Johnston, Howland & Baker Fish species study guide

This presentation is intended to be a study aide and not a comprehensive list of all species seen in the Phoenix Islands

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*.

*Though Johnston Atoll is technically not part of the Hawaiian Archipelago, certain species that are endemic to Hawaii are also found here and are noted with this symbol:

HAWAII ENDEMIC

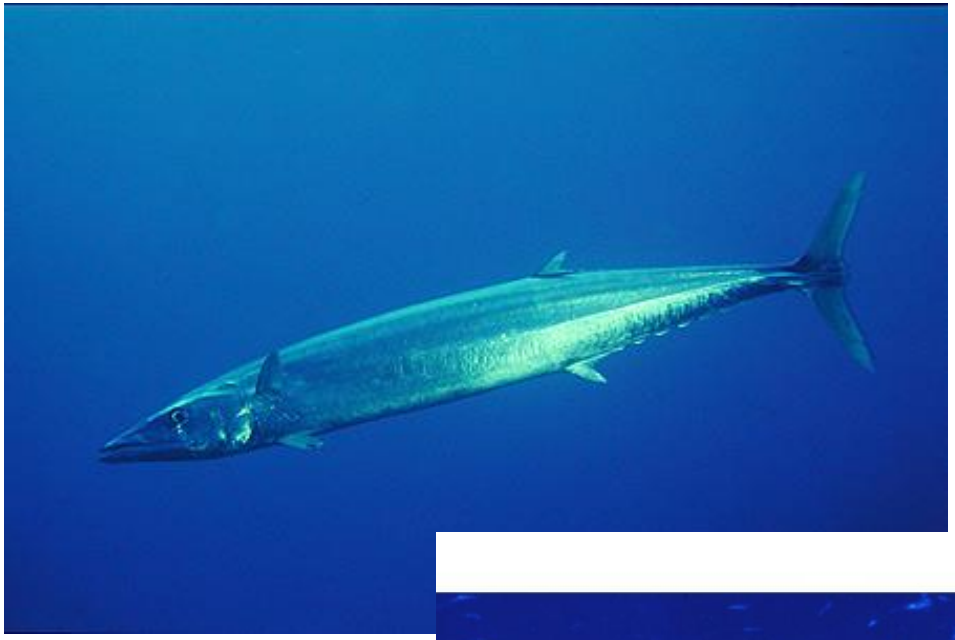
Abudefduf abdominalis
ABAB 25cm

Abudefduf septemfasciatus
AB**SP** 20cm

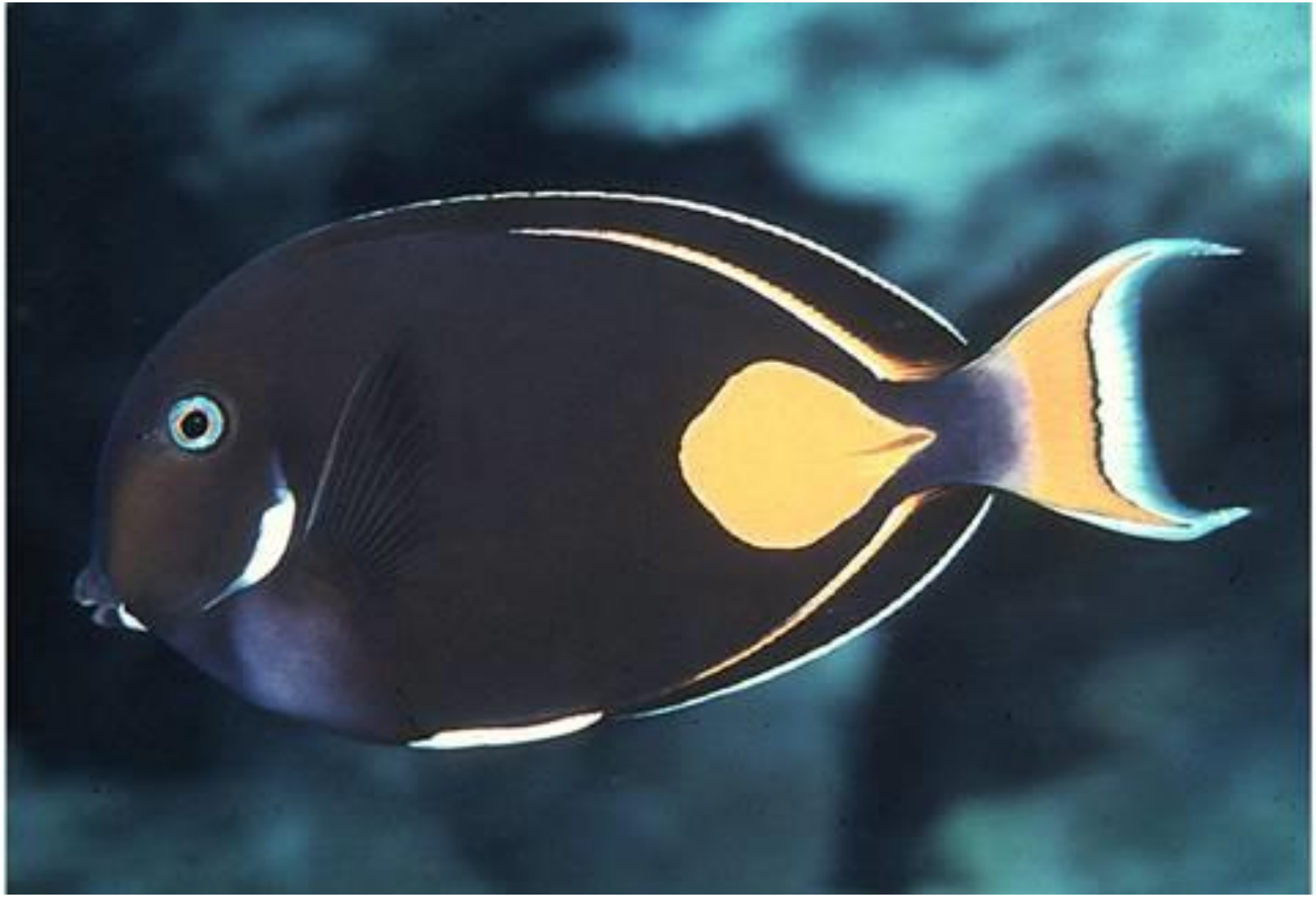
Abudefduf sordidus

ABSO 24cm

Abudefduf vaigiensis
ABVA 20cm



Acanthocybium solandri
ACSO 210 cm



Acanthurus achilles
ACAC 25cm

Acanthurus blochii

ACBL 43cm

Acanthurus dussumieri
ACDU 54 cm

Acanthurus guttatus
ACGU 26 cm

Acanthurus lineatus

ACLI 38cm

Acanthurus leucocheilus

ACLU 20cm

Acanthurus maculiceps

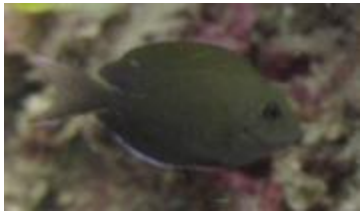
ACMA 41 cm

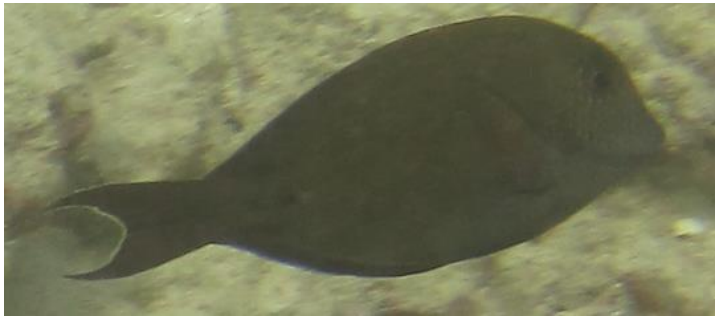
Acanthurus mata

AC**MT** 50 cm

Acanthurus nigricans

AC**NC** 23cm





Acanthurus nigrofuscus

AC**NF** 23cm

Acanthurus nigricauda
ACNI 40cm

Acanthurus nigroris

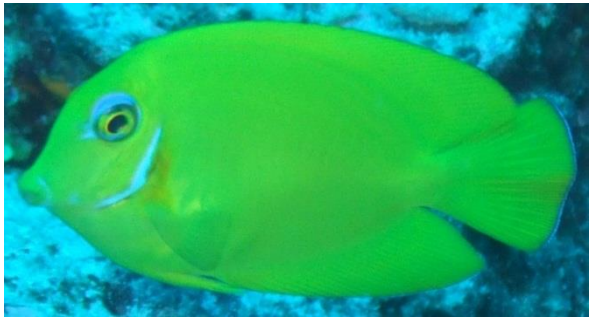
AC**NR** 25cm

Acanthurus nubilus

ACNU 26 cm

Acanthurus olivaceus

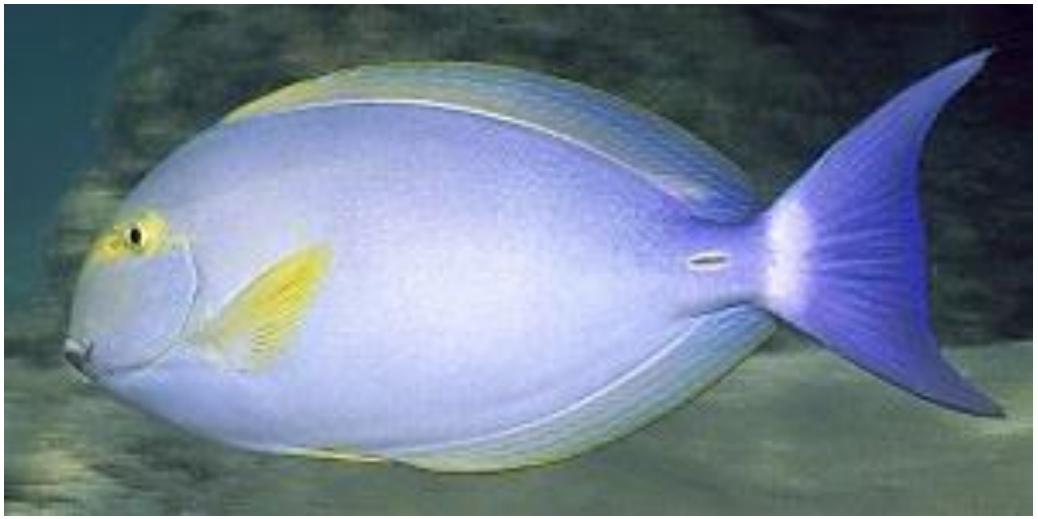
ACOL 30cm



Acanthurus pyroferus
ACPY 25cm

Acanthurus thompsoni
ACTH 28cm

Acanthurus triostegus
ACTR 26cm



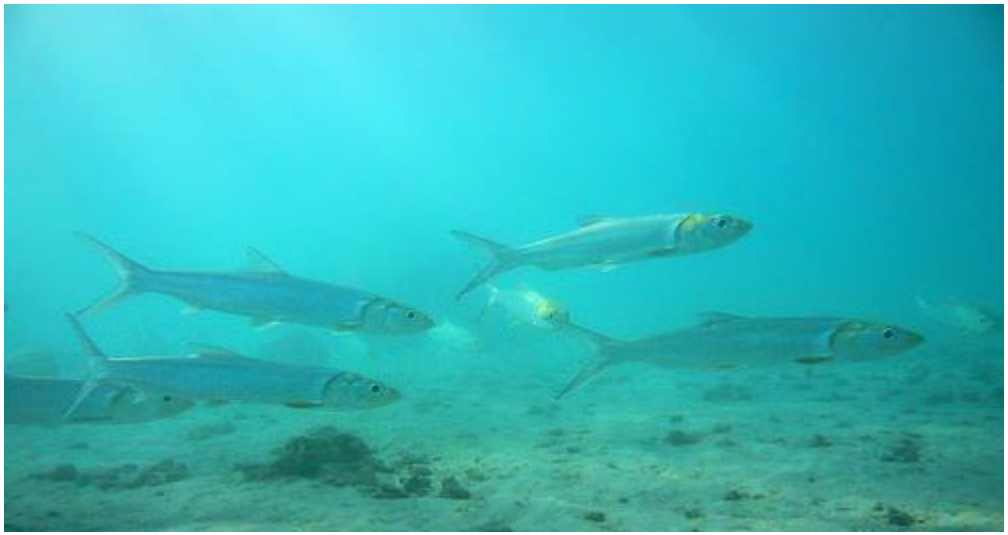
Acanthurus xanthopterus

ACXA 65cm

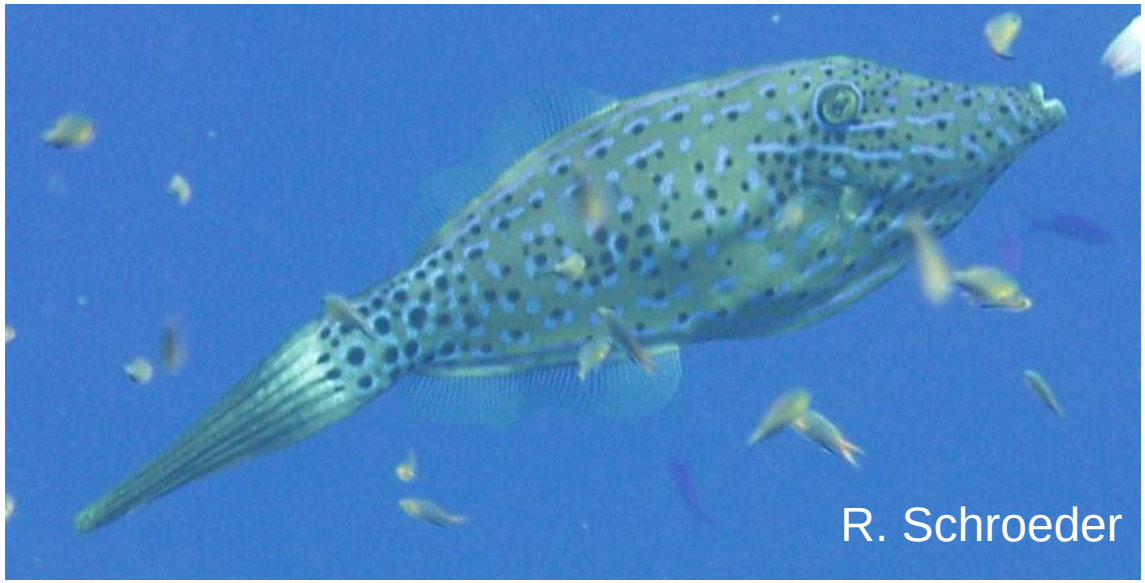
Aethaloperca rogaa
AERO 60 cm

Aetobatus narinari

AENA 230cm



Albula glossodonta
ALGL90 cm



Aluterus scriptus

ALSC 76cm

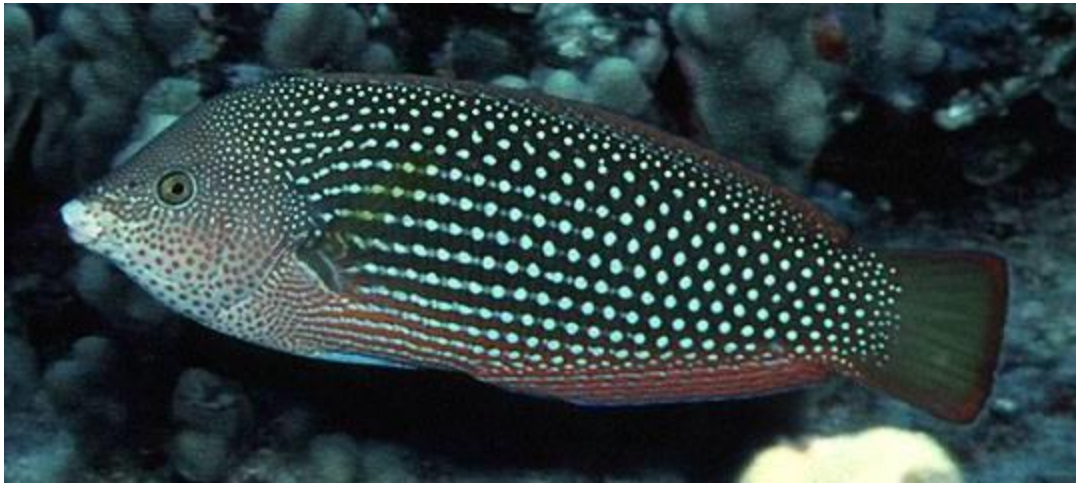
Amanses scopas
AMSC 20cm

Amblycirrhitus bimacula
AMBI 8.5 cm

Amphiprion chrysopterus
AMCH 17 cm

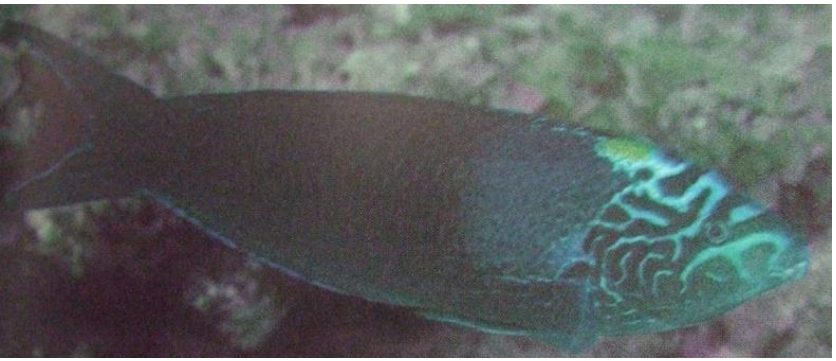
Amphiprion perideraion
AMPE 10cm

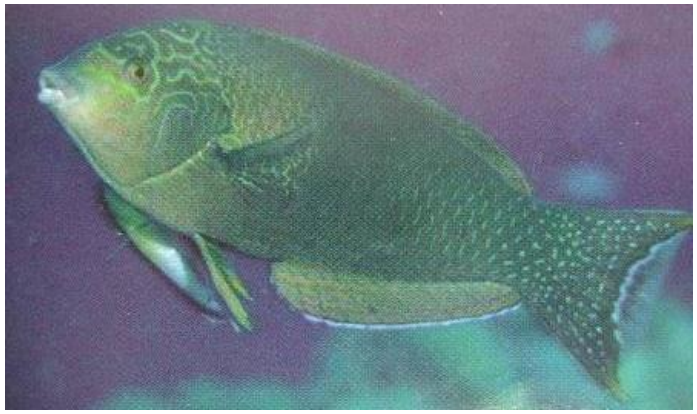
