American Samoa
Fish species study guide

This presentation is intended to be a study aide and not a comprehensive list of all fish species recorded in American Samoa.

The following books are also excellent resources and are normally made available for use during the Coral Reef Ecosystem Program's research cruises.

- J. E. Randall's *Reef and Shore Fishes of the South Pacific*
- R. F. Myers' *Micronesian Reef Fishes*
- Allen, Steene, Humann and DeLoach's *Reef Fish Identification: Tropical Pacific*.

Abudefduf septemfasciatus
AB**SP** 20cm

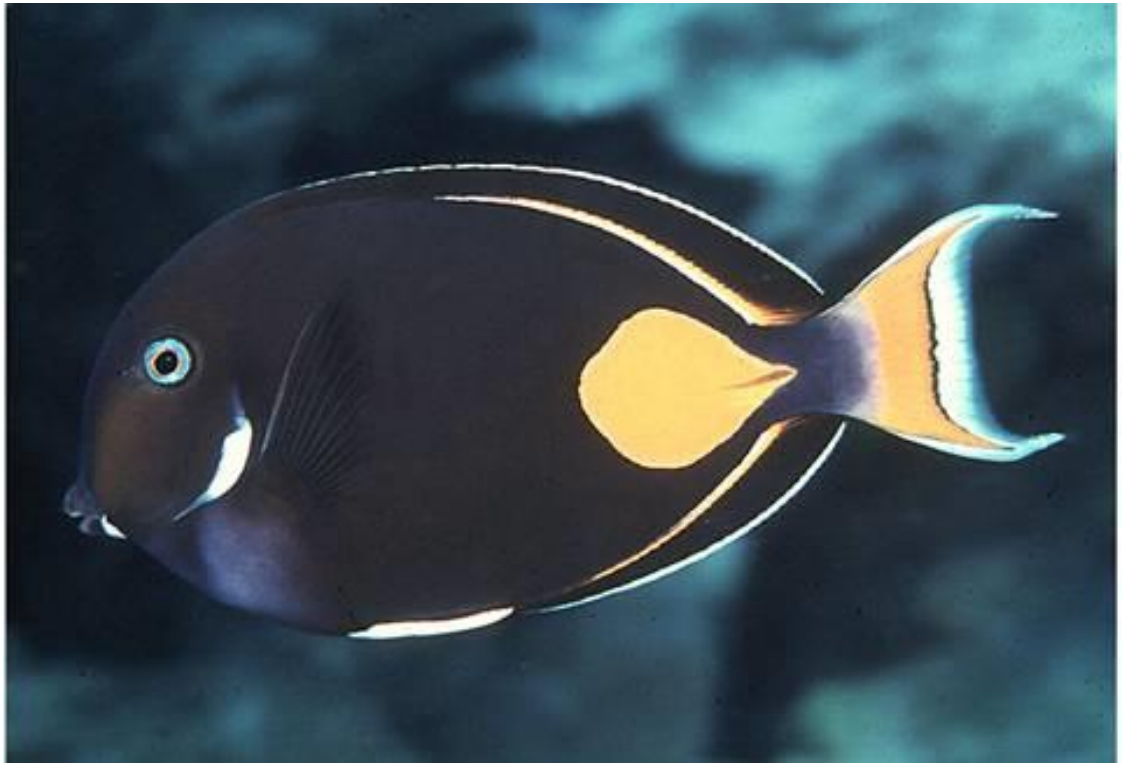
Abudefduf sordidus

ABSO 24cm

Abudefduf sexfasciatus

AB**SX** 15cm

Abudefduf vaigiensis
ABVA 20cm



Acanthurus achilles
ACAC 25cm

Acanthurus albipectoralis
ACAL 33cm

Acanthurus blochii

ACBL 43cm

Acanthurus guttatus
ACGU 26 cm

Acanthurus lineatus

ACLI 38cm

Acanthurus leucocheilus

ACLU 20cm

Acanthurus maculiceps

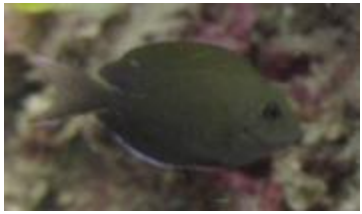
ACMA 41 cm

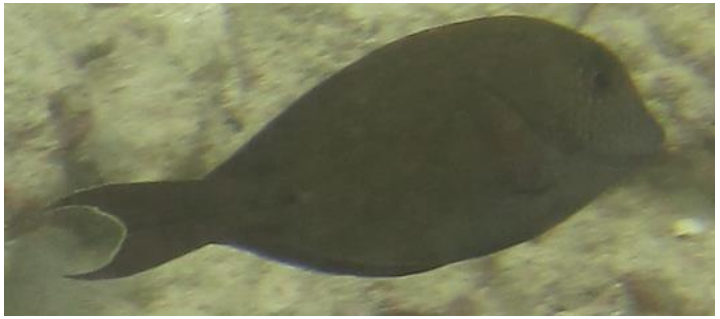
Acanthurus mata

AC**MT** 50 cm

Acanthurus nigricans
ACNC 23cm

Acanthurus nigricauda
ACNI 40cm





Acanthurus nigrofuscus

AC**NF** 23cm

Acanthurus nigroris

AC**NR** 25cm

Acanthurus olivaceus

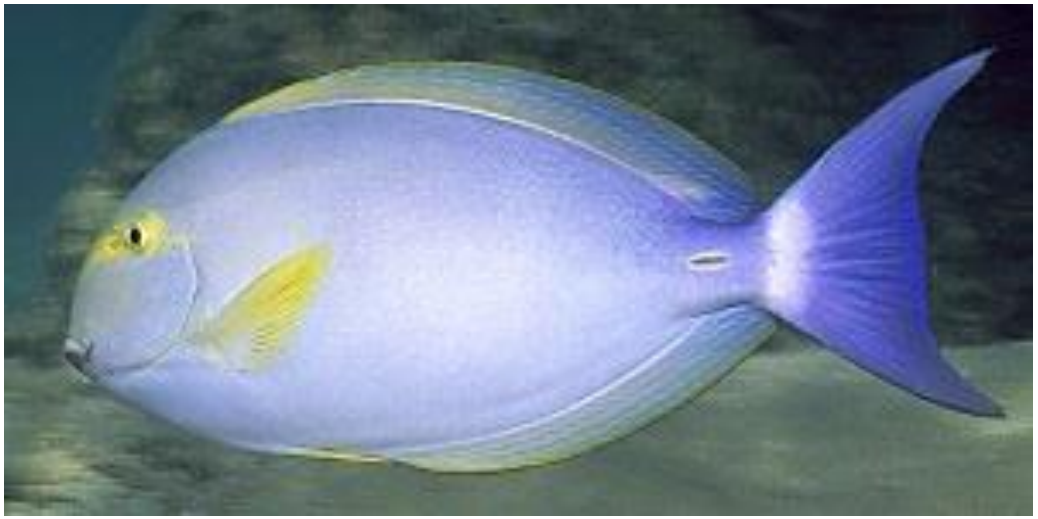
ACOL 30cm

Acanthurus pyroferus

ACPY 25cm

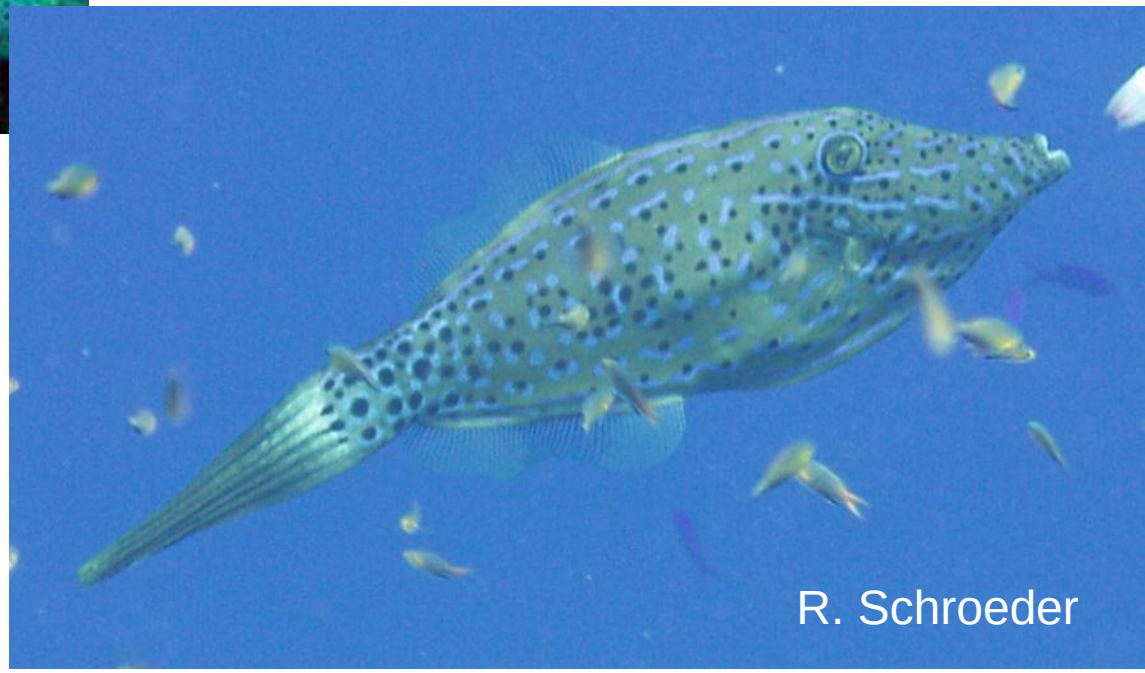
Acanthurus thompsoni
ACTH 28cm

Acanthurus triostegus
ACTR 26cm



Acanthurus xanthopterus

ACXA 65cm



Aluterus scriptus

ALSC 76cm

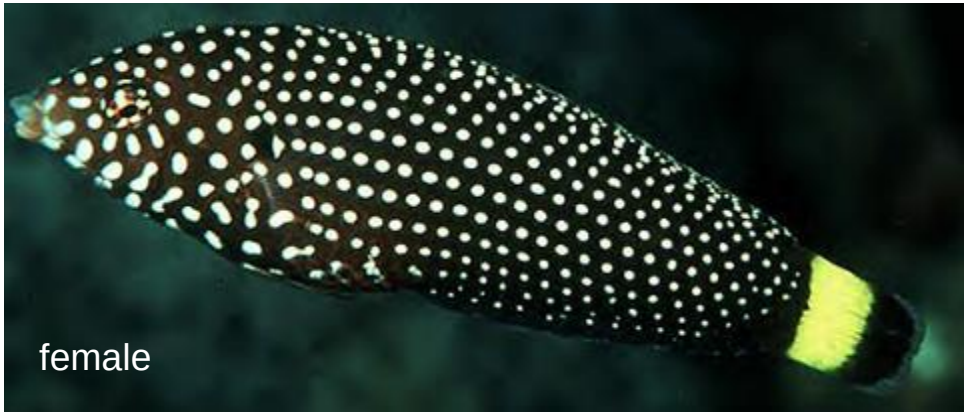
Amanses scopas
AMSC 20cm

Amphiprion chrysopterus
AMCH 17cm

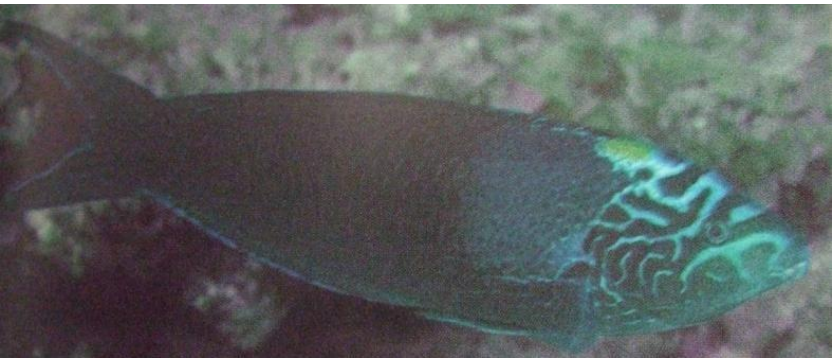
Amphiprion melanopus
AMME 12 cm

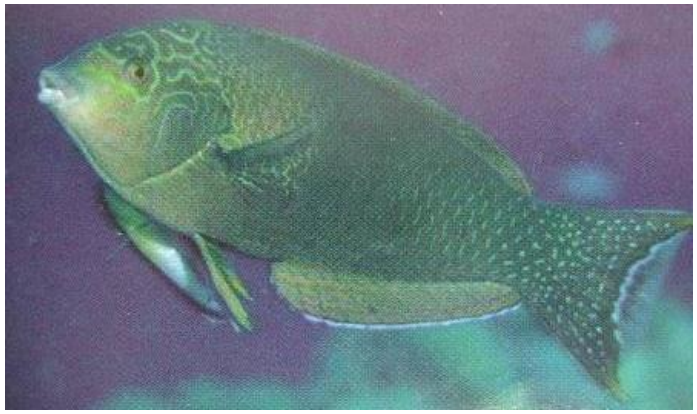
Amphiprion perideraion
AMPE 10cm

Anampses caeruleopunctatus
ANCA 42cm



Anampses melanurus
ANME 12cm



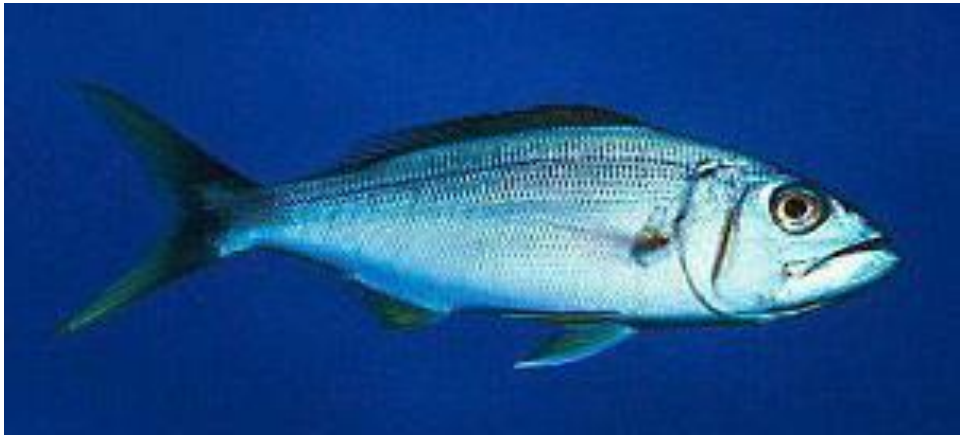


Anampses meleagrides

AN**MG** 22cm

Anampses twistii
ANTW 18cm

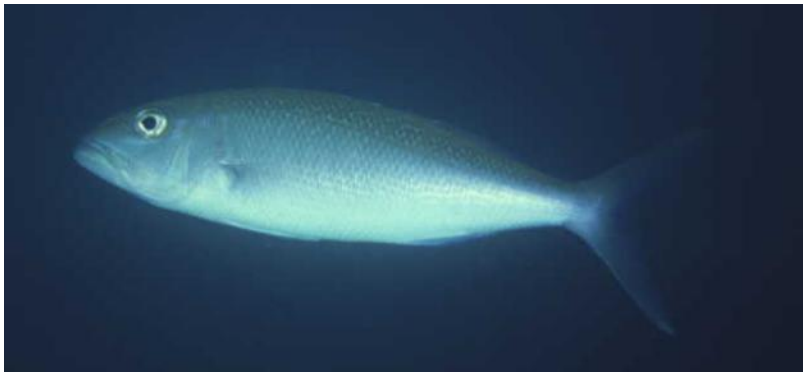
Anyperodon leucogrammicus
ANLE 60cm



Aphareus furca
APFU 70cm

Apogon angustus
APAN 9cm

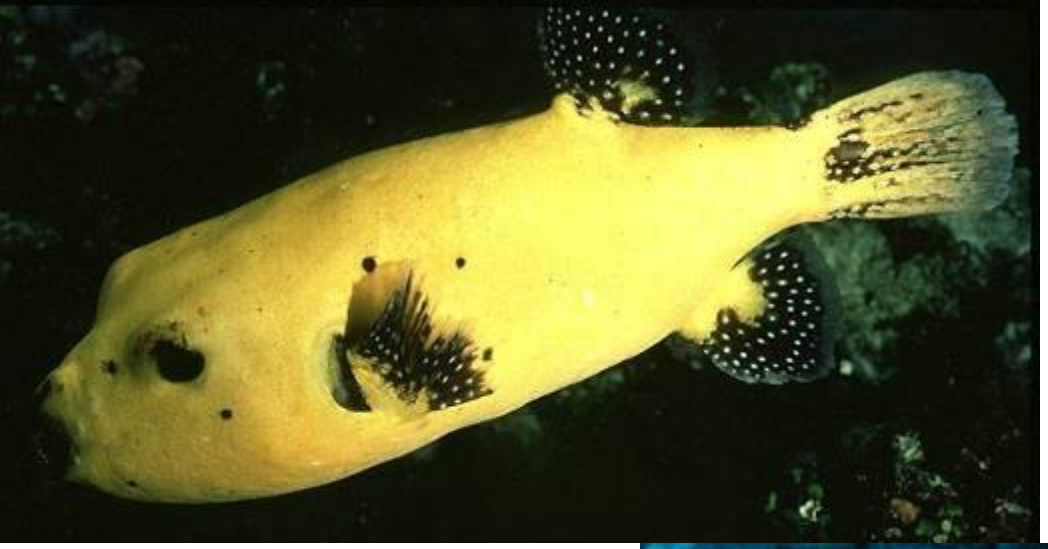
Apolemichthys trimaculatus
