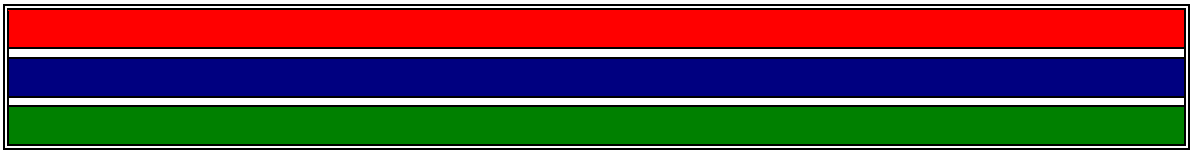
THE REPUBLIC OF  **THE GAMBIA**



THE COMMON MARINE AND INLAND FISH SPECIES IN THE GAMBIA

Data Obtained from the Fish Base Website and the local names provided by the Department of Fisheries

GAMBIA ARTISANAL FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES
DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR FISHERIES
AND WATER RESOURCES
BANJUL, THE GAMBIA

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MARINE FISH SPECIES

1. BONGA SHAD/KOBO

1. 

BONY FISH	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Clupeidae	Ethmalosa frimbriata	Bowdich,1825	Shad/Bonga	Kobo/Chrlo

Family:	Clupeidae (Herrings, shads, sardines, menhadens)
Order:	Clupeiformes (herrings)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
FishBase name:	Bonga shad
Max. size:	45.0 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 5377)
Environment	pelagic; catadromous
Global Importance:	fisheries: highly commercial; aquaculture: experimental
Distribution:	Eastern Central Atlantic: Dakhla, Western Sahara to at least Lobito, Angola, corresponding to the extreme northerly and southerly limits of the 25°C isotherms throughout the year; dwarf population exist in Lake Nokoué, Benin. Cape Verde records based on erroneous type locality for *Ethmalosa fimbriata* by Bowdich - followed by later authors.
Diagnosis:	Dorsal spines (total): 0-0; Dorsal soft rays (total): 16-19; Anal spines: 0-0; Anal soft rays: 19-23. Upper jaw with distinct median notch, into which tip of lower jaw fits. Lower gill rakers long, fine and numerous, about 3 times as long as gill filaments; upper gill rakers bent sharply upward, V-shaped. Caudal fin deep chrome, tips long and pointed. A faint dark spot behind gill cover (sometimes followed by others); dorsal fin tip black; golden tints on body. Scute: 16-19 prepelvic, 10-13 post. Scales in lateral series 37-42.
Biology:	Occurs in inshore waters, lagoons and more than 300 km up rivers (e.g. Gambia River). Feeds by filtering phytoplankton, chiefly diatoms. Breeds throughout the year in waters of salinities 3.5-38 ppt, but with peaks in at least some areas. Spawns in the sea, in estuaries and rivers. Feeds on phytoplankton, chiefly diatoms. Marketed fresh, also smoked and dried
Dangerous:	Harmless

2. Madeiran Sardinella

BONY FISH	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Clupeidae	Sardinella (eba) maderensis	Lowe, 1839	Madeiran Sardinella	Yabuoy/Tass

Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
FishBase name:	Madeiran sardinella
Max. size:	37.3 cm FL (male/unsexed; Ref. 3808); max. published weight: 927 g (Ref. 3808)
Environment:	pelagic; oceanodromous ; depth range 0 - 80 m
Climate:	subtropical; 24; 46°N - 23°S
Global Importance:	fisheries: highly commercial; bait: usually
Resilience:	Medium, minimum population doubling time 1.4 - 4.4 years (K=0.34; tm=3; tmax=6)
Distribution:	Eastern Atlantic: Gibraltar to Angola; single specimen recorded from Walvis Bay, Namibia. Also known from the Mediterranean (southern and eastern parts, also penetrating Suez Canal).
Diagnosis:	Dorsal spines (total): 0-0; Dorsal soft rays (total): 13-21; Anal spines: 0-0; Anal soft rays: 12-23. Body variable in depth, belly fairly keeled; total scutes 31 to 34 (14-19 pre-pelvic, 12-14 post). Lower gill rakers 70 to 166 (in fishes 6 cm standard length or more). Upper pectoral fin rays white on the outer side, the membrane between black. Caudal fin grey, its tips almost black. Faint gold or black area just behind gill opening.
Biology:	Forms schools in coastal waters, preferring waters of 24°C. Feeds on a variety of small planktonic invertebrates, fish larvae and phytoplankton. Breeds during the warm season (July-September). Juveniles and adults show clear north-south migrations in the Gabon-Congo-Angola sector of their range and also in the Sierra Leone-Mauritania sector, each area having nurseries. The movements are correlated with the seasonal upwelling. Marketed fresh, frozen or salted
Dangerous:	harmless

3. Sardinella aurita

BONY FISH	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Clupeidae	Sardinella aurita	Valenciennes, 1847	Round Sardinella	Yabuoy/Meureug