Anampses caeruleopunctatus
ANCA 42cm



HAWAII ENDEMIC

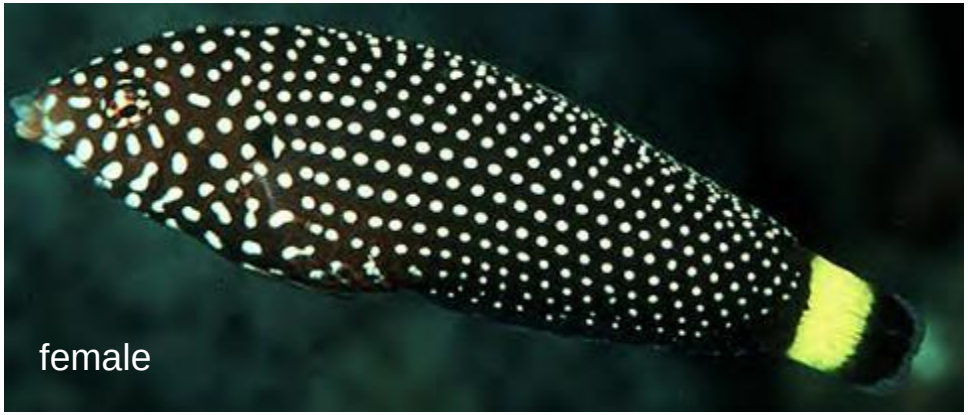
Anampses cuvier
ANCU 36cm





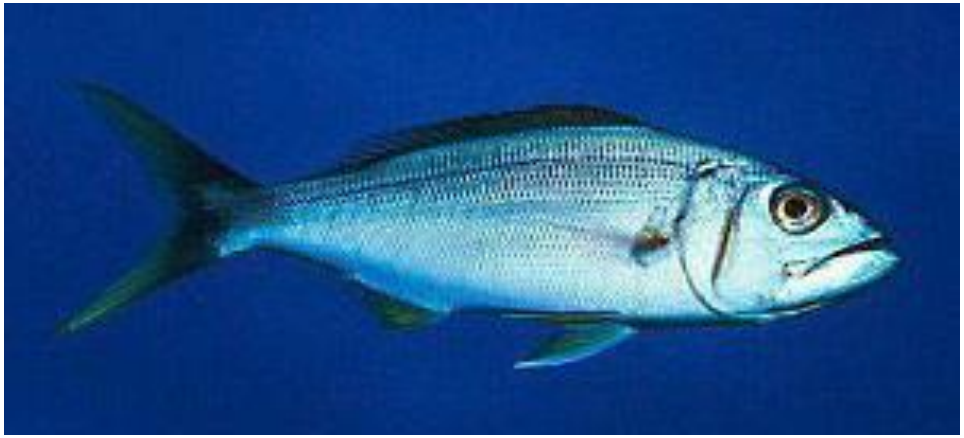
Anampses meleagrides

AN**MG** 22cm



Anampses melanurus
ANME 12cm

Anampses twistii
ANTW 18cm



Aphareus furca
APFU 70cm

Apogon angustus
APAN 9cm

Apogon apogonides
APAP 10 cm

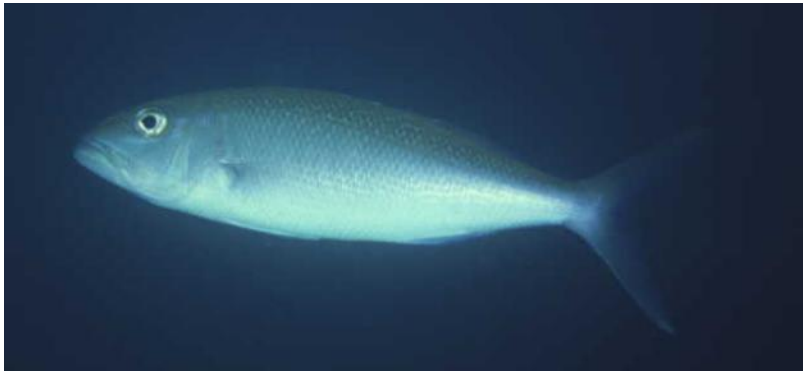
Apolemichthys arcuatus
APAR 18cm

Apolemichthys griffisi
APGR 25cm

Apolemichthys trimaculatus
APTR 25cm

Apolemichthys xanthopunctatus

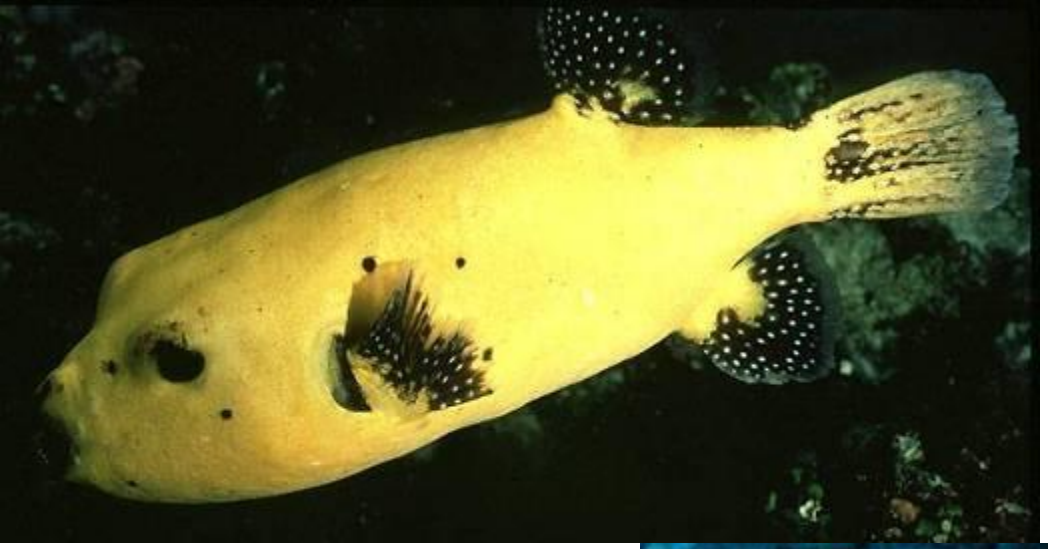
APXA 25cm



Aprion virescens

APVI 110cm

Arothron hispidus
ARHI 49cm



Arothron meleagris

ARME 34cm

Arothron nigropunctatus
ARNI 33 cm

Aulostomus chinensis
AUCH 76cm

Balistoides conspicillum
BACO 50 cm

Balistapus undulatus

BAUN 30cm

Balistoides viridescens

BAVI 75cm

Bodianus axillaris

BOAX 20cm

HAWAII ENDEMIC

Bodianus bilunulatus

BOBI 51cm

Bodianus diana

BODI 25cm

Bodianus mesothorax

BOME 19cm

Bodianus prognathus
BOPR 20cm

Bolbometopon muricatum

BOMU 130 cm

Bothus mancus

BOMA 45 cm

Caesio teres
CATE 40cm

Calotomus carolinus

CACA 50cm

Canthigaster amboinensis
CAAM 14cm

Canthigaster coronata
CACO 14 cm

Canthigaster jactator
CAJA 10cm

Canthigaster janthinoptera

CA**JN** 9 cm

Canthigaster solandri
CASO 11cm

Cantherhines dumerilii

CADU 38cm

Cantherhines pardalis
CAPA 25cm

Cantherhines sandwichiensis
CASA 20 cm

Caracanthus maculatus

CA**MC** 5cm

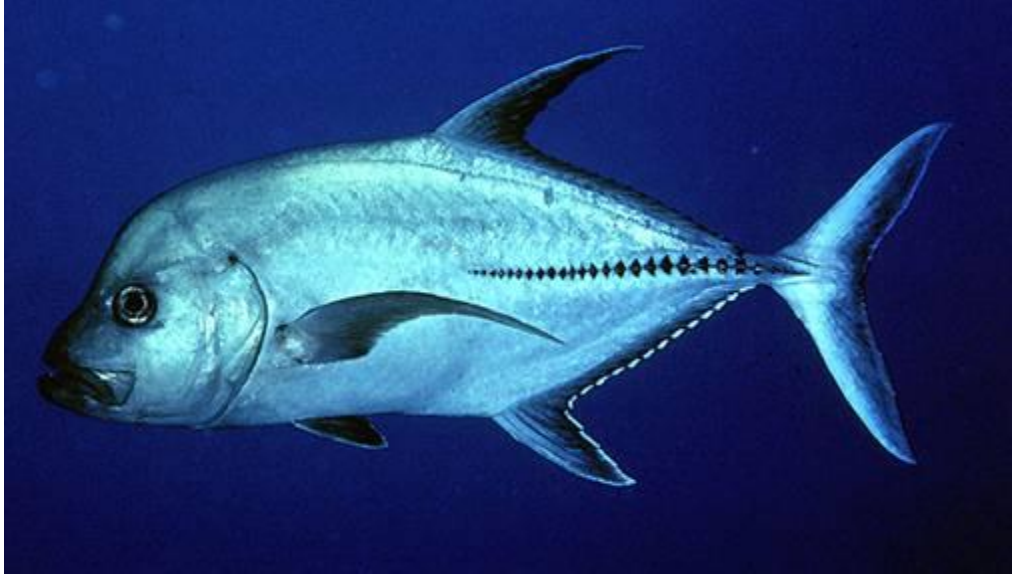
Carangoides ferdau
CAFE 53cm

Carangoides orthogrammus

CAOR 70cm

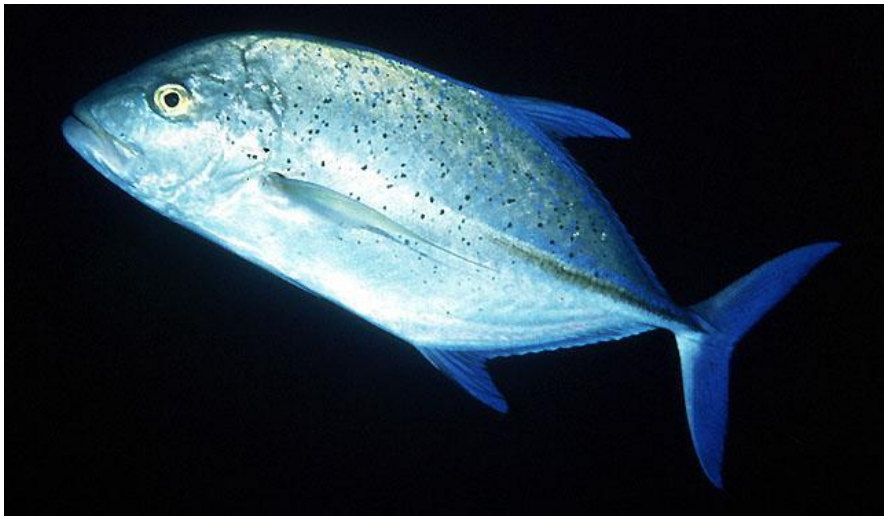
Caranx ignobilis

CAIG 165cm



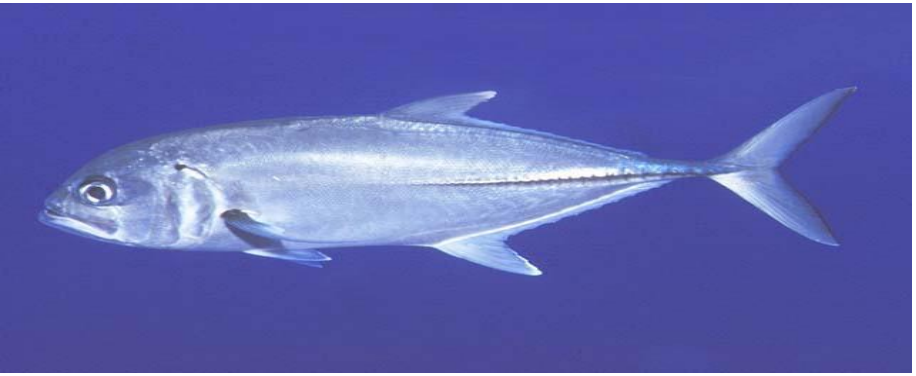
Caranx lugubris

CALU 100cm



Caranx melampygus

CAME　100cm

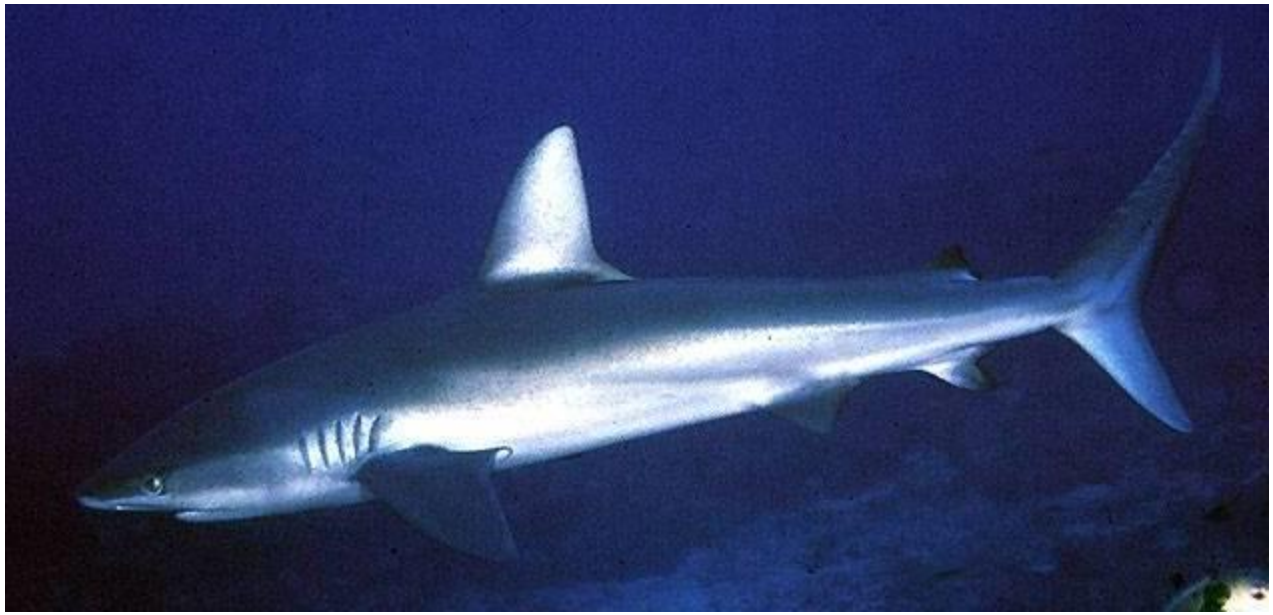


Caranx sexfasciatus

CASE 100cm

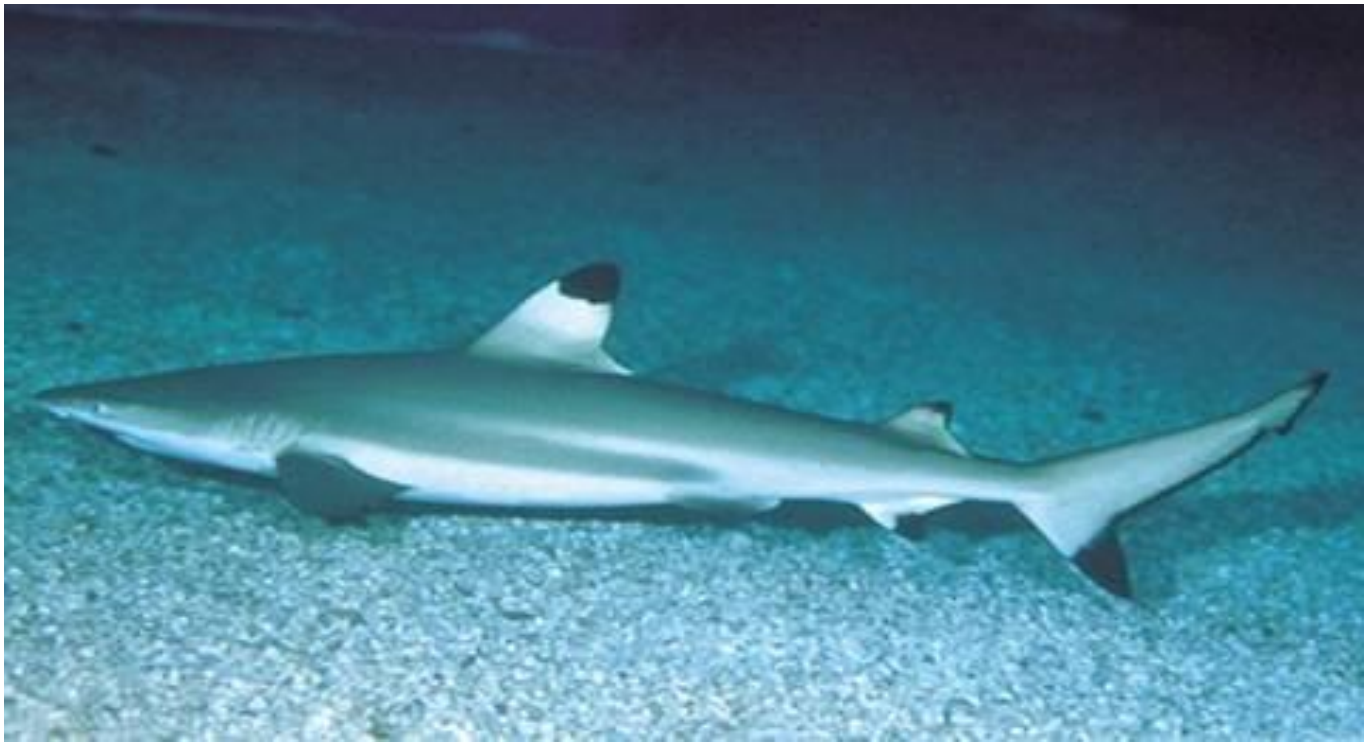
Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos

CA**AB** 180cm



Carcharhinus galapagensis

CAGA 350cm



Carcharhinus melanopterus

CA**ML** 180cm

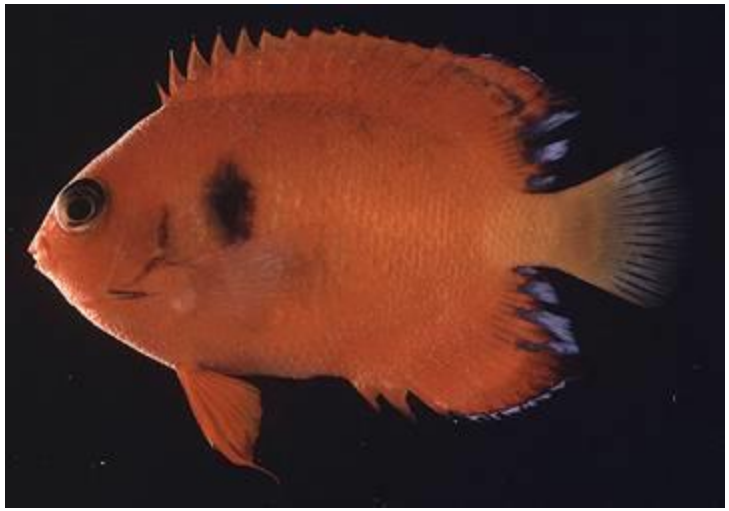
Centropyge bicolor

CE**BC** 15cm

Centropyge bispinosa
CEBI 10cm

Centropyge fisheri
CEFI 6 cm

Centropyge flavissima
CEFL 14cm



Centropyge loricula
CELO 10cm

Centropyge multicolor

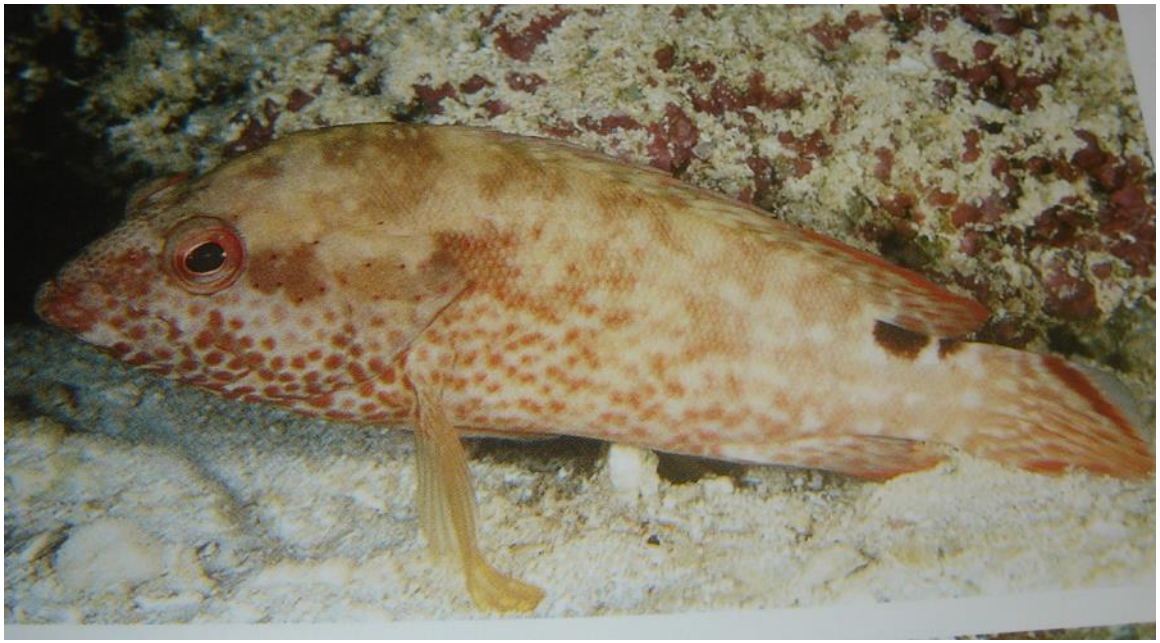
CE**ML** 9 cm

Centropyge multifasciata
CEMU 12 cm

Centropyge potteri
CEPO 13cm

Centropyge vrolikii
CEVR 12cm

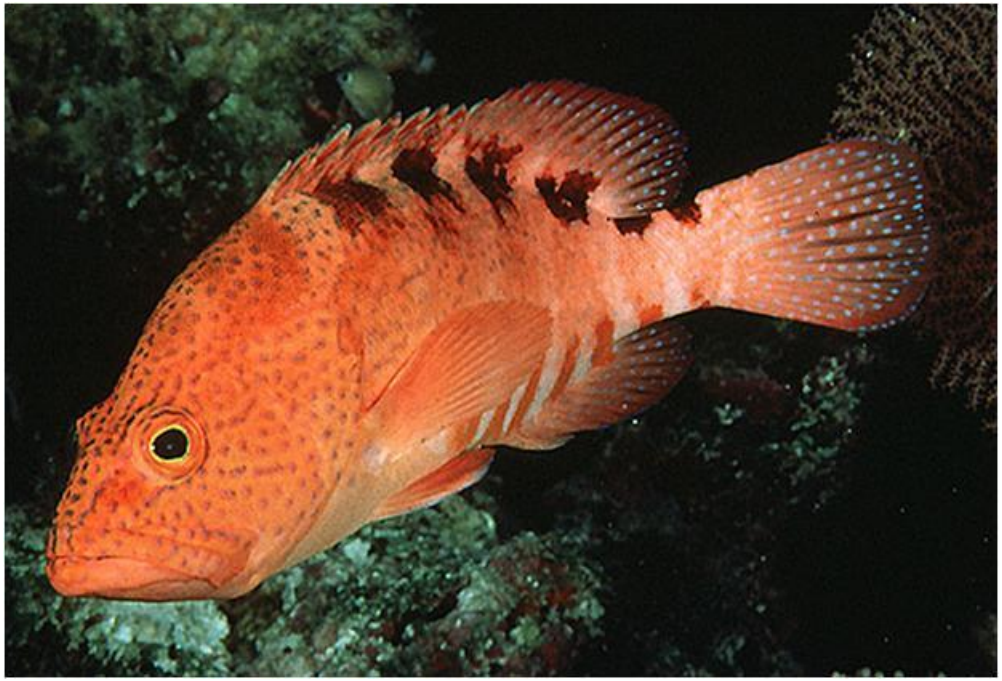
Cephalopholis argus
CEAR 60cm



Cephalopholis leopardus
CELE 20cm

Cephalopholis miniata

CEMI 45cm



Cephalopholis sexmaculata

CE**SX** 50 cm

Cephalopholis spiloparaea
CESP 22cm

Cephalopholis urodeta
CEUR 28cm

Chaetodon auriga
CHAU 23cm

Chaetodon citrinellus
CHCl 13cm

Chaetodon ephippium
CHEP 23cm

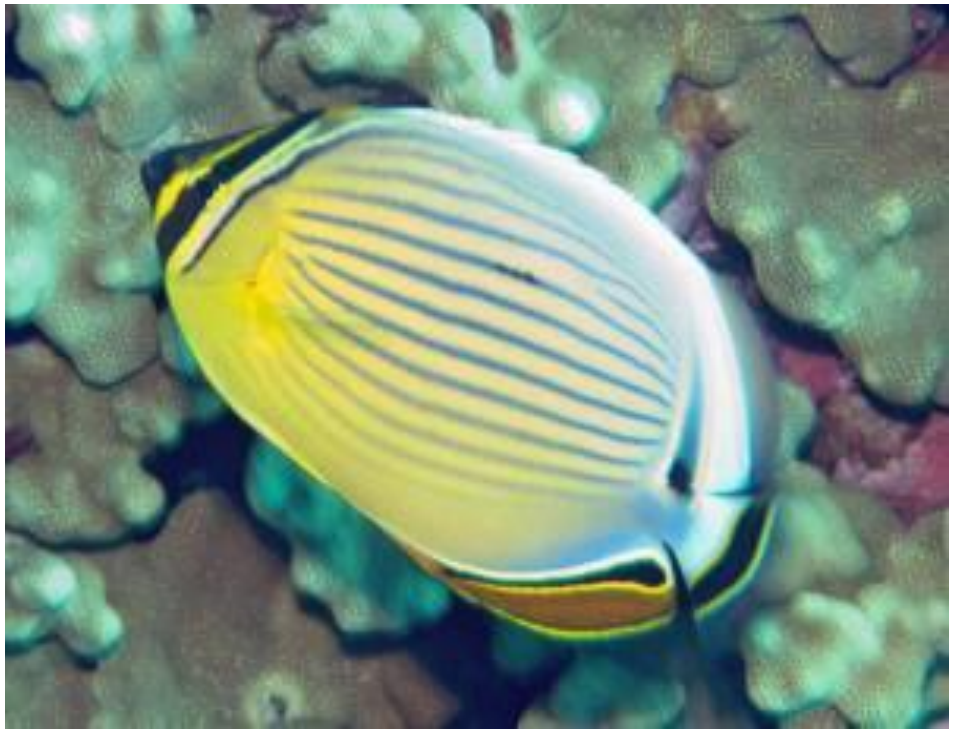
Chaetodon kleinii

CHKL　14cm

Chaetodon lineolatus

CHLI 30 cm

Chaetodon lunula
CHLU 20cm



Chaetodon lunulatus

CH**LT** 14cm

Chaetodon meyeri
CHME 18cm

Chaetodon miliaris
CHMI 17cm

HAWAII
ENDEMIC

Chaetodon multicinctus
CHMU 12cm

Chaetodon ornatissimus
CHOR 20cm

Chaetodon punctatofasciatus
CHPU 12cm

Chaetodon quadrimaculatus
CHQU 15cm

Chaetodon reticulatus
CHRE 18cm

Chaetodon tinkeri
CHTI 18 cm

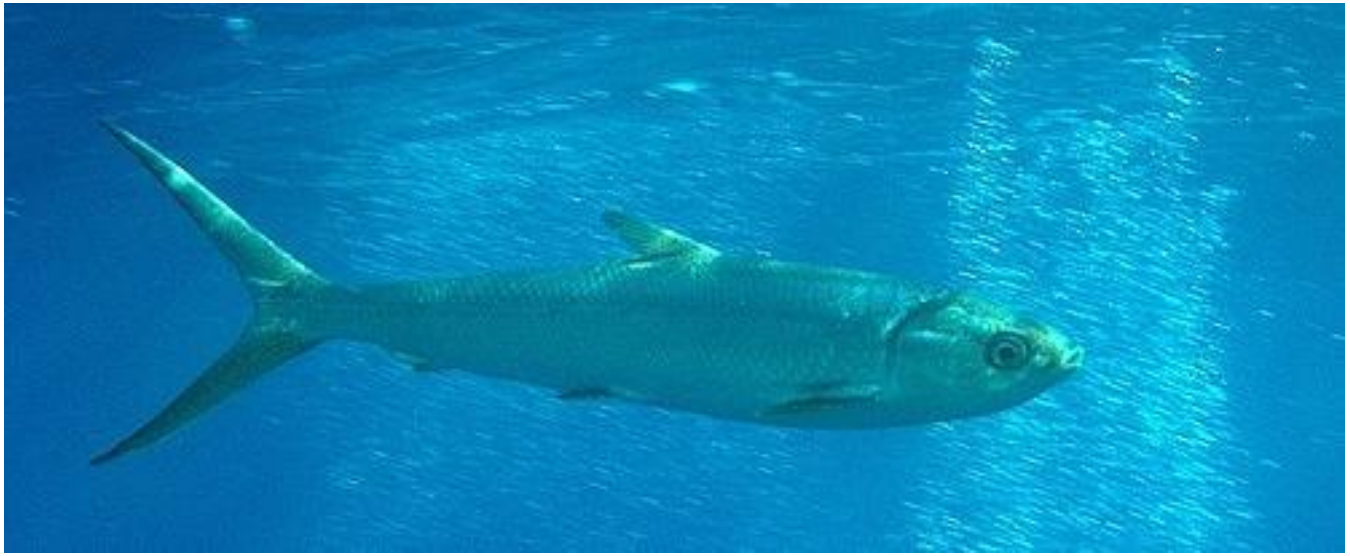
Chaetodon trifascialis

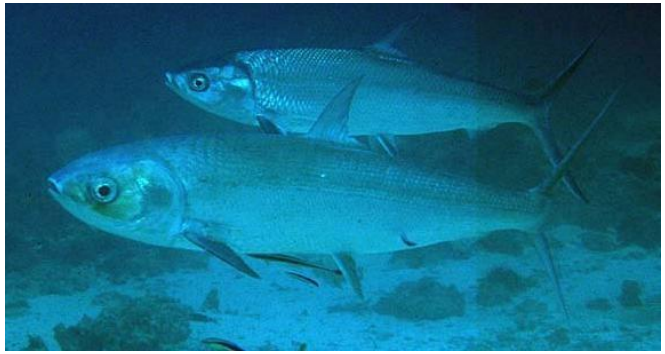
CHTR 18cm

Chaetodon unimaculatus
CHUN 20

Chaetodon vagabundus

CH**VG** 23cm





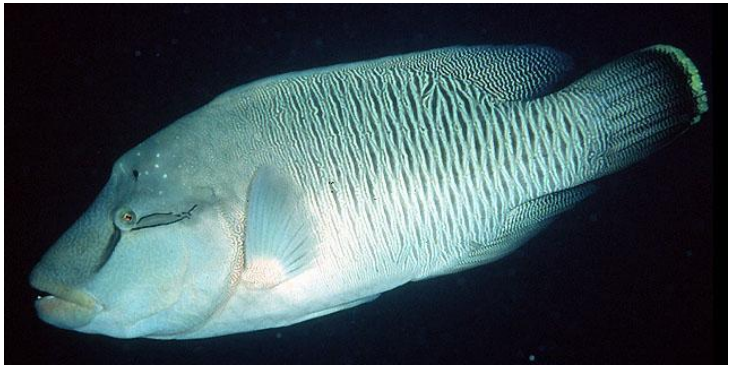
Chanos chanos

CHCH 180 cm

Cheilinus oxycephalus
CHOX 17cm

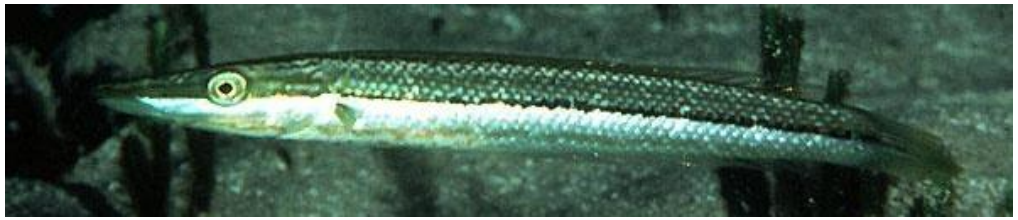
Cheilinus trilobatus

CH**TL** 45cm



Cheilinus undulatus

CHUD 229 cm

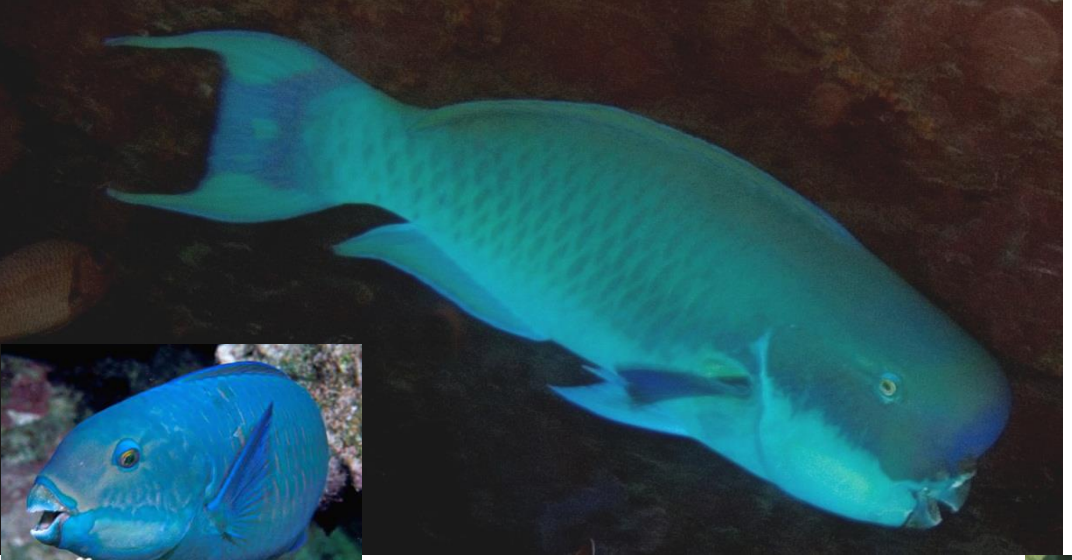


Cheilio inermis
CHIN 50 cm

Cheilodipterus quinquelineatus
CH**QN**

Chlorurus frontalis

CH**FN** 50cm



Chlorurus microrhinos

CH**MC** 80cm

Chlorurus perspicillatus

CHPE 61cm

Chlorurus sordidus
CHSO 40cm

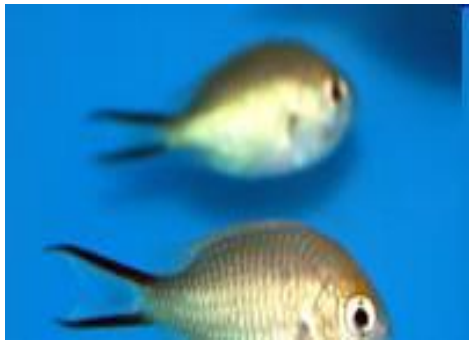
Chromis acares
CHAC 6cm

Chromis agilis

CHAG 11cm

Chromis margaritifer

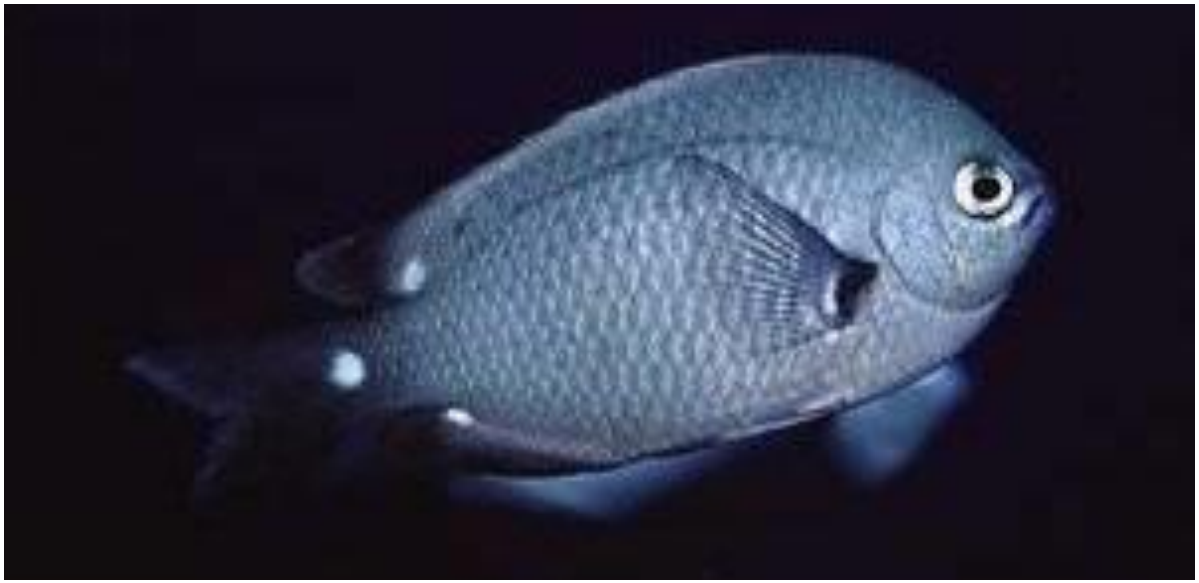
CHMA 8cm



Chromis ternatensis

CHTE 8cm

Chromis vanderbilti
CHVA 15cm



