Northwest Hawaiian Islands

Fish Study Guide

This presentation is intended to be a study aid and is not a comprehensive list of all fish species recorded in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands (NWHI).

This guide should be used in conjunction with other resources, including:

- J. E. Randall's *Reef and Shore Fishes of the Hawaiian Islands*
- Randall's *Shore Fishes of Hawaii*
- fishbase.org
  http://www.marinelifephotography.com/

The books are normally made available for use during the Coral Reef Ecosystem Program's research cruises.

Scientific names and the 4-letter code used by CREP are given. For 4-letter codes that do not follow the 1st-two letters of genus and 1st-two letters of species rule, the differing letters are in red.

CRED uses the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) as its current database standard; certain species names used by local Hawaiian agencies may not yet be officially recognized by WoRMS and thus are not yet used by CRED.

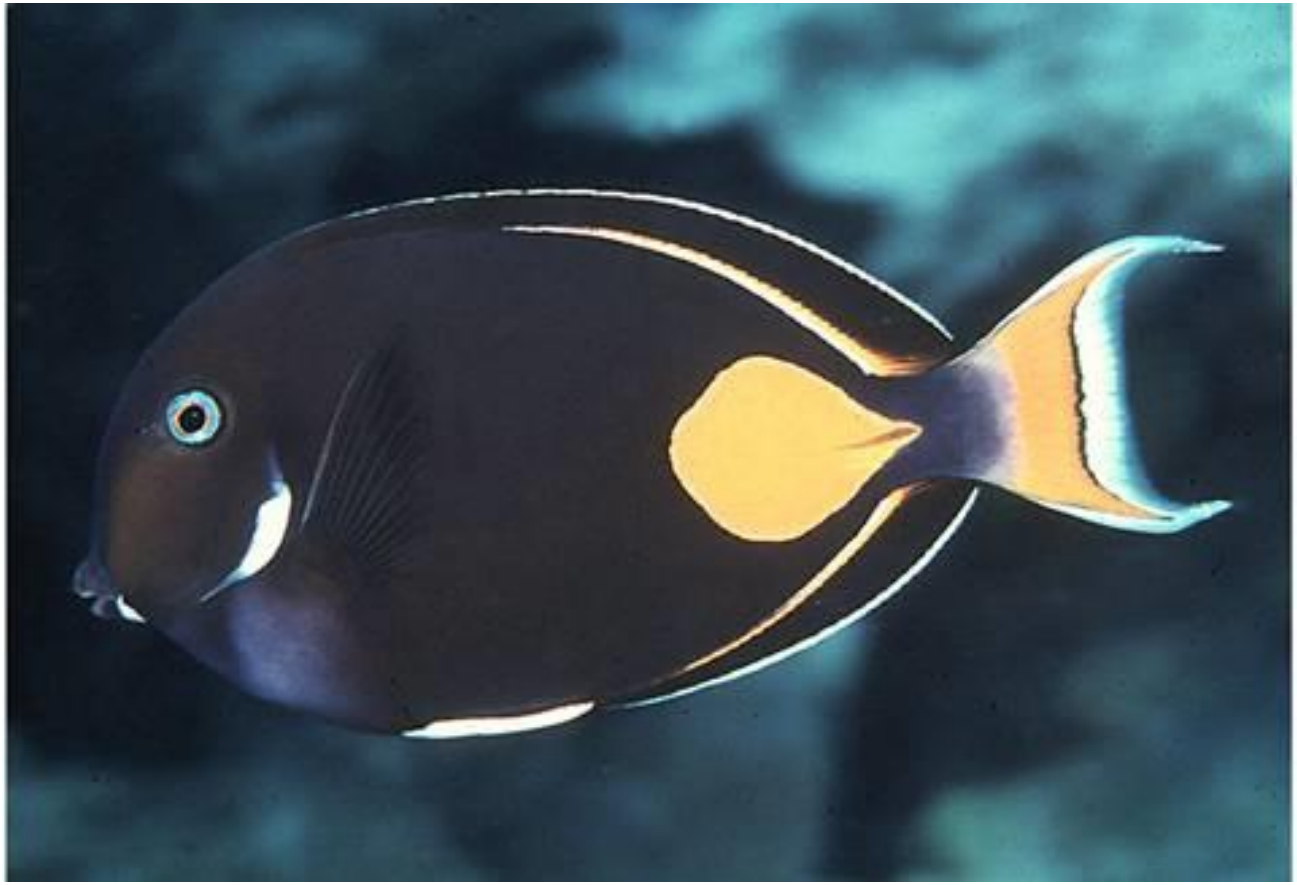
HAWAII ENDEMIC

Abudefduf abdominalis
ABAB 25cm

Abudefduf sordidus

ABSO 24cm

Abudefduf vaigiensis
ABVA 20cm



Acanthurus achilles

ACAC 25cm

Acanthurus blochii
ACBL 43cm

Acanthurus dussumieri