APTR 25cm



Aprion virescens

APVI 110cm

Arothron hispidus
ARHI 49cm



Arothron meleagris
ARME 34cm

Aspidontus taeniatus
ASTA 10.5cm

Balistapus undulatus

BAUN 30cm

Ballistoides conspicillum
BACO 50 cm

Balistoides viridescens

BAVI 75cm

Bodianus axillaris

BOAX 20cm

Bodianus diana

BODI 25cm

Bodianus loxozonus

BOLO 40cm

Bodianus mesothorax

BOME 19cm

Caesio caerulaurea

CACE 29cm

Caesio cuning
CACU 60 cm

Caesio teres
CATE 40cm

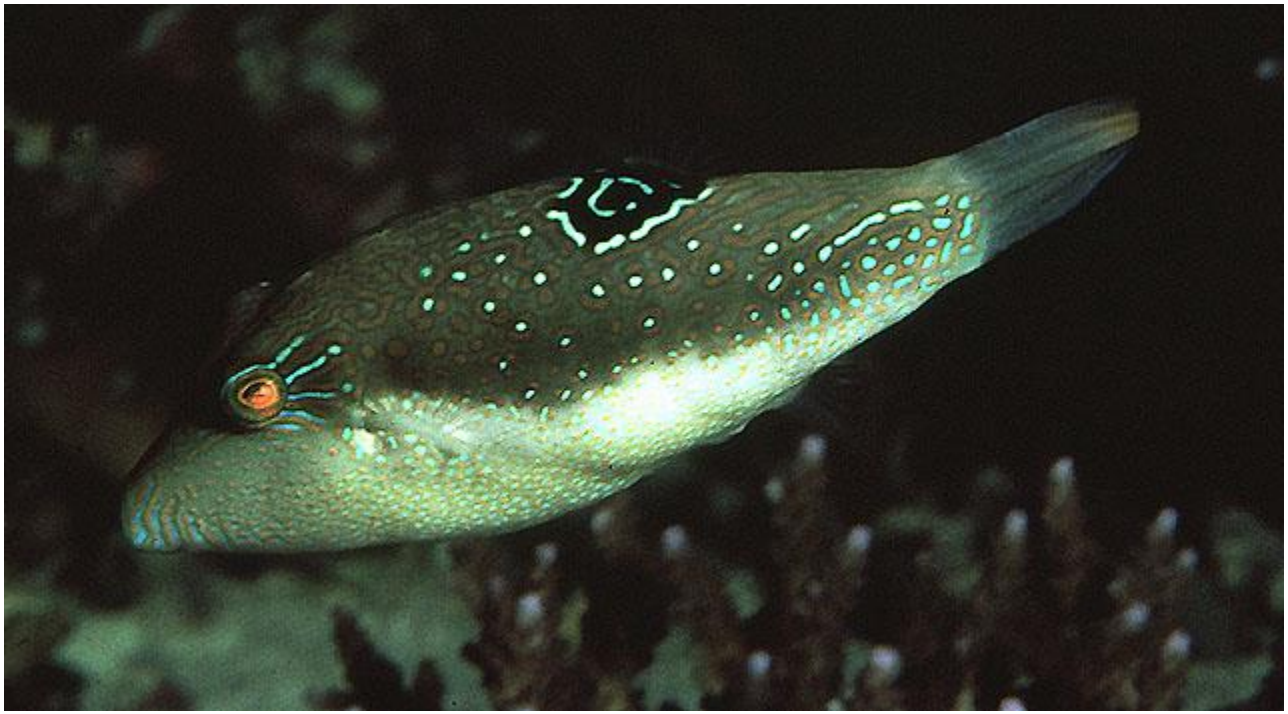
Calotomus carolinus
CACA 50cm

Cantherhines dumerilii

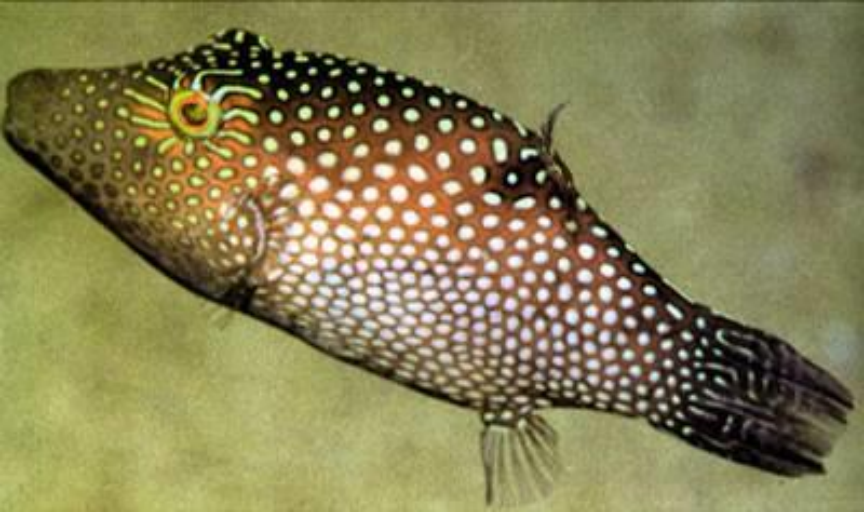
CADU 38cm

Cantherhines pardalis
CAPA 25cm

Canthigaster amboinensis
CAAM 14cm



Canthigaster bennetti
CABE 10 cm



Canthigaster janthinoptera
CAJN 9 cm

Canthigaster solandri
CASO 11cm

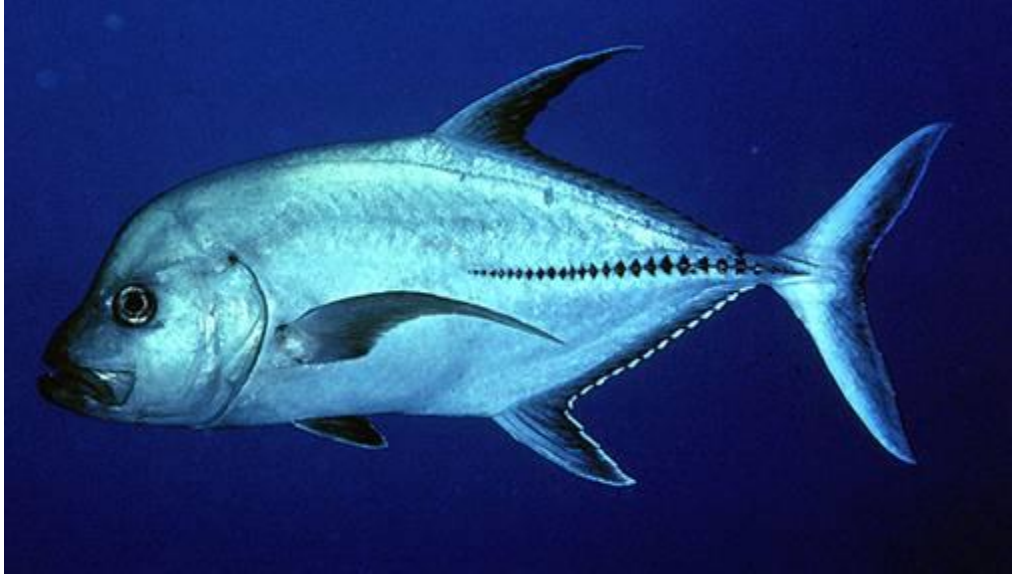
Canthigaster valentini
CAVA 9cm

Caracanthus maculatus
CAMC 5cm

Carangoides ferdau
CAFE 53cm

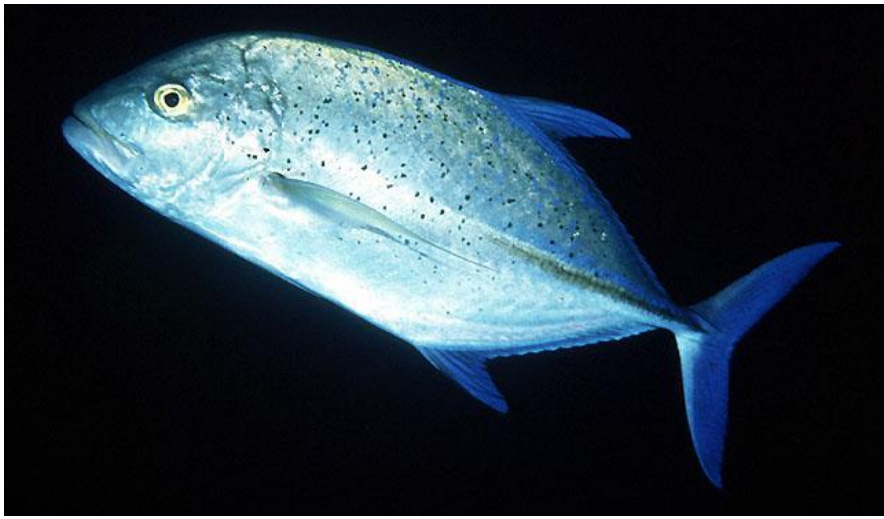
Carangoides orthogrammus

CAOR 70cm



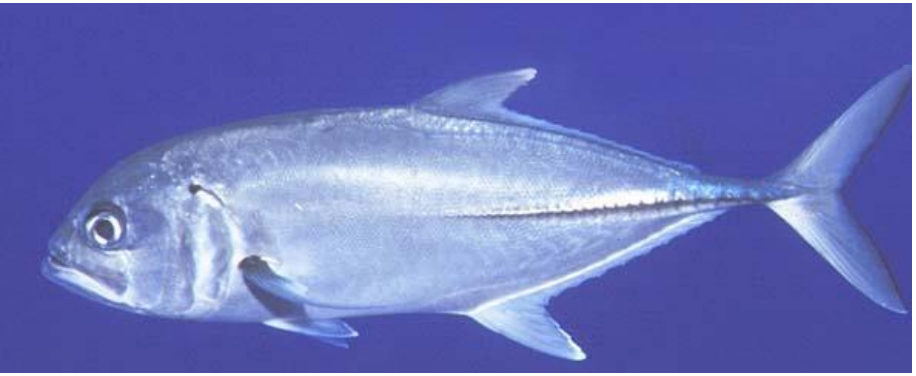
Caranx lugubris

CALU 100cm



Caranx melampygus

CAME 100cm



Caranx sexfasciatus

CASE 100cm

Centropyge bicolor
CEBC 15cm

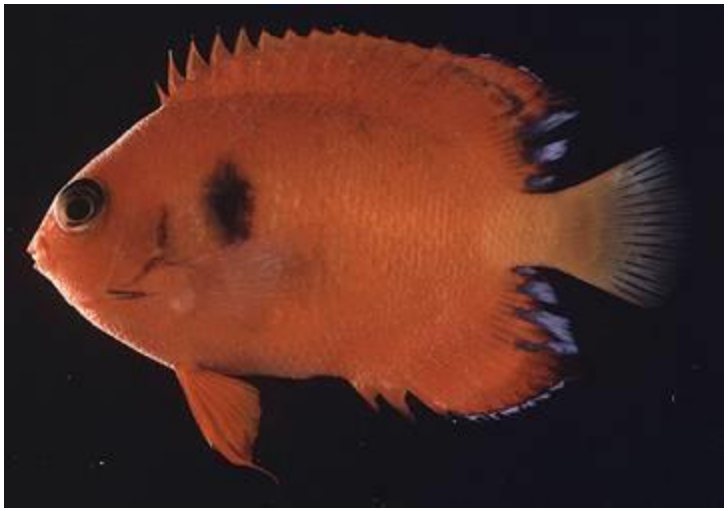
Centropyge bispinosa
CEBI 10cm

Chaetodon ephippium
CHEP 23cm

Centropyge fisheri
CEFI 6 cm

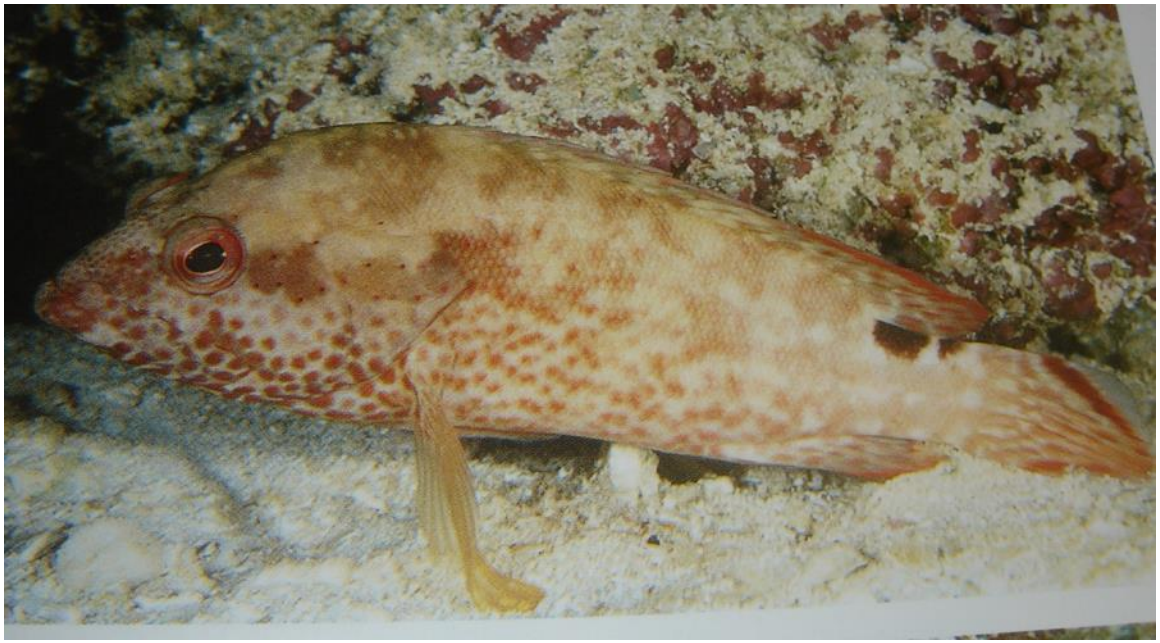
Centropyge flavissima
CEFL 14cm

Centropyge heraldi
CEHE 10cm



Centropyge loricula
CELO 10cm

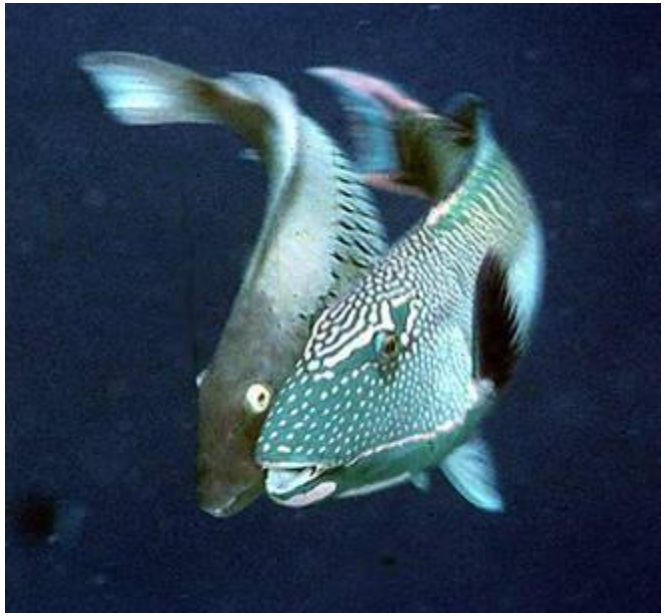
Cephalopholis argus
CEAR 60cm



Cephalopholis leopardus
CELE 20cm

Cephalopholis spiloparaea
CESP 22cm

Cephalopholis urodeta
CEUR 28cm



Cetoscarus ocellatus

CEOC 90cm

Chaetodon auriga
CHAU 23cm

Chaetodon bennetti
CHBE 18cm

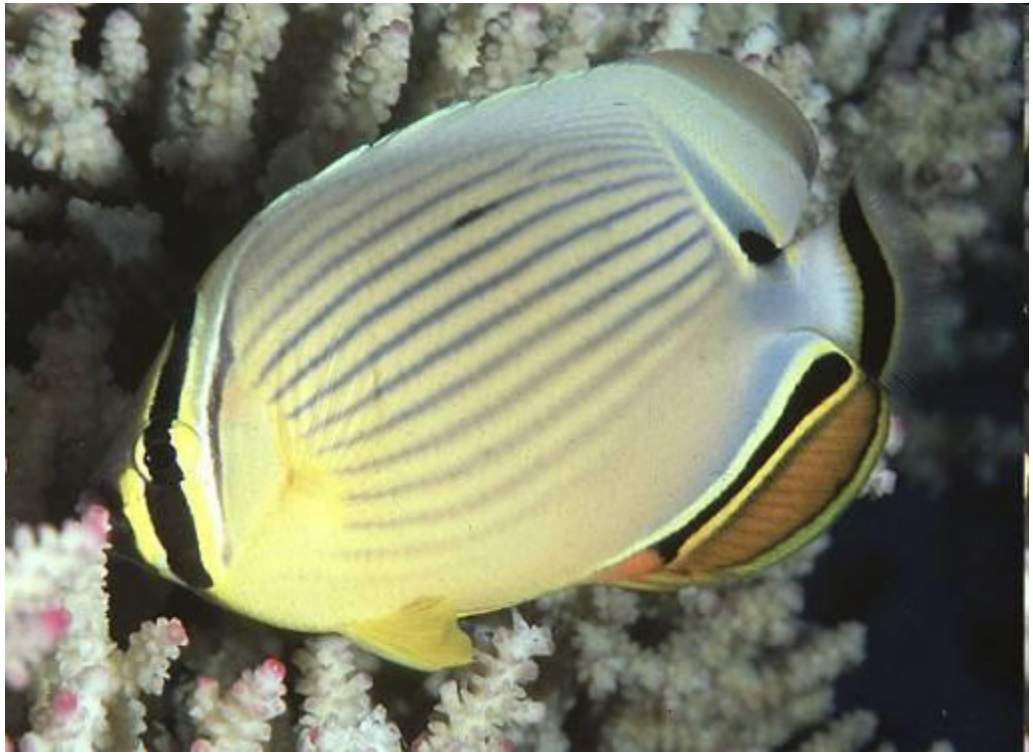
Chaetodon citrinellus
CHCl 13cm

Chaetodon ephippium
CHEP 23cm

Chaetodon lineolatus

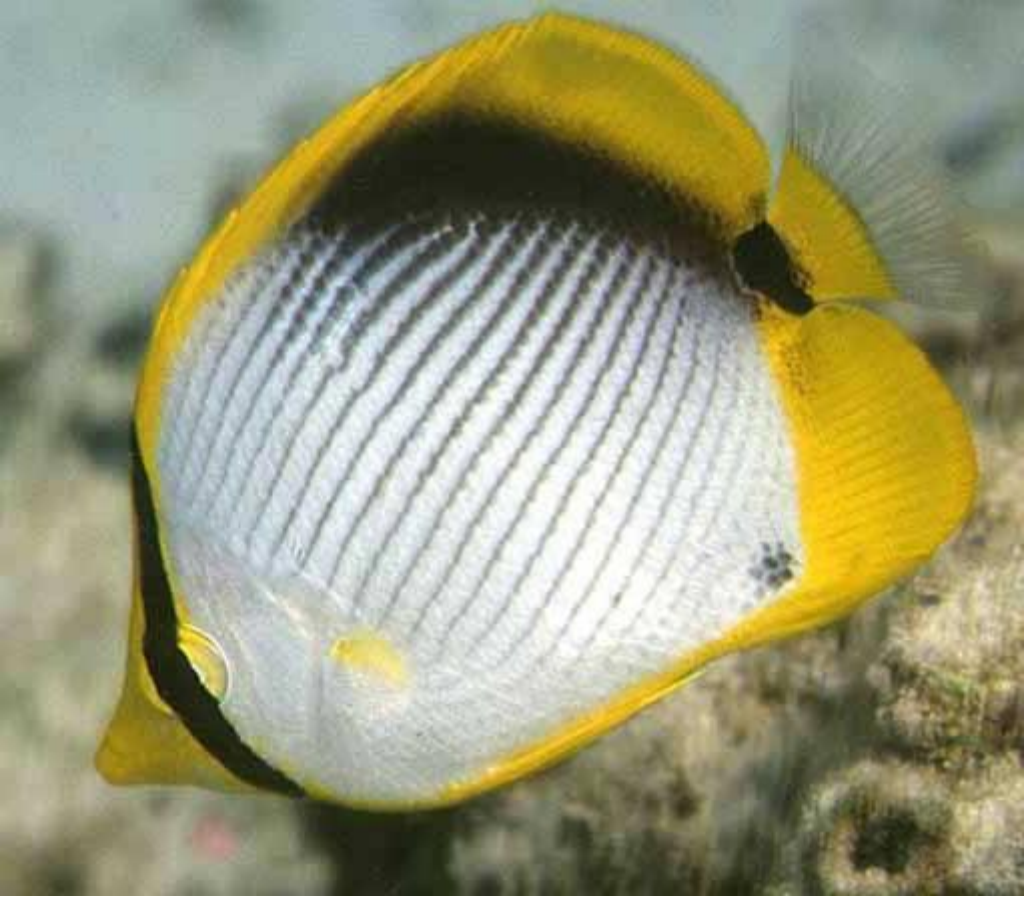
CHLI 30 cm

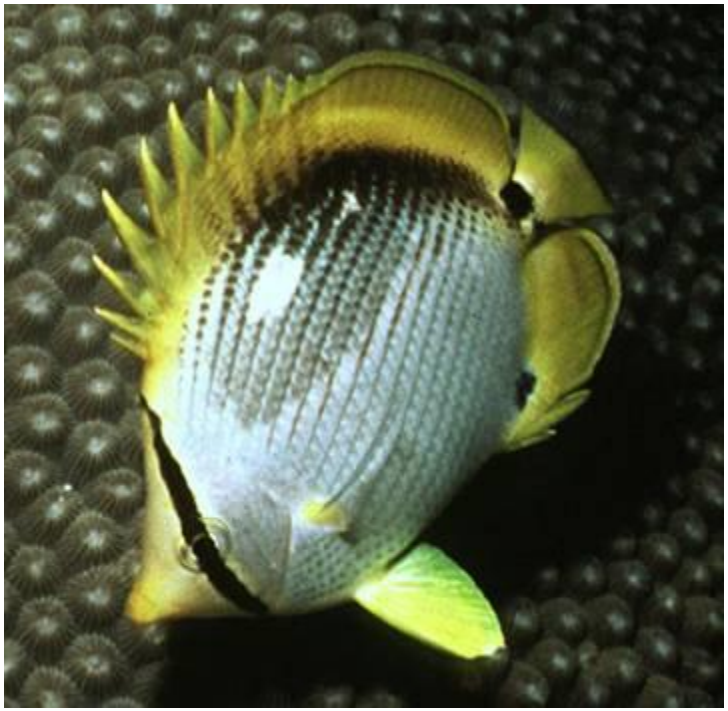
Chaetodon lunula
CHLU 20cm



Chaetodon lunulatus

CH**LT** 14 cm





Chaetodon melannotus

CH**ML** 15cm

Chaetodon mertensii

CH**MR** 13cm

Chaetodon ornatissimus
CHOR 20cm