HAWAII ENDEMIC

Chromis verater

CHVE 22cm

Chromis weberi

CHWE 13.5 cm

Chromis xanthura
CHXA 15cm

Chrysiptera brownriggii
CHBR 8 cm

Chrysiptera glauca
CHGL 8cm

Cirrihilabrus exquisitus

CIEX 12cm

HAWAII ENDEMIC

Cirrihilabrus jordani
CIJO 12cm

Cirrhitichthys oxycephalus

CIOX 10cm

Cirrhitops hubbardi
CIHU 7.5cm

Cirrhitus pinnulatus

CIPI 30cm

Cirripectes polyzona
CIPO 13 cm

Cirripectes vanderbilti
CIVA 11cm

Cirripectes variolosus

CI**VR** 8cm

Conger cinereus
COCI130 cm

Coris aygula

COAY 55cm

HAWAII ENDEMIC

Coris ballieui

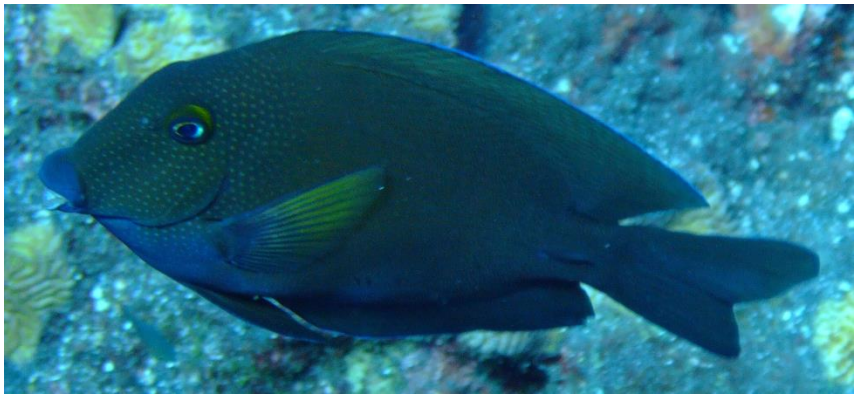
COBA 30 cm

Coris centralis

COCE 10cm

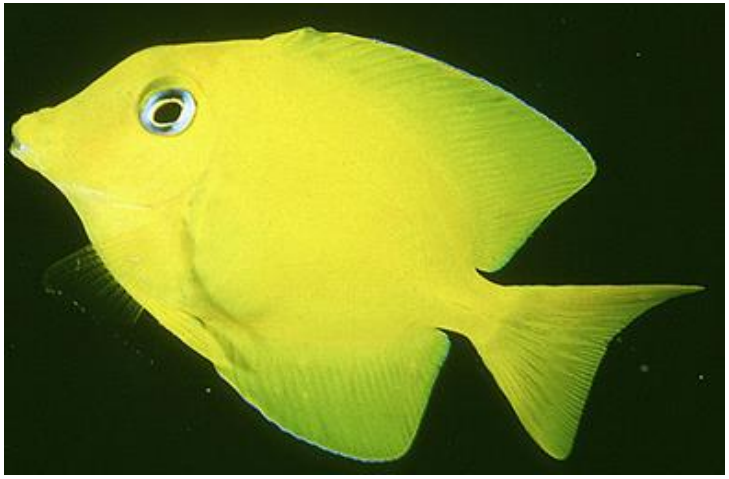
Coris gaimard

COGA 38cm



Ctenochaetus cyanocheilus

CTCY 20cm



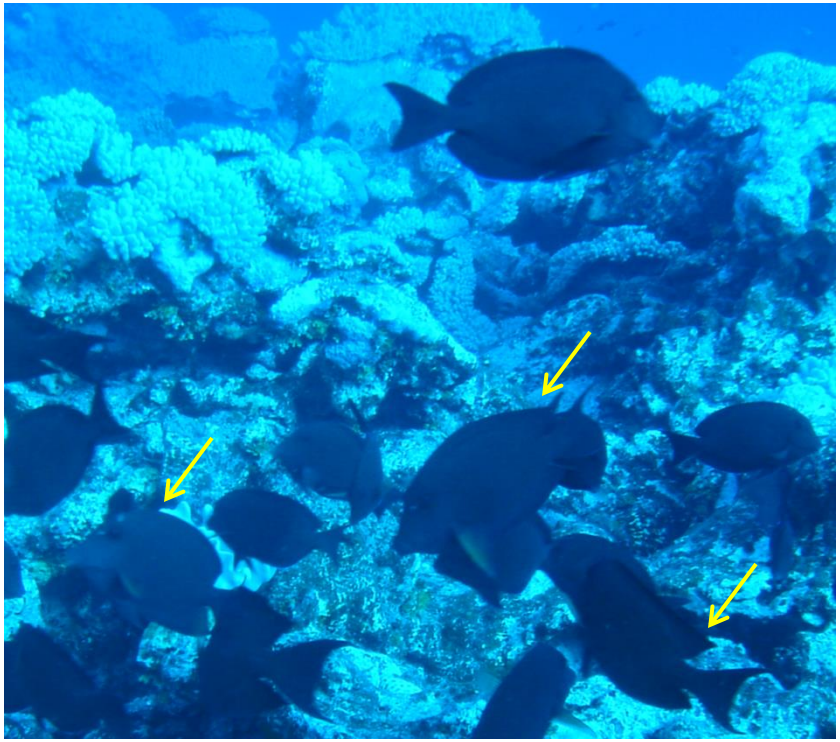
Ctenochaetus flavicauda
CTFL 13cm

Ctenochaetus hawaiiensis

CTHA 25 cm

Ctenochaetus marginatus

CTMA 22cm



Ctenochaetus striatus

CT**SR** 28cm

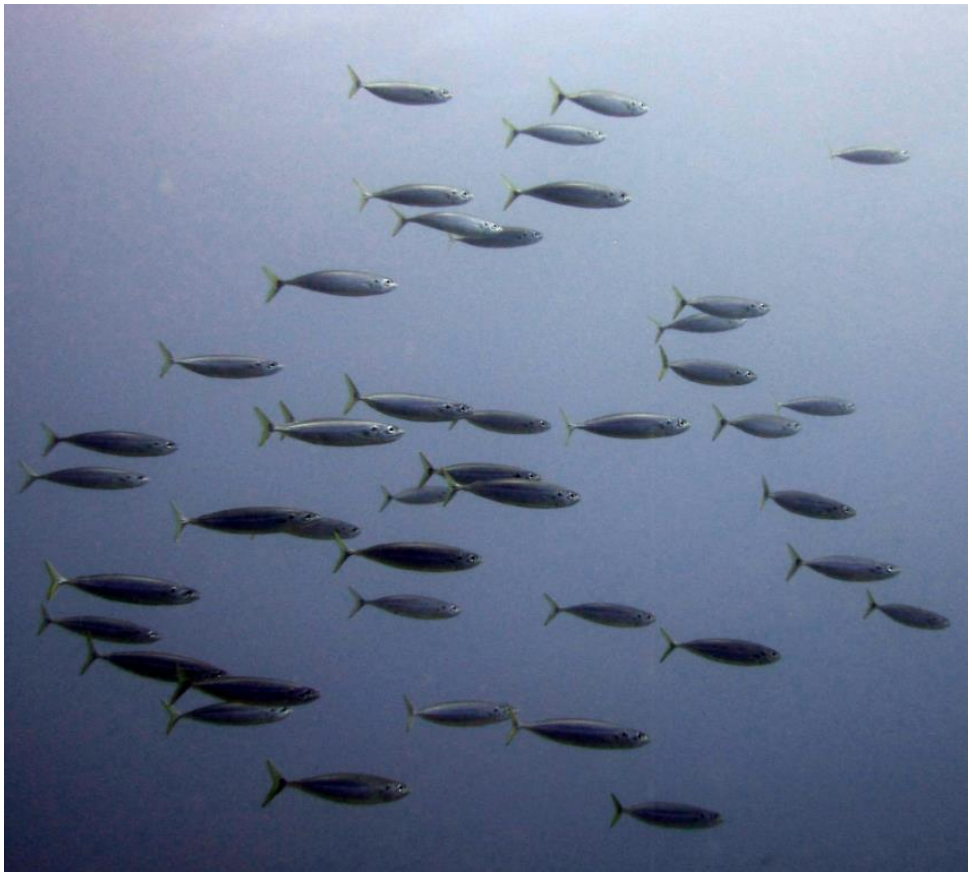
Ctenochaetus strigosus

CTST 19cm

HAWAII ENDEMIC

Dascyllus albisella
DAAL 10cm

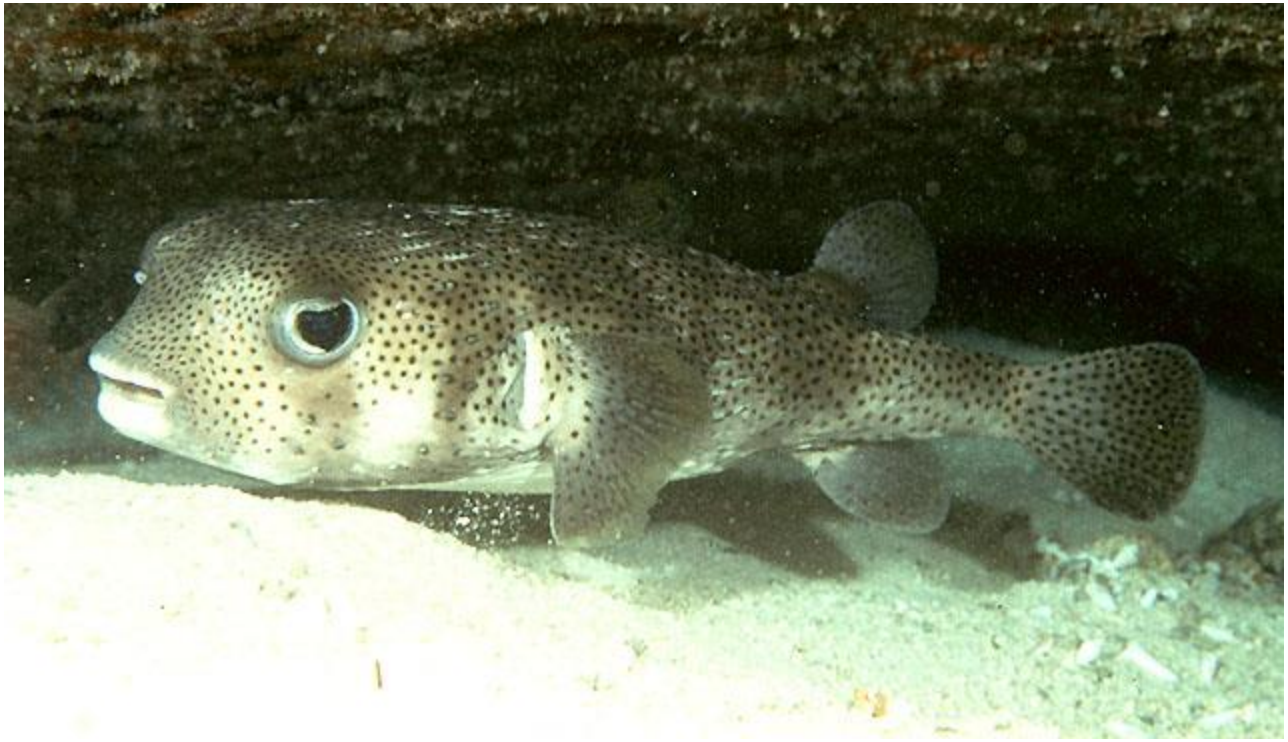
Dascyllus auripinnis
DAAU 14cm



Decapterus macarellus
DEMA 46 cm

Dendochirus barberi
DEBA 16 cm

HAWAII
ENDEMIC



Diodon hystrix
DIHY 91 cm

Ecsenius bicolor

EC**BC** 11 cm

Elagatis bipinnulata
ELBI 180 cm

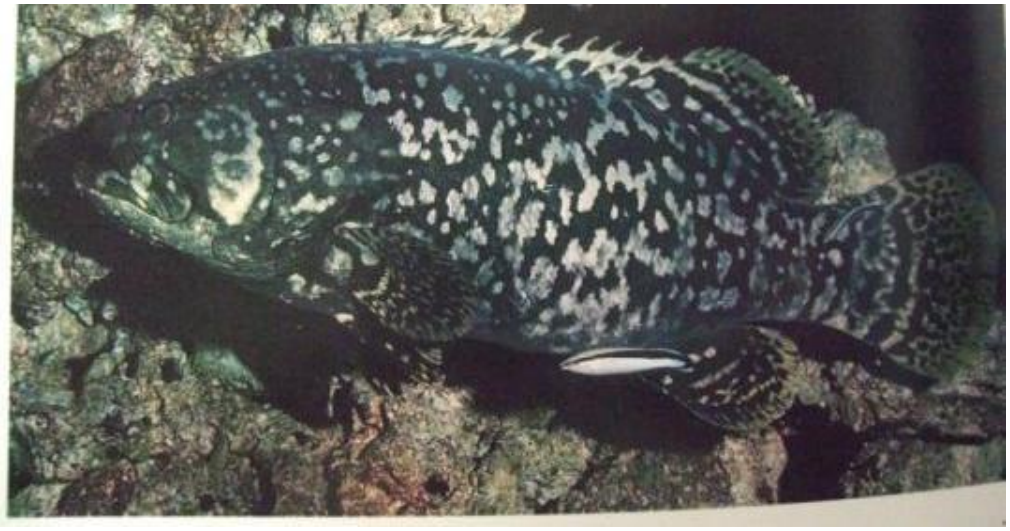
Epibulus insidiator

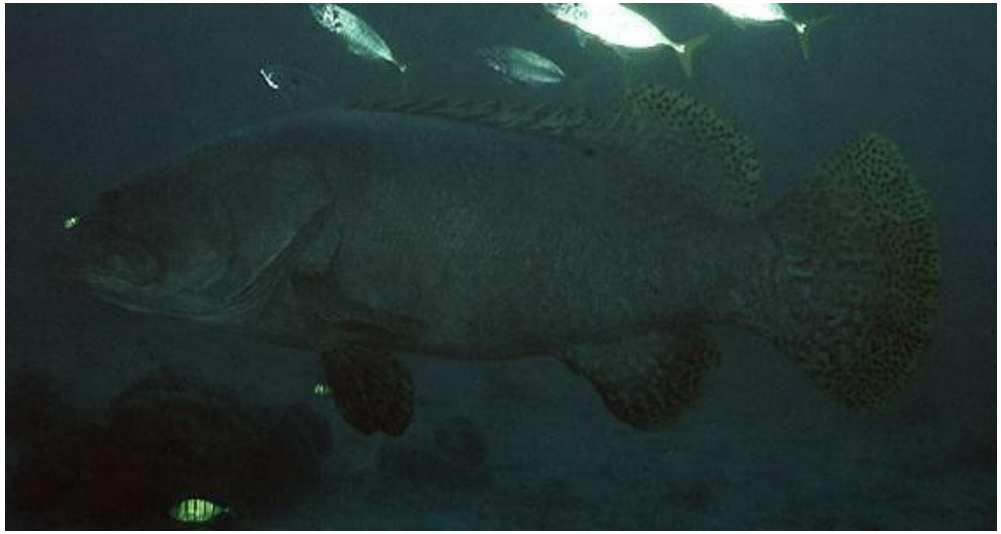
EPIN 35cm

Epinephelus fasciatus
EPFA 43cm

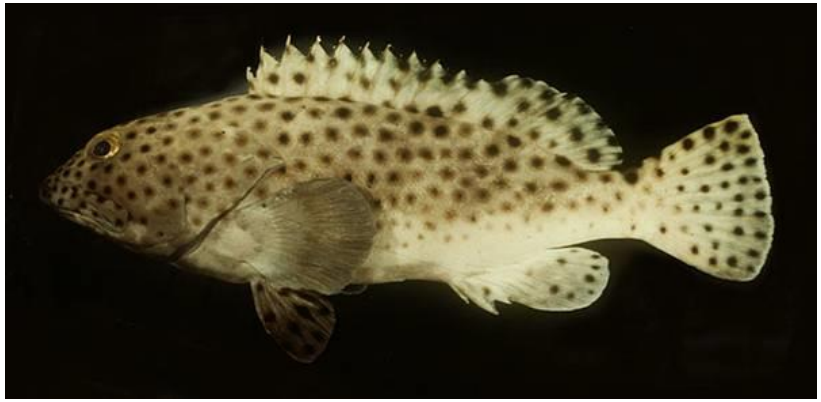
Epinephelus hexagonatus
EPHE 26cm

Epinephelus howlandi
EPHO 55cm





Epinephelus lanceolatus
EPLA 270 cm



Epinephelus macrospilos

EPMC 51cm

Epinephelus maculatus
EPMA 60cm

Epinephelus melanostigma
EP**ML** 33cm

Epinephelus merra
EPME 33cm

Epinephelus retouti
EPRE 47cm

Epinephelus spilotoceps

EP**SL** 32cm

Epinephelus tauvina
EPTA 75 cm

Euthynnus affinis
EUAF 100 cm

Exallias brevis

EXBR 15cm

Fistularia commersonii

FICO 160 cm

Forcipiger flavissimus
FOFL 19cm

Forcipiger longirostris
FOLO 22cm

Gnathodentex aureolineatus

GNAU 30cm

Gnathanodon speciosus
GNSP 120cm

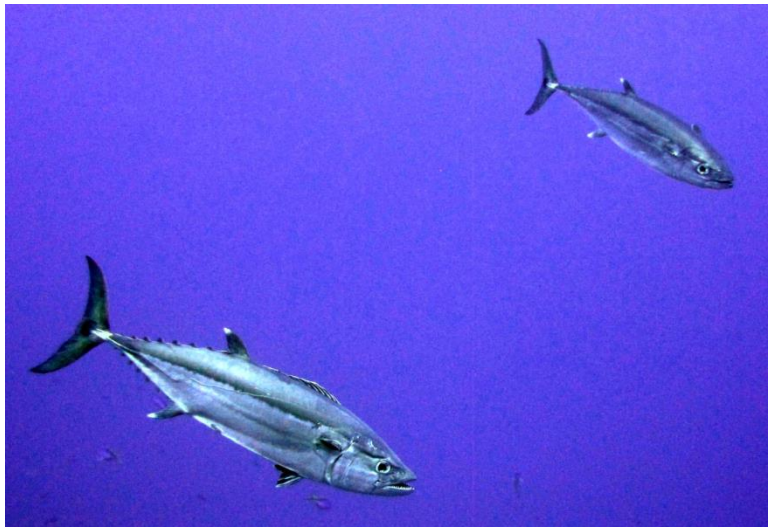
Juvenile

Gomphosus varius
GOVA 28cm