ACDU 46cm

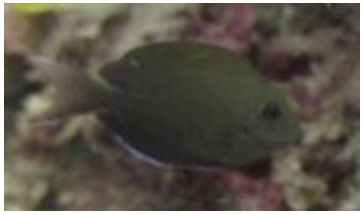
Acanthurus guttatus
ACGU 26 cm

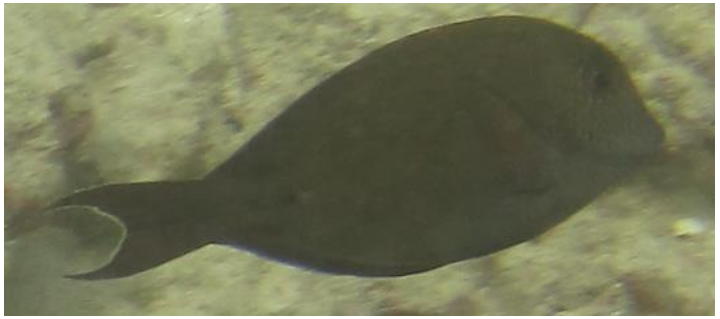
Acanthurus leucopareius

ACLE 25cm

Acanthurus nigricans

ACNC 23cm





Acanthurus nigrofuscus

AC**NF** 23cm

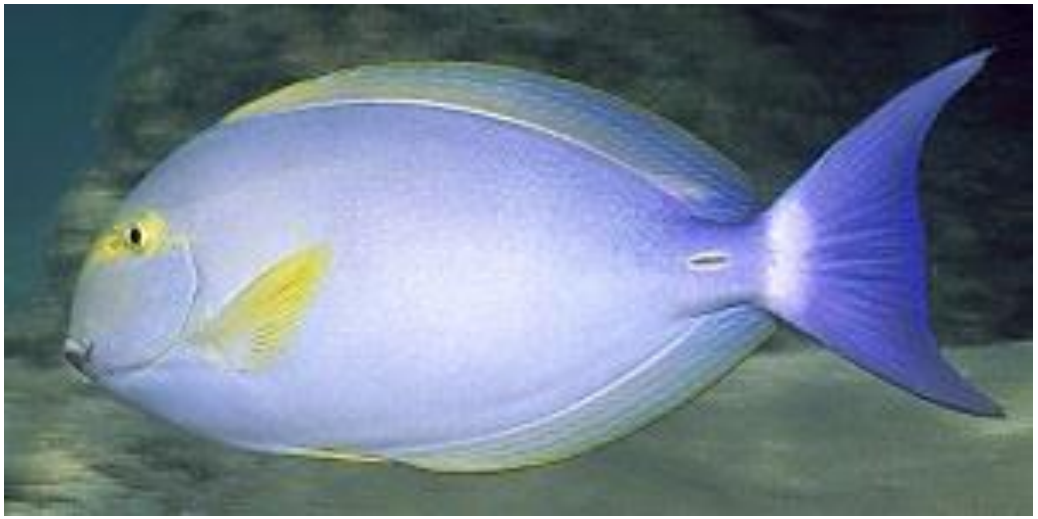
Acanthurus nigroris

AC**NR** 25cm

Acanthurus olivaceus
ACOL 30cm

Acanthurus thompsoni
ACTH 28cm

Acanthurus triostegus
ACTR 26cm

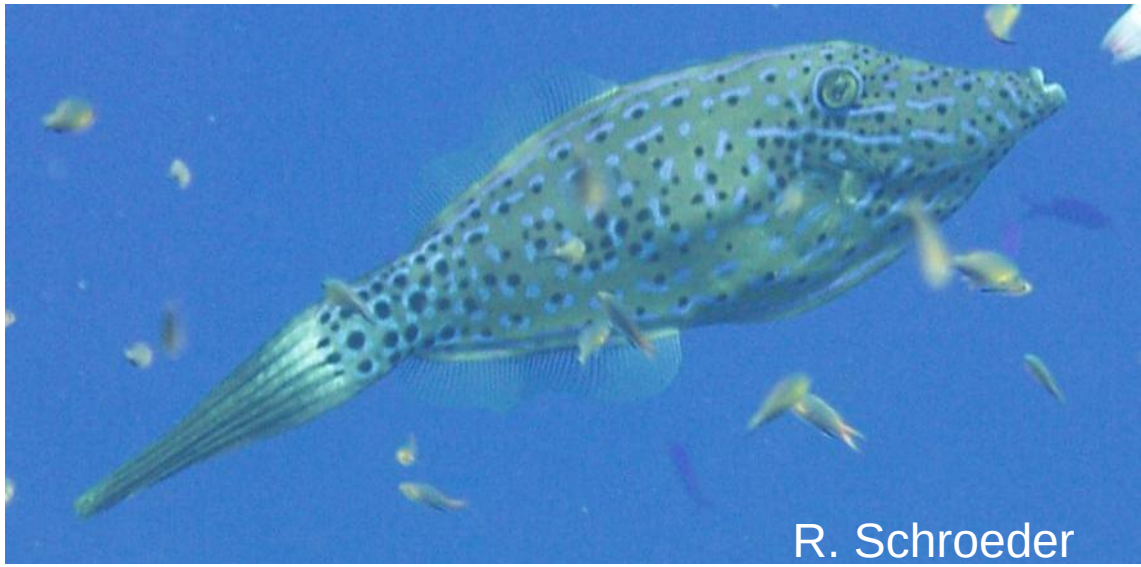


Acanthurus xanthopterus

ACXA 65cm

Aetobatus narinari

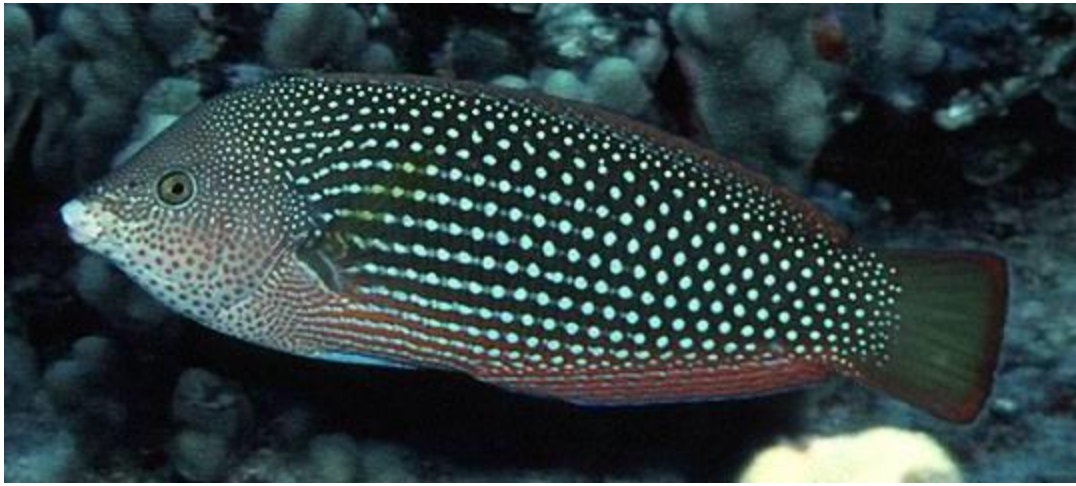
AENA 230cm



Aluterus scriptus
ALSC 76cm

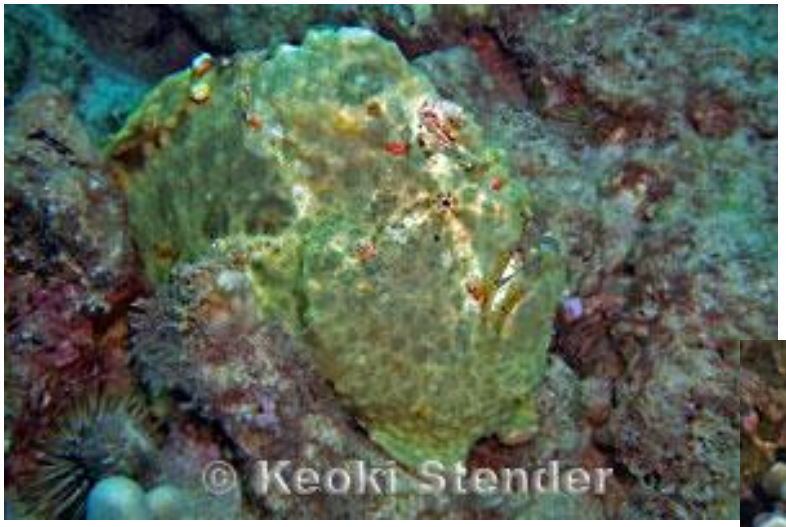
HAWAII ENDEMIC

Anampses chrysocephalus
ANCH 18cm



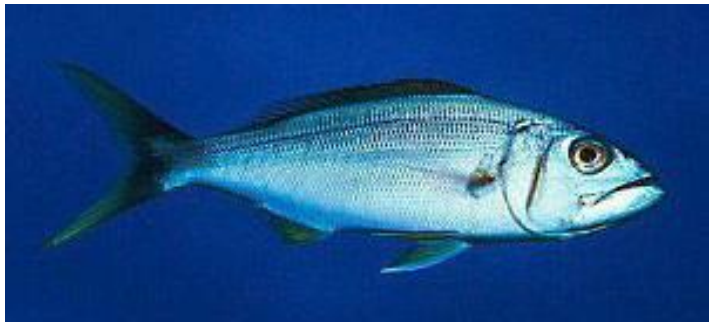
HAWAII ENDEMIC

Anampses cuvier
ANCU 36cm



Antennarius commerson

ANCO 30cm



Aphareus furca
APFU 70cm

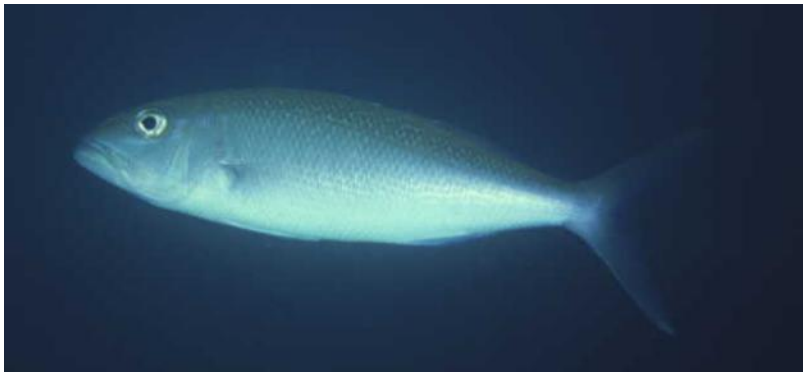
Apogon kallopterus
APKA 16 cm

HAWAII ENDEMIC

Apogon maculiferus

APMA 14 cm

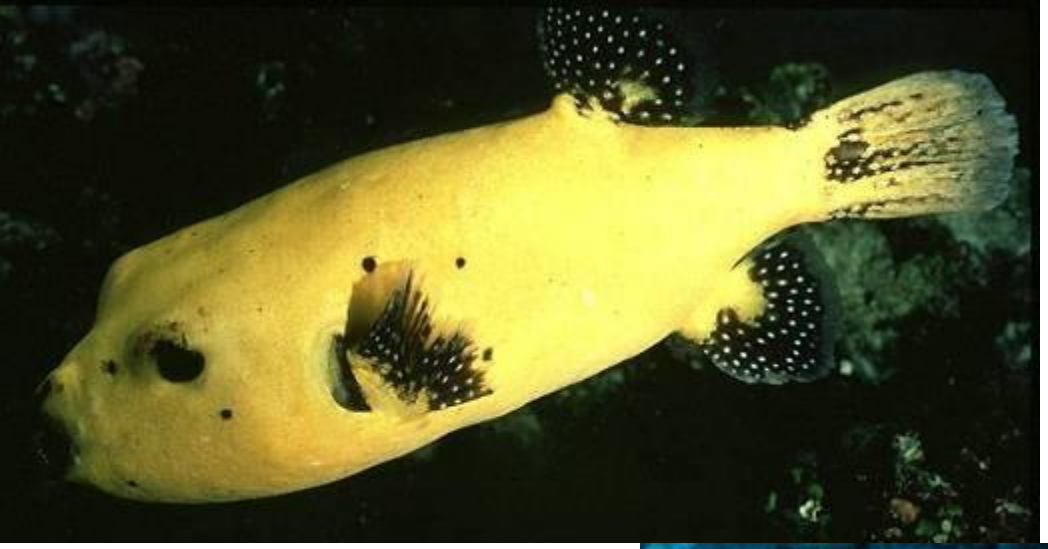
Apolemichthys arcuatus
APAR 18cm



Aprion virescens

APVI 110cm

Arothron hispidus
ARHI 49cm



Arothron meleagris

ARME 34cm

Aulostomus chinensis
AUCH 76cm

Balistes polylepis
BAPO 76cm

HAWAII ENDEMIC

Bodianus bilunulatus (albotaeniatus)