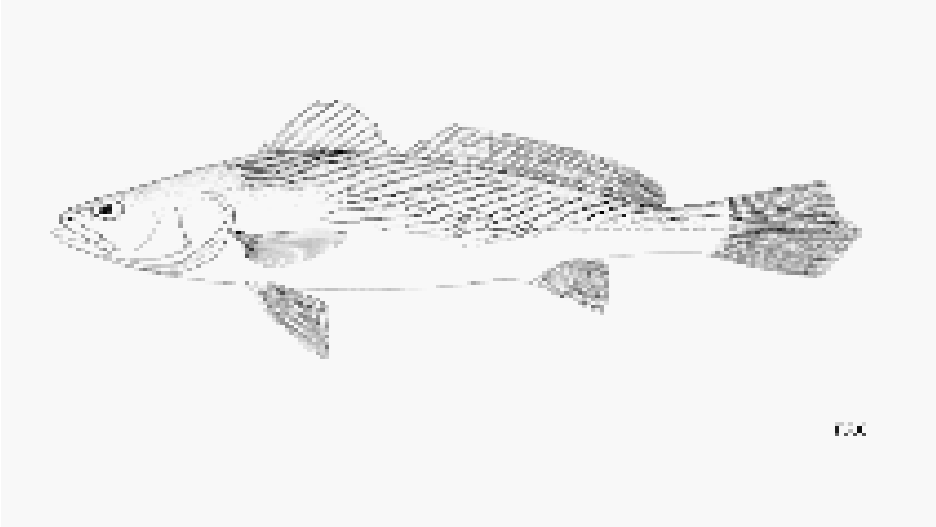
Order:	Clupeiformes (herrings)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
Max. size:	31.0 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 3259); max. published weight: 229 g (Ref. 5217); max. reported age: 7 years
Environment:	reef-associated; oceanodromous ; depth range 0 - 350 m
Climate:	subtropical; 24; 47°N - 40°S
Global Importance:	fisheries: highly commercial; bait: usually
Distribution:	Eastern Atlantic: Gibraltar to Saldanha Bay, South Africa. Also known from the Mediterranean and Black Sea. Western Atlantic: Cape Cod, USA to Argentina. Bahamas, Antilles, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean coast (Ref. 26938).
Diagnosis:	Dorsal spines (total): 0-0; Dorsal soft rays (total): 13-21; Anal spines: 0-0; Anal soft rays: 12-23. Usually sub-cylindrical, but sometimes a little compressed; belly rather rounded but scutes apparent. Lower gill rakers fine and numerous, more than 80 (162 to 248 in West African specimens of 23 to 28 cm SL); anterior gill rakers on lower limbs of second and third gill arches lying more or less flat (strongly curled in S. brasiliensis). The pelvic fin ray count of 8 distinguishes it from all other species of Sardinella, Harengula, Opisthonema, Herklotsichthys and Amblygaster that occur with it. Resembles Clupea but has two fleshy outgrowths along outer margin of gill opening and numerous fine fronto-parietal striae on top of head. Flanks silvery with a faint golden mid-lateral line; a faint golden spot behind gill opening; black spot at hind border of gill cover (Ref. 188). Back bluish gray, sometimes greenish. Sides silvery to brassy, without spots or streaks. Body very slender. Scales deciduous (Ref. 7251).
Biology:	Schools in coastal waters from inshore to edge of shelf. Prefers clear saline water with a minimum temperature below 24°C. Juveniles tend to stay in nursery areas, but on maturity rejoin adult stocks offshore. Strongly migratory, often rising to surface at night and dispersing. Feeds mainly on zooplankton, especially copepods. Juveniles take phytoplankton (Ref. 27121). Breeds perhaps throughout the year, but with distinct peaks. In some areas there are two main spawning periods. Marketed fresh or canned (Ref. 188). Trematode found in intestinal tract (Ref. 37032)
Dangerous:	harmless

4. Longneck croaker

BONY FISH	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Sciaenidae	Pseudotolithus (pseudotolithus) typus	Bleeker, 1863	Long Neck Croaker	Tonone

Family:	Sciaenidae (Drums or croakers)
Order:	Perciformes (perch-likes)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
FishBase name:	Longneck croaker
Max. size:	140 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 40637); max. published weight: 15.0 kg (Ref. 40637)
Environment:	demersal ; depth range 0 - 150 m
Climate:	tropical; 35°N - 17°S
Global Importance:	fisheries: commercial
Resilience:	Medium, minimum population doubling time 1.4 - 4.4 years (K=0.22-0.29; tmax=7)
Distribution:	Eastern Atlantic: Mauritania (Ref. 5377) to Angola, becoming scarce north of Cape Verde. Often confused with Pseudotolithus senegalensis.
Biology:	Inhabits coastal waters from shoreline to about 150 m depth, over mud and sandy mud bottoms. Most abundant in waters less than 60 m at temperatures above 18°C. Juveniles and sub-adults enter estuaries and rivers. Feeds mainly on small fishes and crustaceans. Peak spawning season from late spring to early autumn in tropical West Africa (Ref. 4780)
Threatened:	Not in IUCN Red List , (Ref. 36508)
Dangerous:	harmless

5. Law croaker



BONY FISH	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Sciaenidae	Pseudotolithus (pseudotolithus) brachynathus	Bleeker, 1863	Law Croaker	Nguka

Family:	Sciaenidae (Drums or croakers)
Order:	Perciformes (perch-likes)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
Max. size:	230 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 2683); max. published weight: 12.5 kg (Ref. 40637)
Environment:	demersal ; depth range 0 - 150 m
Climate:	tropical; 16°N - 17°S
Global Importance:	fisheries: minor commercial
Resilience:	Low, minimum population doubling time 4.5 - 14 years (Assuming tmax>10)
Distribution:	Eastern Atlantic: Mauritania (Ref. 5377) to Angola.
Diagnosis:	Dorsal spines (total): 11-11; Dorsal soft rays (total): 26-27. Body elongated; mouth short and large, chin without barbels; teeth fine (Ref. 5377).
Biology:	Found over mud and sandy bottoms, enters coastal lagoons and estuaries. Feeds on small fish and crustaceans. Flesh highly appreciated; caught by artisanal fishers (Ref. 5377)
Threatened:	Not in IUCN Red List , (Ref. 36508)
Dangerous:	harmless