Gracila albomarginata

GRAL 50cm

Gunnellichthys curiosus
GUCU 12cm



Gymnosarda unicolor

GY**UC** 220cm

Gymnothorax breedeni
GYBR 75cm

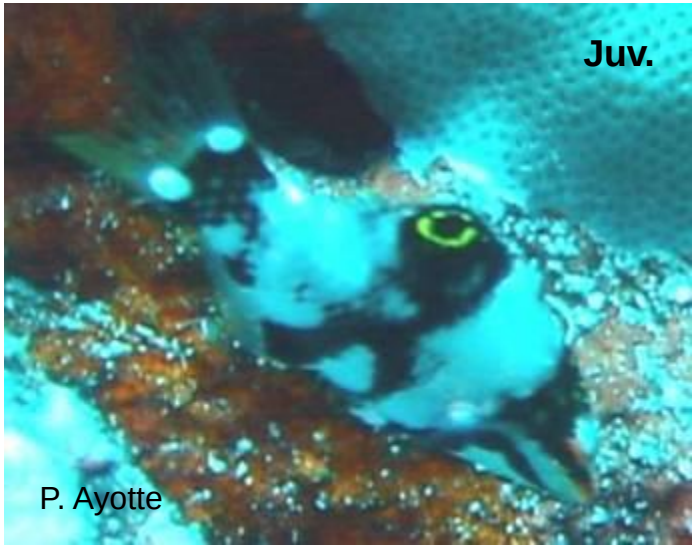
Gymnothorax eurostus
GYEU 60 cm

Gymnothorax flavimarginatus
GYFL 150cm

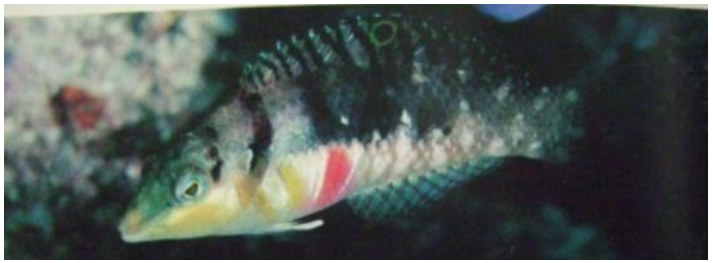
Gymnothorax javanicus
GYJA 245cm

Gymnothorax meleagris
GYME 100 cm

Gymnothorax undulatus
GYUN 150 cm



Halichoeres hortulanus
HAHO 27cm

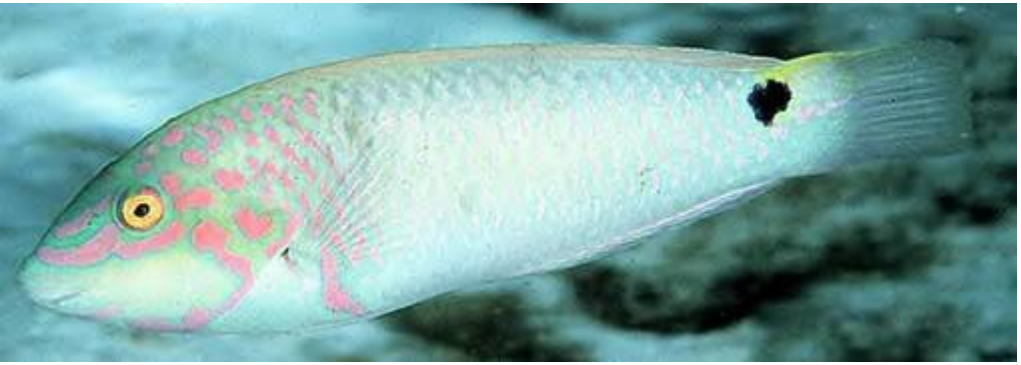


Halichoeres margaritaceus

HA**MT** 13cm

Halichoeres melasmapomus
HAME 14cm

Halichoeres ornatissimus
HAOR 15cm



Halichoeres trimaculatus

HATR 27cm

Hemigymnus fasciatus
HEFA 50cm

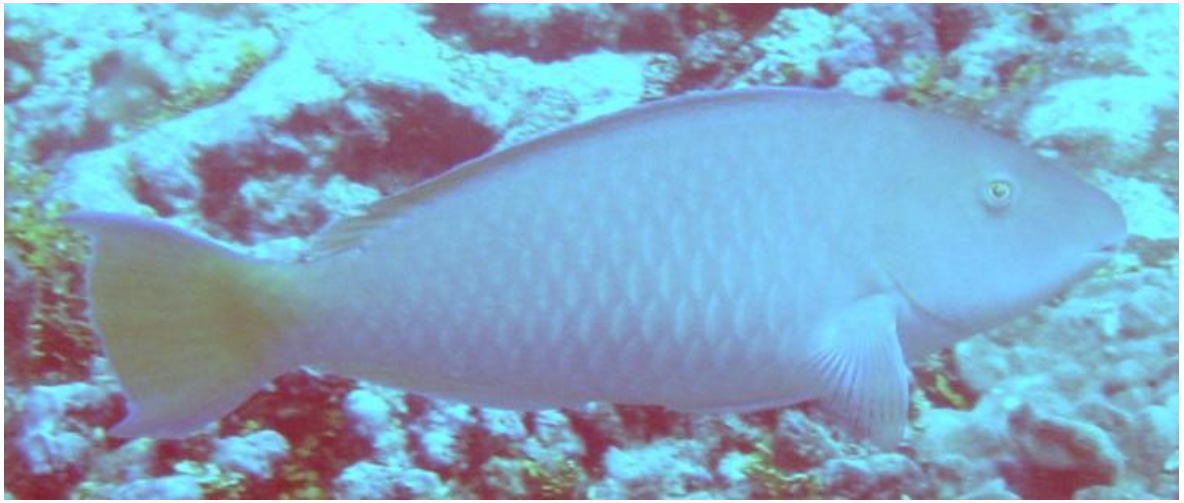
Hemitaurichthys thompsoni
HETH 21cm

Heniochus acuminatus
HEAC 25 cm

Heniochus diphreutes
HEDI 21cm

Heniochus varius
HEVA 19cm

Heteropriacanthus cruentatus
HECR 32cm



Hipposcarus longiceps

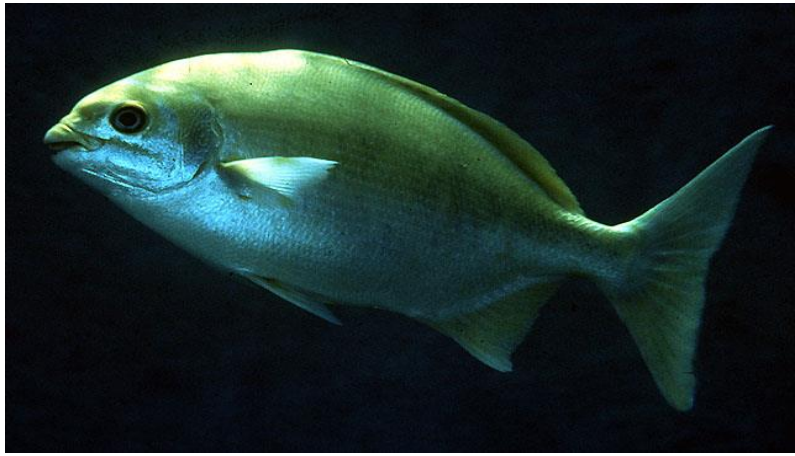
HILO 60cm

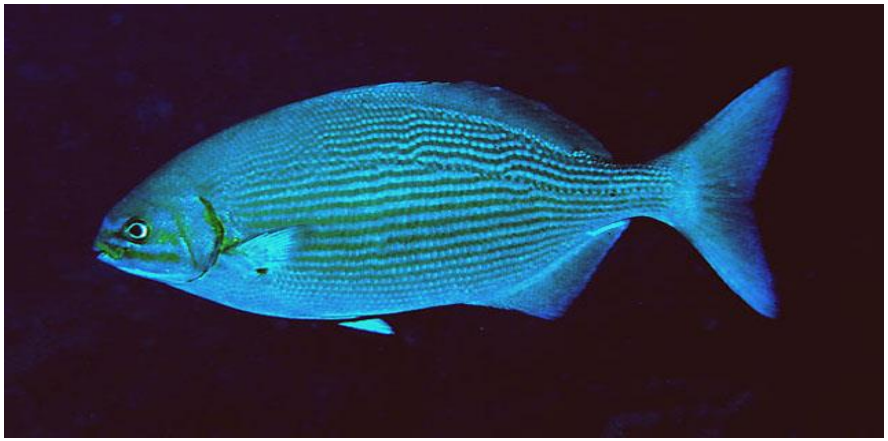
Iniistius anetensis

INAN 22 cm

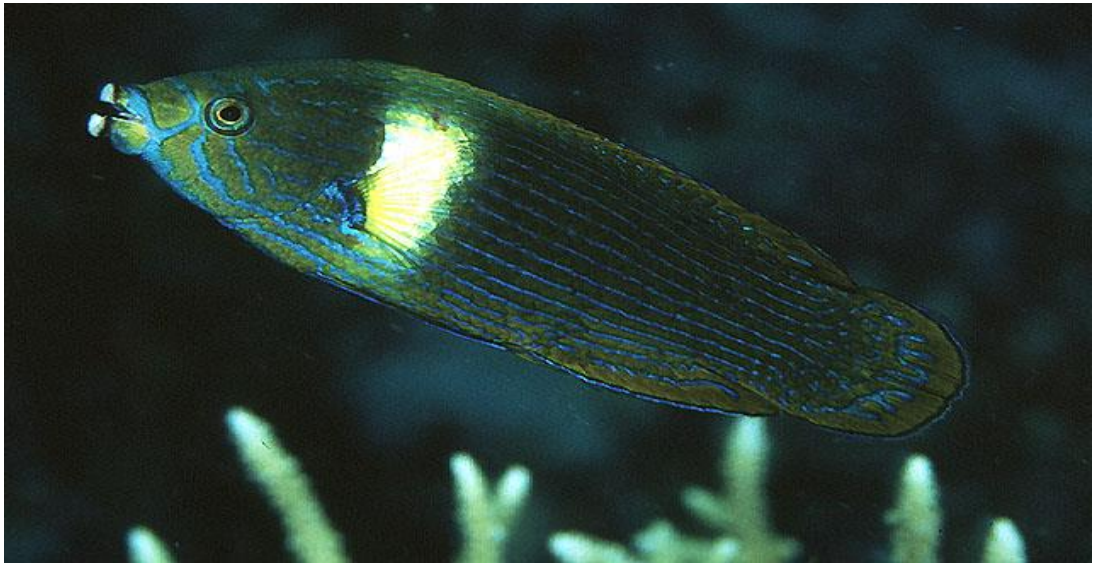
Iniistius pavo
INPA 35 cm

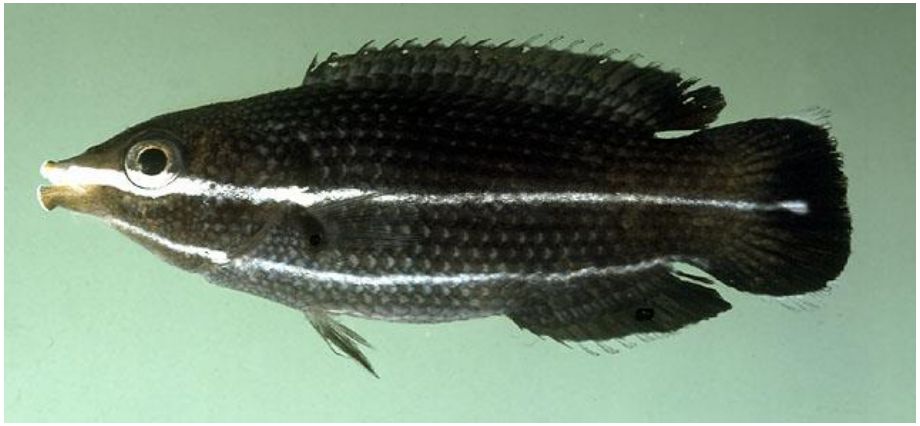
Katsuwonus pelamis
KAPE 110 cm





Kyphosus species
CHUB 75cm

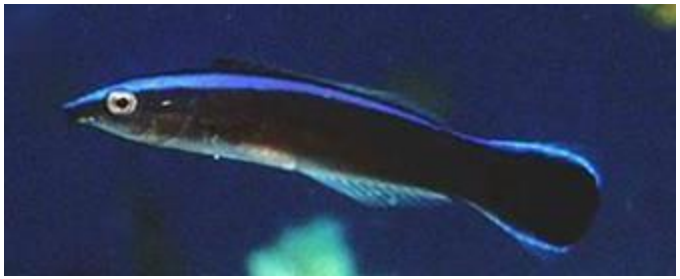




Labrichthys unilineatus
LAUN 16cm

Labroides bicolor

LABI 14cm



Labroides dimidiatus

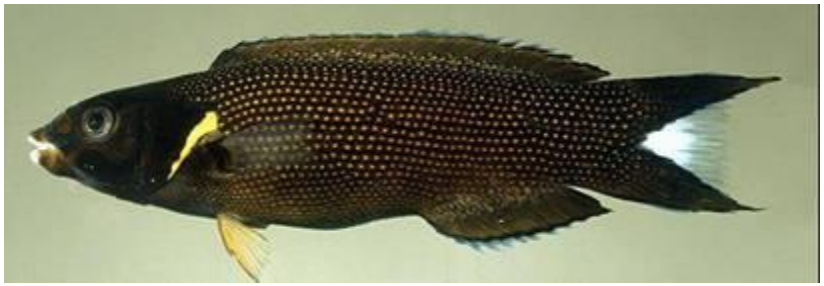
LADI 12cm

Labroides phthirophagus
LAPH 10cm

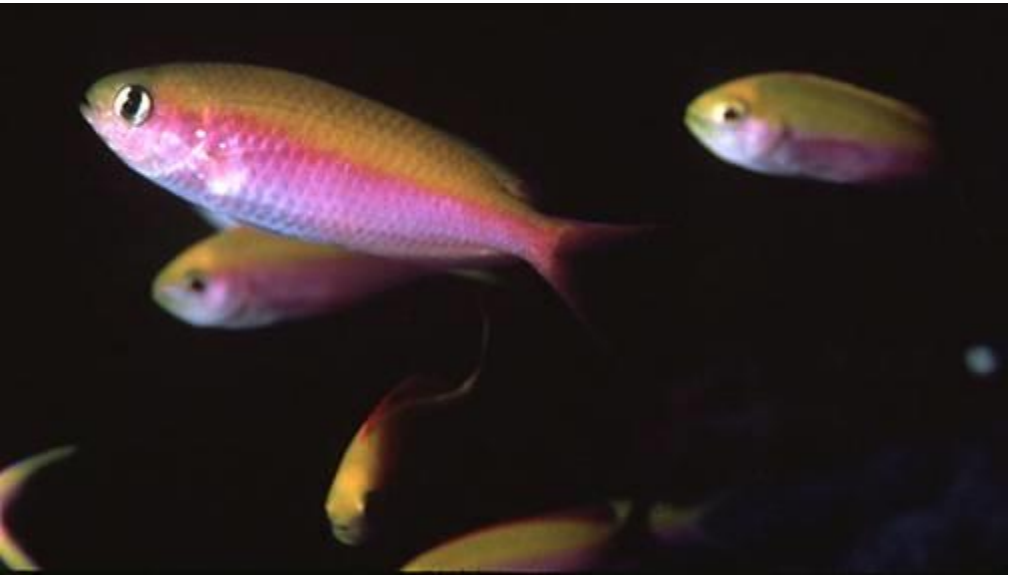
Labroides pectoralis
LAPE 8cm

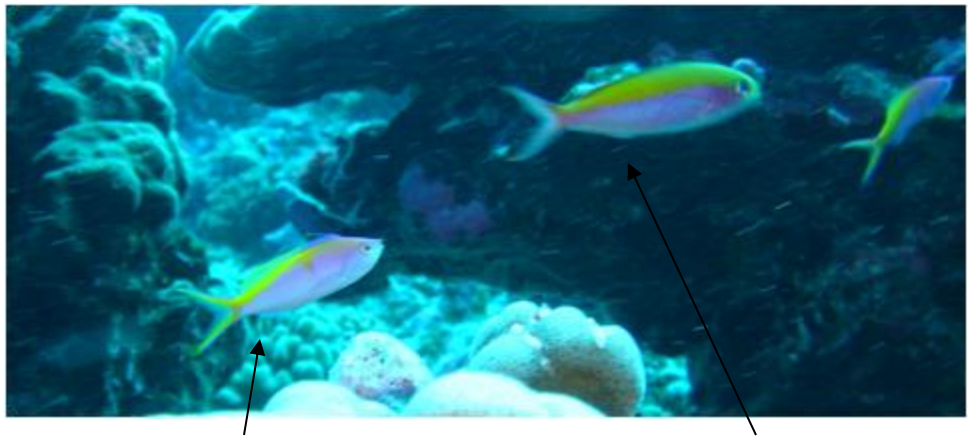
Labroides rubrolabiatus

LARU 9cm



Labropsis xanthonota
LAXA 14cm





Lepidozygus tapeinosoma
LETA 9cm

Lethrinus olivaceus

LEOL 100cm

Lutjanus bohar

LUBO 83cm

Lutjanus fulvus
LUFU 43cm

Lutjanus gibbus
LUGI 53cm

Lutjanus kasmira
LUKA 40cm

Lutjanus monostigma
LUMO 60cm

Lutjanus semicinctus
LUSE 35cm

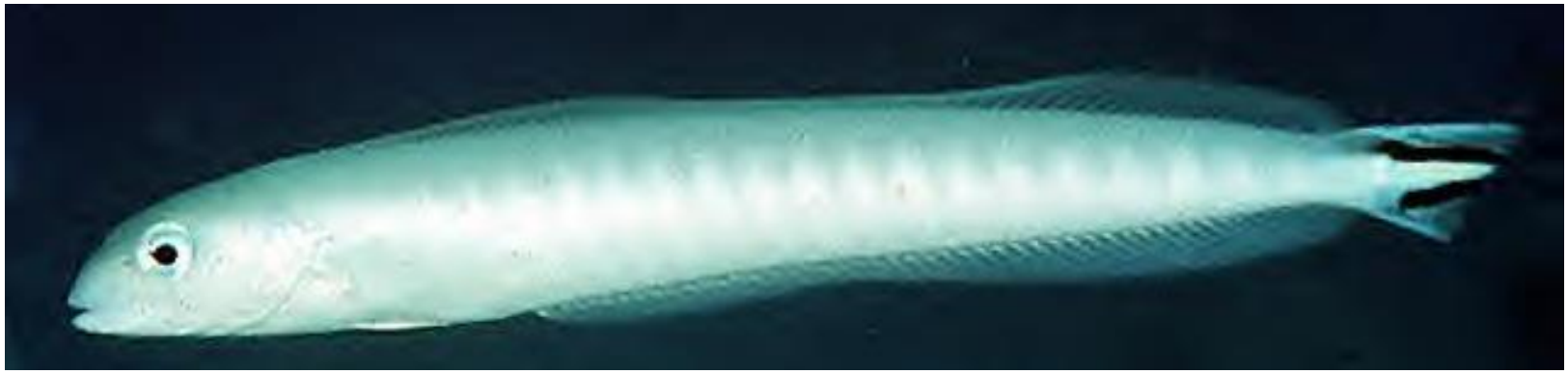
Luzonichthys whitleyi
LUWH 6cm

Macolor niger
MANI 75cm

Macropharyngodon geoffroy
MAGE 16cm

HAWAII
ENDEMIC

Macropharyngodon meleagris
MAME 15cm



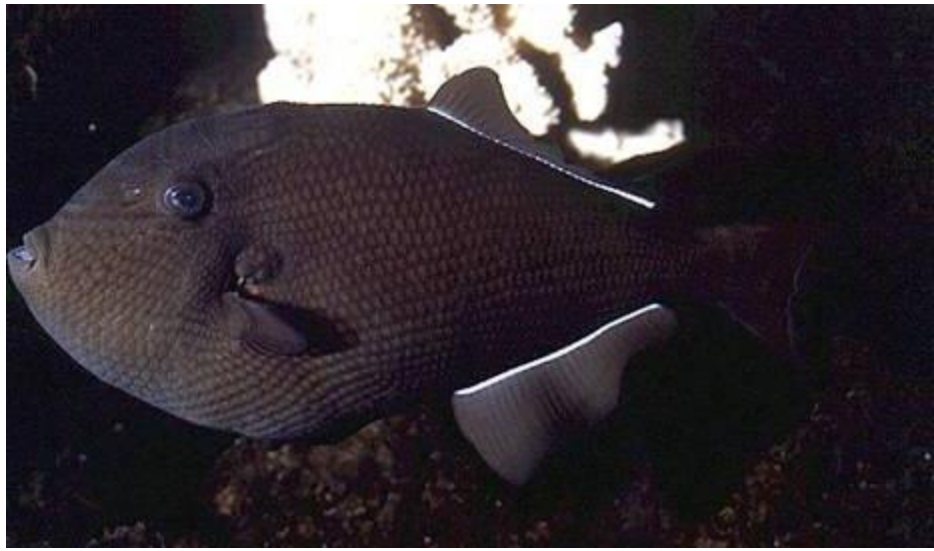
Malacanthus brevirostris
MABR 30cm

Malacanthus latovittatus

MALA 44cm

Manta birostris
MABI 200cm