BOBI 51cm

Calotomus carolinus

CACA 50cm

HAWAII ENDEMIC

Calotomus zonarchus
CAZO 30cm

Cantherhines dumerilii
CADU 38cm

Cantherhines sandwichiensis
CASA 20 cm

HAWAII ENDEMIC

Cantherhines verecundus

CAVE 16 cm

Canthigaster amboinensis
CAAM 14cm

Canthigaster coronata
CACO 14 cm

Canthigaster jactator
CAJA 10cm

HAWAII
ENDEMIC

Caracanthus typicus
CATY 5cm

Carangoides ferdau

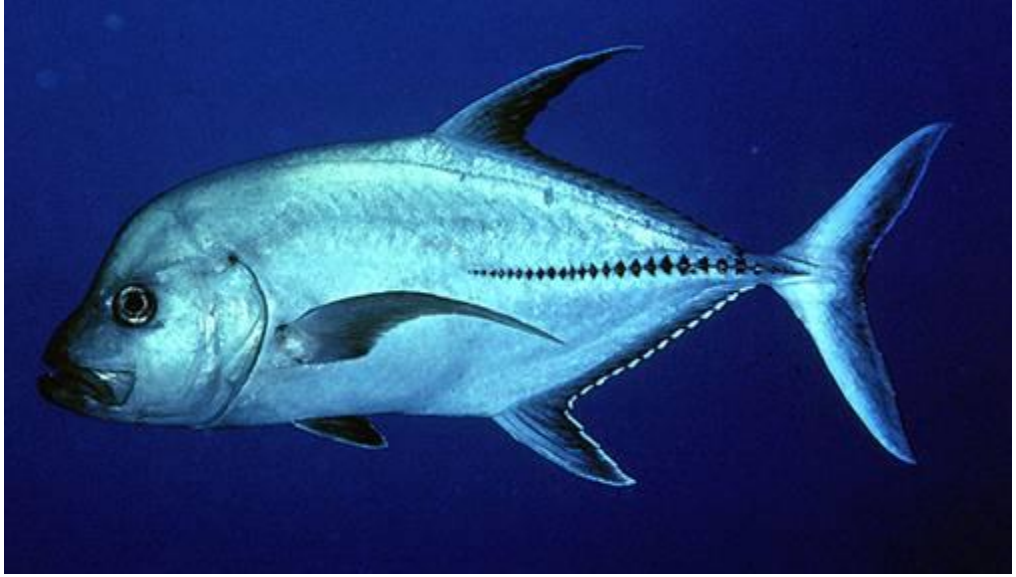
CAFE 53cm

Carangoides orthogrammus

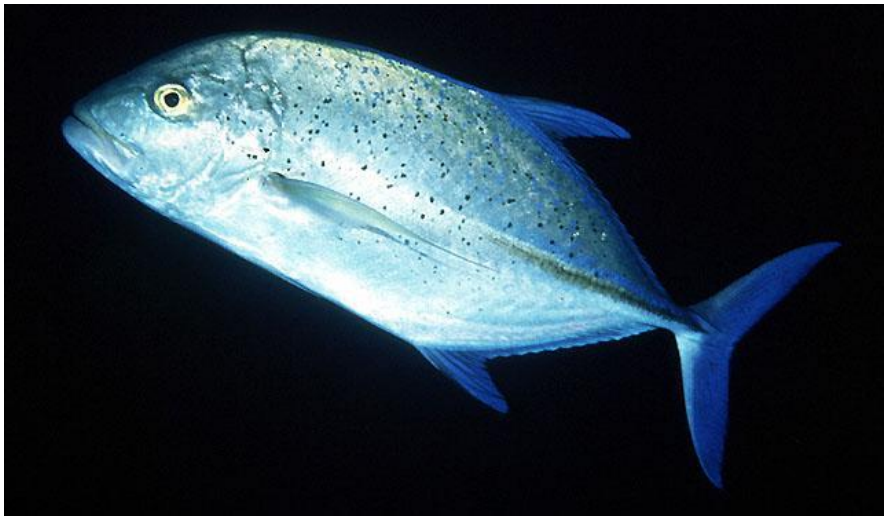
CAOR 70cm

Caranx ignobilis

CAIG 165cm

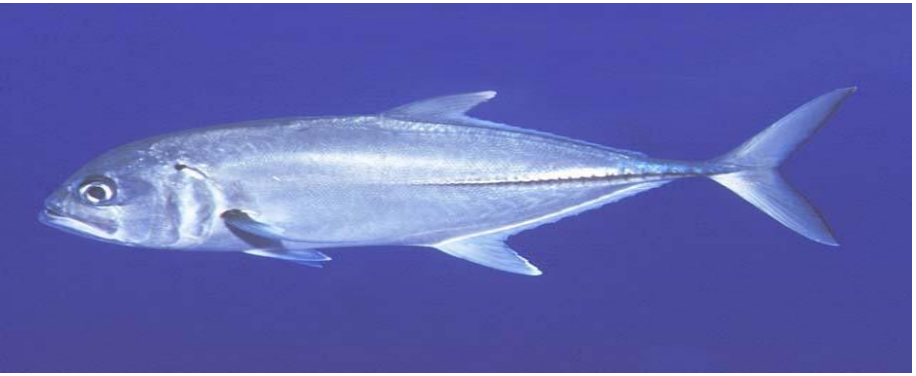


Caranx lugubris
CALU 100cm



Caranx melampygus

CAME 100cm

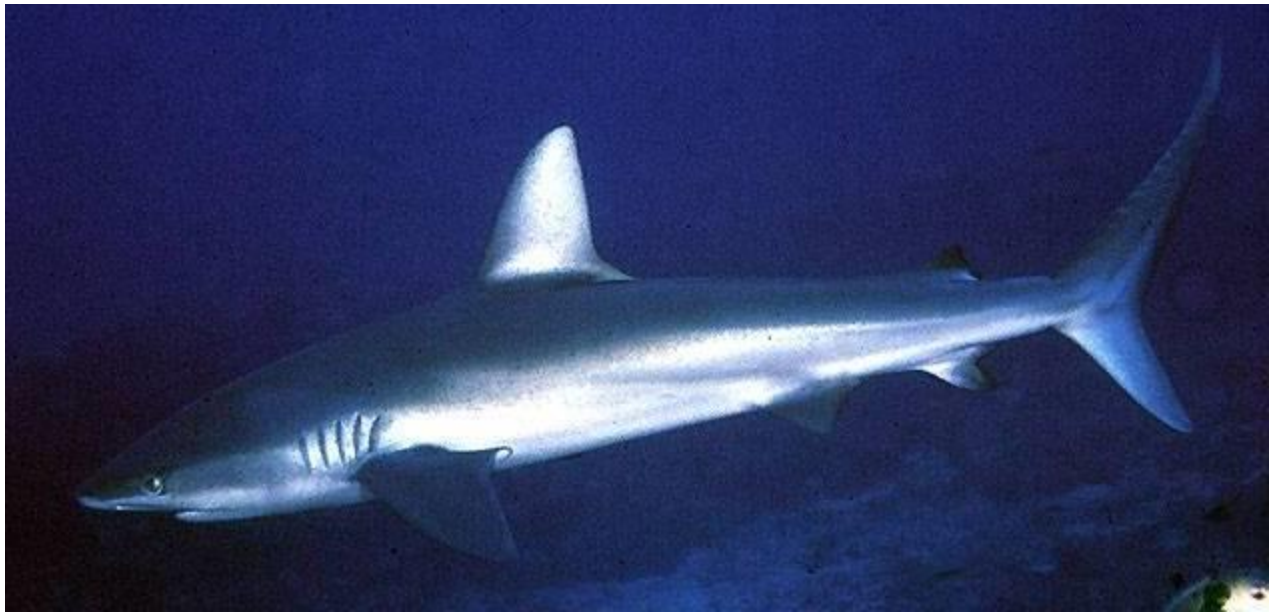


Caranx sexfasciatus

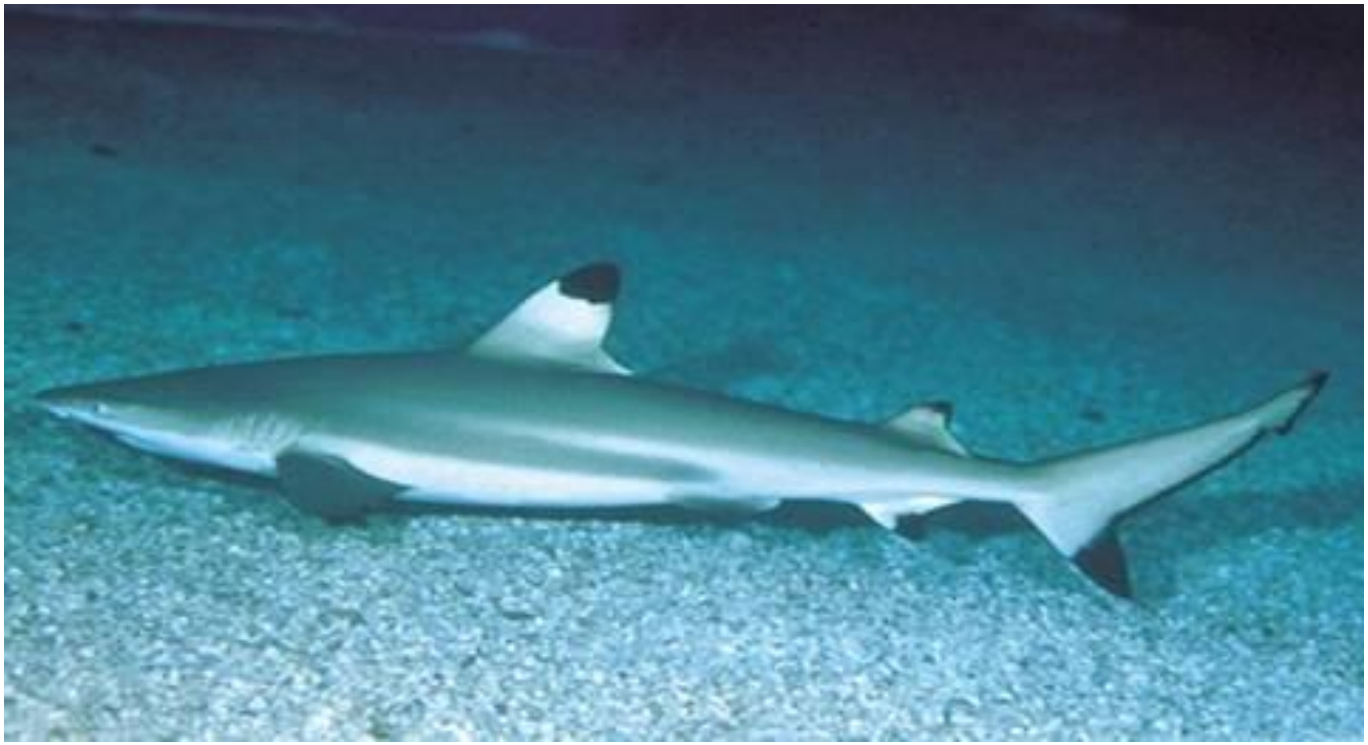
CASE 100cm

Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos

CAAB 180cm



Carcharhinus galapagensis
CAGA 350cm