6. Cassava croaker

BONY FISH	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Sciaenidae	Pseudotolithus senegalensis	Valenciennes, 1833	Cassava Croaker	Fotta

Family:	Sciaenidae (Drums or croakers)
Order:	Perciformes (perch-likes)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
FishBase name:	Cassava croaker
Max. size:	114 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 40637); max. published weight: 12.0 kg (Ref. 40637)
Environment:	demersal ; depth range 0 - 70 m
Climate:	tropical; 27°N - 22°S
Global Importance:	fisheries: minor commercial
Resilience:	Medium, minimum population doubling time 1.4 - 4.4 years (K=0.33; tmax=8; assuming tm=2)
Distribution:	Eastern Atlantic: off Morocco to Namibia.
Diagnosis:	Dorsal soft rays (total): 28-32
Biology:	Found in coastal waters over muddy, sandy or rocky bottoms. Smaller individuals found in shallow waters, but rarely entering estuaries. Feeds on fish, shrimps and crabs (Ref. 28587). Spawns from November to March in waters of 22 to 25°C in the Gulf of Guinea. Most economically important demersal fish in West African waters
Threatened:	Not in IUCN Red List , (Ref. 36508)
Dangerous:	harmless

7. Bobo croaker

BONY FISH	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Sciaenidae	Fonticulus elongatus	Bododich, 1825	Bobo Croaker	Jortoh

Family:	Sciaenidae (Drums or croakers)
Order:	Perciformes (perch-likes)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
FishBase name:	Bobo croaker
Max. size:	47.0 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 5752)
Environment:	demersal ; depth range 0 - 100 m
Climate:	tropical; 17°N - 6°S
Global Importance:	fisheries: commercial
Resilience:	Medium, minimum population doubling time 1.4 - 4.4 years (K=0.27-0.4;)
Distribution:	Eastern Atlantic: Senegal to southern Angola.
Biology:	Found in coastal waters over mud bottom, also enter estuaries and coastal lagoons. Moves farther offshore to about 100 m for spawning during rainy season from December to February. Feeds on fish and shrimps (Ref. 28587)
Threatened:	Not in IUCN Red List , (Ref. 36508)
Dangerous:	harmless

8. Rubberlip grunt

BONY FISH	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Haemulidae(=Pomadasyidae	Plectoryhncus Mediterraneous	Guichenot, 1850	Rubberlip Grunt	Banda

Family:	Haemulidae (Grunts)
Order:	Perciformes (perch-likes)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
Max. size:	80.0 cm SL (male/unsexed; Ref. 5535); max. published weight: 7,920 g (Ref. 40637)
Environment:	demersal; marine; depth range 10 – 180 m
Climate:	subtropical; 42°N - 22°S, 19°W - 36°E
Importance:	fisheries: commercial
Resilience:	Medium, minimum population doubling time 1.4 - 4.4 years (K=0.18;)
Distribution:	Eastern Atlantic: Spain and Portugal to Henties Bay, Namibia (Ref. 11228).
Gazetteer	Also from the Mediterranean and the Canary Islands (Ref. 5535).
Morphology:	Dorsal spines (total): 10 - 13; Dorsal soft rays (total): 17 - 20. Grey violet color, abdomen light (Ref. 5377).
Biology:	Inhabits sandy and muddy bottoms. Feeds on zoobenthos and zooplankton (Ref. 5535). Minimum depth reported from Ref. 5535.
Red List Status:	Not in IUCN Red List (Ref. 53964)
Dangerous:	harmless

9. Sompat grunt

BONY FISH	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Haemulidae(=Pomadasyidae	Pomadasys jubelini	Cuvier, 1830	Sompat Grunt	Sompat