Chaetodon pelewensis

CH**PW** 13cm

Chaetodon punctatofasciatus
CHPU 12cm

Chaetodon quadrimaculatus
CHQU 15cm

Chaetodon rafflesii
CHRA 15cm

Chaetodon reticulatus
CHRE 18cm

Chaetodon semeion

CHSE 24cm

Chaetodon trifascialis

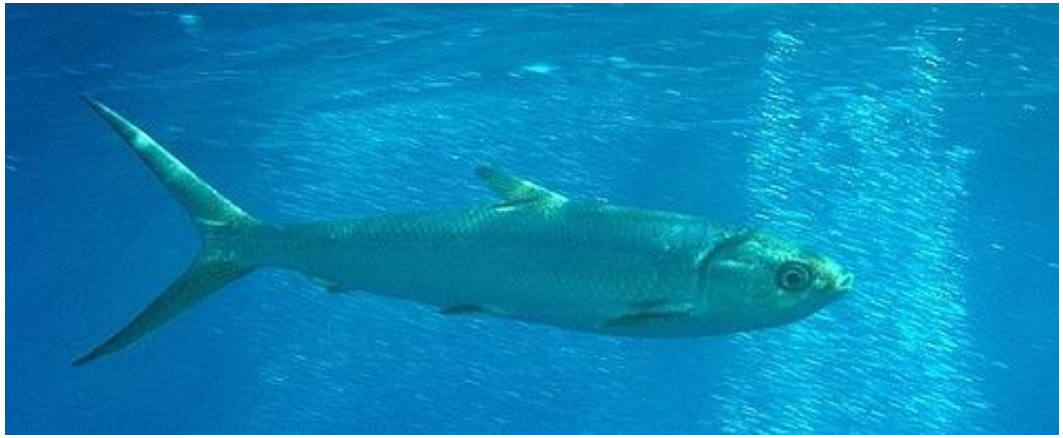
CHTR 18cm

Chaetodon ulietensis
CHUL 15cm

Chaetodon unimaculatus
CHUN 20 cm

Chaetodon vagabundus

CH**VG** 23cm



Chanos chanos

CHCH 180 cm

Cheilinus chlorourus

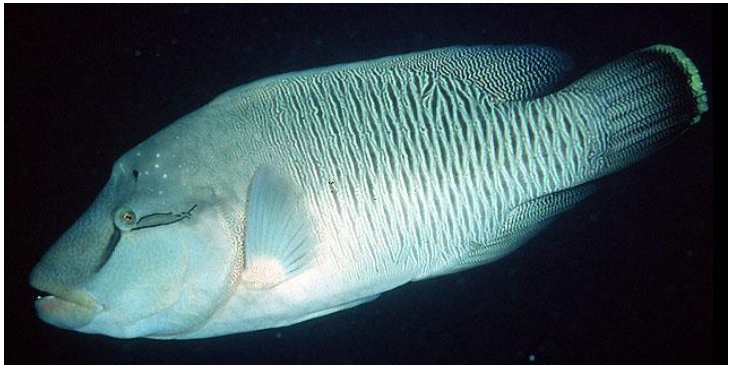
CHCL 45 cm

Cheilinus fasciatus
CHFA 36cm

Cheilinus oxycephalus
CHOX 17cm

Cheilinus trilobatus

CH**TL** 45cm



Cheilinus undulatus

CHUD 229 cm

Cheilodipterus artus
CHAR 18 cm

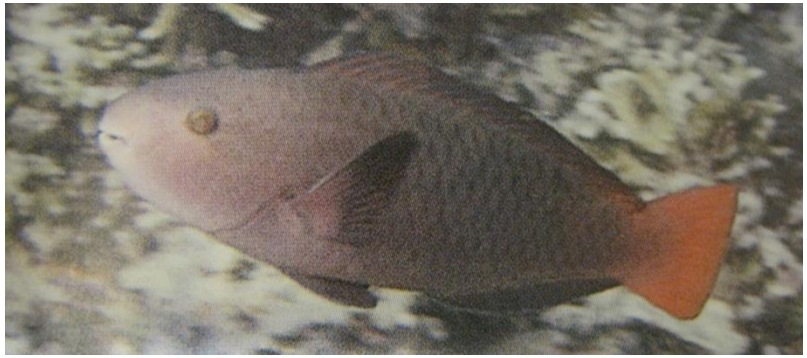
Cheilodipterus macrodon
CHMD 20cm

Cheilodipterus quinquelineatus

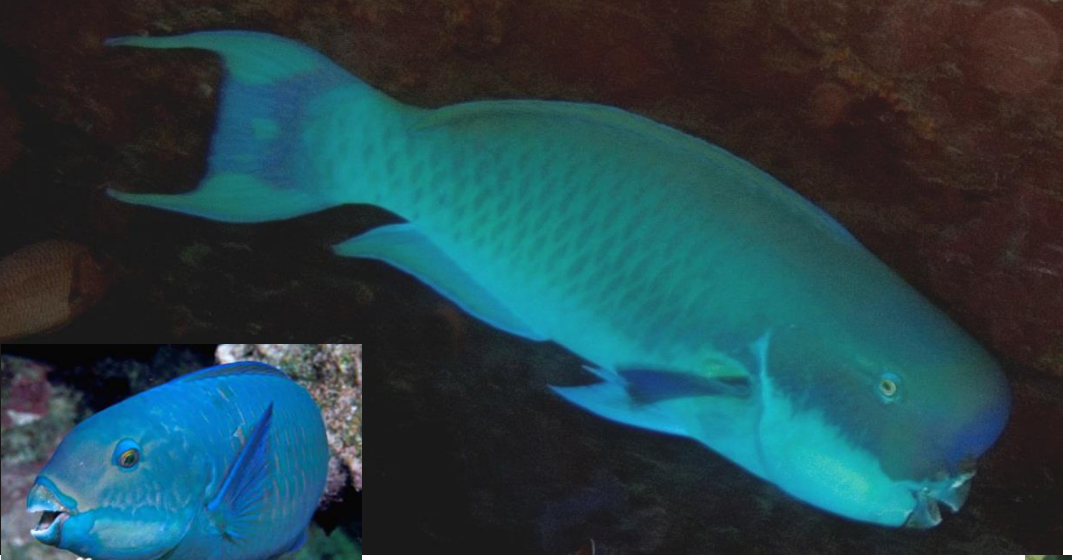
CH**QN**

Chlorurus frontalis

CH**FN** 50cm



Chlorurus japanensis
CHJA　30cm



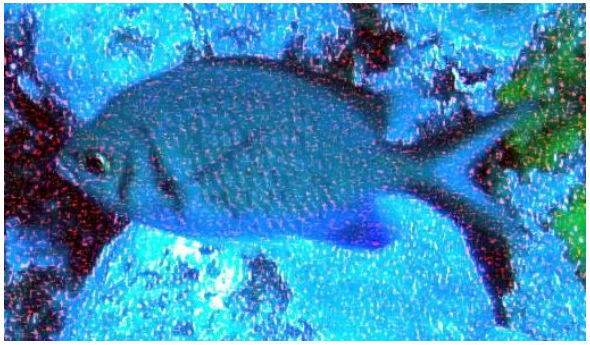
Chlorurus microrhinos

CH**MC** 80cm

Chlorurus sordidus
CHSO 40cm

Chromis acares
CHAC 6cm

Chromis agilis
CHAG 11cm



Chromis alpha
CHAL 12 cm

Chromis amboinensis

CHAM 9cm

Chromis fumea
CHFU 10 cm

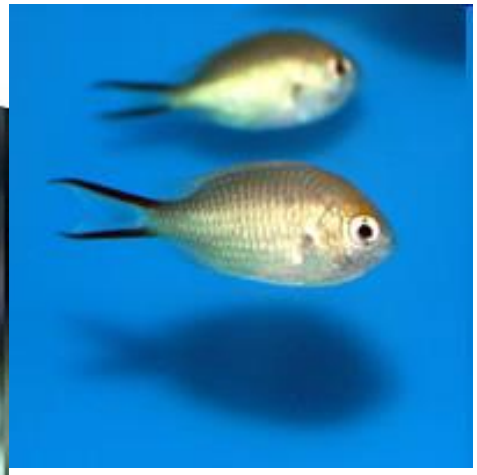
Chromis iomelas
CHIO 7cm

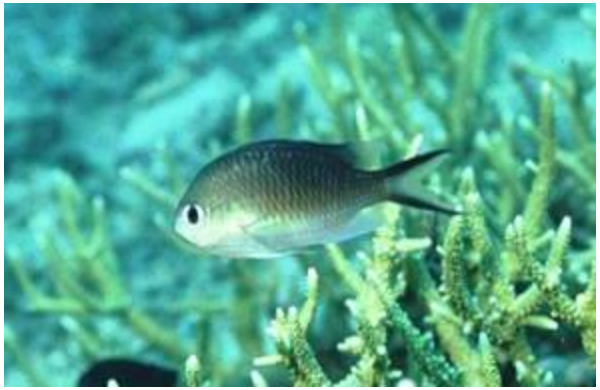
Chromis leucura

CHLC 7cm

Chromis margaritifer

CHMA 8cm





Chromis ternatensis

CHTE 8cm

Chromis vanderbilti
CHVA 15cm

Chromis viridis

CHVR 8cm

Chromis weberi
CHWE 13.5 cm

Chromis xanthura
CHXA 15cm

Chrysiptera biocellata

CHBI 7cm

Chrysiptera brownriggii
CHBR 8 cm

Chrysiptera cyanea
CHCY 8cm

Chrysiptera glauca
CHGL 8cm

Chrysiptera taupou
CHTA 8cm

Cirrhilabrus katherinae

CIKA 7cm

Cirrhilabrus punctatus

CIPU 13 cm

Cirrhilabrus temminckii

CITE 9.9 cm

Cirrhitus pinnulatus

CIPI 30cm

← adult

Juvenile →

Cirripectes polyzona
CIPO 9cm

Cirripectes stigmaticus
CIST 13 cm

Cirripectes variolosus

CI**VR** 8cm

Cirrhitichthys falco

Cl**FL** 7cm

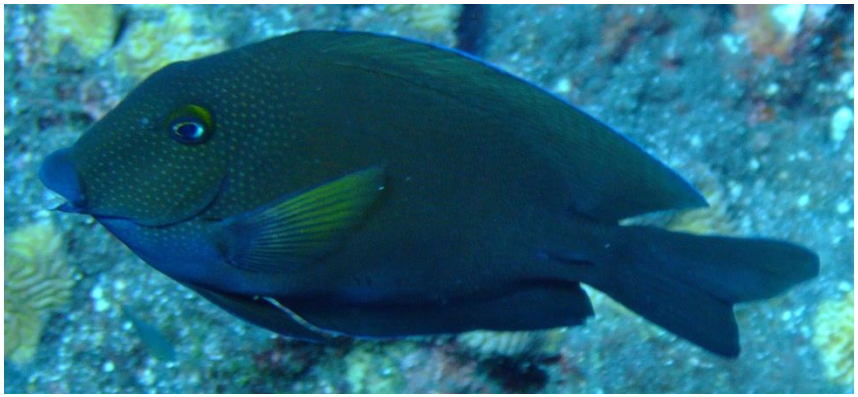
Coris aygula

COAY 55cm

Coris gaimard

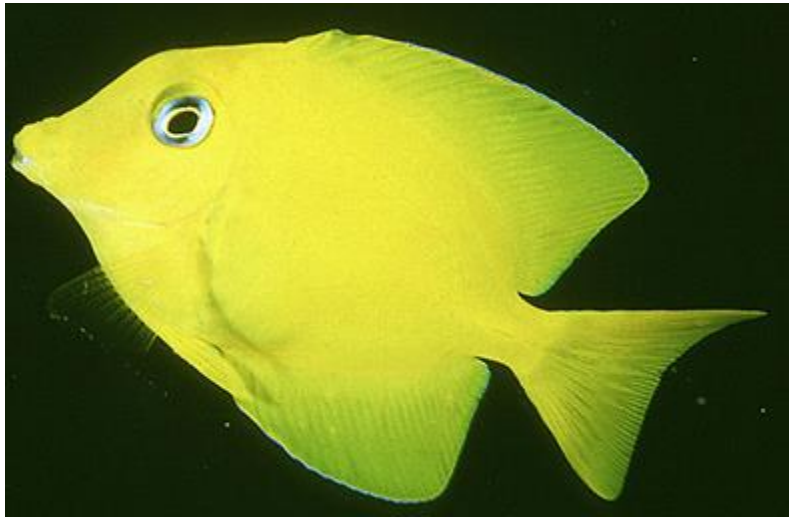
COGA 38cm

Ctenochaetus binotatus
CTBI 22cm