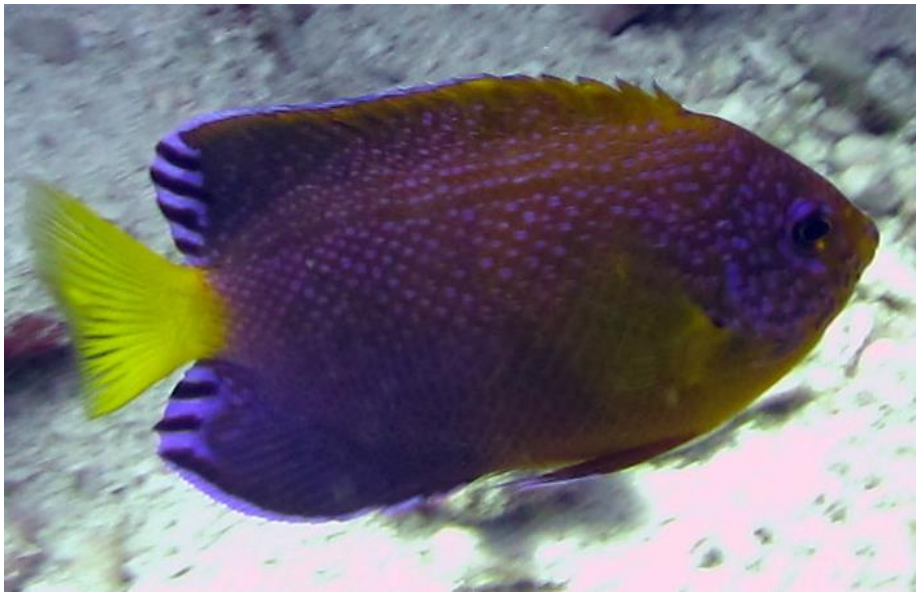


Carcharhinus melanopterus

CAML 180cm

Centropyge fisheri

CEFI 6 cm



Centropyge interrupta
CEIN 16cm

Centropyge loricula
CELO 10cm

Centropyge potteri
CEPO 13cm

Cephalopholis argus
CEAR 60cm

Chaetodon auriga
CHAU 23cm

Chaetodon citrinellus
CHCI 13cm

Chaetodon ephippium
CHEP 23cm

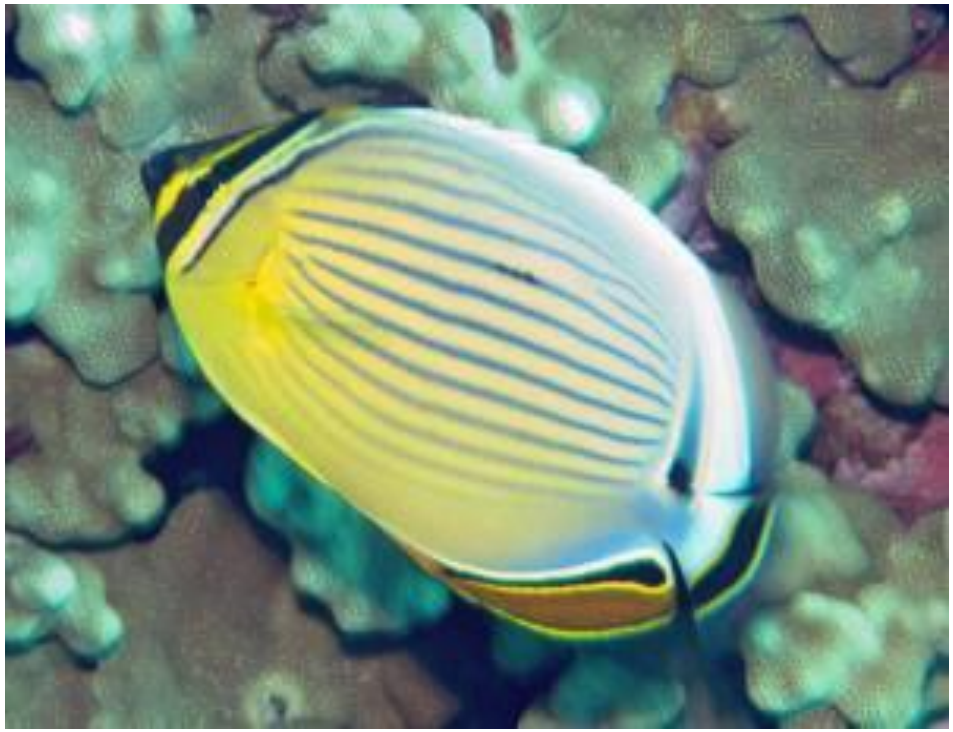
HAWAII ENDEMIC

Chaetodon fremblii
CHFR 15cm

Chaetodon kleinii

CHKL　14cm

Chaetodon lunula
CHLU 20cm



Chaetodon lunulatus

CHLT 14cm

Chaetodon miliaris
CHMI 17cm

HAWAII
ENDEMIC

Chaetodon multicinctus
CHMU 12cm

HAWAII
ENDEMIC

Chaetodon ornatissimus
CHOR 20cm

Chaetodon quadrimaculatus
CHQU 15cm

Chaetodon reticulatus
CHRE 18cm

Chaetodon trifascialis

CHTR 18cm

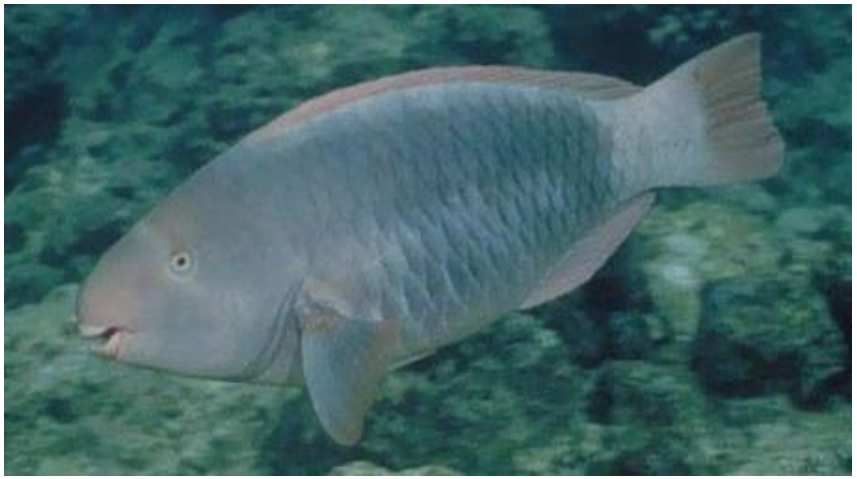
Chaetodon unimaculatus
CHUN 20

Cheilio inermis
CHIN 50 cm

Chlorurus sordidus

(C. spilurus)