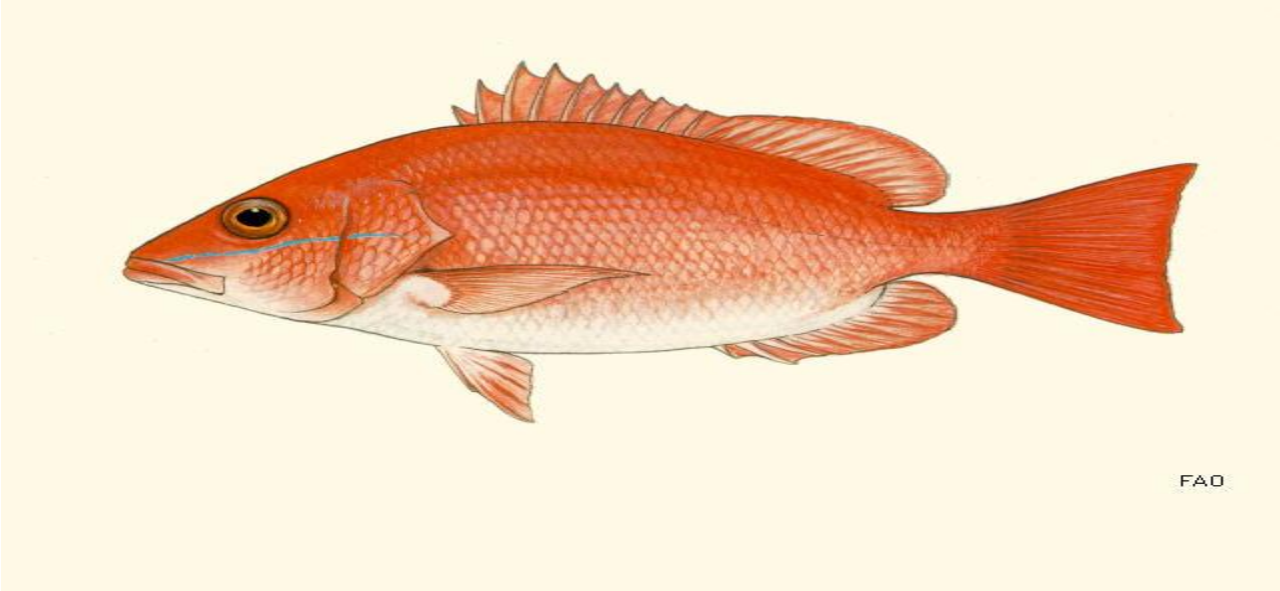
Family:	Haemulidae (Grunts)
Order:	Perciformes (perch-likes)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
Max. size:	60.0 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 2135)
Environment:	demersal ; depth range - 100 m
Climate:	tropical; 20; 20°N - 22°S
Global Importance:	fisheries: minor commercial
Resilience:	Medium, minimum population doubling time 1.4 - 4.4 years (K=0.3)
Distribution:	Eastern Atlantic: Mauritania (Ref. 7376) to southern Angola (Ref. 2799).
Diagnosis:	Dorsal spines (total): 11-11; Dorsal soft rays (total): 15-17; Anal spines: 3-3; Anal soft rays: 9-9
Biology:	Inhabit sandy and muddy bottoms of coastal waters and estuaries (Ref. 2683). Sometimes found in freshwater (Ref. 2135). Feeds on fish and benthic crustaceans (Ref. 28587) as well as on mollusks and worms (Ref. 27121)
Threatened:	Not in IUCN Red List , (Ref. 36508)
Dangerous:	harmless

10. African red snapper

BONY FISH	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Lutjanidae	Lutjanus agennes	Bleeker, 1863	African Red Snapper	Yahk/Diabar

Family:	Lutjanidae (Snappers) , subfamily: Lutjaninae
Order:	Perciformes (perch-likes)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
Max. size:	139 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 40637); max. published weight: 60.0 kg (Ref. 40637)
Environment:	reef-associated
Climate:	tropical; 13°N - 20°S
Global Importance:	fisheries: minor commercial
Resilience:	Low, minimum population doubling time 4.5 - 14 years (Preliminary K or Fecundity.)
Distribution:	Eastern Atlantic: Senegal to Angola, including Cape Verde (Ref. 10795).
Diagnosis:	Dorsal spines (total): 10-10; Dorsal soft rays (total): 13-14; Anal spines: 3-3; Anal soft rays: 8-8. Maxilla extending nearly to mid-eye level. Preopercular notch and knob weak. Pectoral fins of adults not reaching level of anus. Scale rows on back parallel to lateral line. Reddish brown to slightly orange on back and upper sides, grading to whitish on lower sides and belly. Tips of pelvic fins very dark. Juveniles with a series of about 6 to 8 vertical rows of small white spots or narrow bars on side.
Biology:	Inhabits rocky bottoms and coral reefs. It is also common in brackish lagoons and found in rivers, particularly the juveniles. Marketed fresh
Threatened:	Not in IUCN Red List , (Ref. 36508)
Dangerous:	harmless

11. Gorean snapper



BONY FISH	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Lutjanidae	Lutjanus goreensis	Valenciennes, 1830	Gorean Snapper	Diagatoum

Family:	Lutjanidae (Snappers) , subfamily: Lutjaninae
Order:	Perciformes (perch-likes)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
Max. size:	80.0 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 55)
Environment:	reef-associated ; depth range 0 - 50 m
Climate:	tropical; 15°N - 17°S
Global Importance:	fisheries: minor commercial
Resilience:	Medium, minimum population doubling time 1.4 - 4.4 years (Preliminary K or Fecundity.)
Distribution:	Eastern Atlantic: mainly between Senegal and the Republic of Congo; also from Cape Verde.
Diagnosis:	Dorsal spines (total): 10-10; Dorsal soft rays (total): 14-14; Anal spines: 3-3; Anal soft rays: 8-8. Head pointed, dorsal profile of forehead steep. Preorbital bone broad, maxilla extending to about mid-eye level. Pectoral fins of adult not reaching level of anus. Scale rows on back parallel to lateral line. Scale rows on cheek 5 or 6. Presence of narrow blue band or row of broken spots below eye. Small specimens from shallow water mainly brownish.
Biology:	Occurs on rocky bottoms and in the vicinity of coral reefs. Young are frequently encountered in coastal waters, particularly estuaries and sometimes in rivers (Ref. 2683). Feeds mainly on fishes and bottom-dwelling invertebrates
Threatened:	Not in IUCN Red List , (Ref. 36508)
Dangerous:	harmless

12. White grouper

BONY FISH	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Serranidae	Epinephelus aeneus	Geoffrey St. Hilaire	White Grouper	Choff