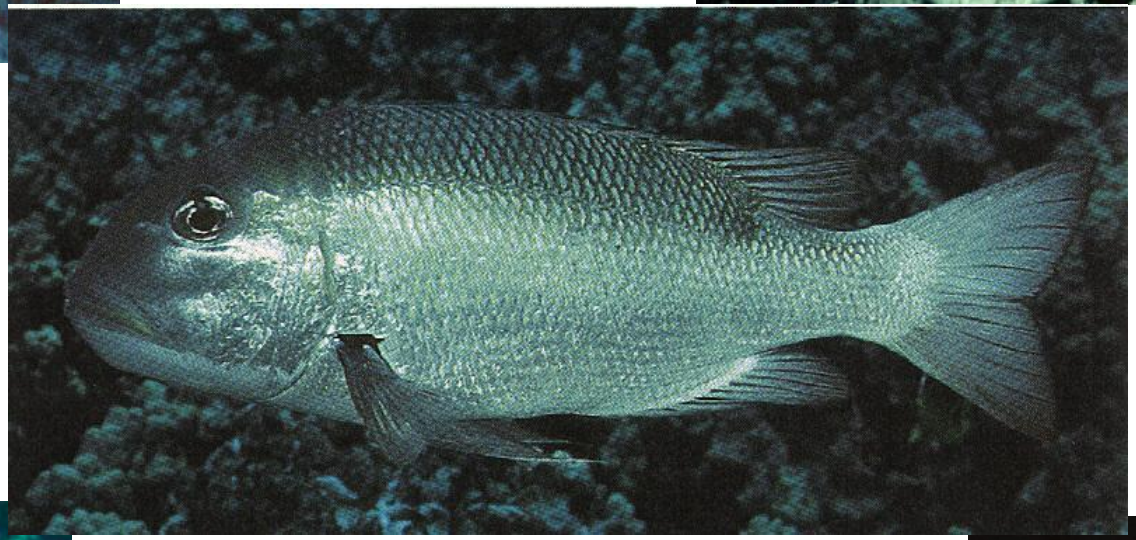
Meiacanthus atrodorsalis
MEAT 11cm



Melichthys niger

MENI 38cm

Melichthys vidua
MEVI 34cm

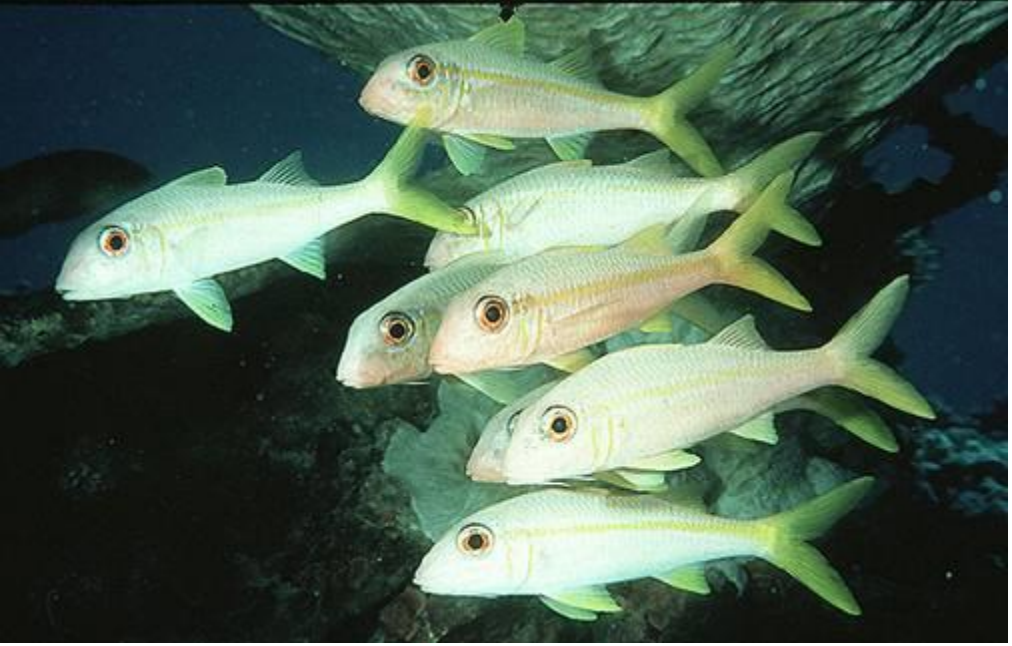


Monotaxis grandoculis

MOGR 63cm

Mulloidichthys flavolineatus
MUFL 40cm

Mulloidichthys mimicus
MUMI 30cm



Mulloidichthys vanicolensis
MUVA 38cm

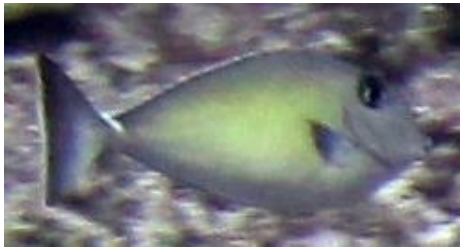
Myripristis amaena
MYAM 32cm

Myripristis berndti
MYBE 33cm

Myripristis earlei
MYEA 24 cm

Myripristis kuntee
MYKU 19cm

Myripristis vittata
MYVI 20cm



Naso annulatus

NAAN 100cm

Naso brevirostris

NABR 50cm

Naso hexacanthus
NAHE 75cm

Naso lituratus
NALI 46cm

Naso unicornis

NAUN 70cm

Naso vlamingii

NA**VL** 60cm

Nemateleotris magnifica
NEMA 9cm

Neocirrhites armatus

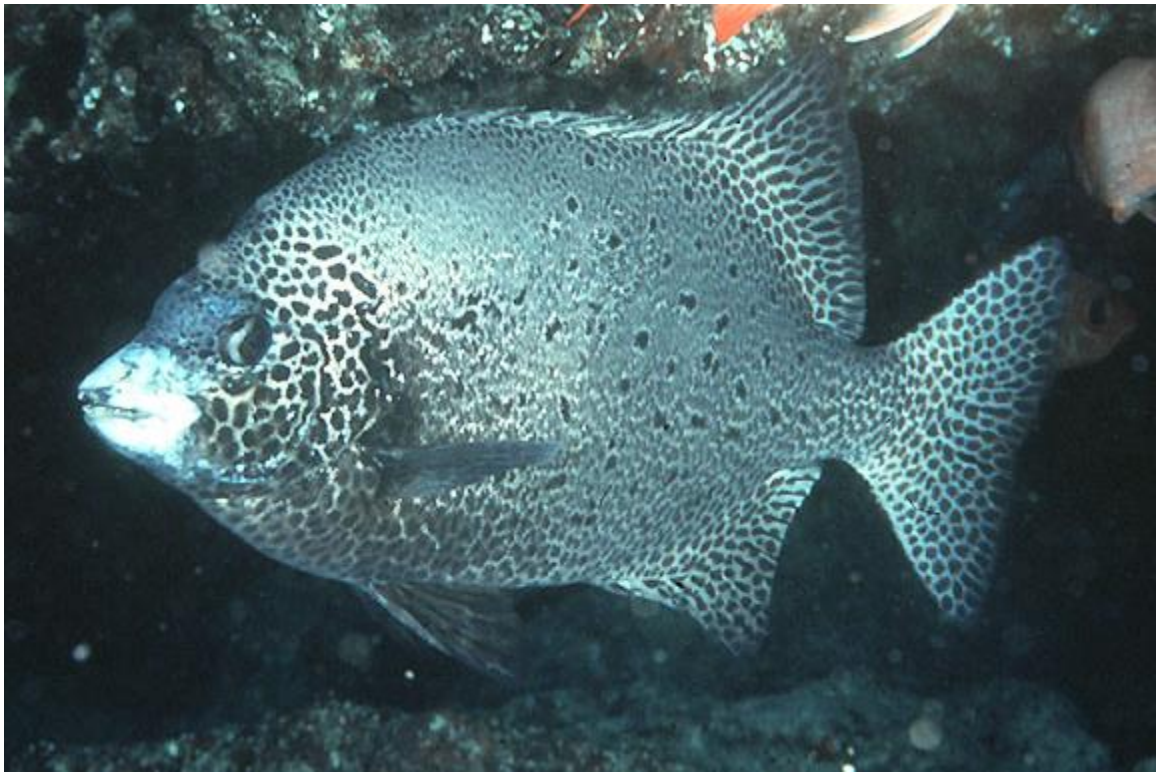
NEAR 9 cm

Neoniphon opercularis
NEOP 35cm

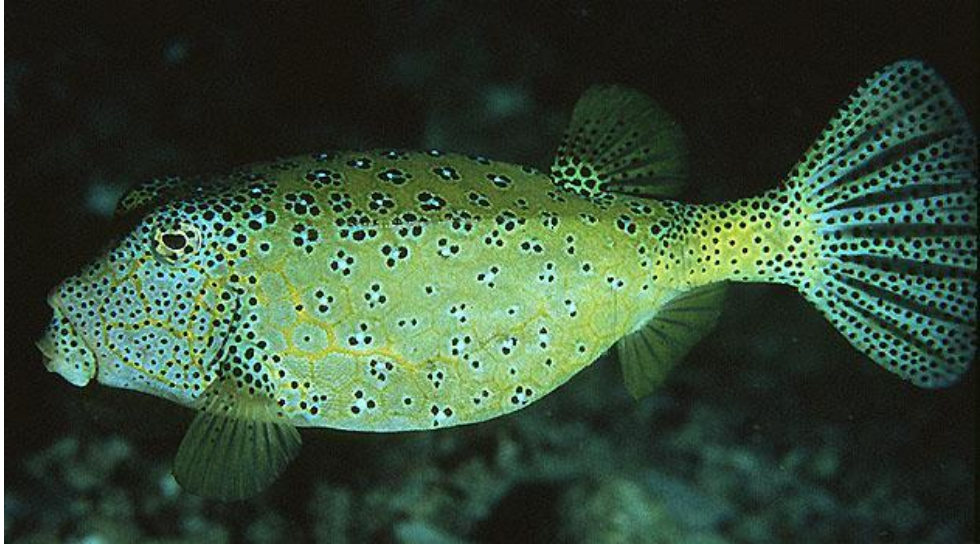
Neoniphon sammara
NESA 30cm

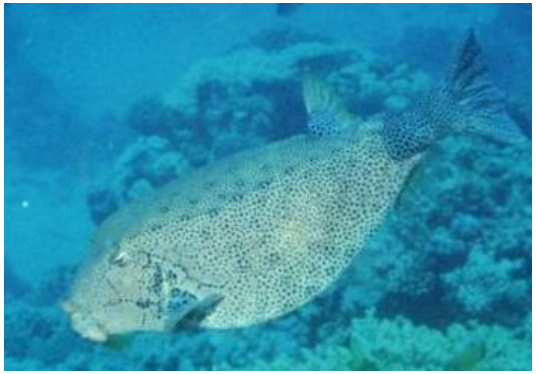
Novaculichthys taeniourus
NOTA 30cm

Odonus niger
ODNI 40cm



Oplegnathus punctatus
OPPU 60 cm





Ostracion cubicus
OSCU 45 cm

Ostracion meleagris
OSME 16cm

Ostracion whitleyi

OSWH 16cm

Oxycheilinus bimaculatus

OXBI 15cm

Oxycheilinus unifasciatus

OXUN 46cm

Paracanthurus hepatus

PA**HP** 31cm

Paracirrhites arcatus

PAAR 14cm

Paracirrhites forsteri

PAFO 23cm

Paracirrhites hemistictus

PAHE 28cm

Paracirrhites xanthus
PAXA 11cm

Parupeneus chrysonemus
PACH 22cm

HAWAII
ENDEMIC

Parupeneus cyclostomus
PACY 50cm

Parupeneus insularis

PAIN 33cm

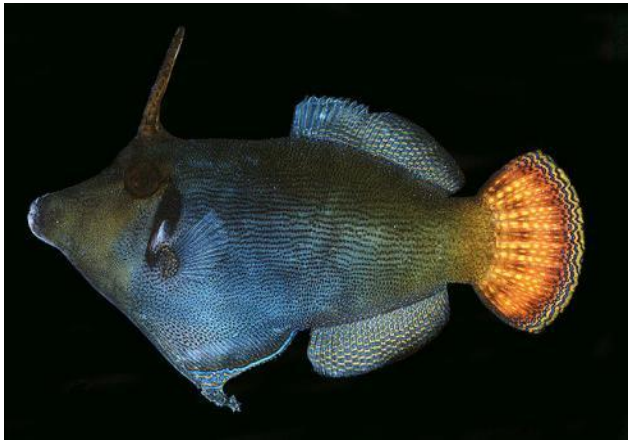
Parupeneus multifasciatus
PAMU 29cm

Parupeneus pleurostigma

PAPL 33cm

Pempheris oualensis
PEOU 22cm

Pervagor aspricaudus
PEAS 11.5 cm



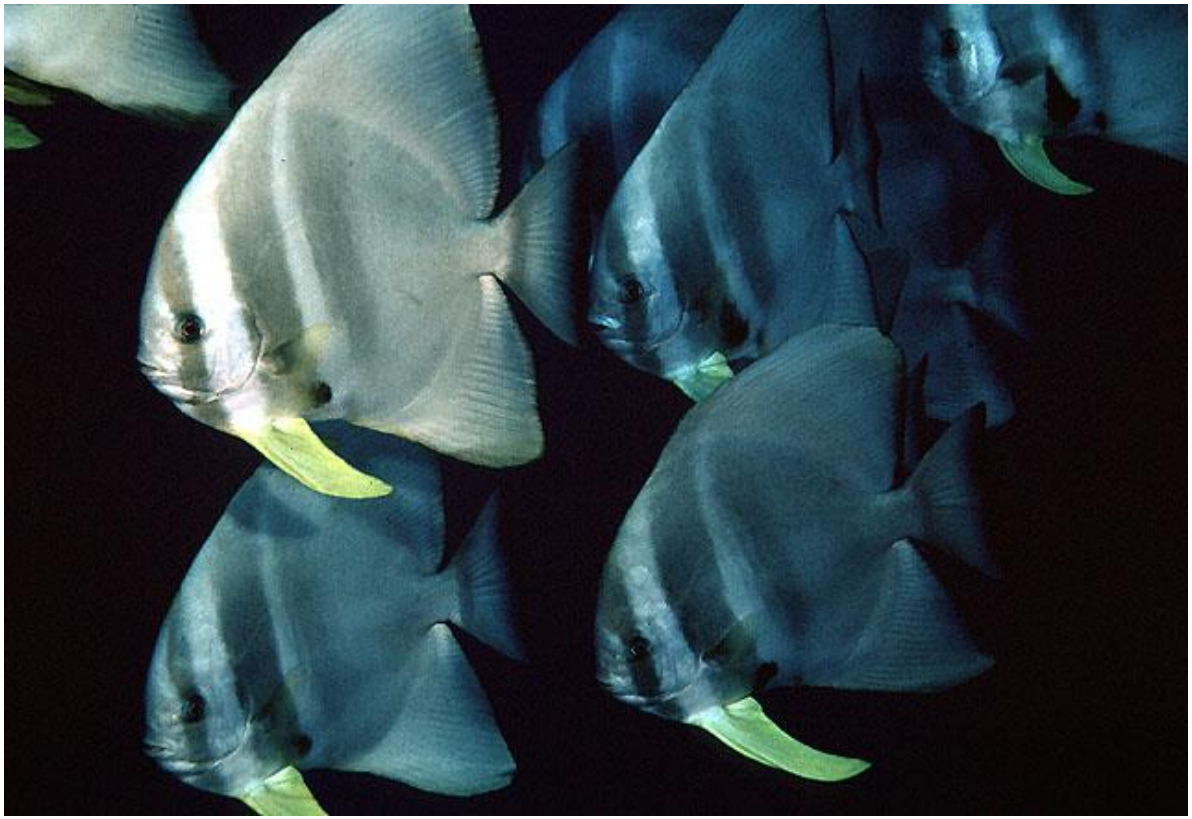
Pervagor janthinosoma
PEJA 13 cm

Pervagor spilosoma
PESP 18cm

Plagiotremus rhynorhynchos
PLRH 12cm

Plagiotremus tapeinosoma
PLTA 13cm

Platax orbicularis
PLOR 40cm



Platax teira
PLTE 70 cm

Plectroglyphidodon dickii
PLDI 11cm

Plectroglyphidodon imparipennis
PLIM 7cm

Plectroglyphidodon johnstonianus
PLJO 12cm

Plectrophididodon lacrymatus
PLLA 10cm

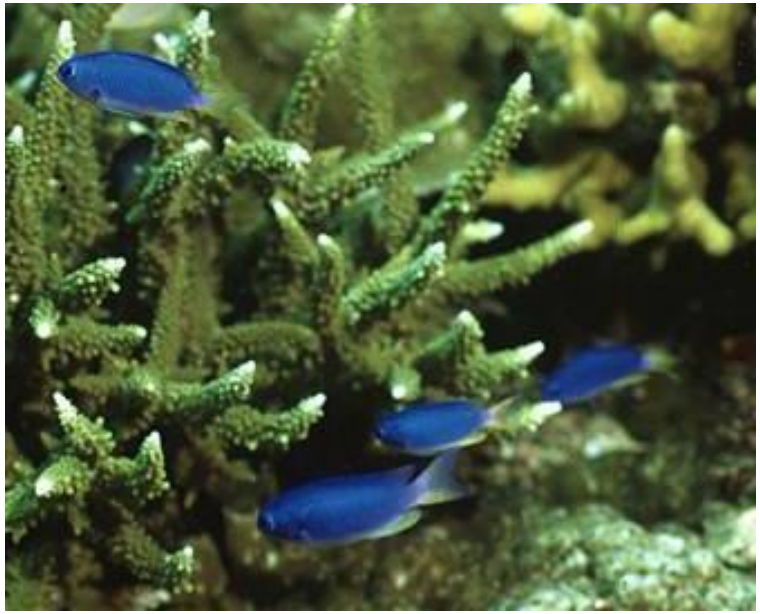
Plectroglyphidodon leucozonus
PLLE 12 cm