CHSO 40cm



HAWAII ENDEMIC

Chlorurus perspicillatus
CHPE 61cm

Chromis acares
CHAC 6cm

Chromis agilis

CHAG 11cm

Chromis hanui

CHHA 9cm

HAWAII ENDEMIC

Chromis leucura

CHLC 7cm

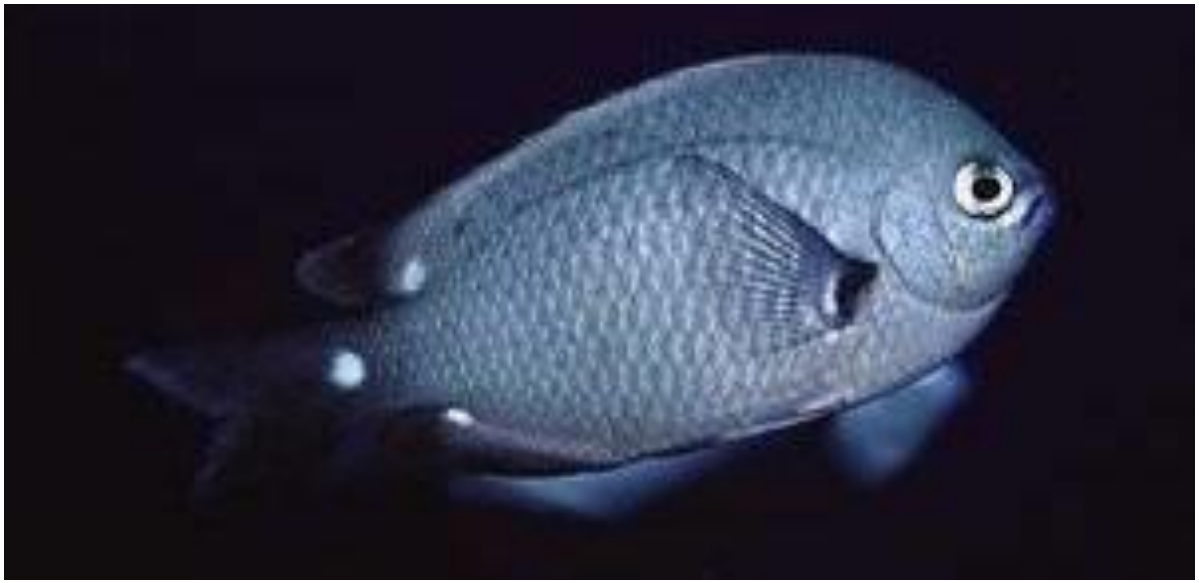
HAWAII ENDEMIC

Chromis ovalis

CHOV 19cm

Chromis vanderbilti

CHVA 15cm



HAWAII ENDEMIC

Chromis verater

CHVE 22cm

HAWAII ENDEMIC

Cirrihilabrus jordani
CIJO 12cm

Cirrhitops fasciatus
CIFA 12cm

Cirrhitus pinnulatus

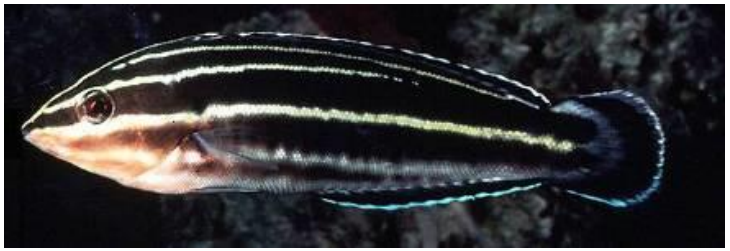
CIPI 30cm

Cirripectes vanderbilti
CIVA 11cm

HAWAII ENDEMIC

Coris ballieui

COBA 30 cm



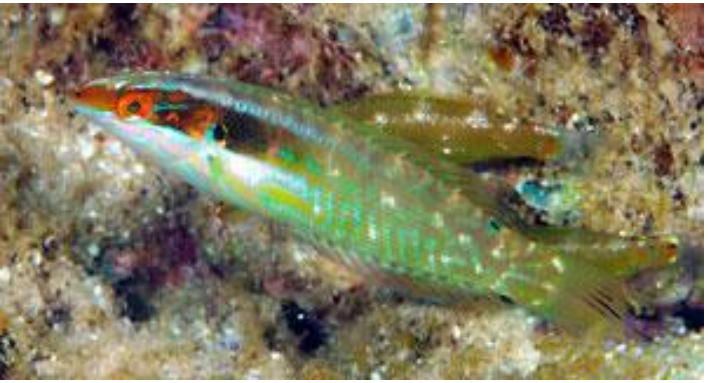
HAWAII ENDEMIC

Coris flavovittata

COFL 38cm

Coris gaimard

COGA 38cm



HAWAII ENDEMIC

Coris venusta

COVE 19cm

Ctenochaetus hawaiiensis

CTHA 25 cm

Ctenochaetus strigosus

CTST 19cm

Cymolutes lecluse
CYLE 18 cm

HAWAII ENDEMIC

Dascyllus albisella
DAAL 10cm

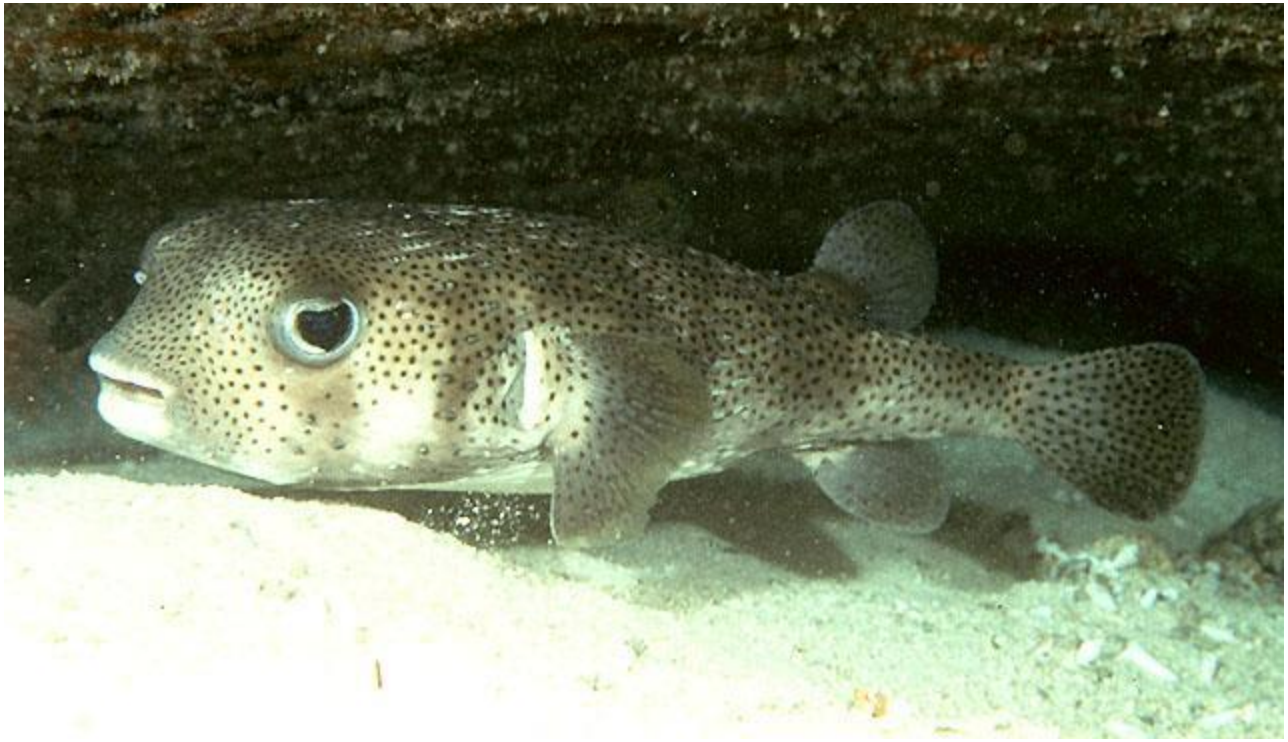
Decapterus macarellus
DEMA 46 cm

Dendochirus barberi
DEBA 16 cm

HAWAII
ENDEMIC

Diodon holocanthus

DIHO 38 cm



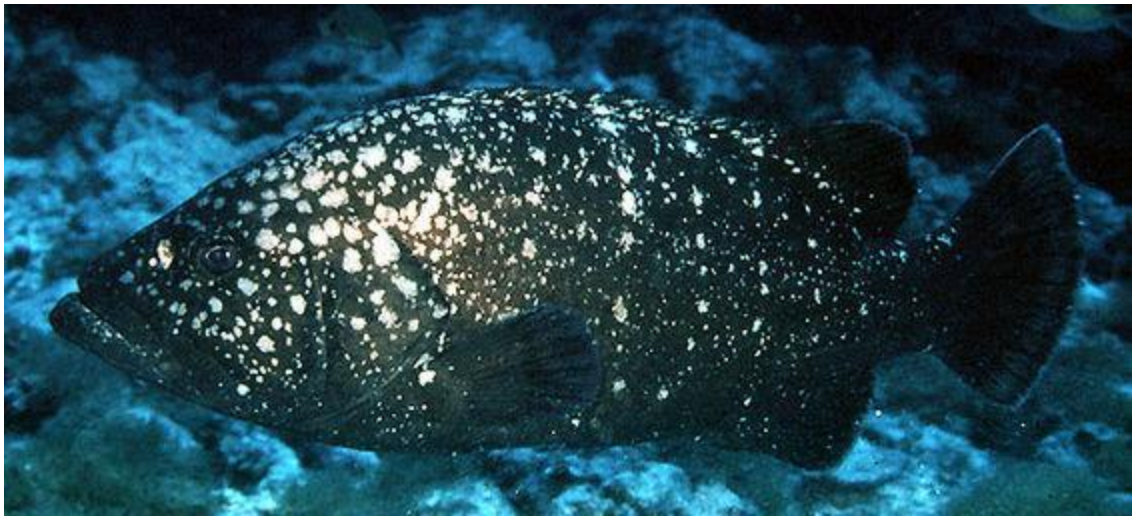
Diodon hystrix
DIHY 91 cm

Echeneis naucrates
ECNA 100cm

Elagatis bipinnulata
ELBI 180 cm

Epibulus insidiator

EPIN 35cm



HAWAII ENDEMIC

Epinephelus quernus
EPQU 110cm

Evistias acutirostris

EVAC 60 cm

Euthynnus affinis
EUAF 100 cm

Exallias brevis

EXBR 15cm

Fistularia commersonii

FICO 160 cm

Forcipiger flavissimus
FOFL 19cm

Forcipiger longirostris
FOLO 22cm

Genicanthus personatus
GEPE 21cm

Gnathanodon speciosus
GNSP 120cm

Juvenile

Gomphosus varius
GOVA 28cm