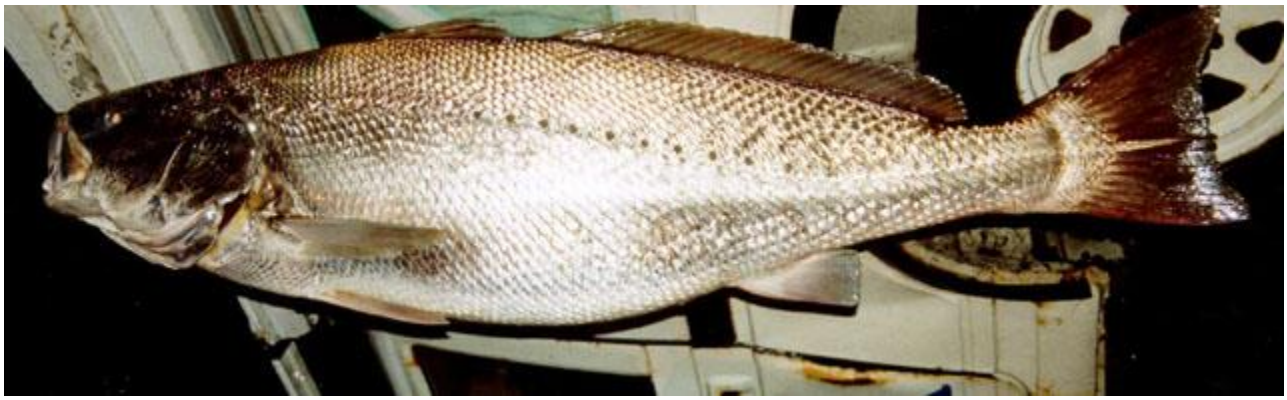
Family:	Serranidae (Sea basses: groupers and fairy basslets) , subfamily: Epinephelinae
Order:	Perciformes (perch-likes)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
Max. size:	120 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 5222); max. published weight: 25.0 kg (Ref. 5222)
Environment:	demersal; oceanodromous ; depth range 20 - 200 m
Climate:	subtropical; 39°N - 16°S
Global Importance:	fisheries: commercial; aquaculture: experimental
Distribution:	Eastern Atlantic: along the west coast of Africa to southern Angola, including the southern Mediterranean. Records from the Canary Islands and Cape Verde are unsubstantiated.
Diagnosis:	Dorsal spines (total): 11-11; Dorsal soft rays (total): 14-16; Anal spines: 3-3; Anal soft rays: 7-9
Biology:	Adults are found on rocky or mud-sand bottom; juveniles have been taken in coastal lagoons and estuaries. In the west African waters, diet comprise of fishes (58%), stomatopods (21%), crabs (10%), and cephalopods (10%). It is a protogynous hermaphrodite. The seasonal migration of the species off the coast of Senegal is influenced by the seasonal upwelling off Senegal and Mauritania. Utilized fresh and smoked (Ref. 9987). Highly esteemed in the market of West Africa (Ref. 5377)
Threatened:	Not in IUCN Red List , (Ref. 36508) , IUCN Grouper and Wrasse Specialist Group
Dangerous:	harmless

13. Dusky grouper

BONY FISH	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Serranidae	Epinephelus guaza	Linnaeus, 1758	Dusky Grouper	Kathieu Kotji/Dialakh

Family:	Serranidae (Sea basses: groupers and fairy basslets) , subfamily: Epinephelinae
Order:	Perciformes (perch-likes)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
Max. size:	150 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 12382); max. published weight: 60.0 kg (Ref. 5222); max. reported age: 50 years
Environment:	reef-associated ; depth range 8 - 300 m
Climate:	subtropical; 54°N - 35°S
Global Importance:	fisheries: highly commercial
Distribution:	Eastern Atlantic and Western Indian Ocean: throughout the Mediterranean Sea and from the British Isles (Ref. 48610) round to the southern tip of Africa to southern Mozambique and Madagascar. Southwest Atlantic: southeastern Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina.
Diagnosis:	Dorsal spines (total): 11-11; Dorsal soft rays (total): 14-16; Anal spines: 3-3; Anal soft rays: 8-8
Biology:	Prefers rocky bottoms (Ref. 5222). Solitary and territorial (Ref. 12382). Juveniles are found closer to shore (Ref. 48605) in rocky tidal pools (Ref. 48609). Feeds on crabs and octopi; larger individuals feed on a greater proportion of fishes, the majority of which are reef-associated species (Ref. 6842). A protogynous hermaphrodite (Ref. 55367). Forms spawning aggregations (Ref. 55367). Utilized as a food fish (Ref. 171). Readily caught by anglers (Ref. 5222). Does not adapt well in an aquarium (Ref. 12382)
Threatened:	Endangered, see IUCN Red List (A2d) , (Ref. 36508) , IUCN Grouper and Wrasse Specialist Group
Dangerous:	harmless