Plectrophididodon phoenixensis
PLPH 8.5cm

Plectropomus laevis

PL**LV** 125cm

Pomacanthus imperator
POIM 38cm



Pomacentrus coelestis
POCO 7cm

Priacanthus meeki

PRME 41cm

HAWAII ENDEMIC

Pseudanthias cooperi

PSCO 14 cm

Pseudanthias olivaceus

PSOL 12cm

Pseudanthias bartlettorum
PSBA 9cm

Pseudanthias bicolor
PSBI 13 cm

Pseudanthias pascalus
PSPA 17cm

Pseudobalistes flavimarginatus

PSFL 60 cm

Pseudocheilinus evanidus

PSEV 14cm

Pseudocheilinus hexataenia
PSHE　8cm

Pseudocheilinus ocellatus
PSOT 10 cm

Pseudocheilinus octotaenia

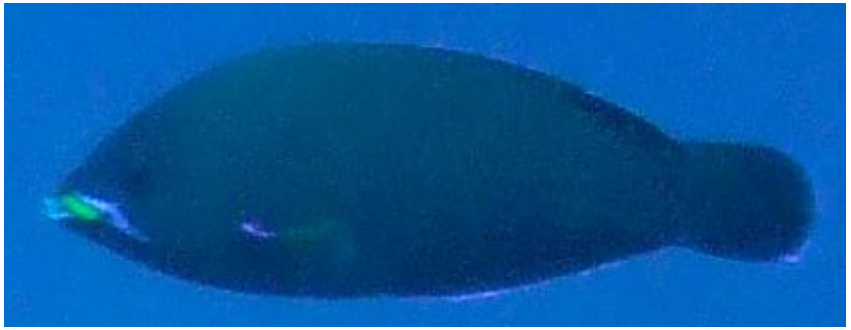
PSOC 14cm

Pseudocheilinus tetrataenia

PSTE 8cm

Pseudocoris heteroptera
PSHT 20cm

Pseudocoris yamashiroi
PSYA 15 cm



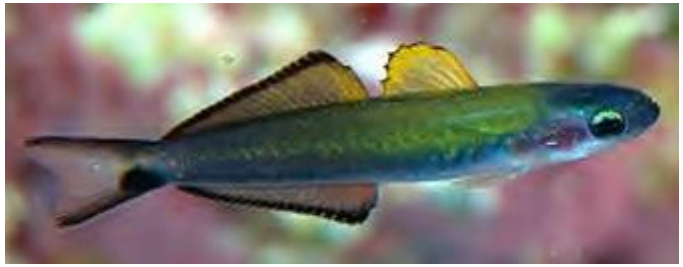
Pseudodax molucanus

PSMO 25cm

Pseudojuloides cerasinus
PSCE 12 cm

Pterocaesio tile

PTTI 25 cm



Ptereleotris evides
PTEV 13 cm

Ptereleotris heteroptera
PTHE 12cm

Ptereleotris zebra
PTZE 12cm

Pterois antennata
PTAN 20 cm

Pterois volitans

PTVO 38 cm

Pygoplites diacanthus
PYDI 25cm

Rhinecanthus aculeatus

RHAC 30cm

Rhinecanthus rectangulus

RHRE 25cm

Sargocentron caudimaculatum
SACA 25cm

Sargocentron diadema

SADI 15cm

Sargocentron microstoma
SAMI 20 cm

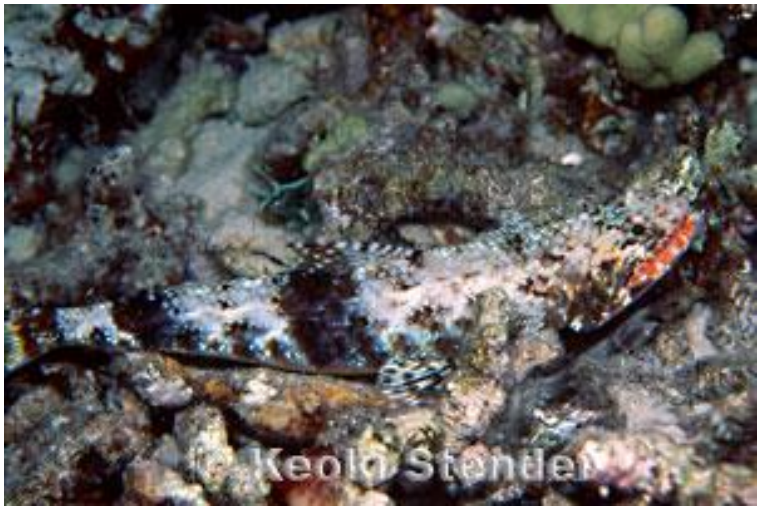
Sargocentron punctatissimum

SAPU 23 cm

Sargocentron spiniferum
SASP 45cm

Sargocentron tiere
SATI 33cm

Sargocentron xantherythrum
SAXA 16cm



Saurida flamma

SAFL 30 cm

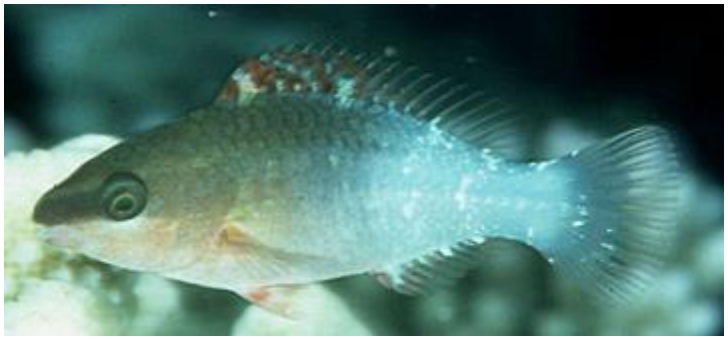
Saurida gracilis

SAGR 32 cm

Scarus altipinnis

SCAL 60cm

Scarus dubius
SCDU 36cm



Scarus frenatus

SCFR 50cm

Scarus globiceps
SCGL 27cm

Scarus niger

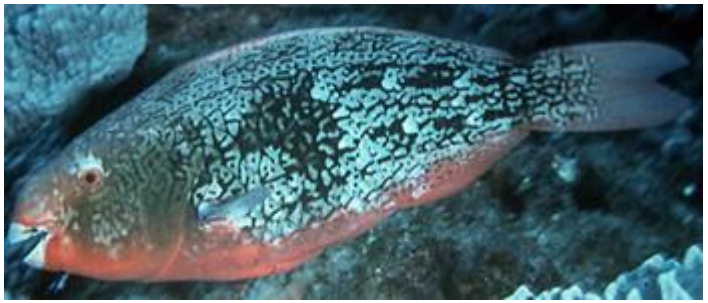
SCNI 43cm

Scarus oviceps

SCOV 38 cm

Scarus psittacus

SCPS 30cm



Scarus rubroviolaceus

SCRU 70cm

Scarus tricolor
SCTR 55cm

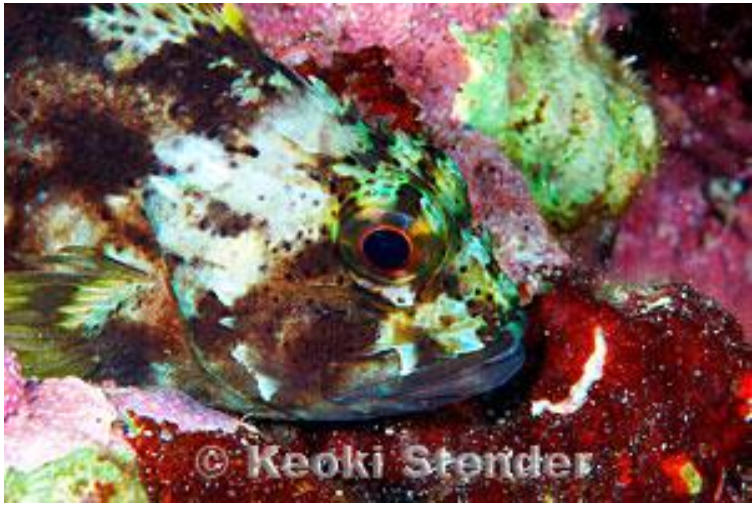
Scomberoides lysan