Goniistius vittatus

GOVI 41cm

Gunnellichthys curiosus
GUCU 12cm

Gymnothorax eurostus
GYEU 60 cm

Gymnothorax flavimarginatus

GYFL 150cm

Gymnothorax javanicus
GYJA 245cm

Gymnothorax undulatus
GYUN 120cm

Gymnothorax meleagris
GYME 100 cm

Halichoeres ornatissimus
HAOR 15cm

Hemitaurichtys polylepis
HEPO 18cm

Hemitaurichthys thompsoni
HETH 21cm

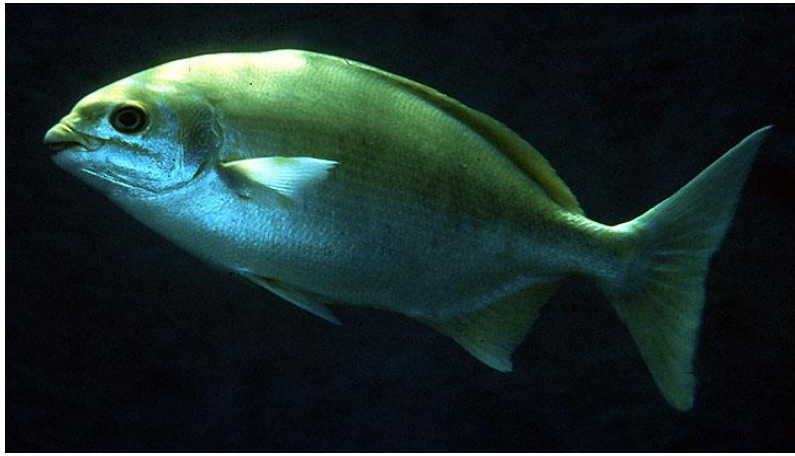
Heniochus diphreutes
HEDI 21cm

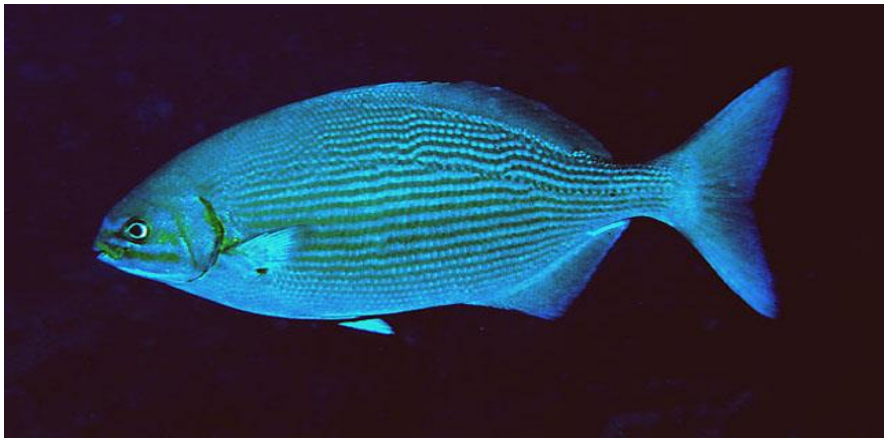
Heteropriacanthus cruentatus
HECR 32cm

Iniistius anetensis

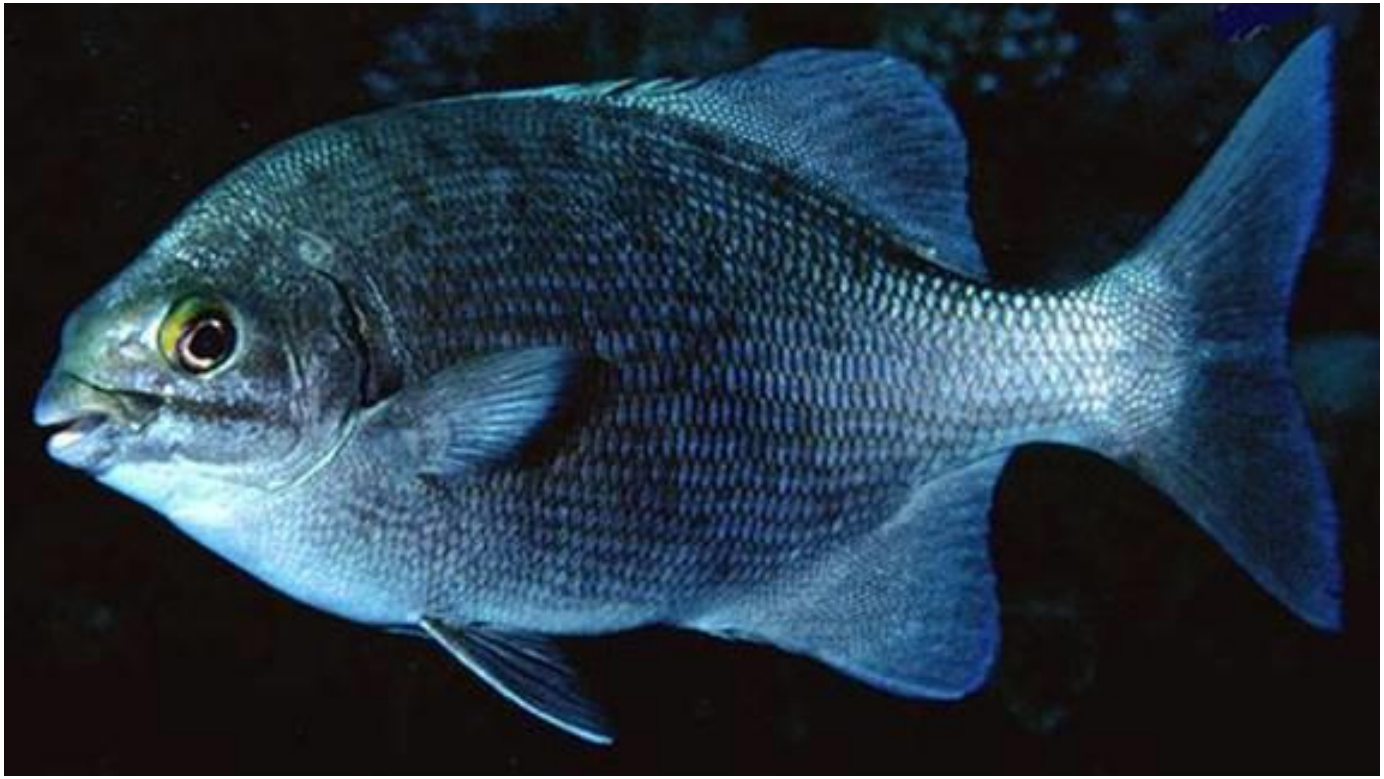
INAN 22 cm

Iniistius pavo
INPA 35 cm





Kyphosus species
CHUB 75cm



Kyphosus cinerascens
KYCI 51cm

HAWAII ENDEMIC

Labroides phthirophagus
LAPH 10cm

Lactoria fornasini

LAFO 14cm

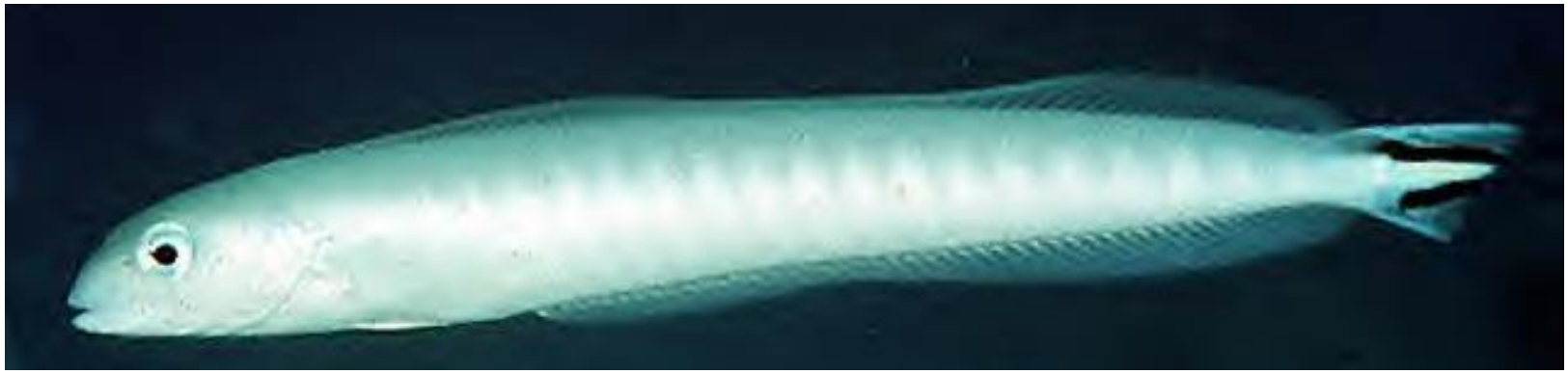
Lutjanus fulvus

LUFU 43cm

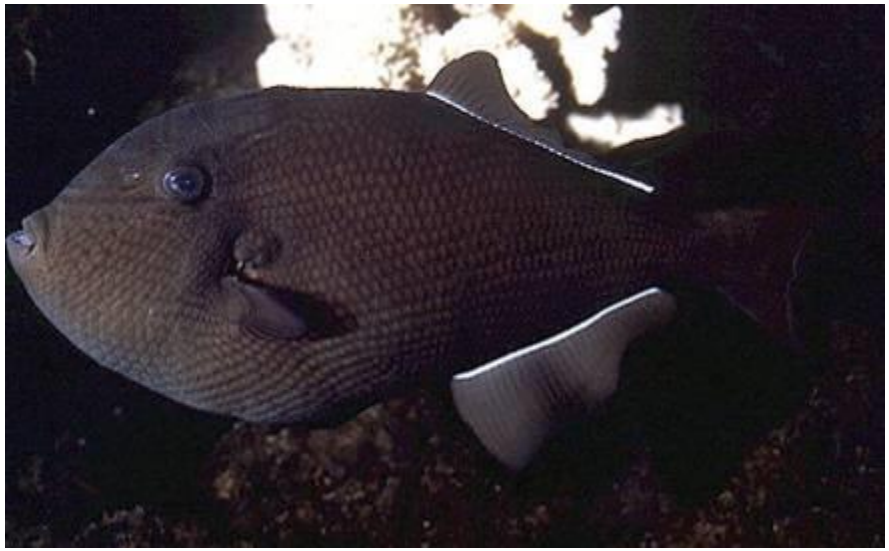
Lutjanus kasmira
LUKA 40cm

Macropharyngodon geoffroy
MAGE 16cm

HAWAII
ENDEMIC



Malacanthus brevirostris
MABR 30cm

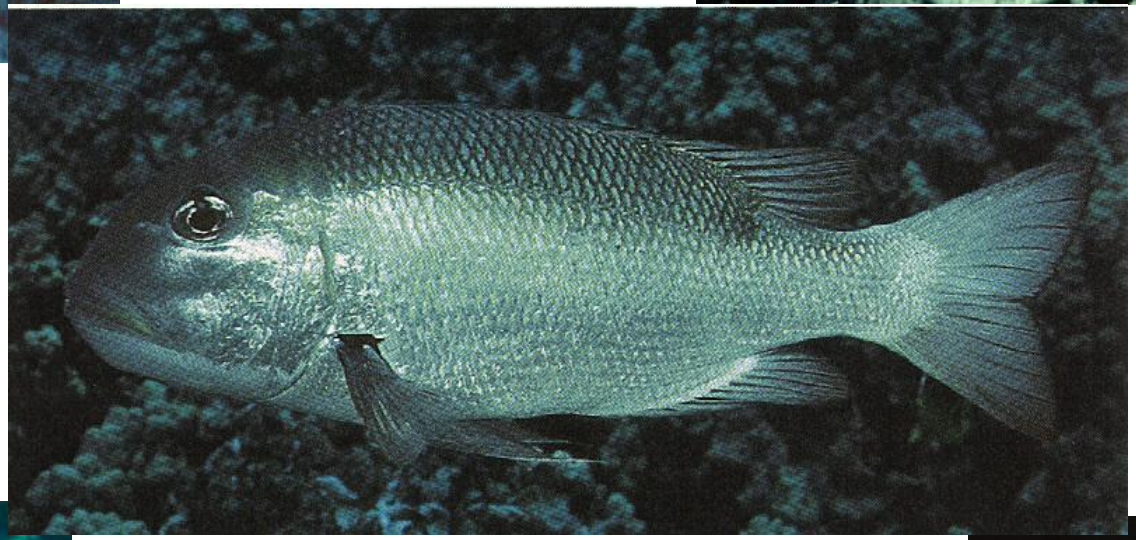


Melichthys niger

MENI 38cm

Melichthys vidua

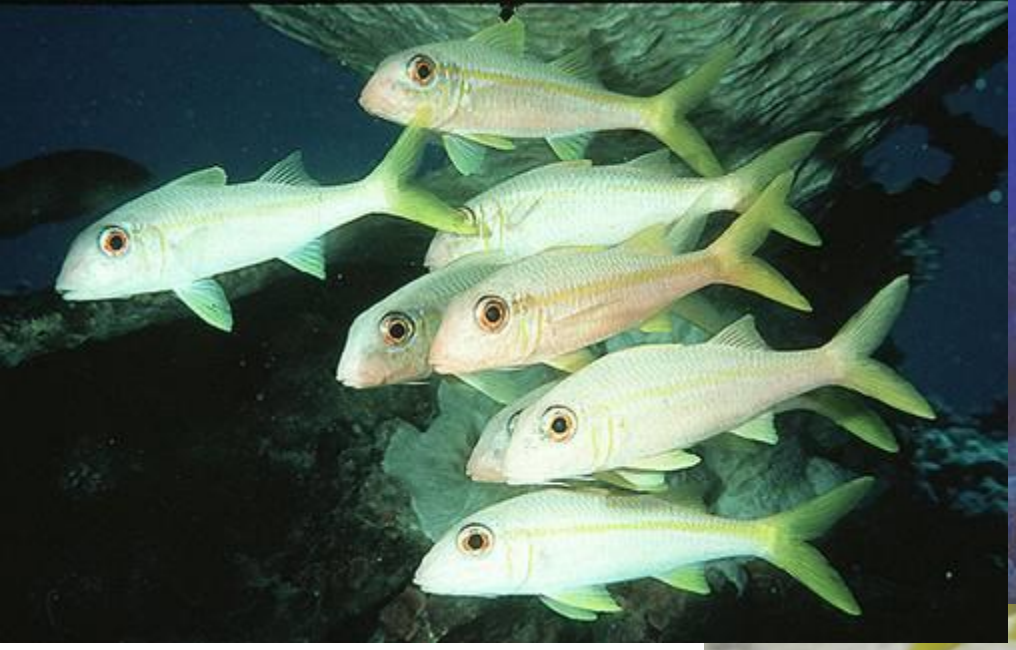
MEVI 34cm



Monotaxis grandoculis
MOGR 63cm

Mulloidichthys flavolineatus
MUFL 40cm

Mulloidichthys mimicus
MUMI 30cm



Mulloidichthys vanicolensis

MUVA 38cm

Myrichthys magnificus
MYMA 78cm

Myripristis amaena
MYAM 32cm

Myripristis berndti
MYBE 33cm

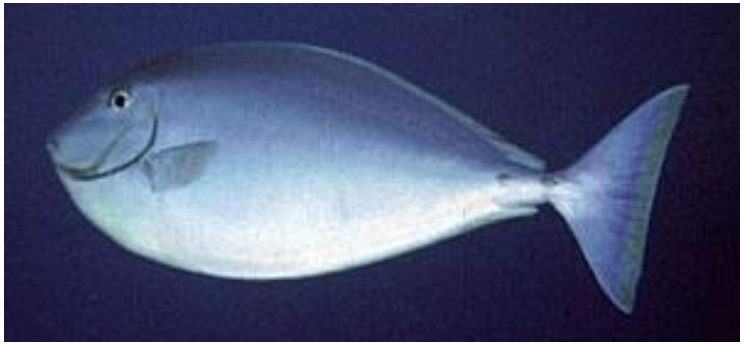
Myripristis chryseres
MYCH 25cm

Myripristis kuntee
MYKU 19cm

Myripristis vittata
MYVI 20cm

Naso brevirostris

NABR 50cm



Naso hexacanthus

NAHE 75cm

Naso lituratus