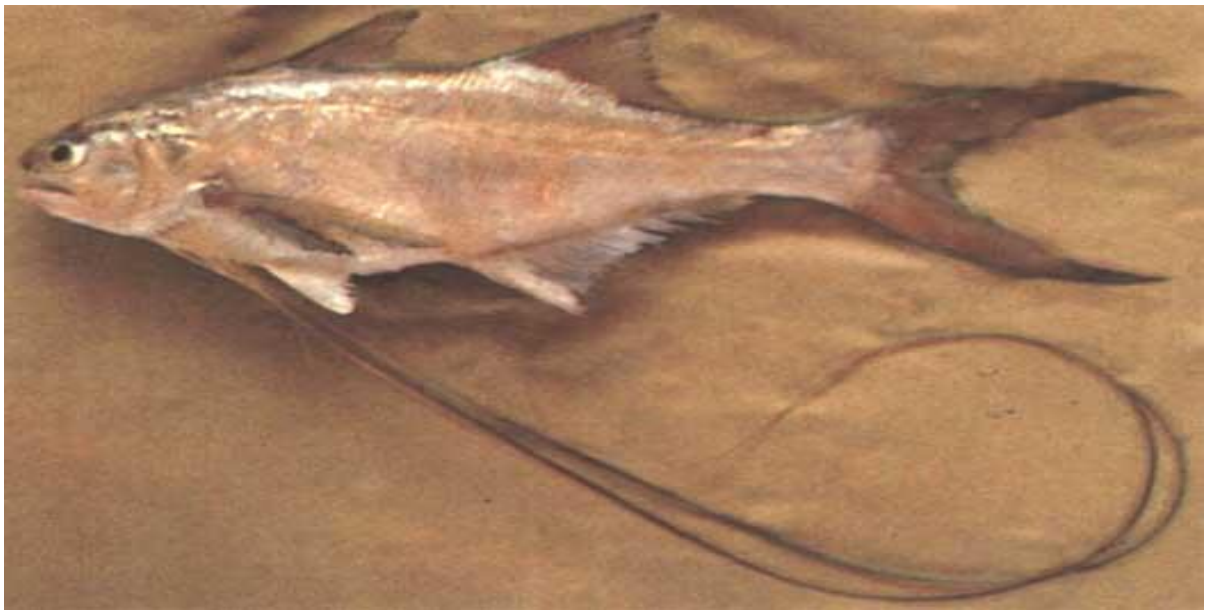
14. Meagre



BONY FISH	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Sciaenidae	Argyrosomus regius	Asso, 1801	Meagre	Beur/Seukhebi

Family:	Sciaenidae (Drums or croakers)
Order:	Perciformes (perch-likes)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
FishBase name:	Meagre
Max. size:	230 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 5377); max. published weight: 103.0 kg (Ref. 11036)
Environment:	benthopelagic; oceanodromous ; depth range 15 - 300 m
Climate:	subtropical; 65°N - 6°S
Global Importance:	fisheries: commercial
Resilience:	Low, minimum population doubling time 4.5 - 14 years (K=0.09)
Distribution:	Eastern Atlantic: Norway to Gibraltar and Congo, including the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Migrated to the Red Sea via the Suez Canal.
Diagnosis:	Dorsal spines (total): 10-11; Dorsal soft rays (total): 27-29. Rough scales, Second dorsal fin (soft ray) twice as long as first, spiny rayed dorsal fin (Ref. 35388).
Biology:	Inshore and shelf waters, close to bottom as well as in surface and mid-waters, pursuing shoals of clupeids and mugilids. Congregates inshore to spawn during spring and summer. Juveniles and sub-adults enter estuaries and coastal lagoons (Ref. 3593). Both adults and juveniles are migratory moving along shore or offshore-onshore in response to temperature change (Ref. 11025). Feeds on fishes and swimming crustaceans
Threatened:	Not in IUCN Red List , (Ref. 36508)
Dangerous:	harmless

15. Royal threadfin



BONY FISH	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Polynemidae	Pentanemus quinguarius	Linnaeus, 1758	Royal Threadfin	Ngorr Seekim/N'diane diara

Family:	Polynemidae (Threadfins)
Order:	Perciformes (perch-likes)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
FishBase name:	Royal threadfin
Max. size:	35.0 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 4340)
Environment:	demersal ; depth range 10 - 70 m
Climate:	tropical; 24°N - 18°S
Global Importance:	fisheries: highly commercial
Resilience:	High, minimum population doubling time less than 15 months (K=0.72)
Distribution:	Eastern Atlantic: Senegal to Angola. Reported from Cuba based on a single specimen; no other specimens taken from the western Atlantic.
Biology:	Occurs over sandy (Ref. 2683) and muddy bottoms in shallow waters, frequently in brackish habitats. Feeds on fish and shrimps (Ref. 28587)
Threatened:	Not in IUCN Red List , (Ref. 36508)
Dangerous:	harmless

16. Lesser African threadfin

BONY FISH	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Polynemidae	Galeoides decadactylus	Bloch, 1795	Lesser African Threadfins	Chekem/Siket Mbao

Family:	Polynemidae (Threadfins)
Order:	Perciformes (perch-likes)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
Max. size:	50.0 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 5377)
Environment:	demersal ; depth range 10 - 70 m
Climate:	subtropical; 38°N - 16°S
Global Importance:	fisheries: commercial
Resilience:	Medium, minimum population doubling time 1.4 - 4.4 years (K=0.14-0.4)
Distribution:	Eastern Atlantic: Morocco to Angola, including the Canary Islands (Ref. 7386). Sporadically known from Algeria and Namibia (Ref. 57343). Record from Mauritius is likely to be erroneous.
Diagnosis:	Dorsal spines (total): 1-8
Biology:	Occurs over sandy (Ref. 2683) and muddy bottoms in shallow waters, frequently in brackish habitats (Ref. 4340). Feeds on benthic invertebrates (Ref. 5377). Sold fresh, dried salted or smoked (Ref. 36127)
Threatened:	Not in IUCN Red List , (Ref. 36508)
Dangerous:	harmless

17. Giant African threadfin

BONY FISH	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Polynemidae	Polydactylus quadrifilis	Curier, 1829	Giant African threadfins	Kujeli