Ctenochaetus cyanocheilus

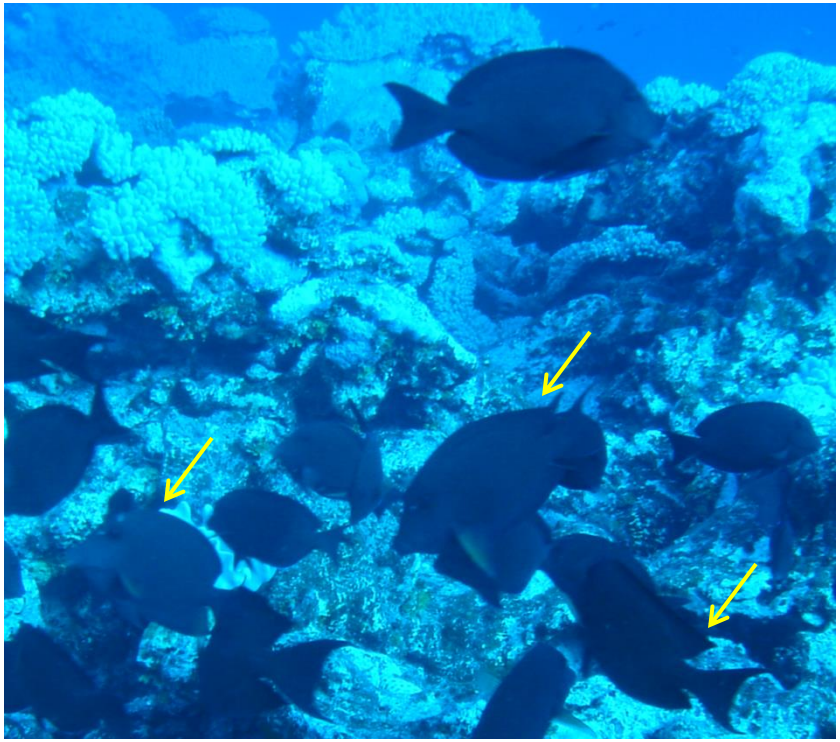
CTCY 20cm



Ctenochaetus flavicauda
CTFL 13cm

Ctenochaetus hawaiiensis

CTHA 25 cm



Ctenochaetus striatus

CT**SR** 28cm

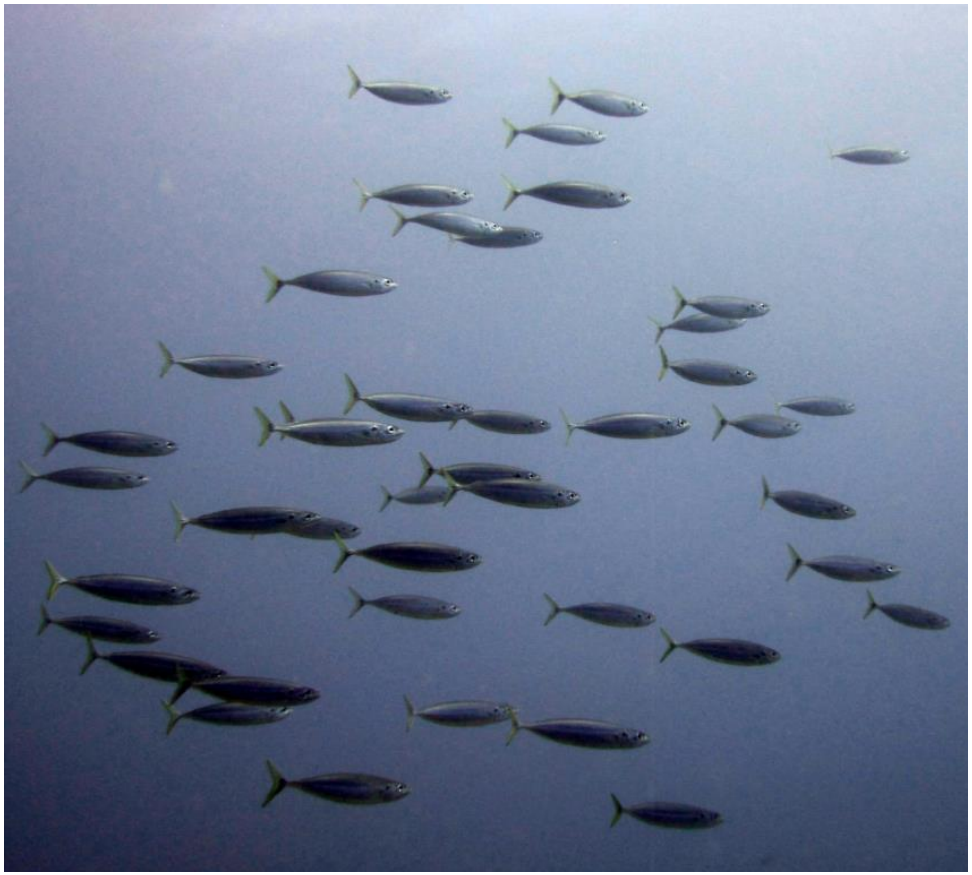
Dascyllus aruanus

DAAR 8cm

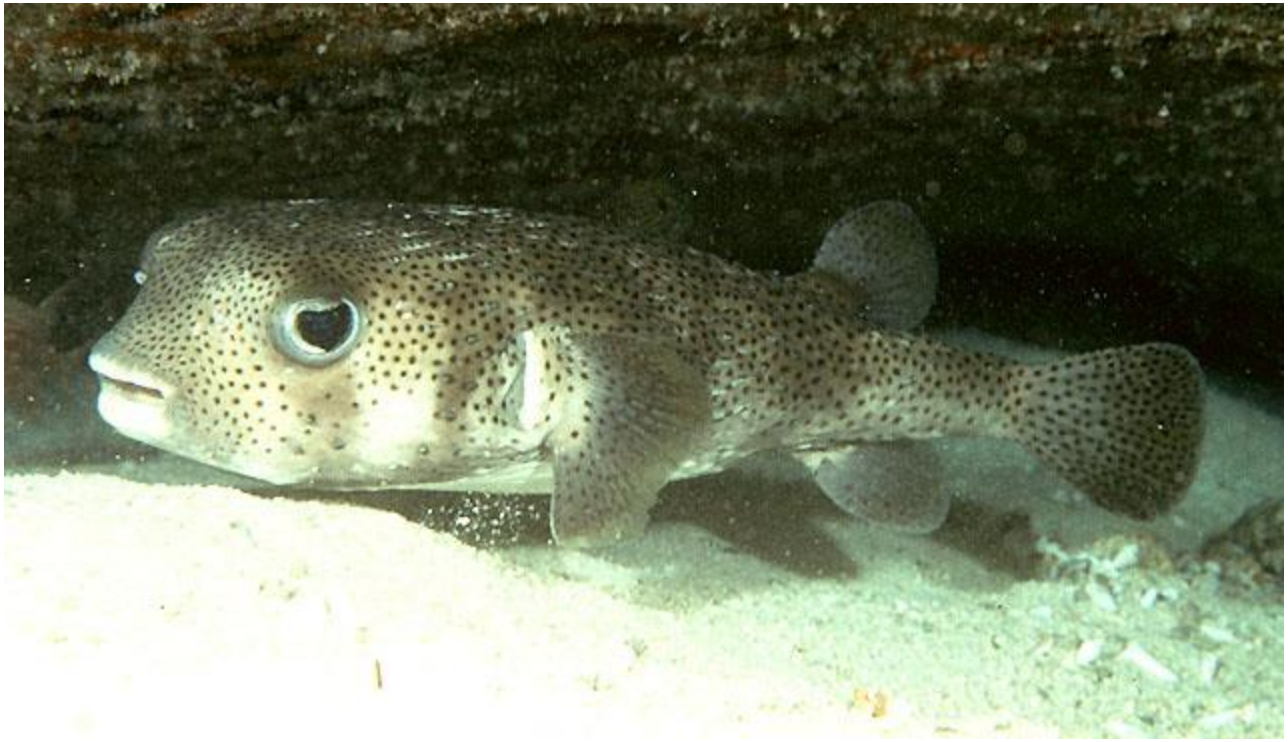
Dascyllus auripinnis
DAAU 14cm

Dascyllus reticulatus
DARE 8cm

Dascyllus trimaculatus
DATR 14cm



Decapterus macarellus
DEMA 46 cm



Diodon hystrix
DIHY 91 cm

Elagatis bipinnulata
ELBI 180 cm

Ecsenius bicolor

EC**BC** 11cm

Ecsenius opsifrontalis
ECOP 5cm

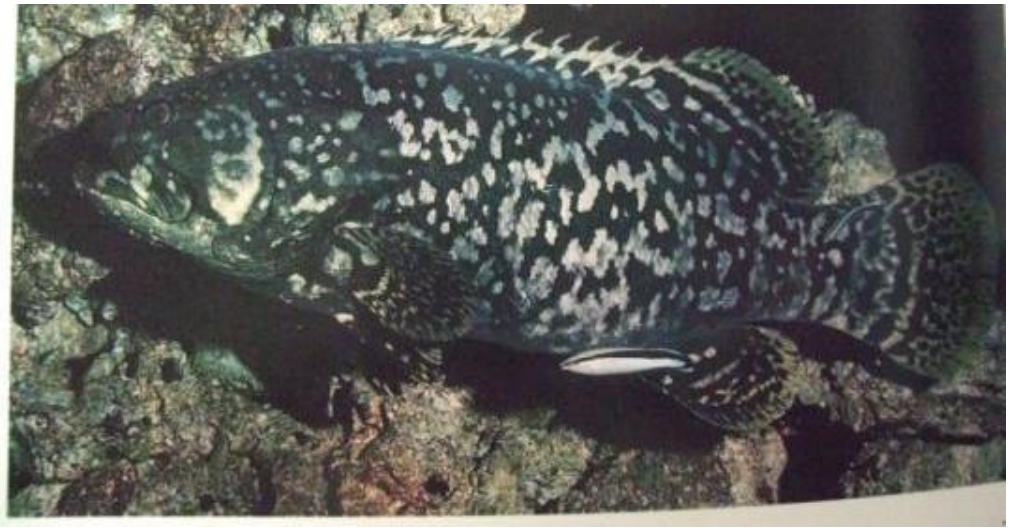
Epibulus insidiator

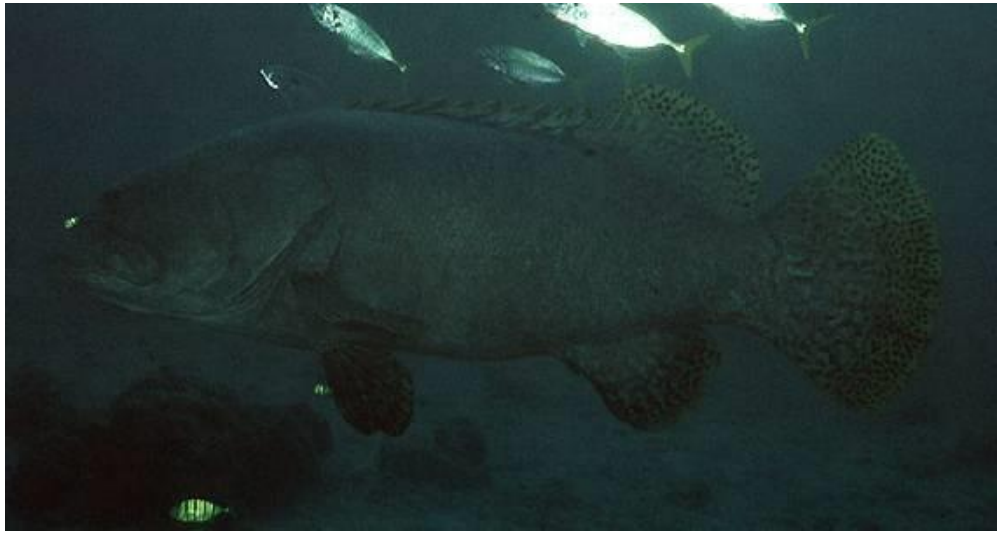
EPIN 35cm

Epinephelus fasciatus
EPFA 43cm

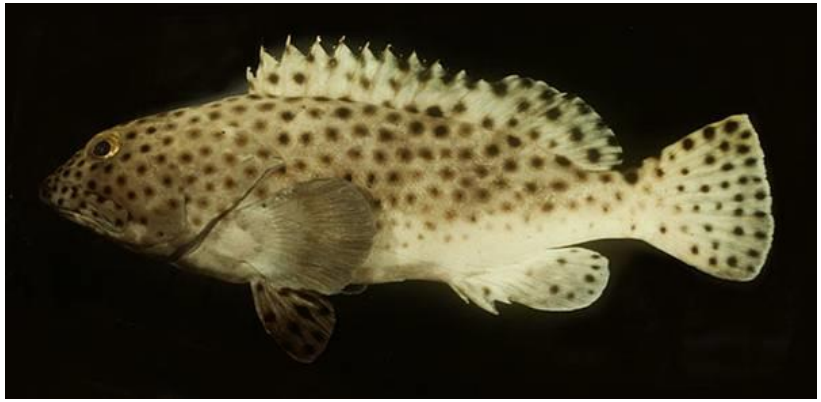
Epinephelus hexagonatus
EPHE 26cm

Epinephelus howlandi
EPHO 55cm





Epinephelus lanceolatus
EPLA 270 cm



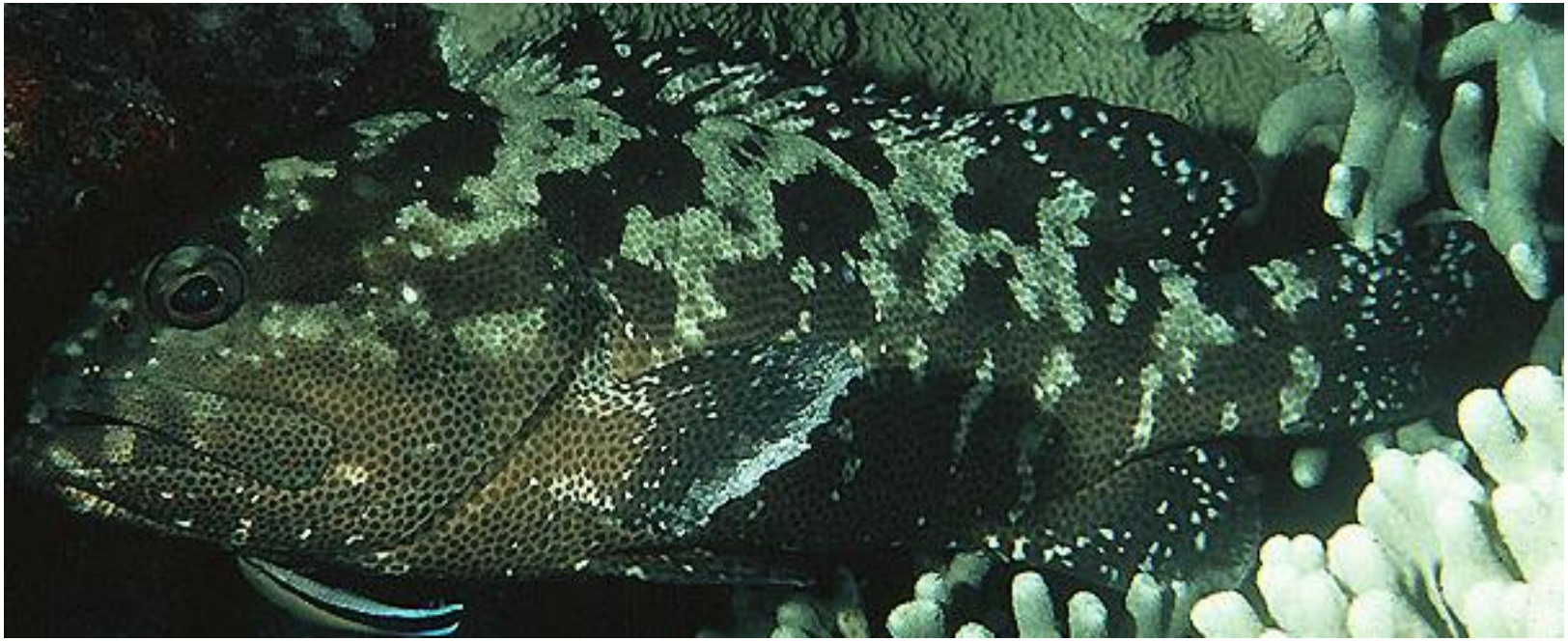
Epinephelus macrospilos

EPMC 51cm

Epinephelus maculatus
EPMA 60cm

Epinephelus melanostigma
EPML 33cm

Epinephelus merra
EPME 33cm



Epinephelus polyphekadion
EPPO 75cm

Epinephelus spilotoceps

EP**SL** 32cm

Epinephelus retouti
EPRE 47cm

Epinephelus socialis
EPSO 52cm

Epinephelus tauvina
EPTA 75 cm

Fistularia commersonii

FICO 160 cm

Forcipiger flavissimus
FOFL 19cm

Forcipiger longirostris
FOLO 22cm

Gnathodentex aureolineatus

GNAU 30cm

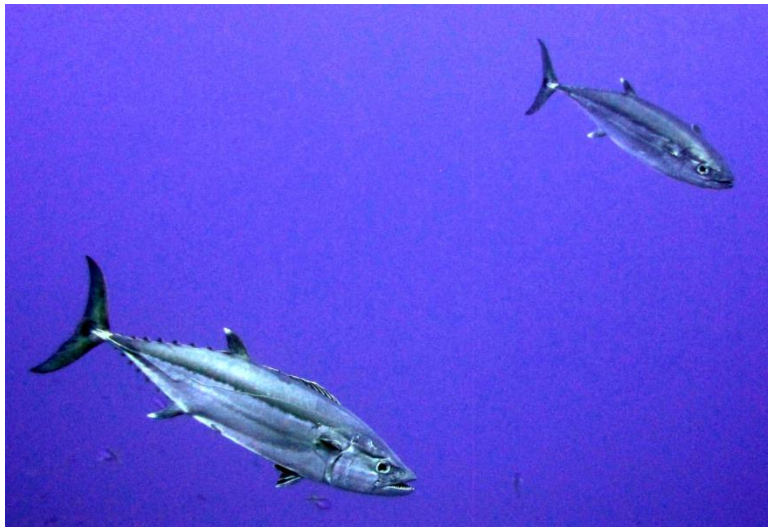
Juvenile

Gomphosus varius
GOVA 28cm

Gracila albomarginata

GRAL 50cm

Grammistes sexlineatus
GRSE 27cm

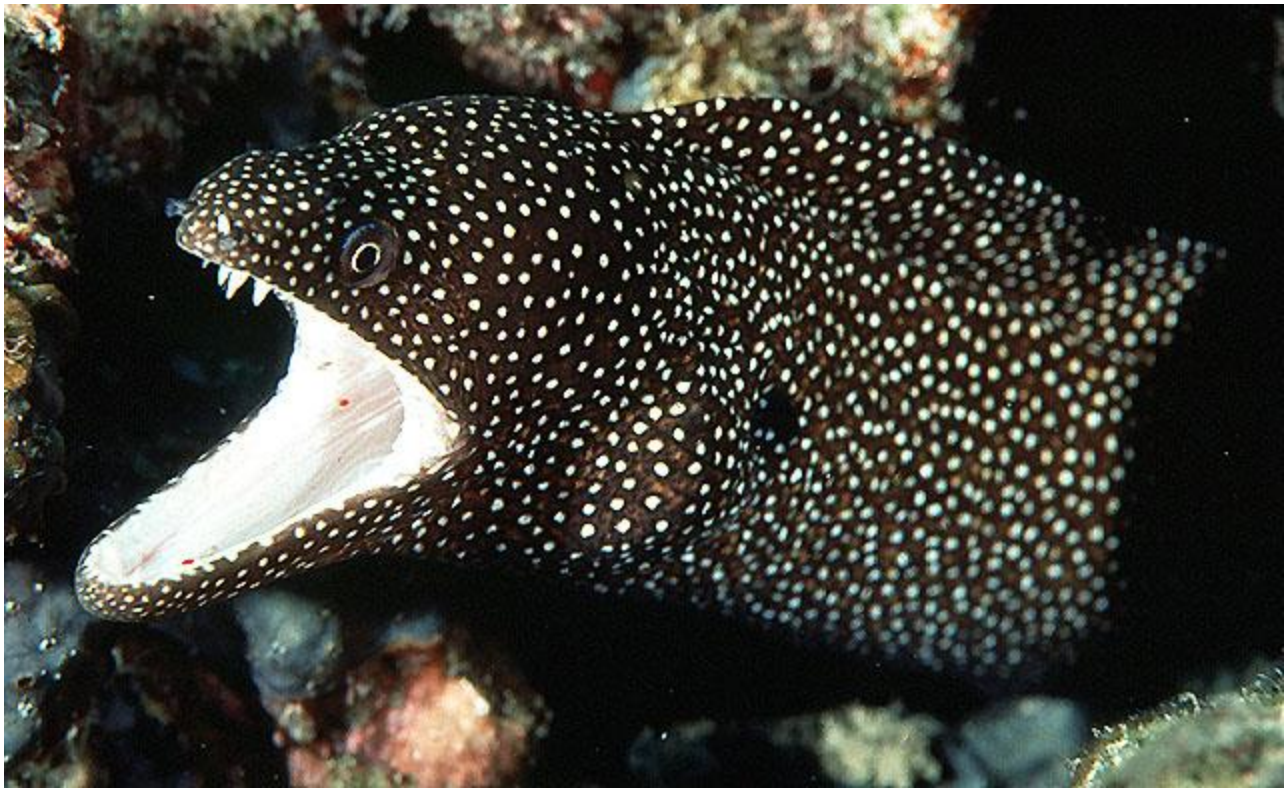


Gymnosarda unicolor

GY**UC** 220cm

Gymnothorax flavimarginatus
GYFL 150cm

Gymnothorax javanicus
GYJA 245cm

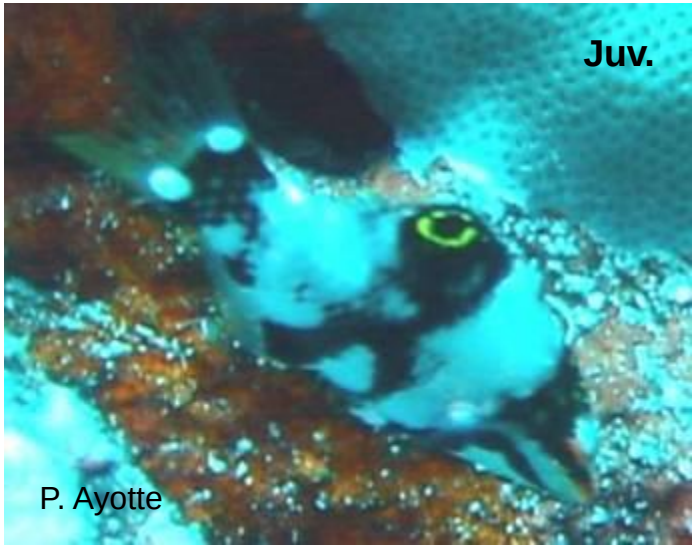


Gymnothorax meleagris
GYME 100cm

Gymnothorax undulatus
GYUN　120cm

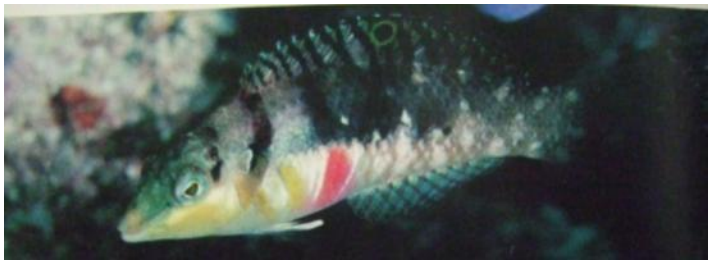
Halichoeres biocellatus

HABI 12cm



Halichoeres hortulanus
HAHO 27cm

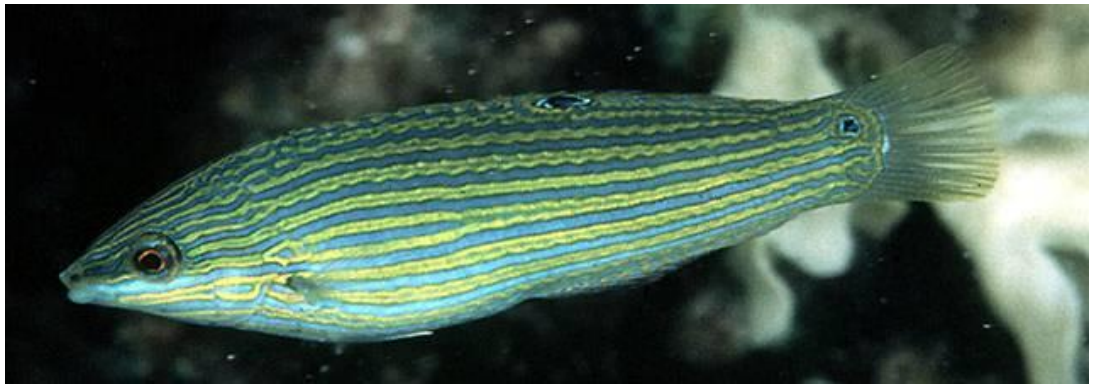
Halichoeres melasmapomus
HAME 14cm



Halichoeres margaritaceus

HA**MT** 13cm

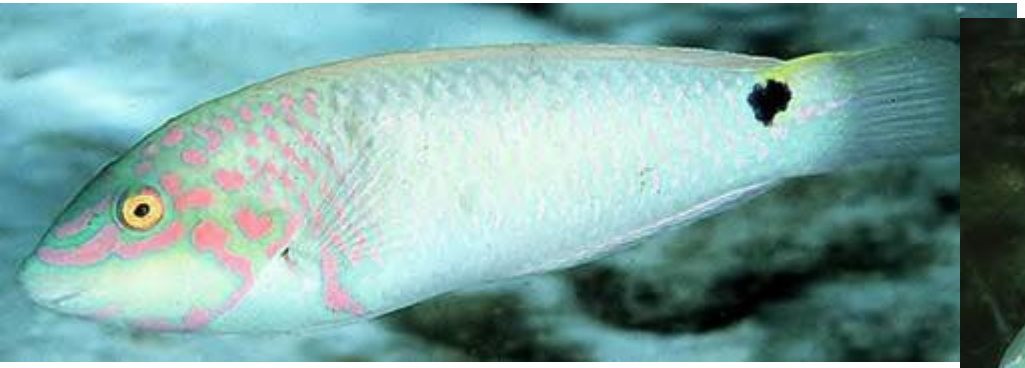
Halichoeres marginatus
HAMA 17cm



Halichoeres melanurus
HAML 13cm