SCLY 70cm

Scuticaria tigrina
SCTI 120 cm

HAWAII ENDEMIC

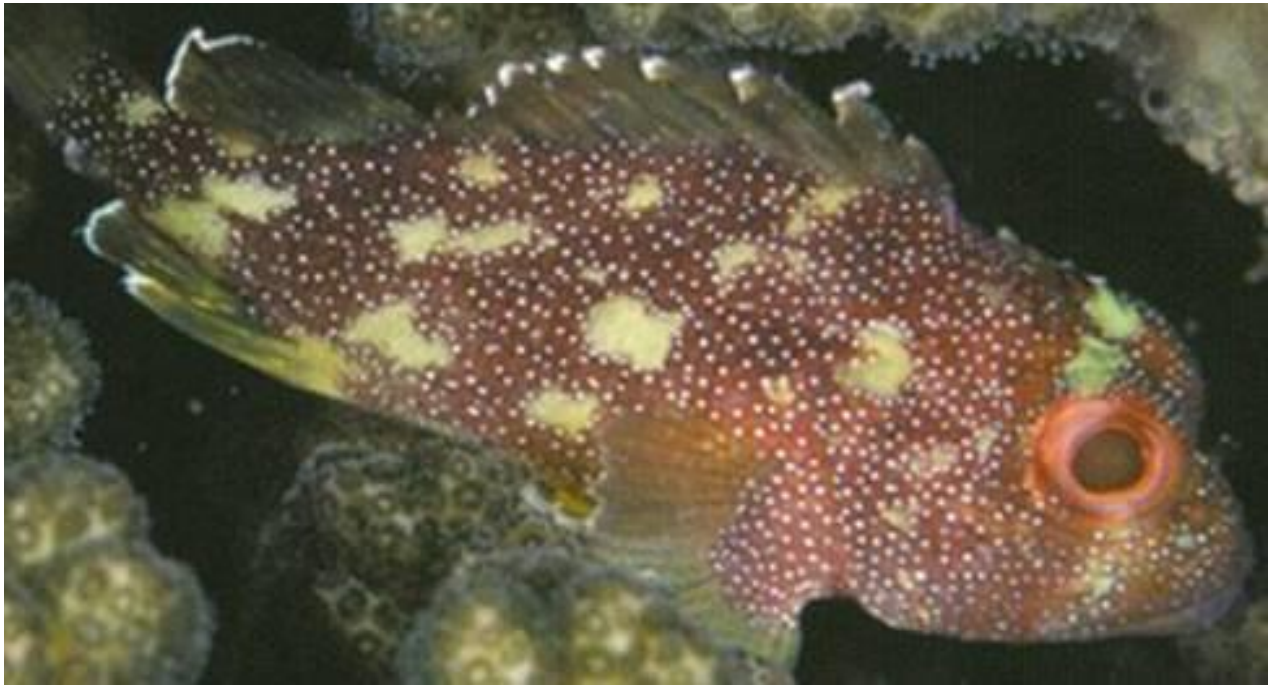
Sebastapistes ballieui

SEBA 12 cm



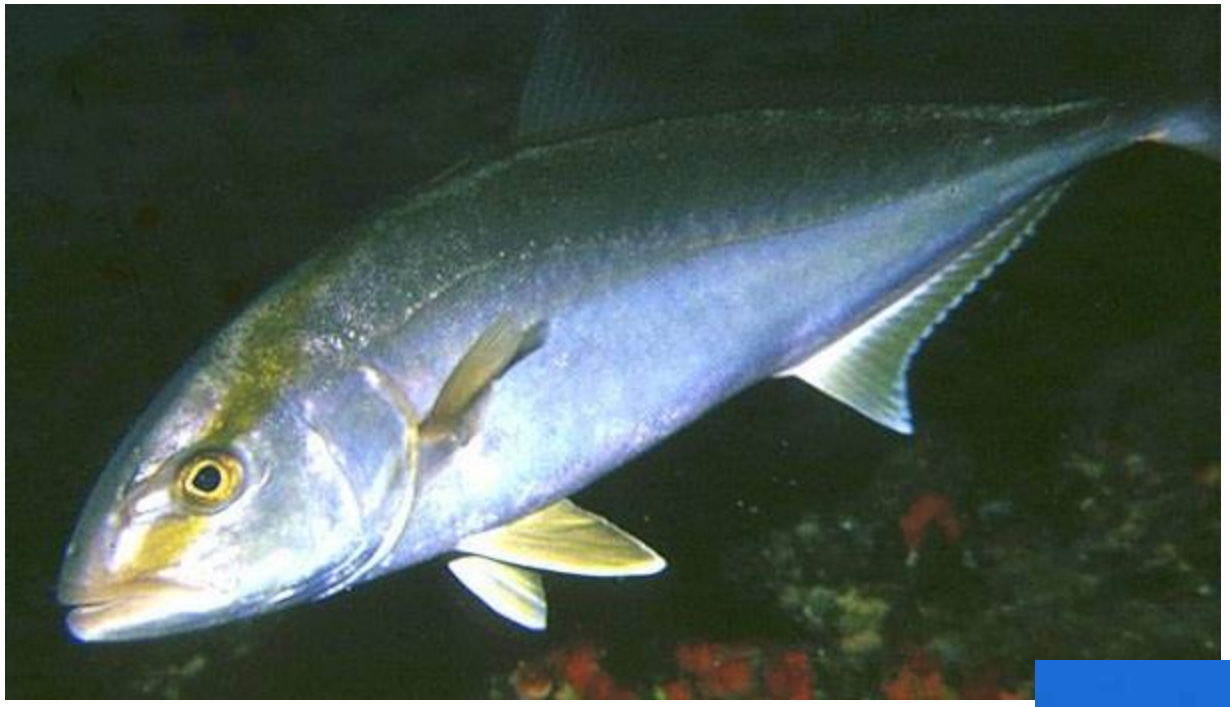
Sebastapistes coniorta

SECO 10 cm



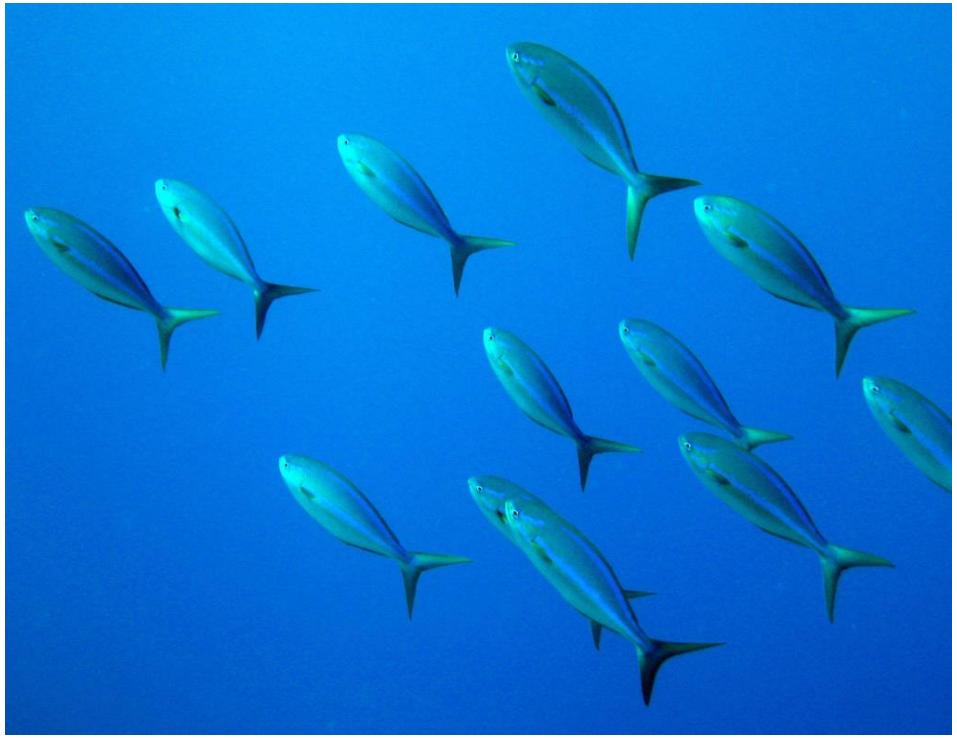
Sebastapistes cyanostigma
SECY 8cm

Selar crumenophthalmus
SECR 30 cm



Seriola dumerili

SEDU 188cm



Sectator ocyurus

SE**OX** 38 cm

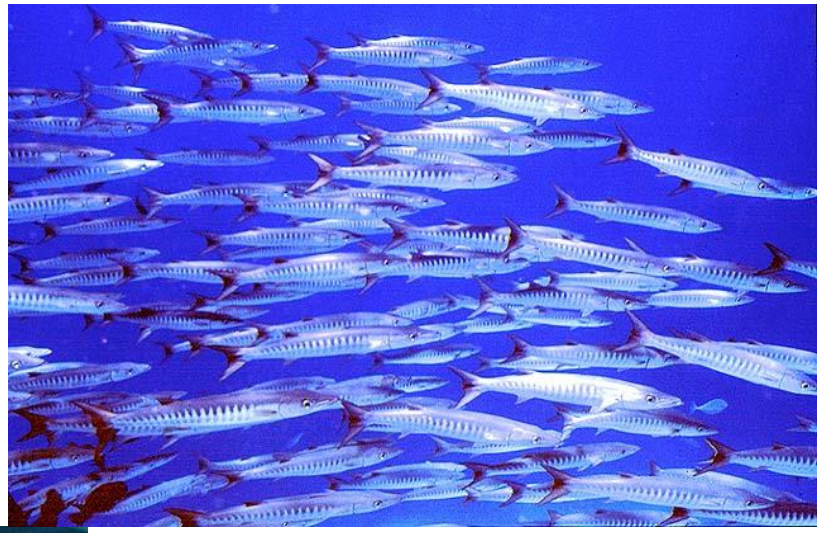
Selar crumenophthalmus
SECR 30 cm

Sphyraena barracuda

SPBA 200cm

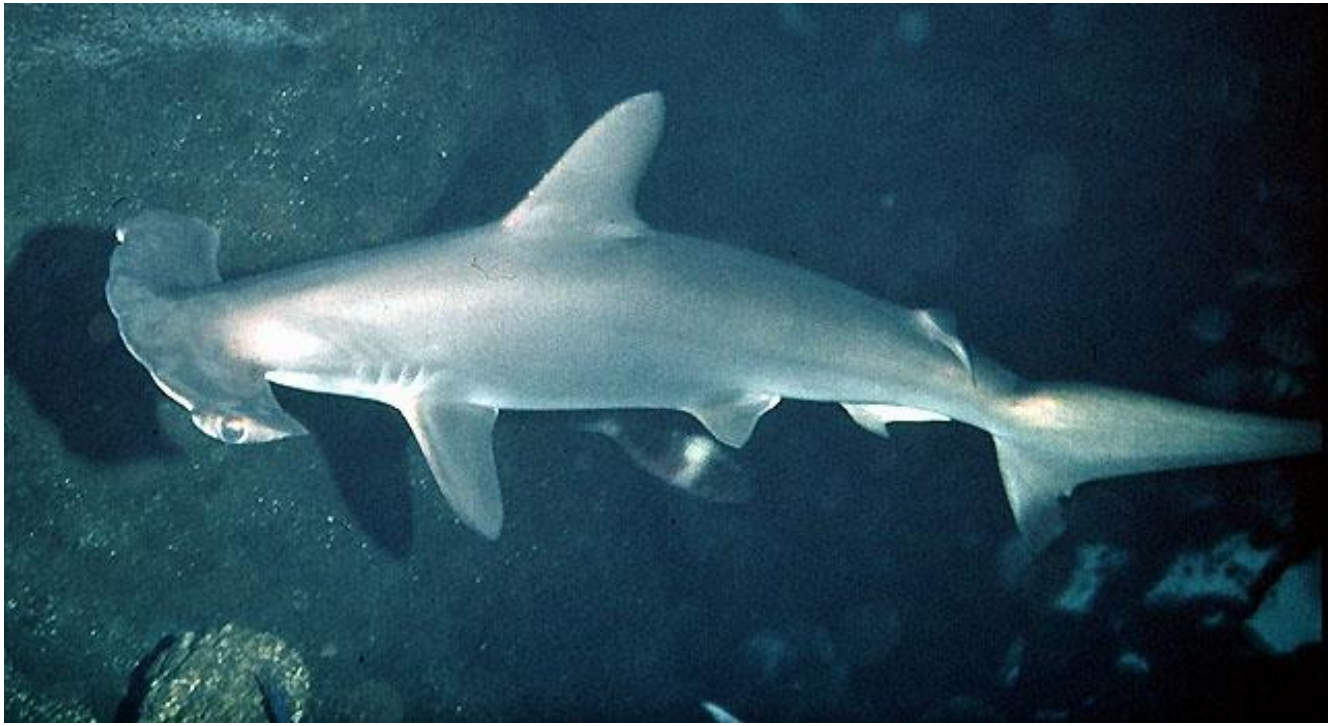
Sphyraena helleri

SPHE 80cm



Sphyraena qenie

SPQE 170 cm



Sphyrna lewini

SPLE 400cm

Stegastes albifasciatus
STAL 11cm

Stegastes aureus
STAU 11cm

Stegastes fasciolatus

STFA 15cm

Stegastes nigricans
STNI 14cm

HAWAII ENDEMIC

Stethojulis balteata
STBA 15cm

Stethojulis bandanensis

ST**BN** 16cm

Sufflamen bursa
SUBU 22cm

Sufflamen chrysopterum
SUCH 22cm

Sufflamen fraenatus
SUFR 38cm

Synodus binotatus
SYBI 18 cm

Synodus variegatus
SYVA 40 cm

Taeniura meyeni

TAME 330 cm

Thalassoma amblycephalum
THAM 14cm

HAWAII ENDEMIC

Thalassoma ballieui

THBA 40cm

Thalassoma hardwicke

THHA 20cm

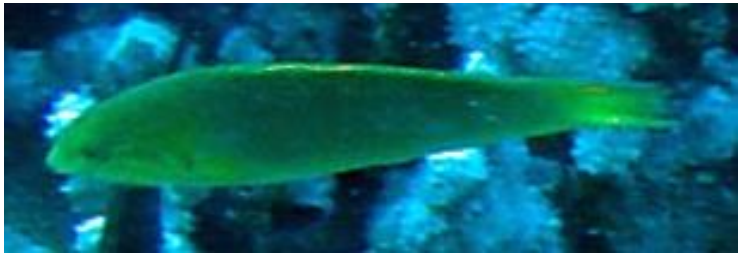
HAWAII ENDEMIC

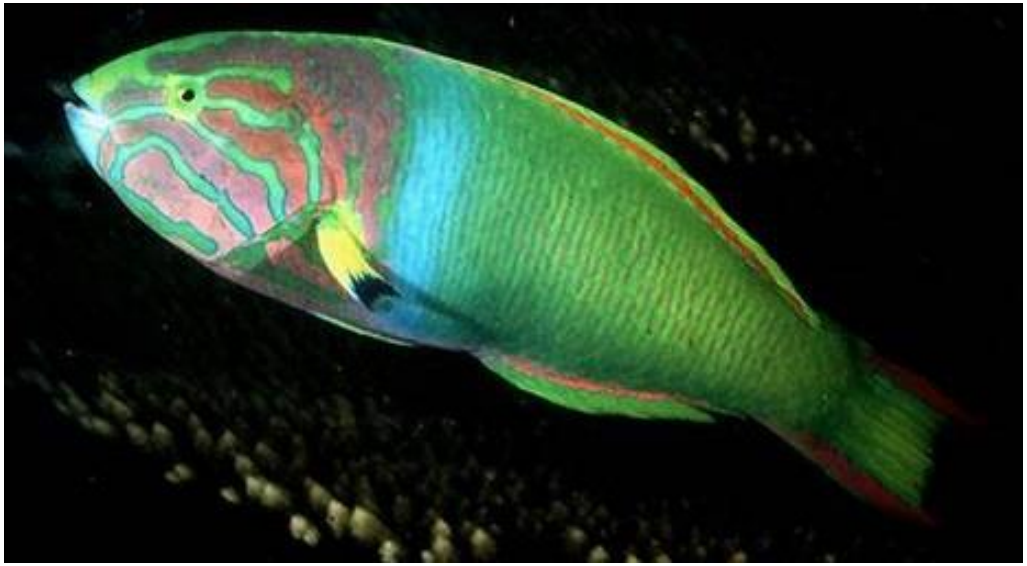
Thalassoma duperrey

THDU 26cm

Thalassoma lunare

TH**LN** 25cm





Thalassoma lutescens

THLU 25cm

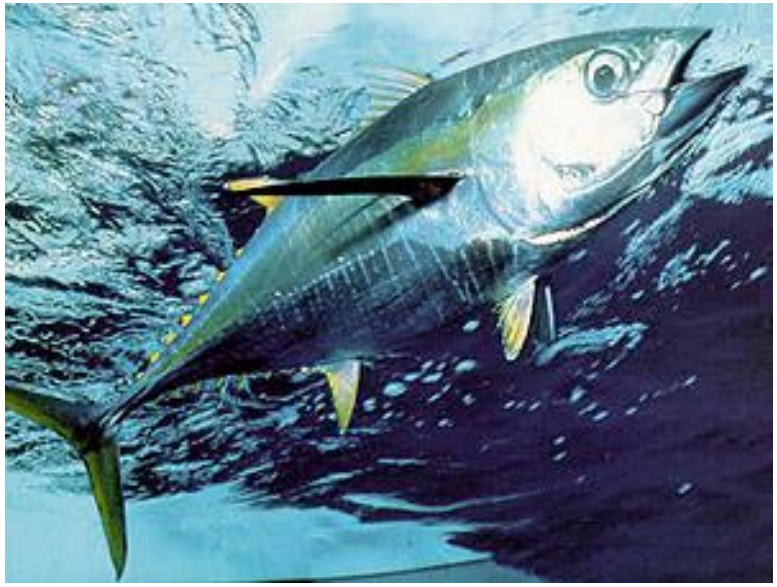
Thalassoma purpureum

THPU 43cm

Thalassoma quinquevittatum
THQU 17cm

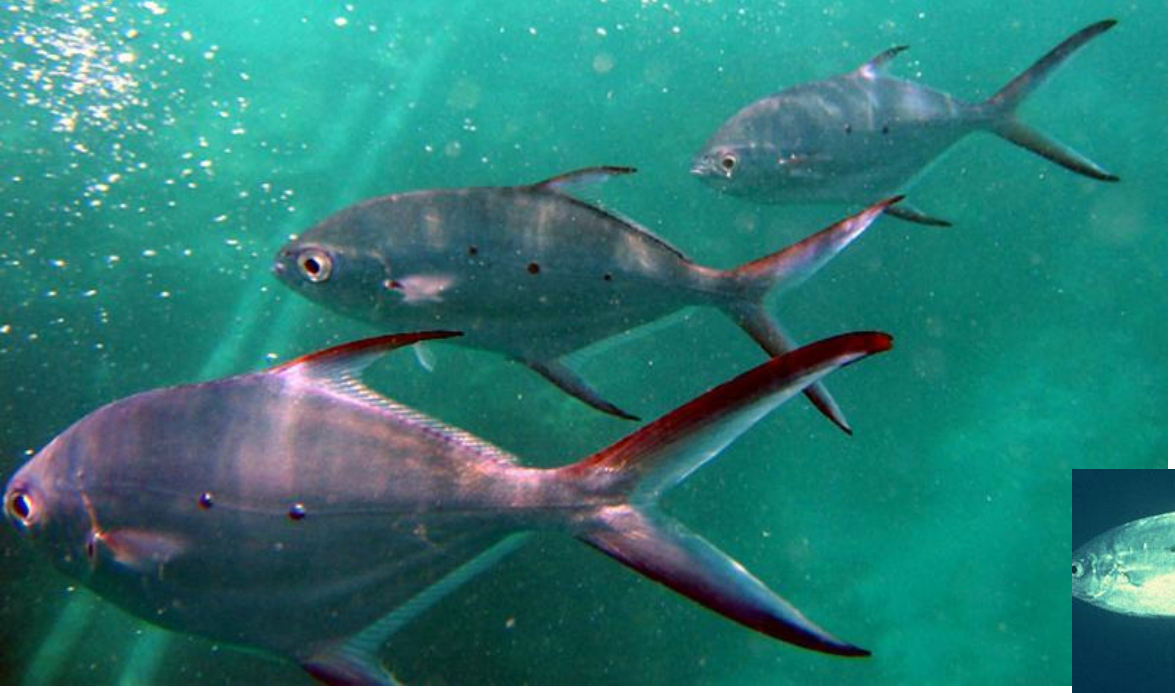
Thalassoma trilobatum

THTR 33cm



Thunnus albacares

THAL 220cm

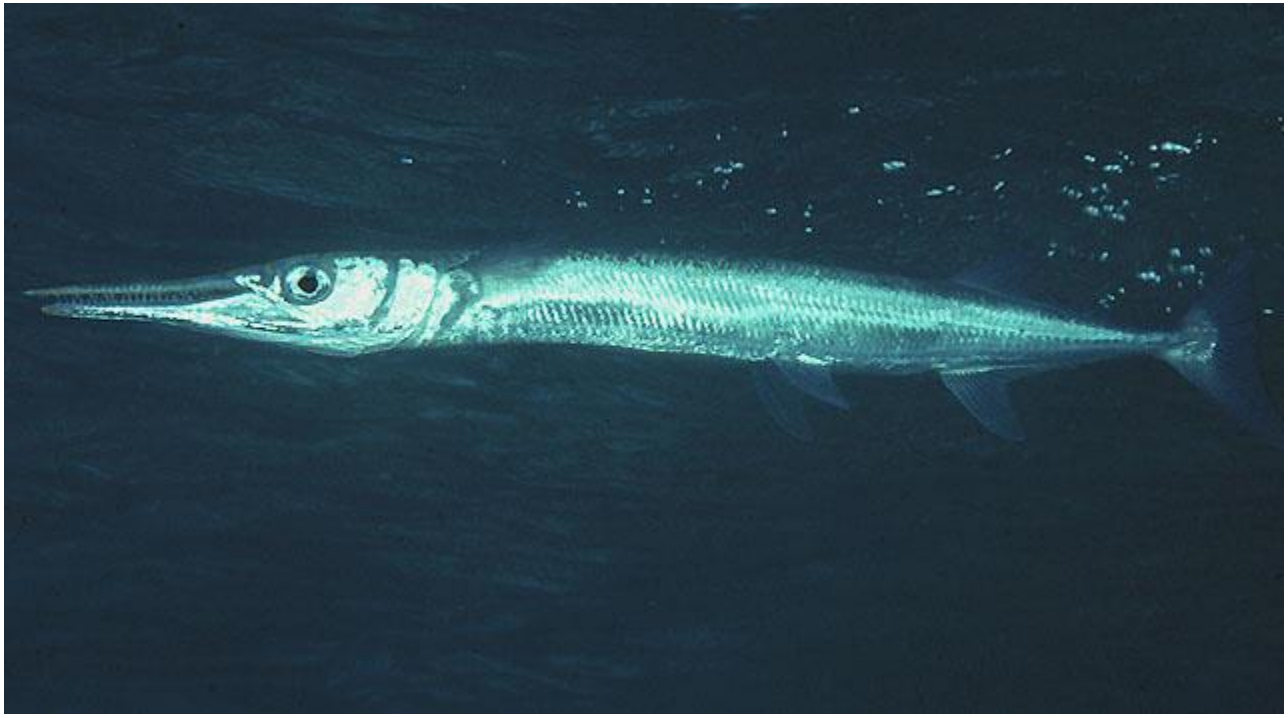


Trachinotus baillonii

TRBA 60 cm

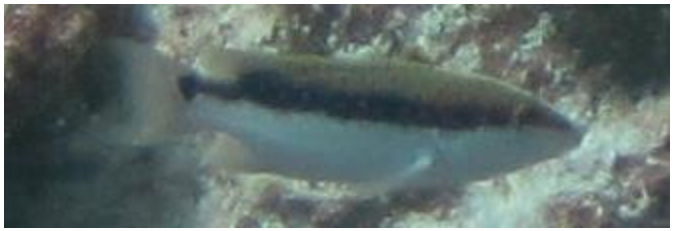
Trianodon obesus

TROB 350cm



Tylosurus crocodilus
TYCR 150 cm

Valenciennea strigata
VAST 16cm



Variola louti

VALO 66cm

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