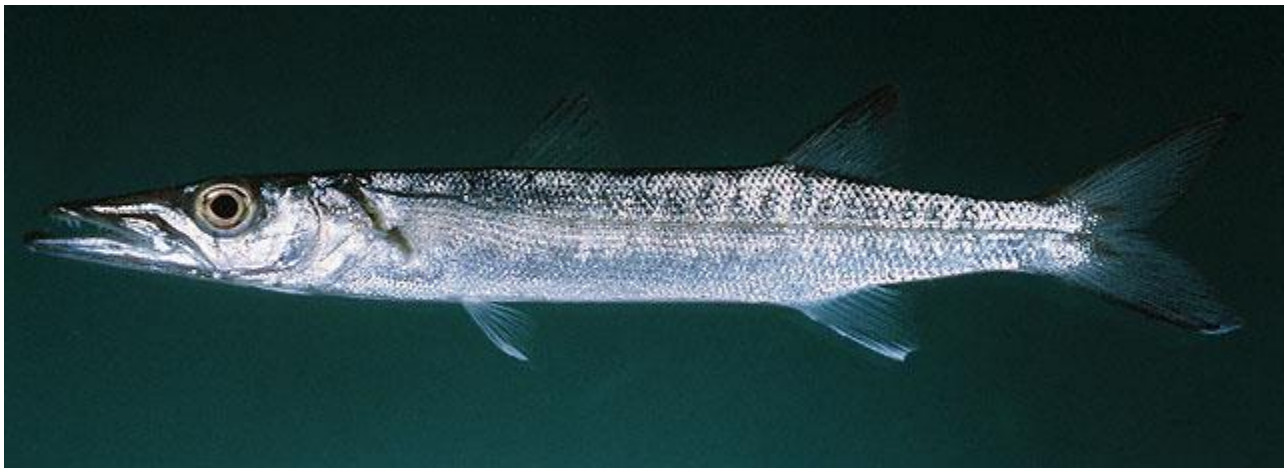
Family:	Polynemidae (Threadfins)
Order:	Perciformes (perch-likes)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
Max. size:	200 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 7386); max. published weight: 75.0 kg (Ref. 7386)
Environment:	demersal ; depth range 15 - 55 m
Climate:	tropical; 45°n - 8°s
Global Importance:	fisheries: commercial
Distribution:	Eastern Atlantic: Senegal to Congo. Reported from Mauritania (Ref. 55783).
Biology:	Occurs in shallow waters, over sandy and muddy bottoms, sometimes in brackish habitats (Ref. 57343). Feeds on crustaceans and fishes (Ref. 10799)
Threatened:	Not in IUCN Red List , (Ref. 36508)
Dangerous:	harmless

18. Guinean barracuda

BONY FISH	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Sphyraenidae	Sphyraena afra	Peters, 1844	Guinean Barracuda	Sedda

Family:	Sphyraenidae (Barracudas)
Order:	Perciformes (perch-likes)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
FishBase name:	Guinean barracuda
Max. size:	205 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 7383); max. published weight: 50.0 kg (Ref. 3692)
Environment:	pelagic ; depth range 0 - 75 m
Climate:	tropical; 15°N - 22°S
Global Importance:	fisheries: commercial
Resilience:	Very low, minimum population doubling time more than 14 years (Preliminary K or Fecundity.)
Distribution:	Eastern Atlantic: Mauritania (Ref. 5377) to Namibia.
Diagnosis:	Dorsal spines (total): 6-6; Dorsal soft rays (total): 9-9; Anal spines: 2-2; Anal soft rays: 9-9. Body with dark chevrons angled forward which become less distinct in large specimens (Ref. 5491).
Biology:	Commonly enters lagoons and estuaries (Ref. 4339). Found on the continental shelf (Ref. 36731). Feeds on fish and shrimps (Ref. 28587). Never reported to be ciguatoxic. Good food and recreational value
Threatened:	Not in IUCN Red List , (Ref. 36508)
Dangerous:	traumatogenic

19. Great barracuda



BONY FISH	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Sphyraenidae	Sphyraena barracuda	Walbaum, 1792	Great Barracuda	Sedda

Family:	Sphyraenidae (Barracudas)
Order:	Perciformes (perch-likes)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
Max. size:	200 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 7251); max. published weight: 50.0 kg (Ref. 6949)
Environment:	reef-associated; brackish; marine; depth range 1 – 100 m
Climate:	subtropical; 45°N - 35°S, 180°w - 180°e
Importance:	fisheries: minor commercial; gamefish: yes; aquarium: public aquariums
Distribution:	Indo-Pacific: Red Sea and east coast of Africa to Hawaii and the Marquesan and Tuamoto islands.
Gazetteer	Western Atlantic: Massachusetts (USA), Bermuda, and throughout the Caribbean Sea to Brazil (Ref. 9626). Eastern Atlantic: Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Nigeria, Senegal (Ref. 6949), Mauritania (Ref. 5377), St. Paul's Rocks (Ref. 13121), and São Tomé Island (Ref. 34088).
Morphology:	Dorsal spines (total): 6 - 6; Dorsal soft rays (total): 9 - 9; Anal spines: 1; Anal soft rays: 10. Distinguished by the double emarginate tail fin with pale tips on each lobe, and (usually) the presence of a few scattered black blotches on the lower sides (Ref. 1602). Top of head between eyes flat or concave; mouth large (Ref. 26938).
Biology:	Found predominantly at or near the surface (Ref. 6949, 48637). Juveniles occur among mangroves, estuaries and shallow sheltered inner reef areas; adults occur in a wide range of habitats from murky inner harbors to open seas. Diurnal and solitary, but can also be found in small aggregations. Feeds on fishes, cephalopods and sometimes on shrimps (Ref. 9626, 48637). Sold fresh. Utilized also dried or salted (Ref. 9987). Although this species is ciguatoxic elsewhere throughout its range, it has not been reported to be poisonous in the eastern Atlantic (Ref. 6949, 48637). Rarely attacks humans, usually with one quick, fierce strike, which, although serious, is rarely fatal. The world's record on hook and line is a 5.5-ft. fish taken in the Bahamas that weighed 103 lbs. (Ref. 13442).
Red List Status:	Not in IUCN Red List (Ref. 53964)