Halichoeres ornatissimus
HAOR 15cm

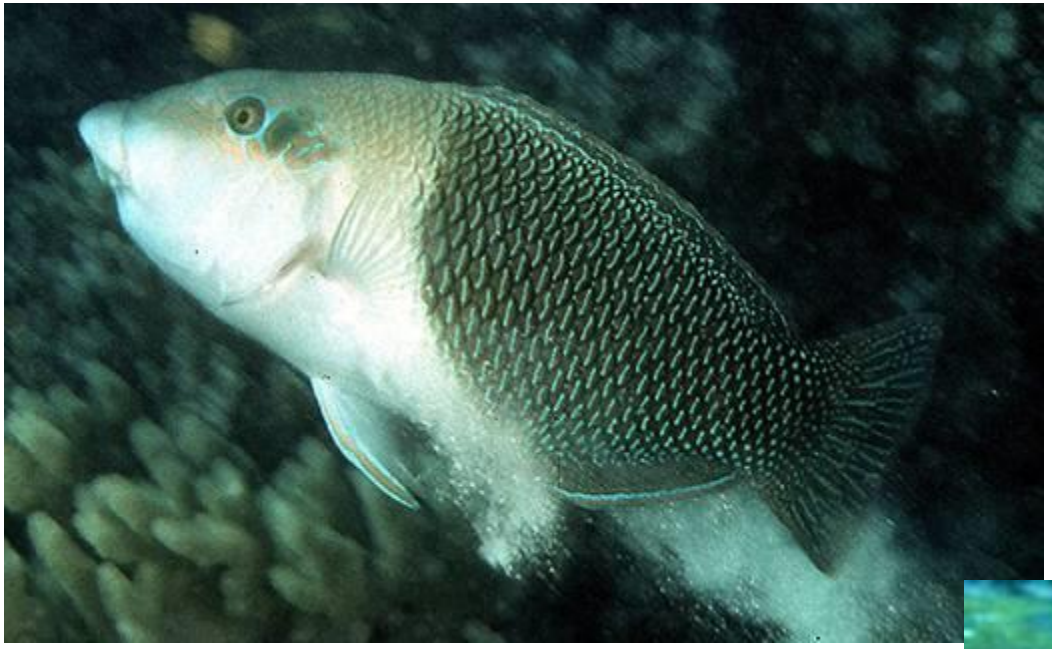
Halichoeres prosopeion
HAPR 13cm



Halichoeres trimaculatus

HATR 27cm

Hemigymnus fasciatus
HEFA 50cm



Hemigymnus melapterus
HEME 60cm

Hemitaurichtys polylepis
HEPO 18cm

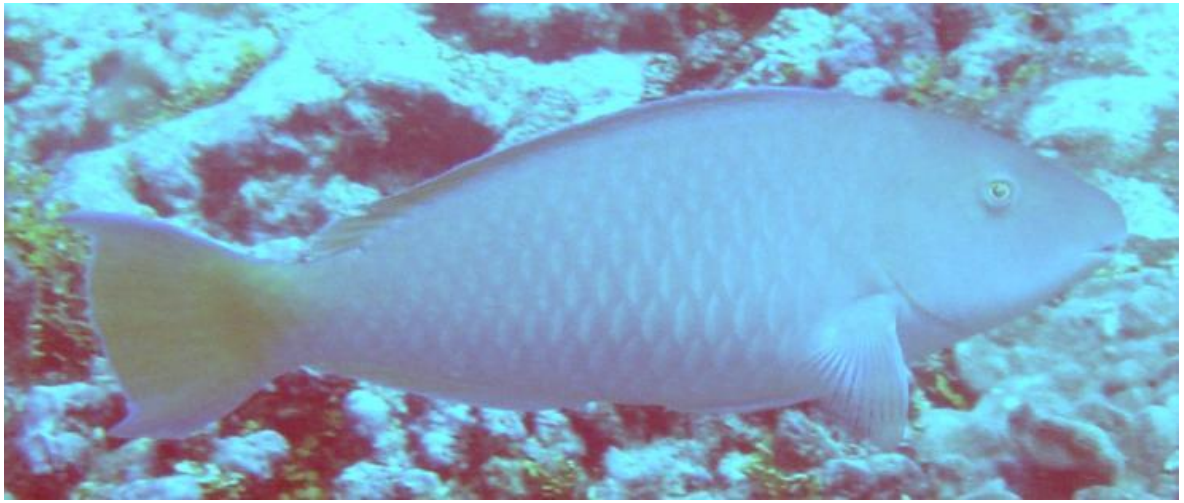
Hemitaurichthys thompsoni
HETH 21cm

Heniochus chrysostomus
HECH 18cm

Heniochus monoceros
HEMO 25cm

Heniochus singularius
HESI 30 cm

Heniochus varius
HEVA 19cm

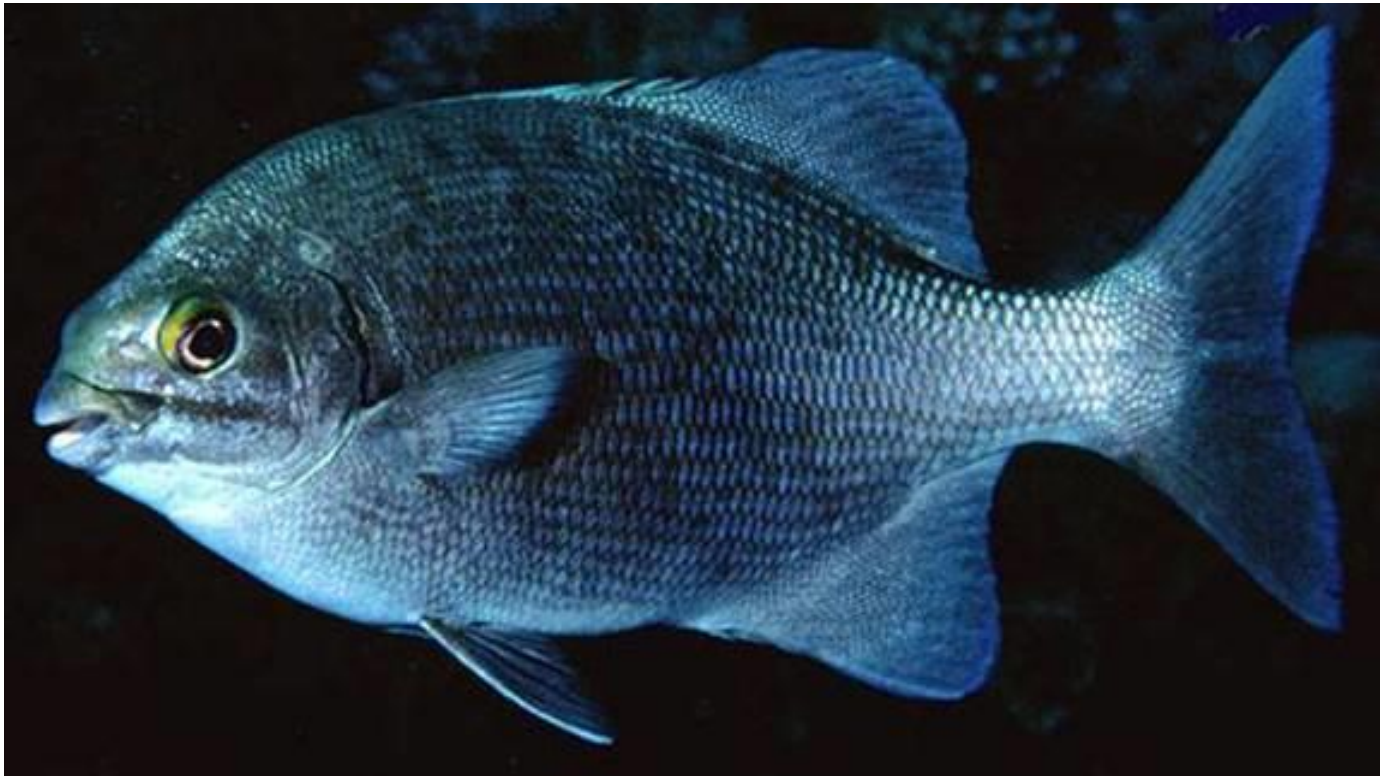


Hipposcarus longiceps

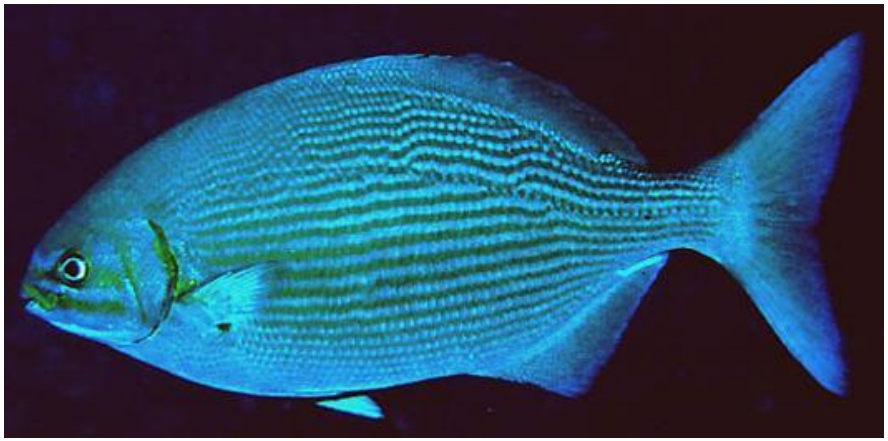
HILO 60cm

Hologymnosus doliatus

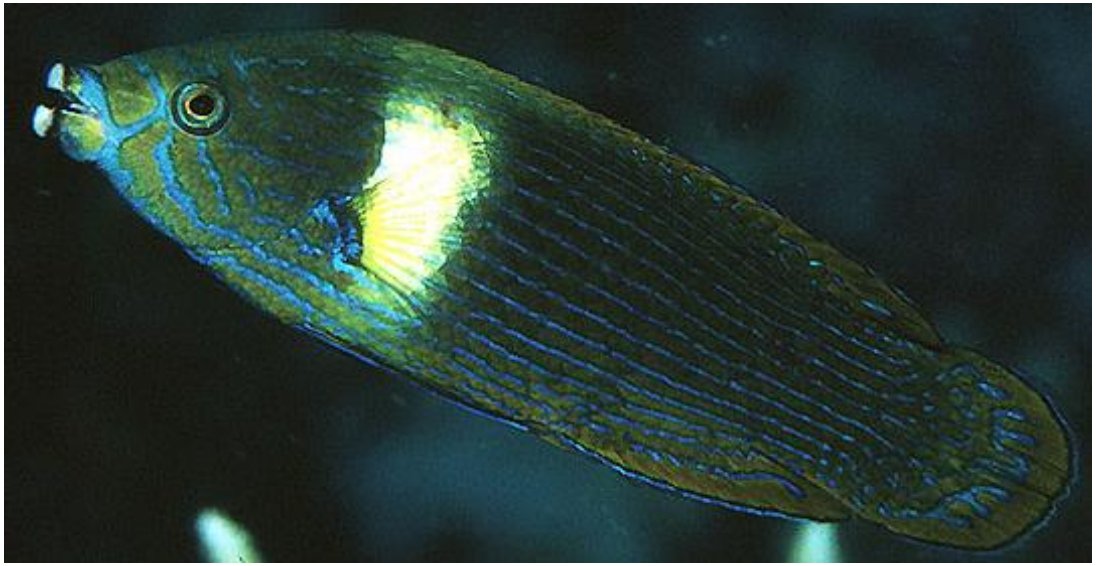
HODO 40cm

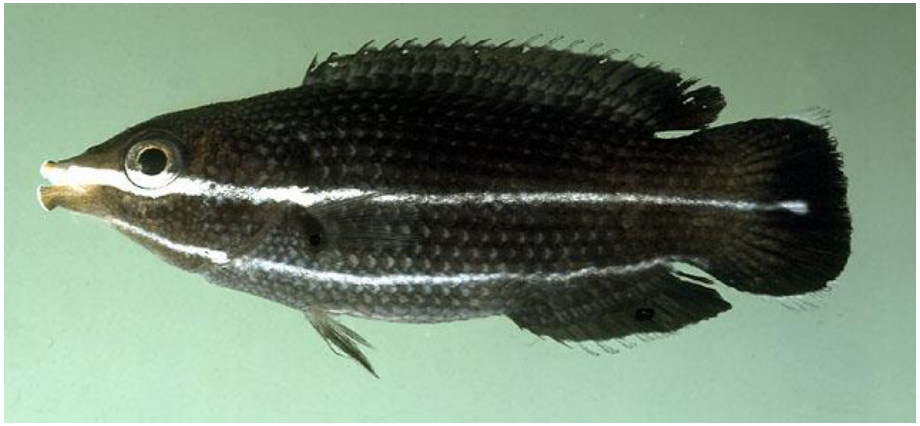


Kyphosus cinerascens
KYCI 51cm



Kyphosus species
CHUB 75cm





Labrichthys unilineatus
LAUN 16cm

Labroides bicolor

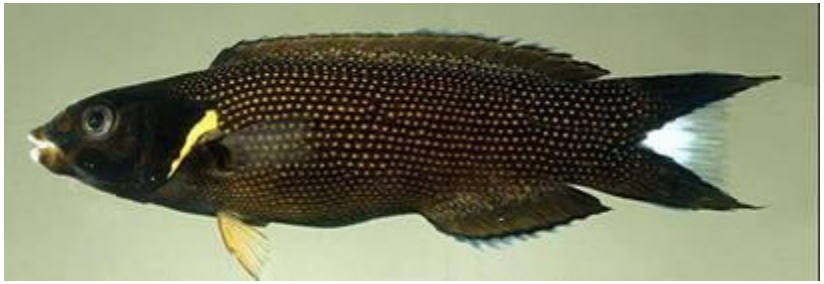
LABI 14cm

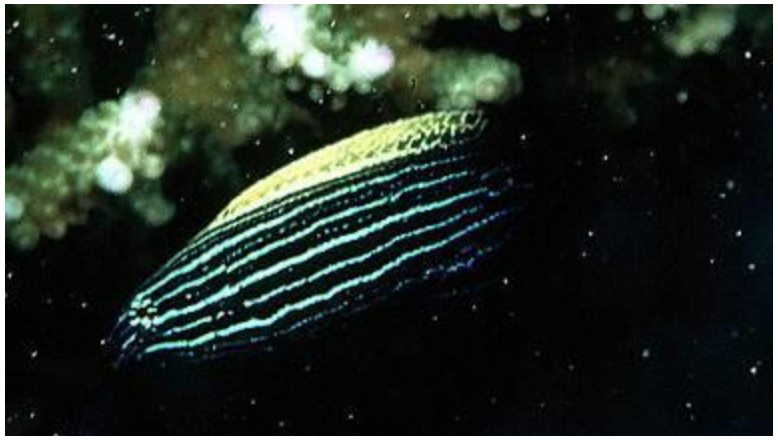
Labroides dimidiatus

LADI 12cm

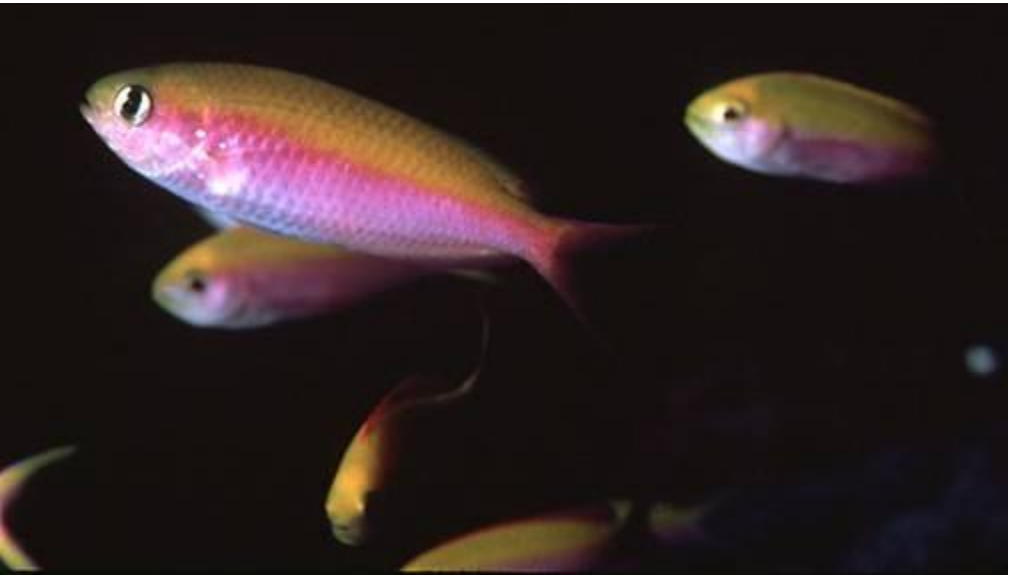
Labroides rubrolabiatus

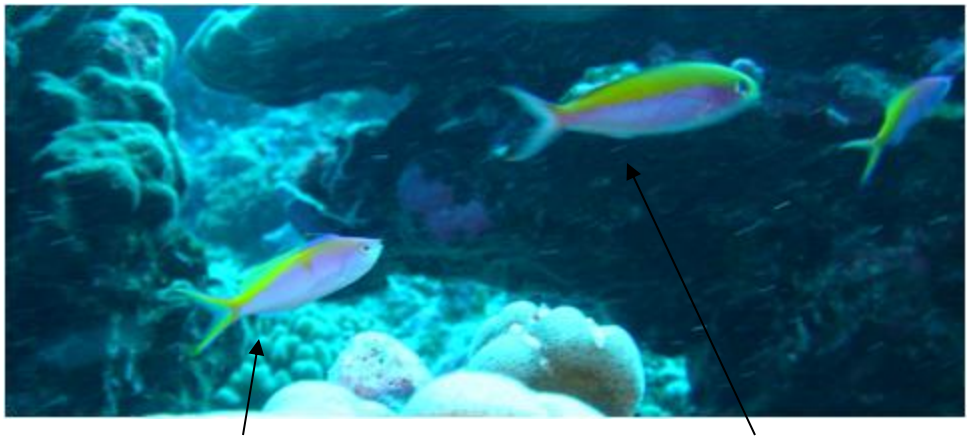
LARU 9cm





Labropsis xanthonota
LAXA 14cm





Lepidozygus tapeinosoma
LETA 9cm

Lethrinus harak

LEHA 50 cm

Lethrinus obsoletus

LEOB 60 cm

Lethrinus olivaceus
LEOL 100cm

Lethrinus rubrioperculatus

LERU 50 cm

Lethrinus xanthochilus

LEXA 62cm

Lutjanus bohar
LUBO 83cm

Juv

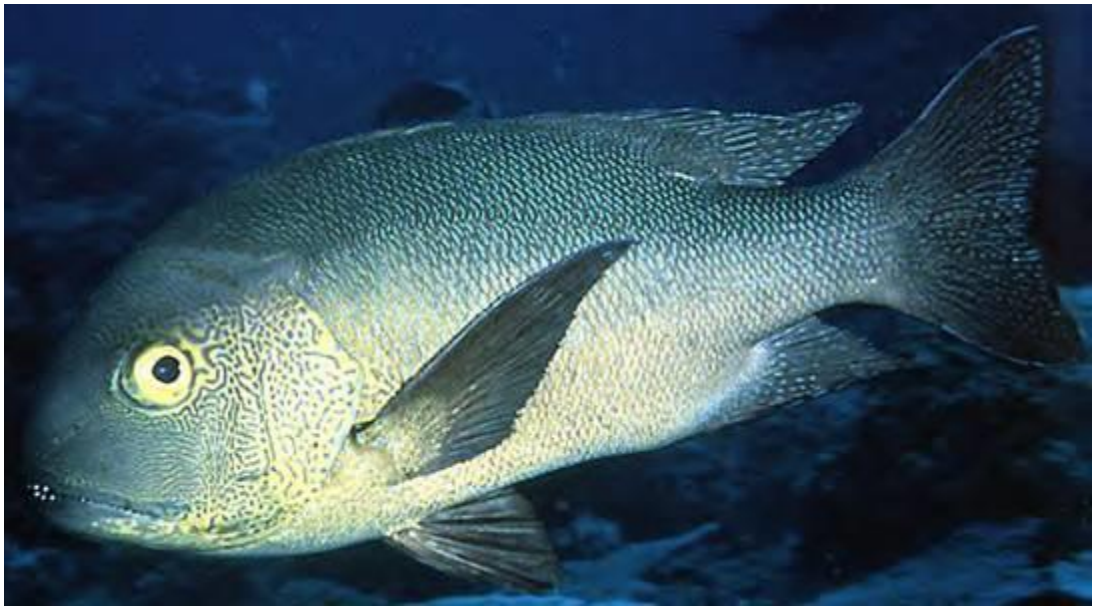
Lutjanus fulvus
LUFU 43cm

Lutjanus gibbus
LUGI 53cm

Lutjanus kasmira
LUKA 40cm

Lutjanus monostigma
LUMO 60cm

Luzonichthys whitleyi
LUWH 6cm

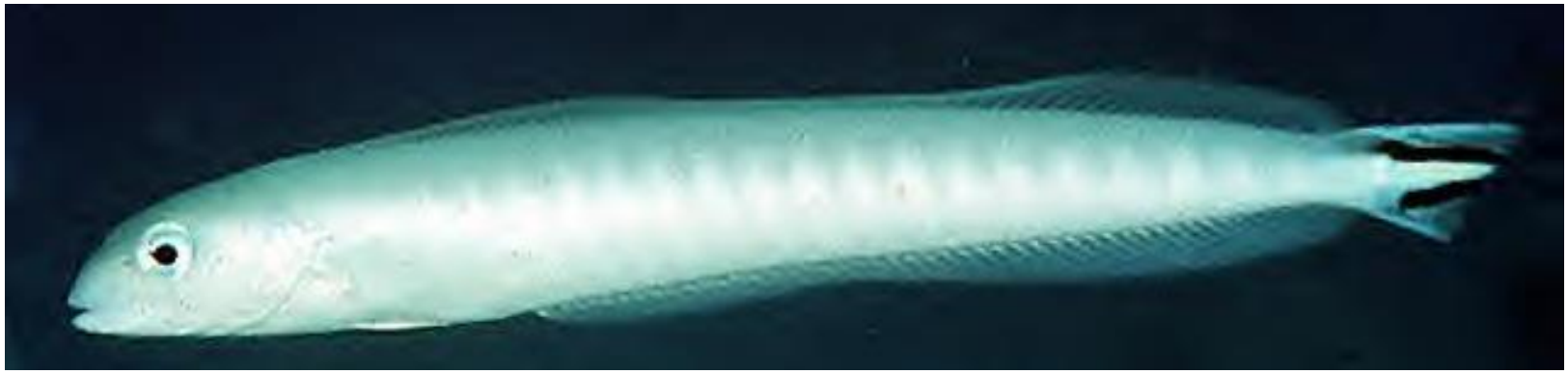


Macolor macularis

MAMA 60cm

Macolor niger
MANI 75cm

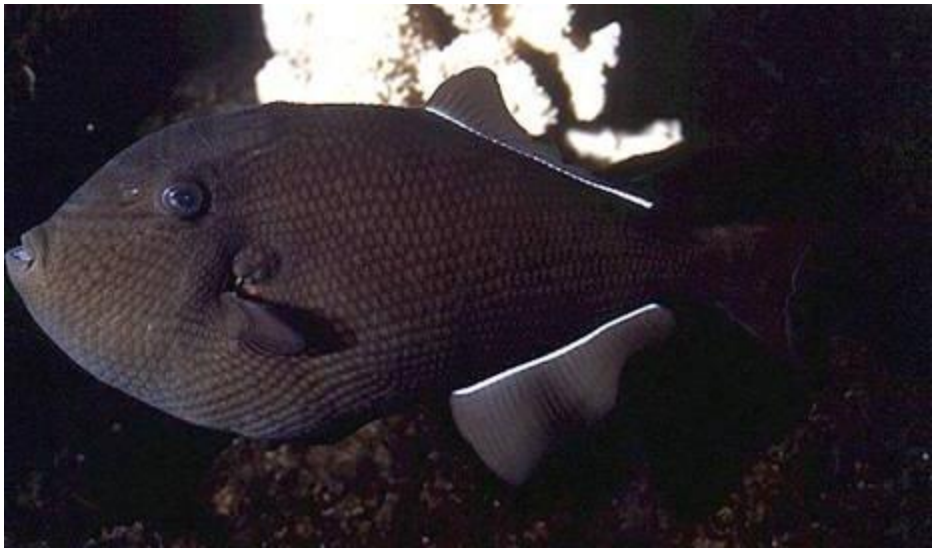
Macropharyngodon meleagris
MAME 15cm



Malacanthus brevirostris
MABR 30cm

Malacanthus latovittatus
MALA 44cm

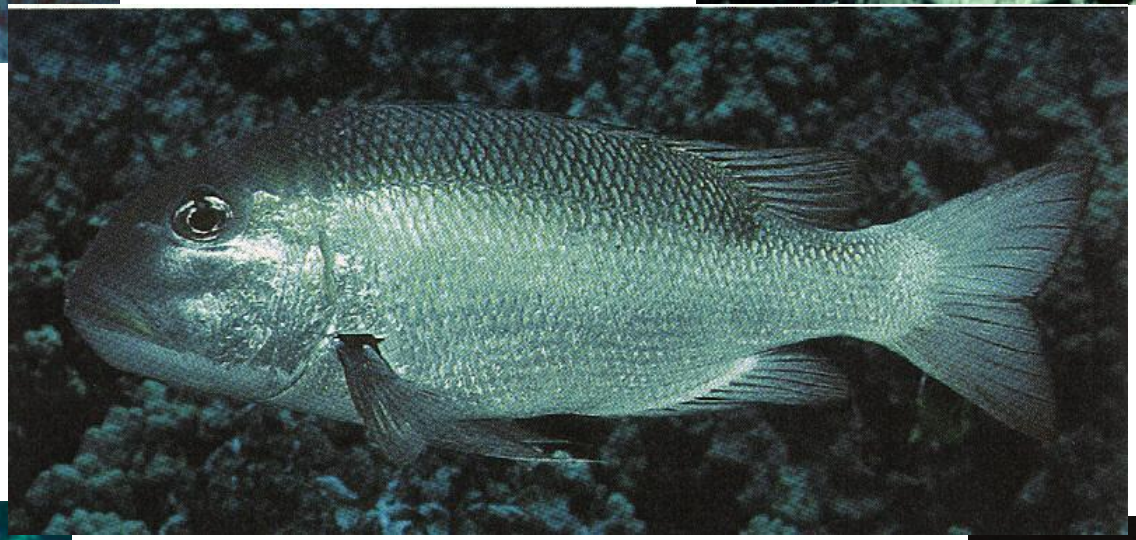
Meiacanthus atrodorsalis
MEAT 11cm



Melichthys niger
MENI 38cm

Melichthys vidua

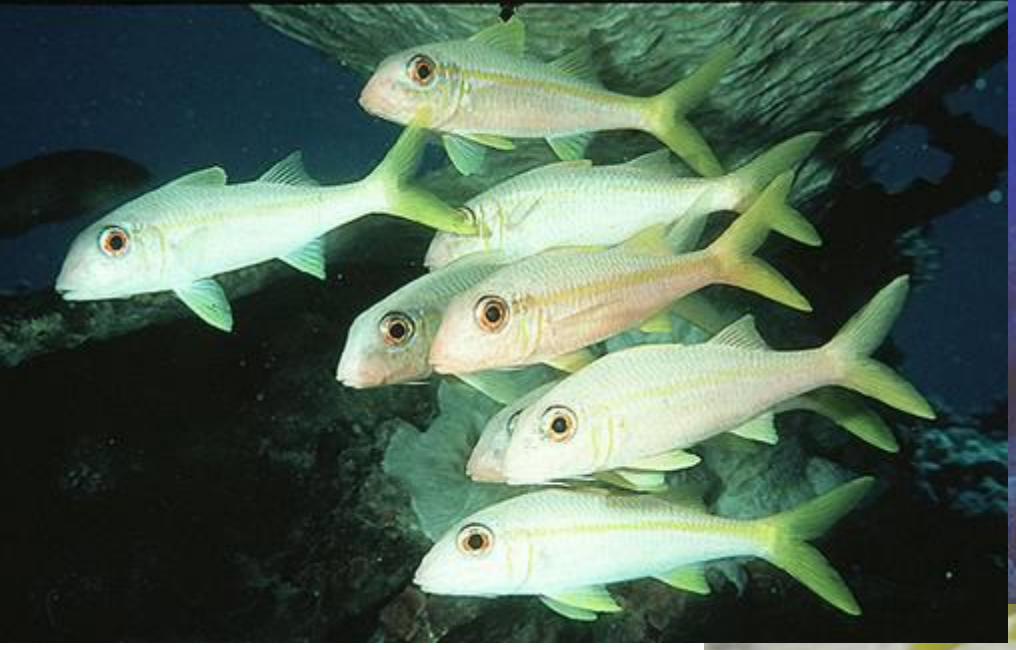
MEVI 34cm



Monotaxis grandoculis

MOGR 63cm

Mulloidichthys flavolineatus
MUFL 40cm



Mulloidichthys vanicolensis

MUVA 38cm

Myripristis adusta
MYAD 32cm