NALI 46cm

Naso annulatus

NAAN 100cm

Naso unicornis

NAUN 70cm

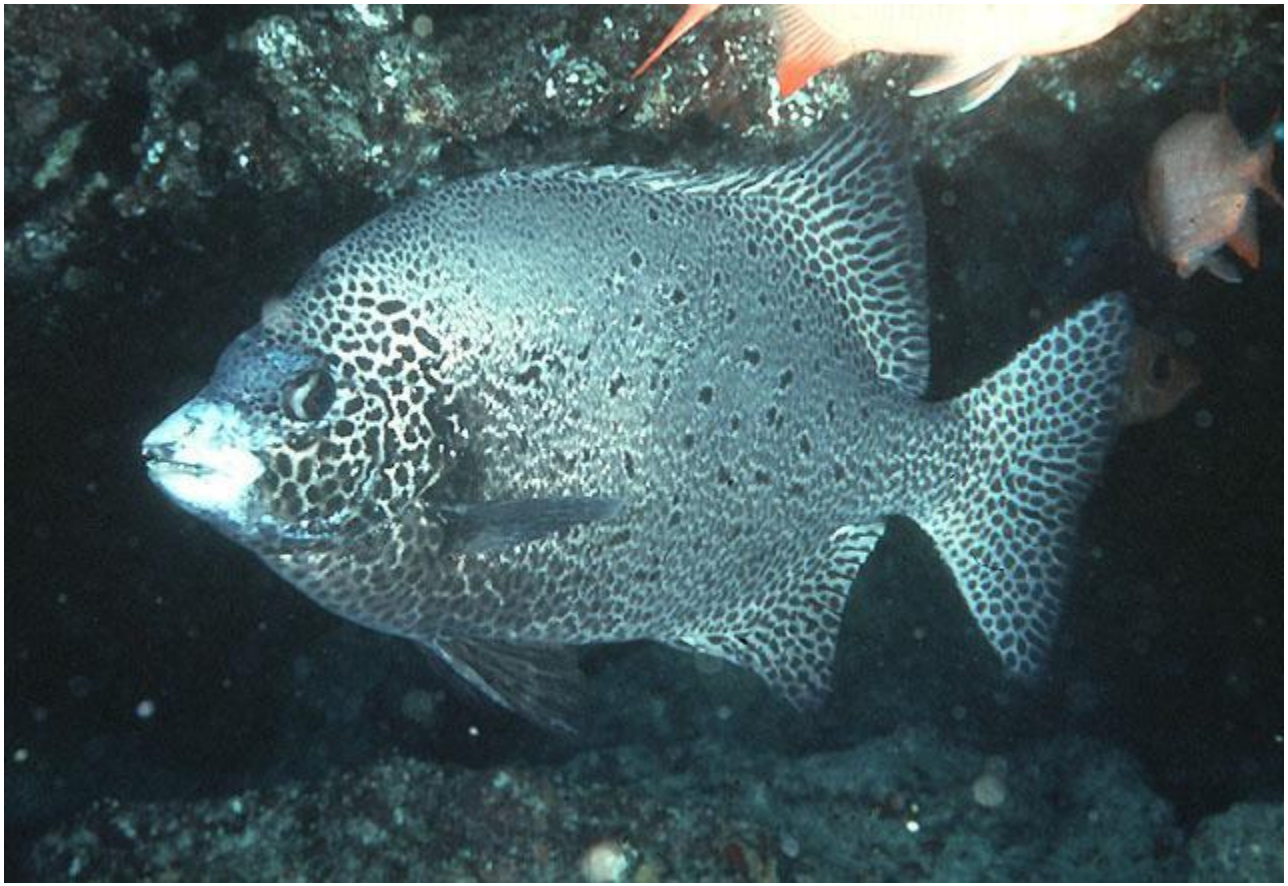
Nemateleotris magnifica
NEMA 9cm

Neoniphon sammara
NESA 30cm

Novaculichthys taeniourus
NOTA 30cm

Oplegnathus fasciatus

OPFA 80 cm



Oplegnathus punctatus
OPPU 62cm

Ostracion meleagris
OSME 16cm

Ostracion whitleyi

OSWH 16cm

Oxycheilinus bimaculatus

OXBI 15cm

Oxycheilinus unifasciatus

OXUN 46cm

Paracirrhites arcatus

PAAR 14cm

Paracirrhites forsteri
PAFO 23cm

Parapercis schauinslandii
PASC 18 cm

Parupeneus chrysonemus
PACH 22cm

HAWAII
ENDEMIC

Parupeneus cyclostomus
PACY 50cm

Parupeneus insularis

PAIN 33cm

Parupeneus multifasciatus

PAMU 29cm

Parupeneus pleurostigma
PAPL 33cm

HAWAII ENDEMIC

Parupeneus porphyreus
PAPO 50cm

Pervagor aspricaudus
PEAS 11.5 cm

Pervagor spilosoma
PESP 18cm

HAWAII ENDEMIC

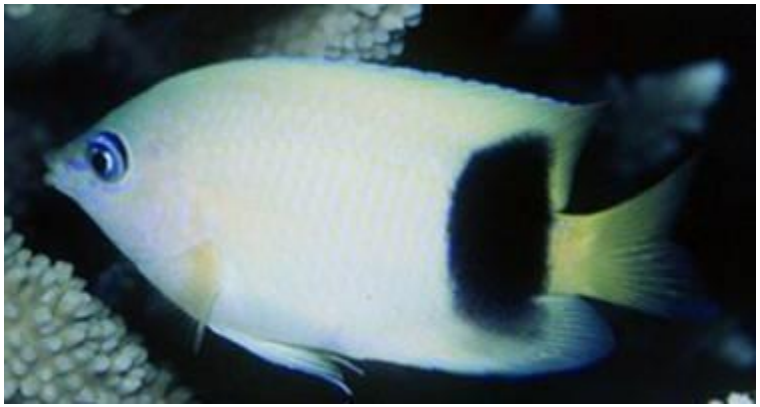
Plagiotremus ewaenensis
PLEW 11cm

HAWAII ENDEMIC

Plagiotremus goslinei
PLGO 6cm

Platybelone argalus
PLAR 50 cm

Plectroglyphidodon imparipennis
PLIM 7cm



Plectroglyphidodon johnstonianus
PLJO 12cm

Priacanthus meeki

PRME 41cm

HAWAII ENDEMIC

HAWAII ENDEMIC

Pseudanthias ventralis hawaiiensis

PSHW 10 cm

HAWAII ENDEMIC

Pseudanthias thompsoni

PSTH 21cm

Pseudocaranx dentex (chelio)
PSDE 80cm

Pseudocheilinus evanidus

PSEV 14cm

Pseudocheilinus octotaenia
PSOC 14cm

Pseudocheilinus tetrataenia

PSTE 8cm

Pseudojuloides cerasinus
PSCE 12 cm

Ptereleotris heteroptera
PTHE 12cm

Pterois sphex

PTSP 22 cm

Rhinecanthus aculeatus

RHAC 30cm

Rhinecanthus rectangulus

RHRE 25cm

Sargocentron diadema

