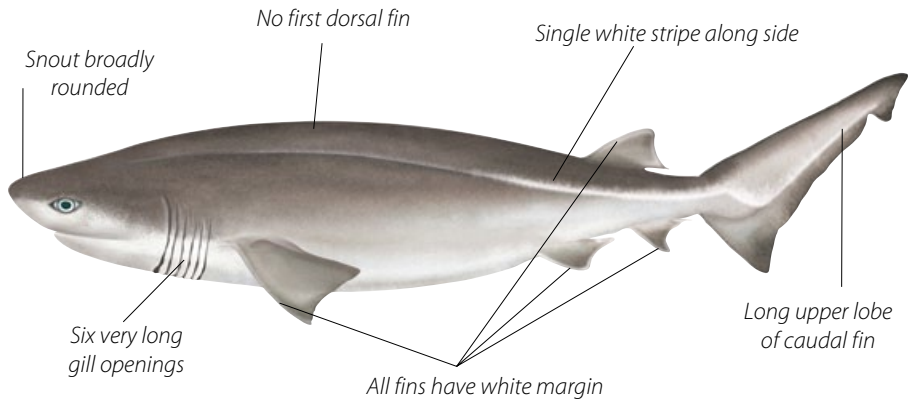
DPC

Other deep-bottom fish

1-740 m

# Bluntnose sixgill shark

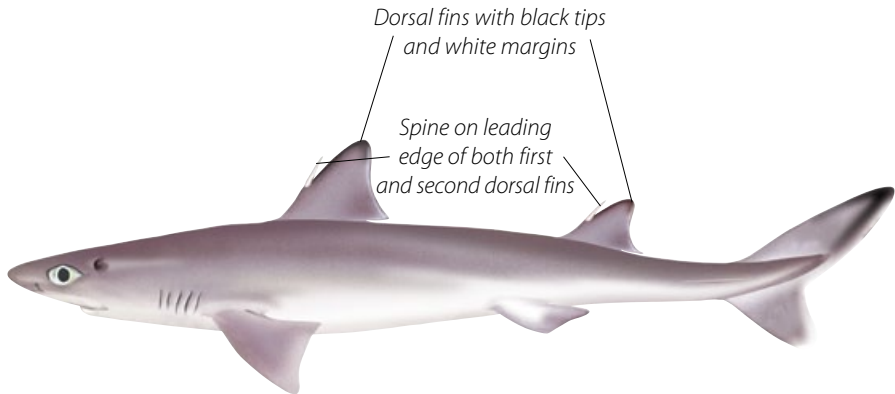
*Hexanchus griseus*



SBL

# Shortnose spurdog

*Squalus megalops*



DOP

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Secretariat  
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**SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY**

BP D5 • 98848 NOUMEA CEDEX • NEW CALEDONIA

Telephone: +687 26 20 00

Facsimile: +687 26 38 18

Email: [cfpinfo@spc.int](mailto:cfpinfo@spc.int)

<http://www.spc.int/fame>