Myripristis amaena
MYAM 32cm

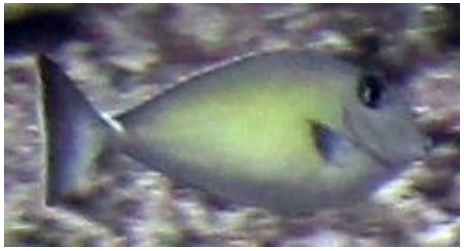
Myripristis berndti
MYBE 33cm

Myripristis kuntee
MYKU 19cm

Myripristis murdjan
MYMU 27cm

Myripristis violacea

MY**VL** 35 cm



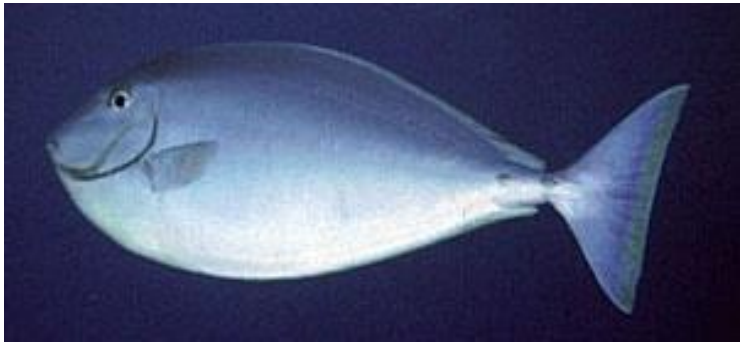
Naso annulatus

NAAN 100cm

Naso brachycentron
NABH 90cm

Naso brevirostris

NABR 50cm

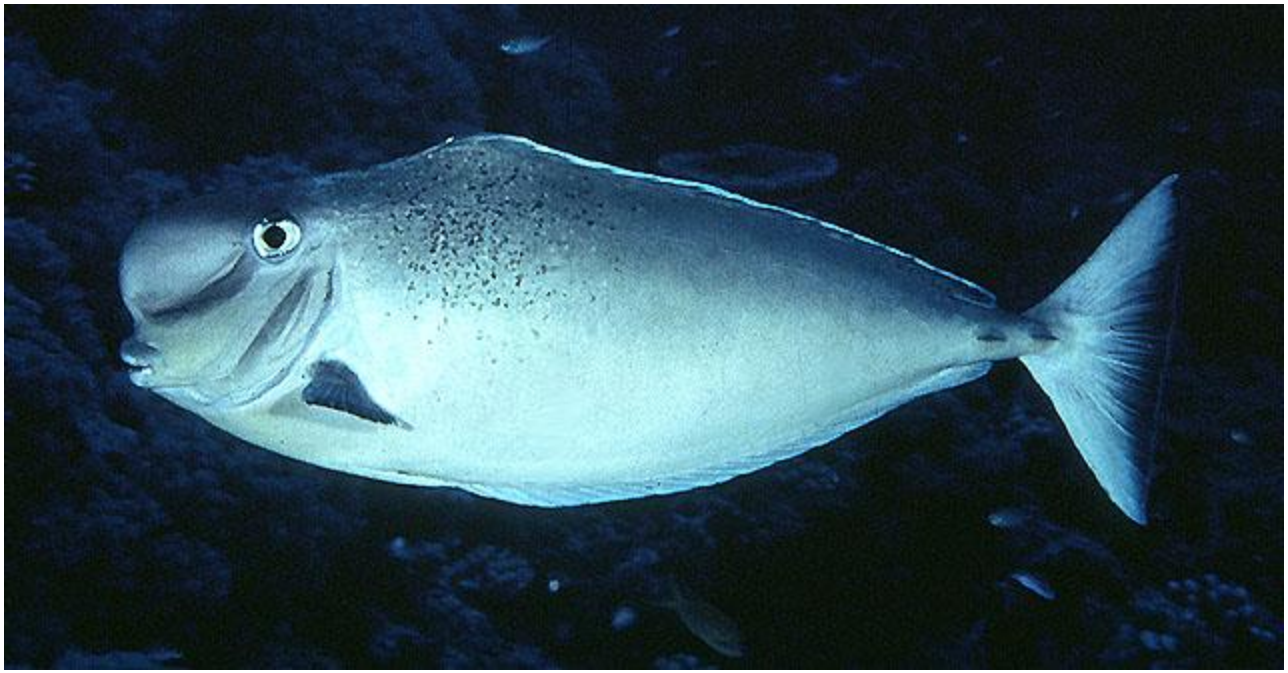


Naso hexacanthus

NAHE 75cm

Naso lituratus

NALI 46cm



Naso tonganus
NATO 63cm

Naso unicornis

NAUN 70cm

Naso vlamingii

NA**VL** 60cm

Nemateleotris magnifica
NEMA 9cm

Neocirrhites armatus

NEAR 9 cm

Neoniphon opercularis
NEOP 35cm

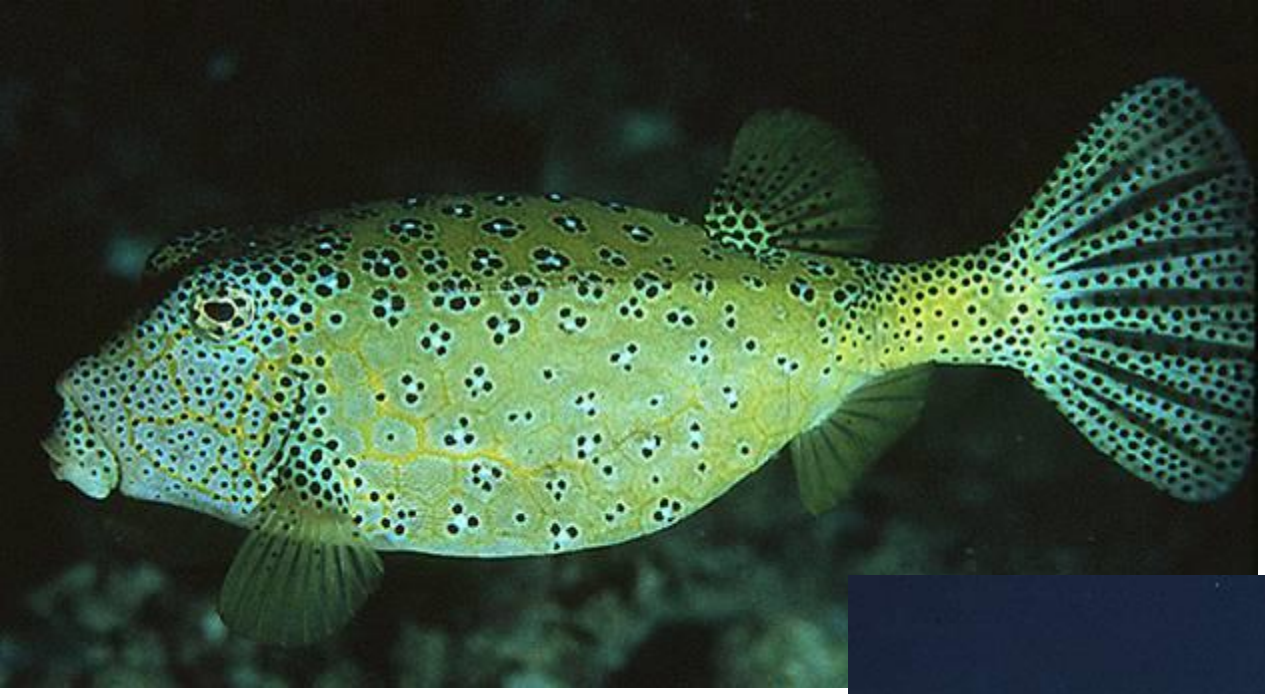
Neoniphon argenteus
NEAG 24 cm

Neoniphon sammara
NESA 30cm

Neopomacentrus metallicus
NEME 8 cm

Novaculichthys taeniourus
NOTA 30cm

Odonus niger
ODNI 40cm



Ostracion cubicus

OSCU 45cm

Ostracion meleagris

OSME 16cm

Oxycheilinus diagrammus

OXDI 30cm

Oxycheilinus unifasciatus

OXUN 46cm

Oxymonacanthus longirostris
OXLO 10cm

Paracirrhites arcatus

PAAR 14cm

Paracirrhites forsteri
PAFO 23cm

Paracirrhites hemistictus

PAHE 28cm

Parapercis clathrata
PACL 18cm

Parapercis millipunctata
PAMI 18cm

Parupeneus barberinus

PABA 50cm

Parupeneus cyclostomus
PACY 50cm

Parupeneus insularis

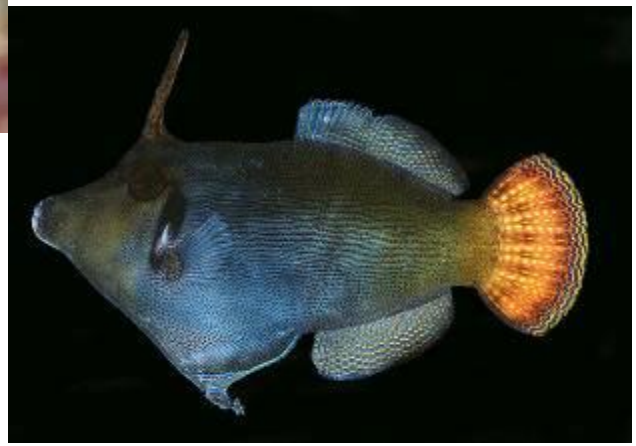
PAIN 33cm

Parupeneus multifasciatus
PAMU 29cm

Parupeneus pleurostigma

PAPL 33cm

Pempheris oualensis
PEOU 22cm



Pervagor janthinosoma

PEJA 13 cm

Pervagor melanocephalus
PEME 11cm

Plagiotremus laudandus laudandus

PL**LD** 8 cm

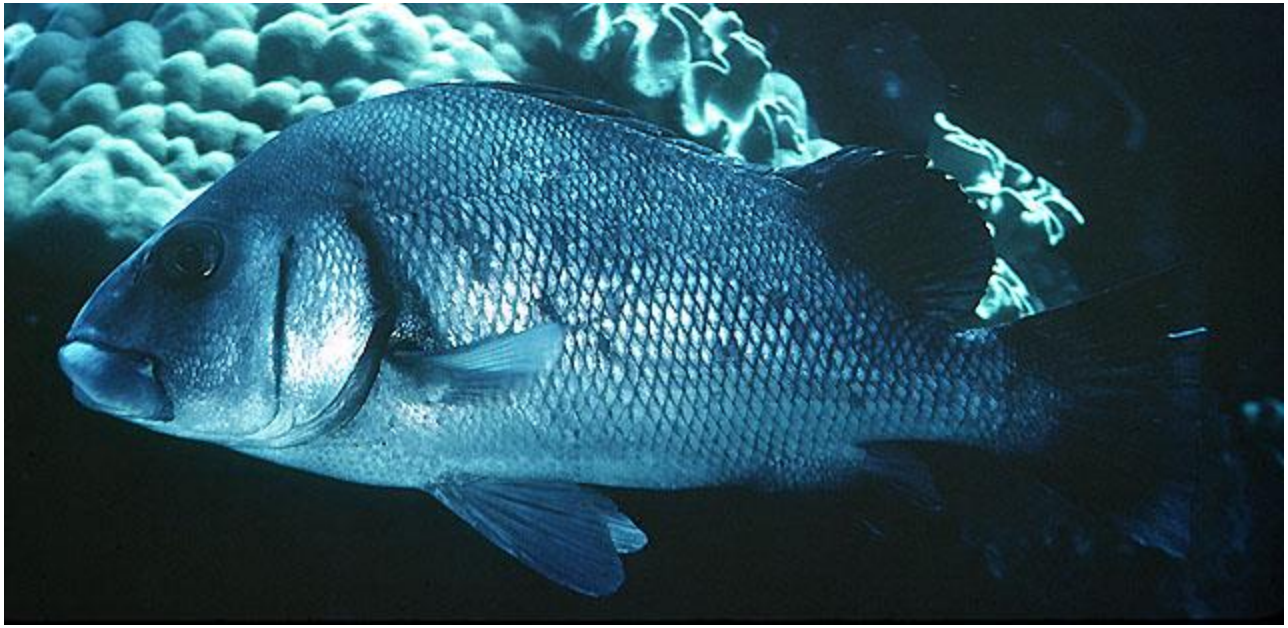
Plagiotremus rhynorhynchos
PLRH 12cm

Plagiotremus tapeinosoma
PLTA 13cm

Platax orbicularis
PLOR 40cm

Platax teira

PLTE 70 cm



Plectorhinchus gibbosus
PLGI 75cm

Plectorhinchus picus

PLPI 85cm

Plectorhinchus vittatus
PLVI 60cm

Plectroglyphidodon dickii
PLDI 11cm

Plectroglyphidodon imparipennis
PLIM 7cm

Plectroglyphidodon johnstonianus
PLJO 12cm

Plectroglyphidodon johnstonianus
PLJO 12cm

Plectrophididodon lacrymatus
PLLA 10cm

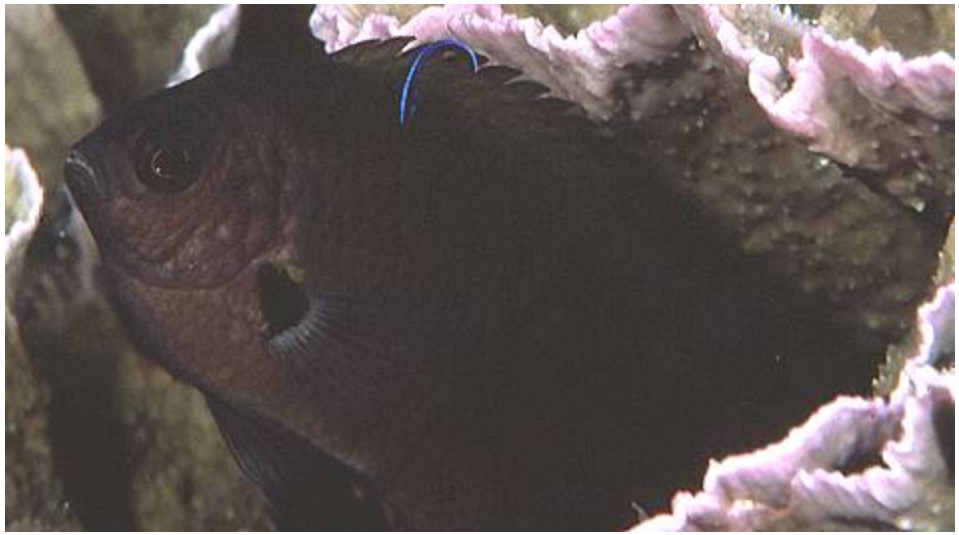
Plectroglyphidodon leucozonus
PLLE 12 cm