SADI 15cm

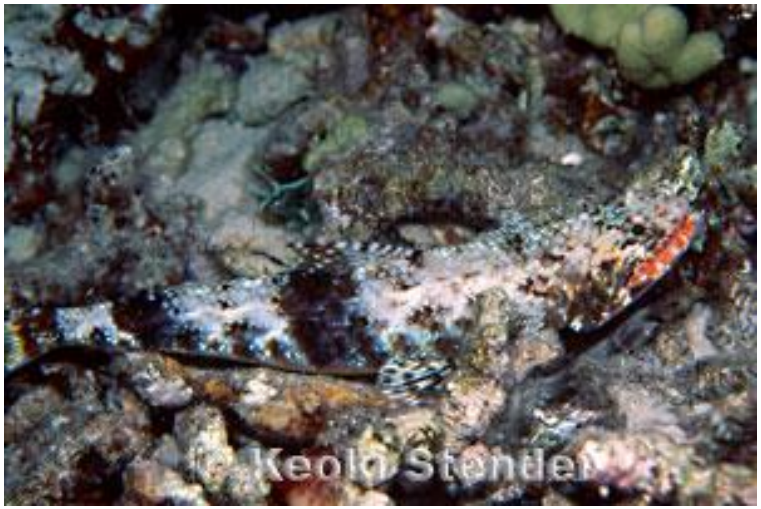
Sargocentron ensifer
SAEN 25 cm

Sargocentron spiniferum
SASP 45cm

Sargocentron punctatissimum
SAPU 23 cm

Sargocentron tiere
SATI 33cm

Sargocentron xantherythrum
SAXA 16cm

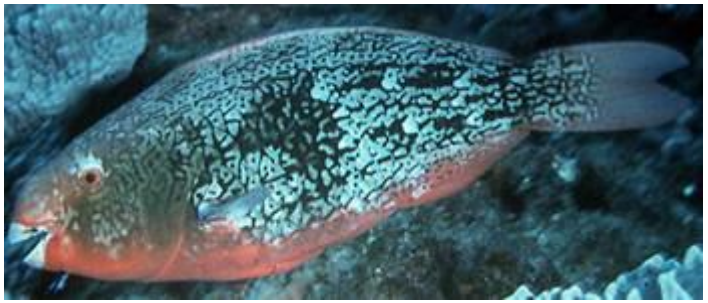


Saurida flamma
SAFL 30 cm

Scarus dubius
SCDU 36cm

Scarus psittacus

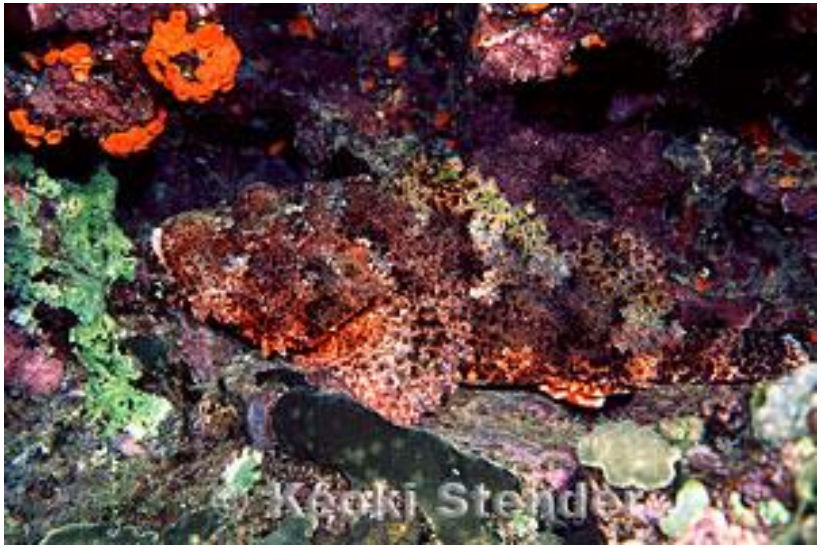
SCPS 30cm



Scarus rubroviolaceus

SCRU 70cm

Scomberoides lysan
SCLY 70cm



HAWAII ENDEMIC

Scorpaenopsis cacopsis

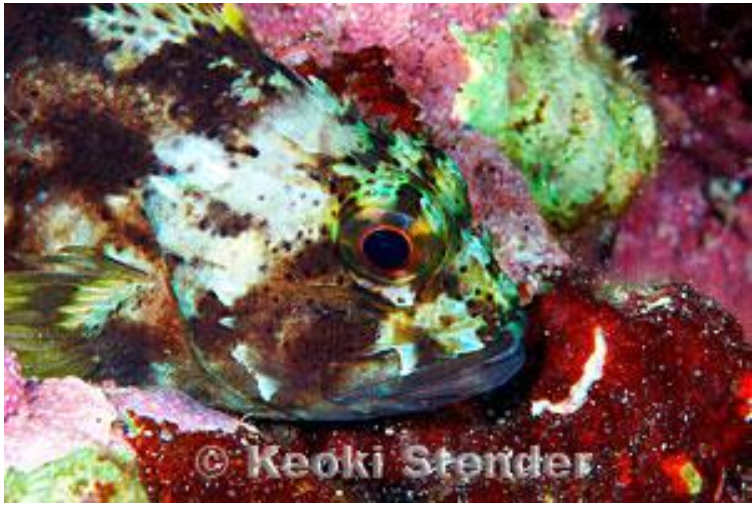
SCCA 50 cm

Scorpaenopsis diabolus
SCDI 30 cm

HAWAII ENDEMIC

Sebastapistes ballieui

SEBA 12 cm



Sebastapistes coniorta

SECO 10 cm

Seriola dumerili

SEDU 188cm

Sphyraena barracuda
SPBA 200cm

Sphyraena helleri
SPHE 80cm

Spratelloides delicatulus
SPDE 7 cm

Stegastes fasciolatus

(S. marginatus)

STFA 15cm

HAWAII ENDEMIC

Stethojulis balteata
STBA 15cm

Sufflamen bursa
SUBU 22cm

Sufflamen fraenatus
SUFR 38cm

Synodus binotatus

SYBI 18 cm

Synodus variegatus
SYVA 40 cm

HAWAII ENDEMIC

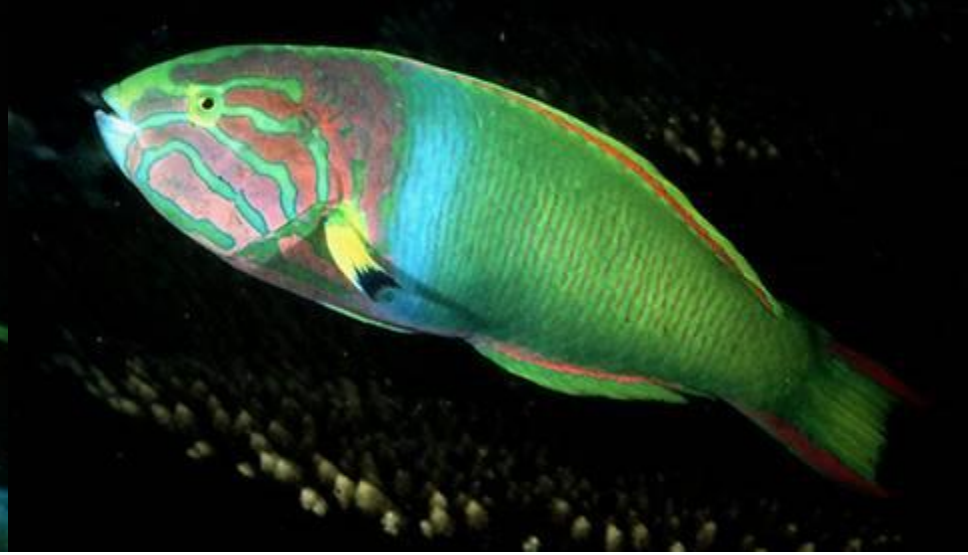
Thalassoma ballieui

THBA 40cm

HAWAII ENDEMIC

Thalassoma duperrey

THDU 26cm



Thalassoma lutescens
THLU 25cm

Thalassoma purpureum

THPU 43cm

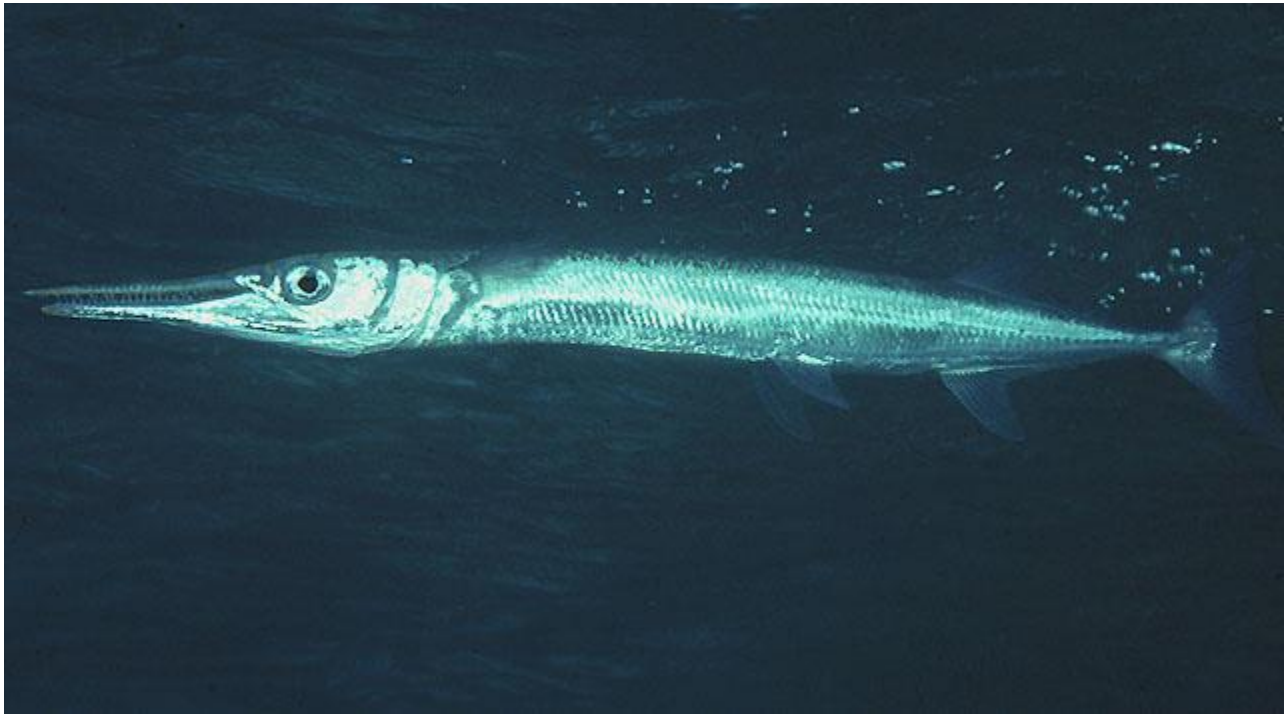
Thalassoma quinquevittatum
THQU 17cm

Thalassoma trilobatum

THTR 33cm

Trianodon obesus

TROB 350cm



Tylosurus crocodilus
TYCR 150 cm

Xanthichthys auromarginatus
XAAU 22cm

Xanthichthys mento

XAME 30cm

Zanclus cornutus

ZACO 20cm

Zebrasoma flavescens

ZEFL 20cm

Zebrasoma veliferum

ZEVE 40cm