Plectrophididodon phoenixensis
PLPH 8.5cm

Plectropomus laevis

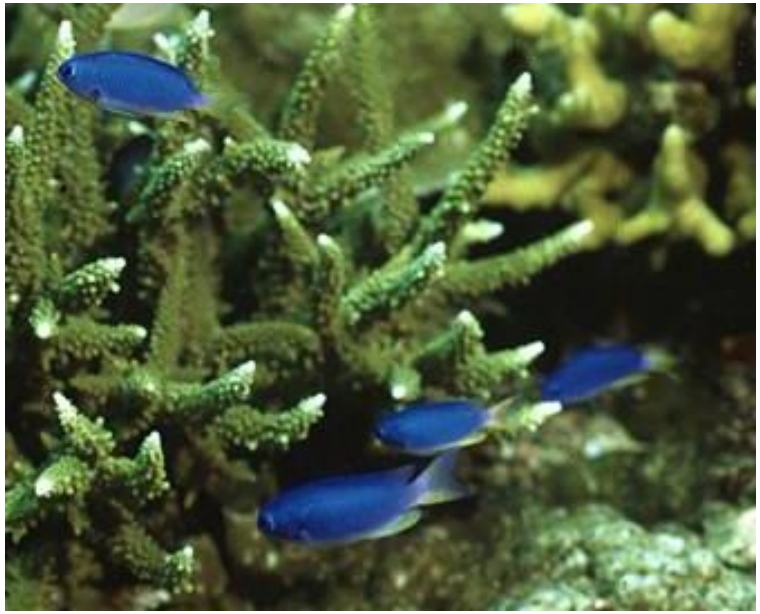
PL**LV** 125cm

Pomacanthus imperator
POIM 38cm



Pomacentrus brachialis

POBR 10cm



Pomacentrus coelestis

POCO 7cm

Pomacentrus pavo

POPA 11cm

Pomacentrus vaiuli

POVA 10cm

Pomachromis richardsoni
PORI 6 cm

Pseudanthias bartlettorum
PSBA 9cm

Pseudanthias cooperi

PSCO 14 cm

Pseudanthias dispar
PSDI 10cm

Pseudanthias olivaceus

PSOL 12cm

Pseudanthias pascalus
PSPA 17cm

Pseudocheilinus evanidus

PSEV 14cm

Pseudocheilinus hexataenia

PSHE 8cm

Pseudocheilinus octotaenia

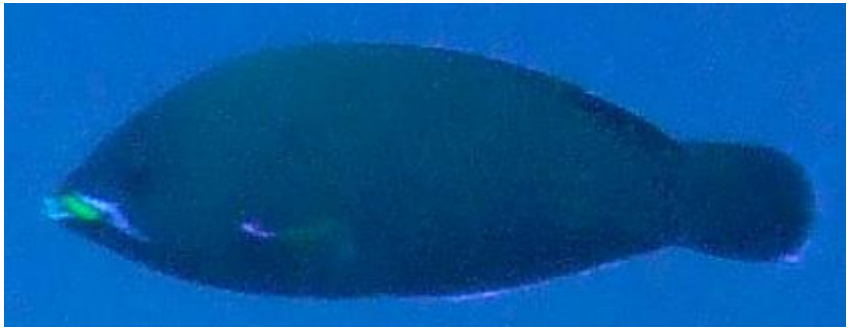
PSOC 14cm

Pseudocheilinus tetrataenia

PSTE 8cm

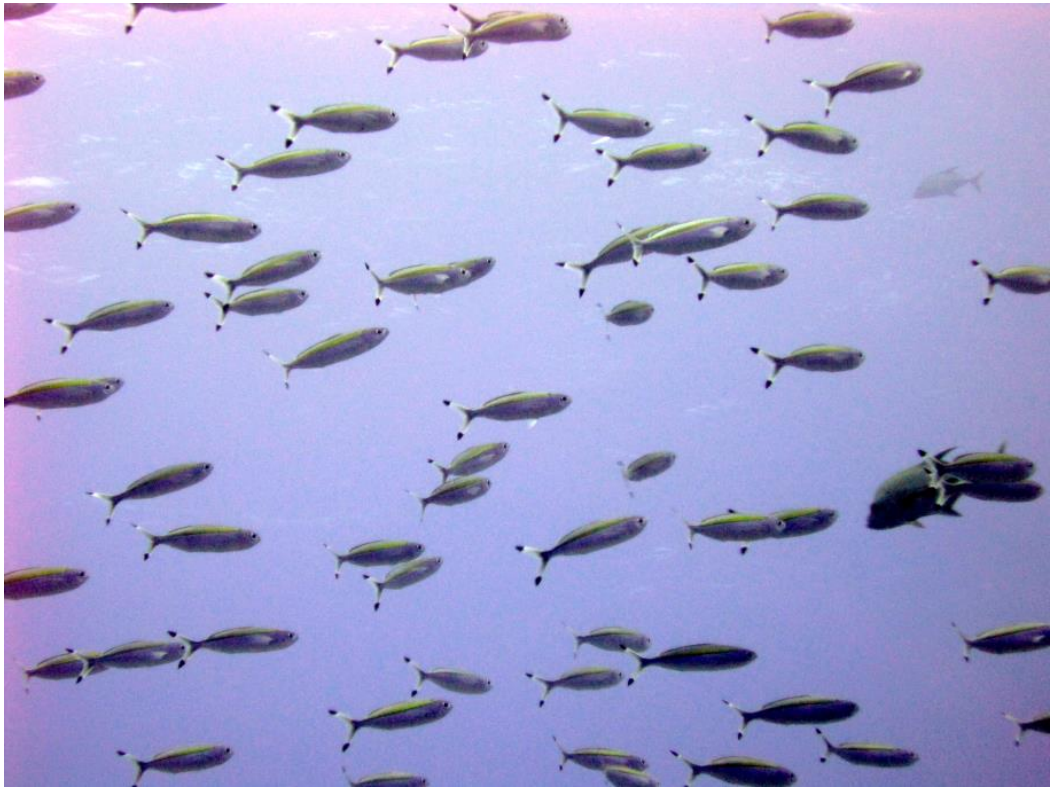
Pseudobalistes flavimarginatus

PSFL 60 cm

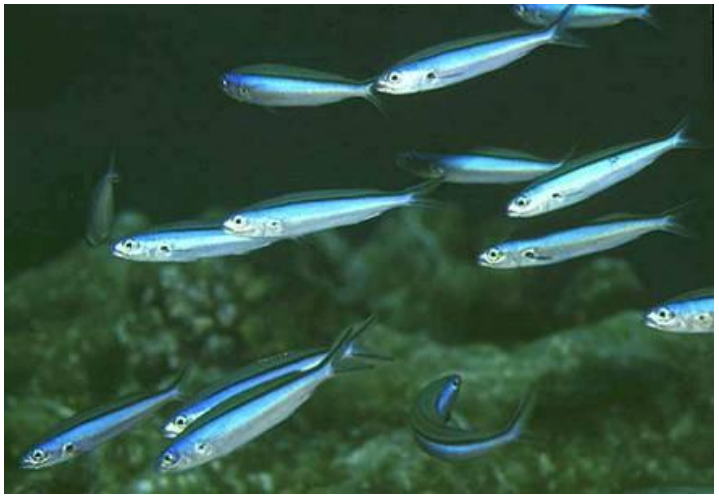


Pseudodax molucanus

PSMO 25cm



Pterocaesio marri
PTMA 35cm

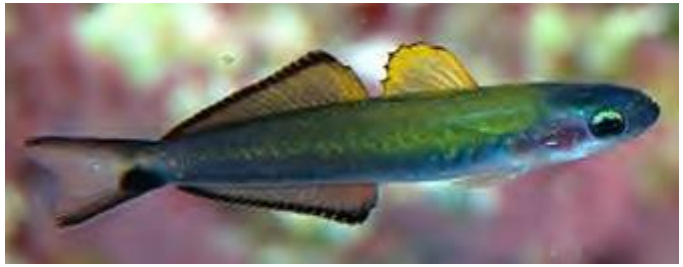


Pterocaesio tile

PTTI 25 cm

Pterocaesio trilineata

PTTR 20 cm



Pterelotris evides
PTEV 13 cm

Ptereleotris heteroptera
PTHE 12cm

Ptereleotris zebra
PTZE 12cm

Pygoplites diacanthus
PYDI 25cm

Rhinecanthus aculeatus

RHAC 30cm

Rhinecanthus rectangulus

RHRE 25cm

Sargocentron caudimaculatum
SACA 25cm

Sargocentron diadema

SADI 15cm

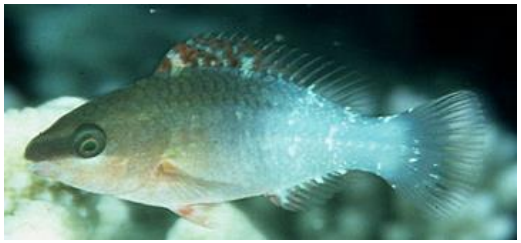
Sargocentron tiere
SATI 33cm

Sargocentron spiniferum
SASP 45cm

Scarus altipinnis

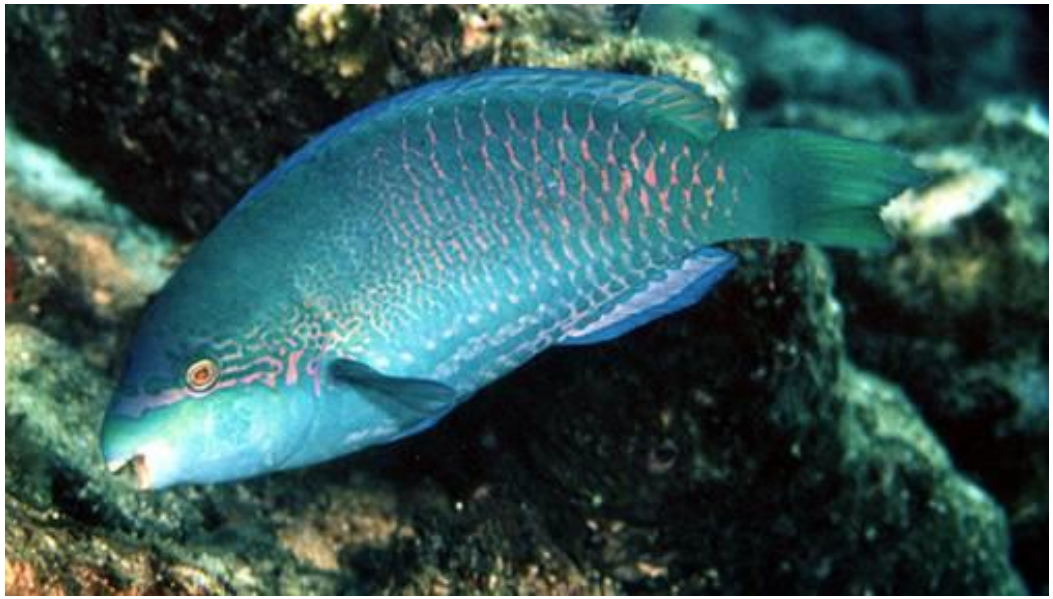
SCAL 60cm

Scarus forsteni
SCFO 55cm



Scarus frenatus

SCFR 50cm



Scarus globiceps
SCGL 27cm

Scarus dimidiatus

SC**DM** 40 cm

Scarus ghobban
SCGH 90cm

Scarus globiceps
SCGL 27cm

Scarus niger

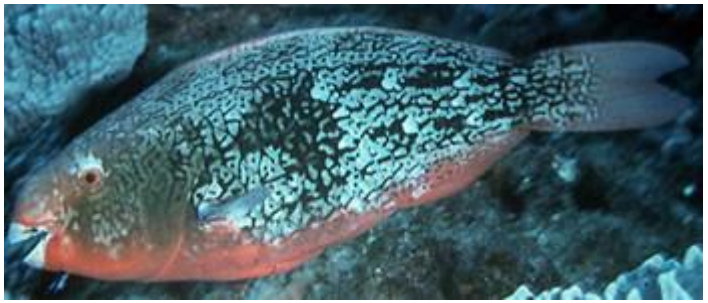
SCNI 43cm

Scarus oviceps

SCOV 38 cm

Scarus psittacus

SCPS 30cm

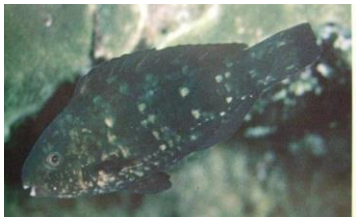


Scarus rubroviolaceus

SCRU 70cm

Scarus schlegeli

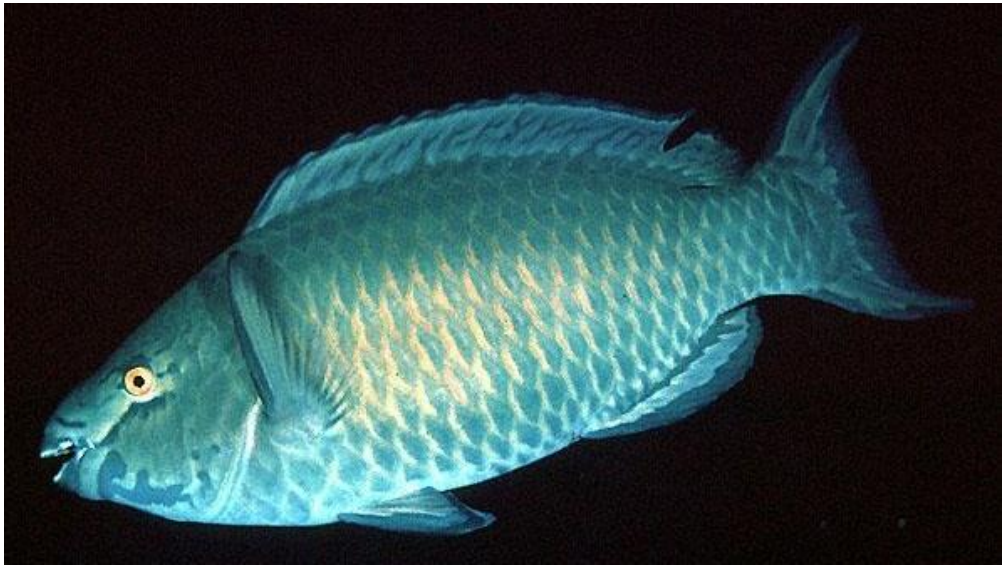
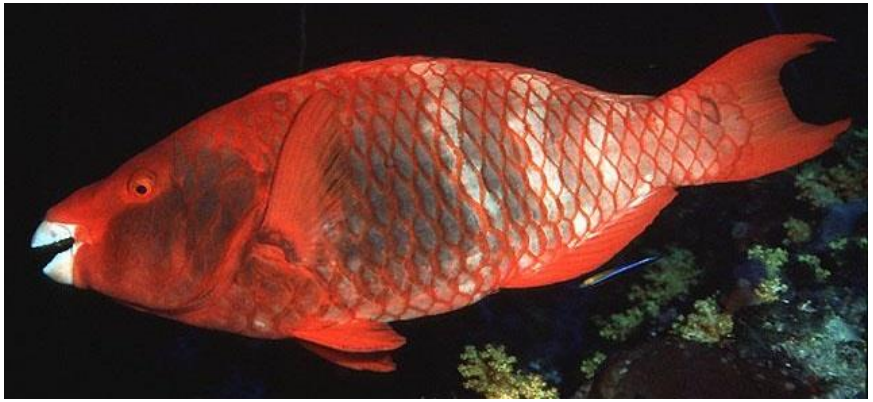
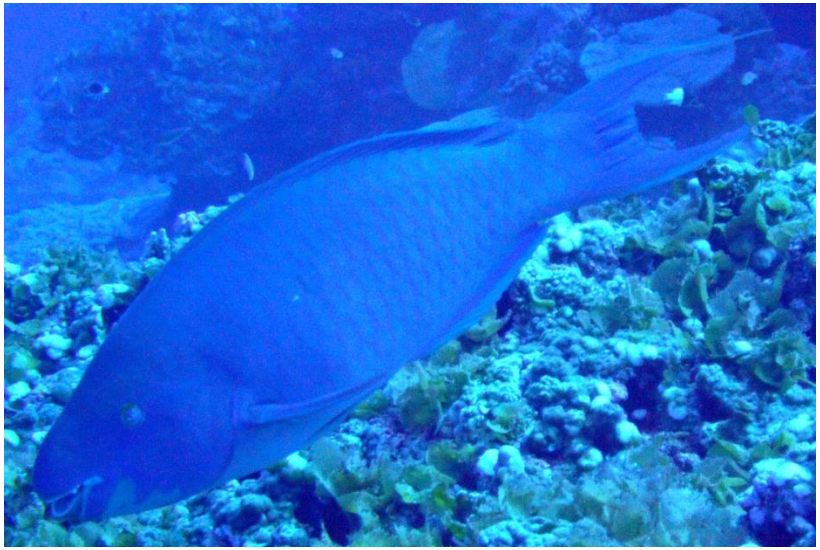
SCSC 38 cm



Scarus spinus

SC**SI** 30 cm

Scarus tricolor
SCTR 55cm

Scarus xanthopleura

SCXA 55 cm

Scomberoides lysan
SCLY 70cm

Siganus argenteus
SIAR 44cm

Sphyraena barracuda
SPBA 200cm

Sphyraena helleri

SPHE 80cm

Sphyraena qenie
SPQE 170cm

Spratelloides delicatulus
SPDE 7 cm

Stegastes albifasciatus
STAL　11cm

Stegastes fasciolatus
STFA 15cm

Stegastes punctatus (formerly) lividus

STLI 16cm

Stegastes nigricans

STNI 14cm

Stethojulis bandanensis

ST**BN** 16cm

Stethojulis strigiventer
STST 15 cm

Sufflamen bursa
SUBU 22cm

Sufflamen chrysopterum
SUCH 22cm

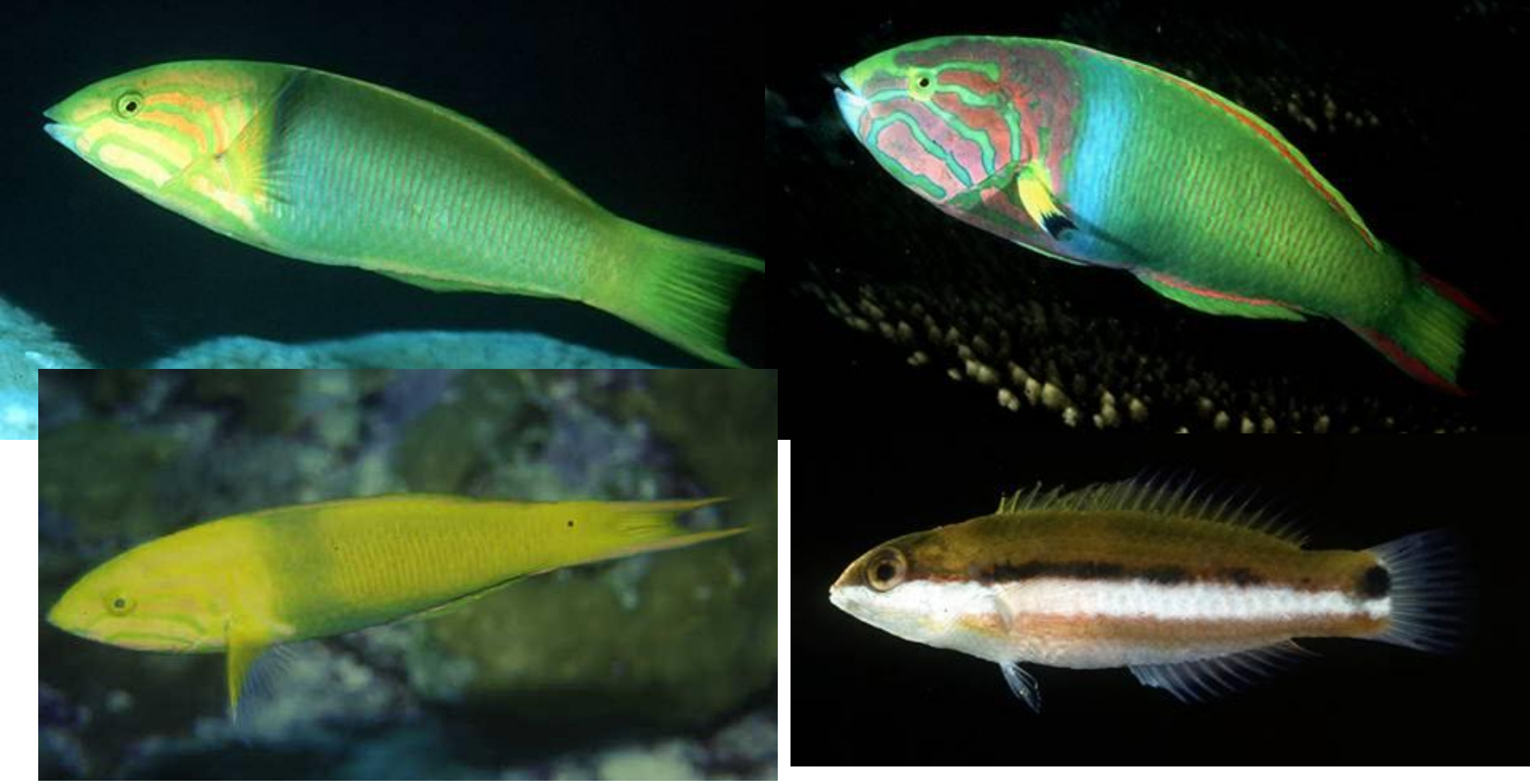
Sufflamen fraenatus
SUFR 38cm

Thalassoma amblycephalum
THAM 14cm

Thalassoma hardwicke
THHA 20cm

Thalassoma lunare

TH**LN** 25cm



Thalassoma lutescens

THLU 25cm

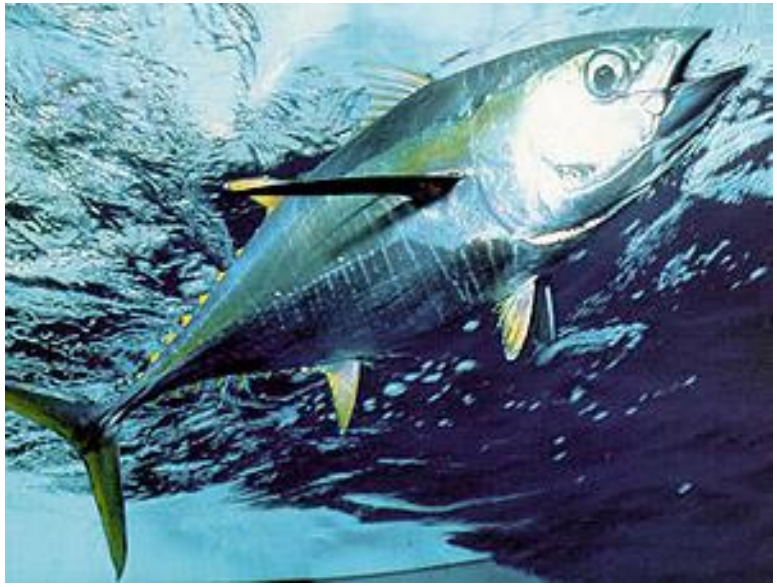
Thalassoma purpureum

THPU 43cm

Thalassoma quinquevittatum
THQU 17cm

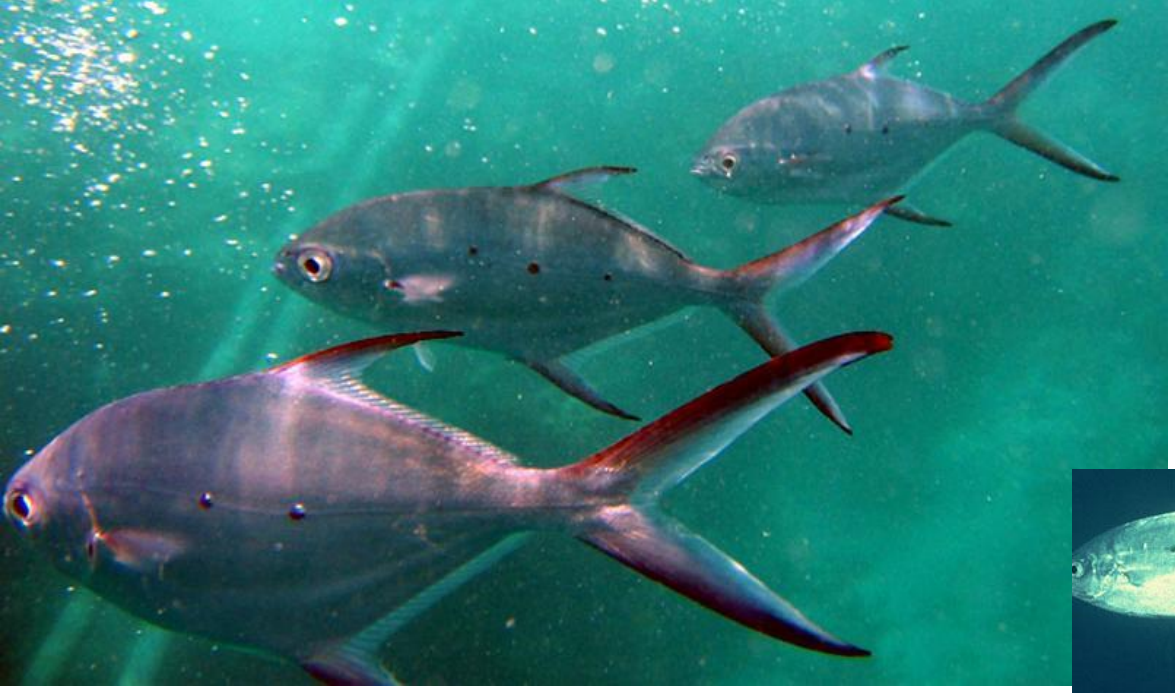
Thalassoma trilobatum

THTR 33cm



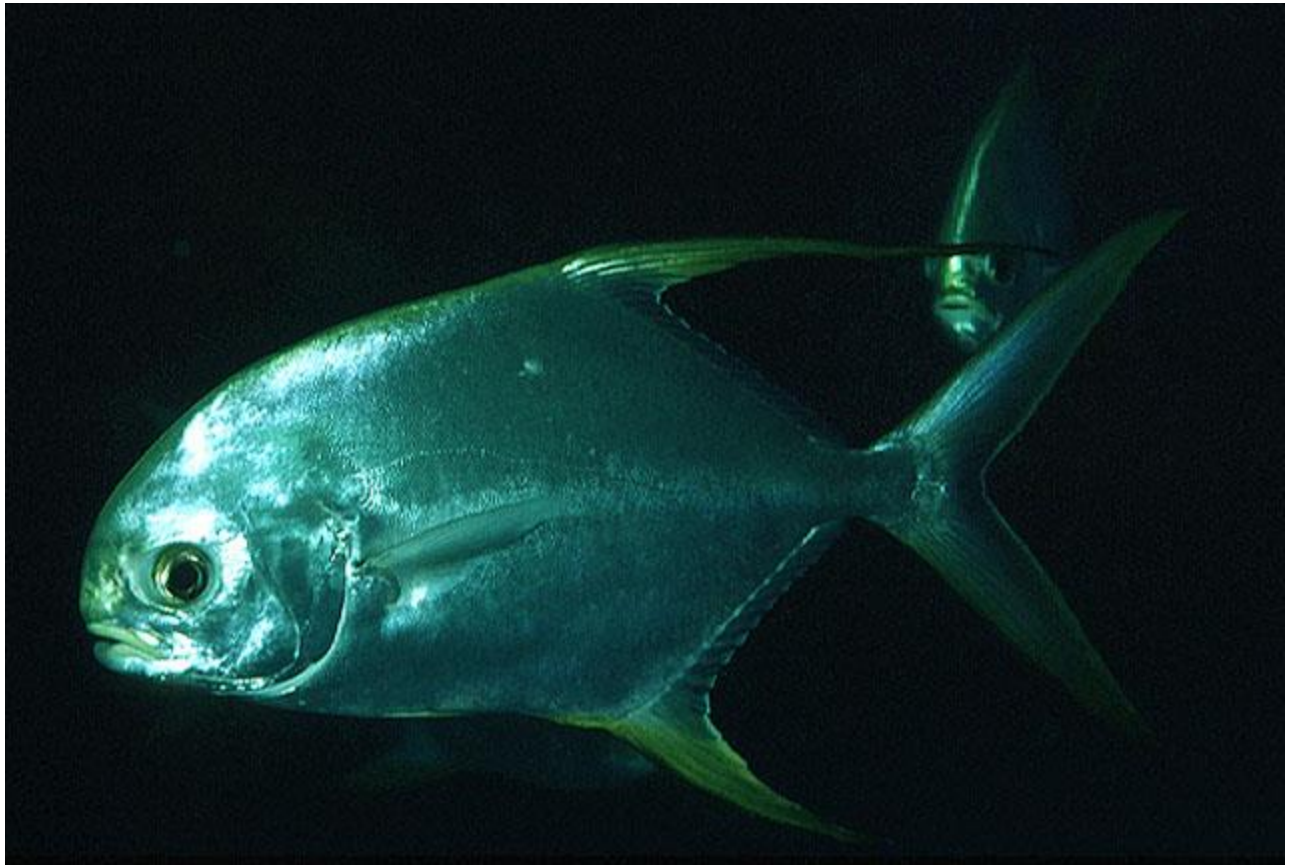
Thunnus albacares

THAL 220cm



Trachinotus baillonii

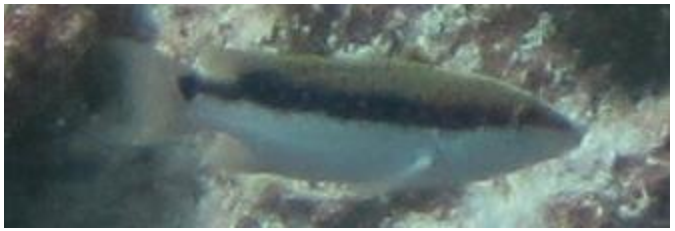
TRBA 60 cm



Trachinotus blochii

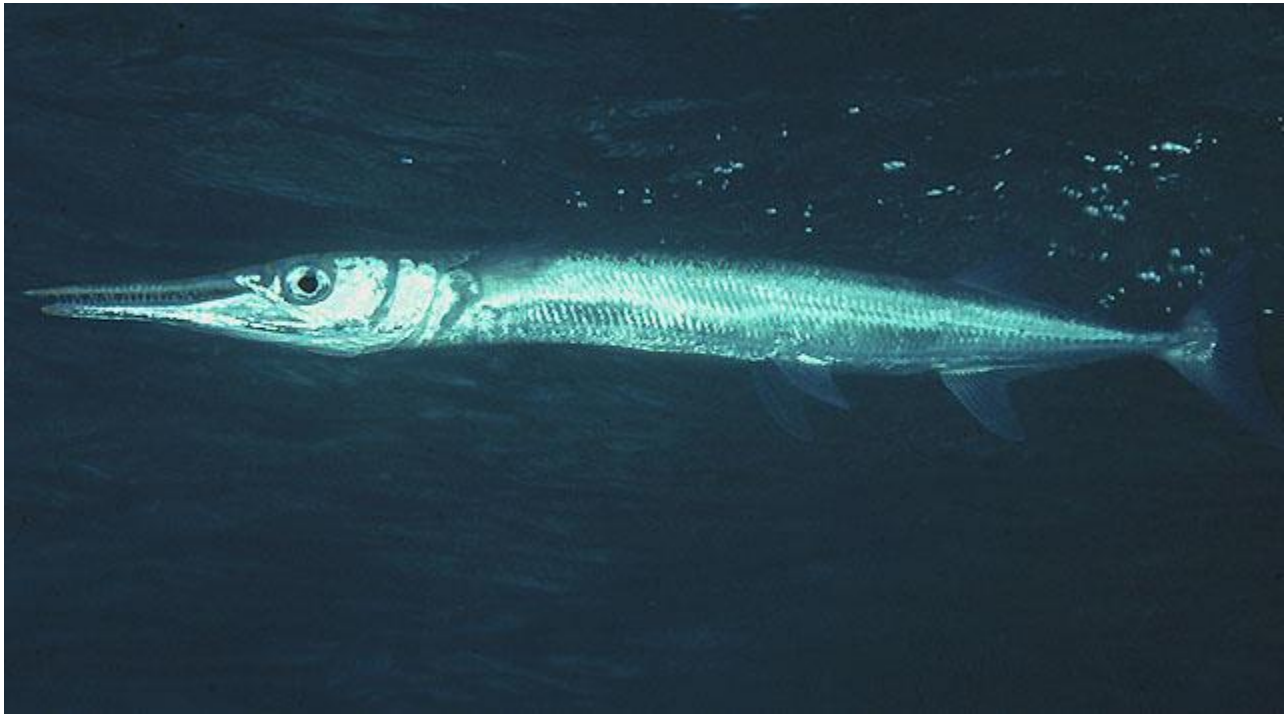
TRBL 110 cm

Valenciennea strigata
VAST 16cm



Variola louti

VALO 66cm



Tylosurus crocodilus
TYCR 150 cm

Xanthichthys auromarginatus
XAAU 22cm

Xanthichthys caeruleolineatus
XACA 35cm

Zanclus cornutus

ZACO 20cm

Zebrasoma flavescens

ZEFL 20cm

Zebrasoma rostratum
ZERO 21cm

Zebrasoma scopas
ZESC 20cm

Zebrasoma veliferum

ZEVE 40cm