20. Guachanche barracuda

BONY FISH	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Sphyraenidae	Sphyreana guachancho	Cuvier, 1829	Guachanche Barracuda	Sedda, Khede

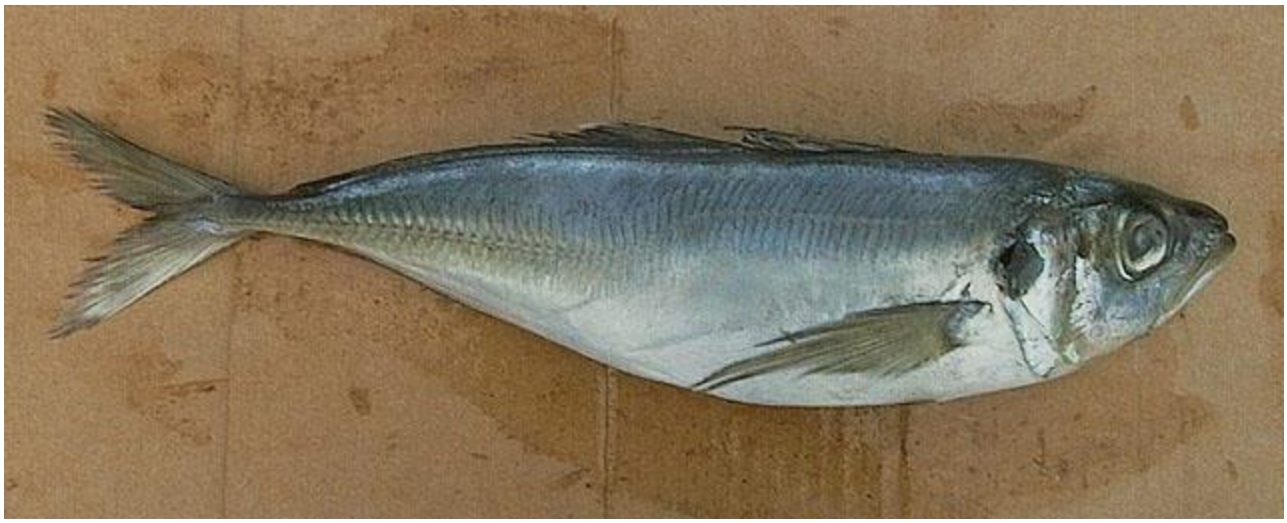
Family:	Sphyraenidae (Barracudas)
Order:	Perciformes (perch-likes)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
Max. size:	200 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 27000); max. published weight: 1,750 g (Ref. 4339)
Environment:	pelagic; brackish; marine; depth range 0 – 100 m
Climate:	subtropical
Importance:	fisheries: commercial
Resilience:	Very low, minimum population doubling time more than 14 years (Preliminary K or Fecundity.)
Distribution: **Gazetteer**	Western Atlantic: Massachusetts (USA), northern Gulf of Mexico, and throughout the Caribbean Sea to Brazil. Eastern Atlantic: Senegal to Angola, including the Canary Islands and Cape Verde.
Morphology:	Dorsal spines (total): 6 - 6; Dorsal soft rays (total): 9 - 9; Anal spines: 2; Anal soft rays: 8
Biology:	Occurs in shallow and generally turbid coastal water over muddy bottoms, often around river estuaries. Schooling species (Ref. 6949). Feeds on mainly on fishes belonging to the Engraulidae, Clupeidae, Lutjanidae and Synodidae families and also on shrimps from the Lolijinidae family (Ref. 9626). Marketed fresh and salted.
Red List Status:	Not in IUCN Red List (Ref. 53964)
Dangerous:	harmless

21. Rough-head sea catfish

BONY FISH	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Ariidae	Arius latiscutatus	Grunther, 1864	Rough head sea catfish	Kong

Family:	Ariidae (Sea catfishes)
Order:	Siluriformes (catfish)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
Max. size:	70.0 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 3876)
Environment:	demersal ; depth range - 70 m
Climate:	tropical
Global Importance:	fisheries: commercial
Resilience:	Low, minimum population doubling time 4.5 - 14 years (K=0.15)
Distribution:	Eastern Atlantic: Dakar, Senegal to Angola; one record from Fernando Poo. Reported from Gambia and the lower Niger basin (Ref. 13331).
Biology:	Mainly marine but frequently found in brackish estuaries, sometimes enters freshwater (Ref. 3876). Common during winter (Ref. 2683). Feeds on fish, benthic invertebrates, zooplankton and detritus (Ref. 28587). Ornamental and sometimes considered aquaria fish (Ref. 27121), the fish is venomous and can be dangerous to humans (Ref. 12484)
Threatened:	Not in IUCN Red List , (Ref. 36508)
Dangerous:	venomous , van der Elst, R.. 1993

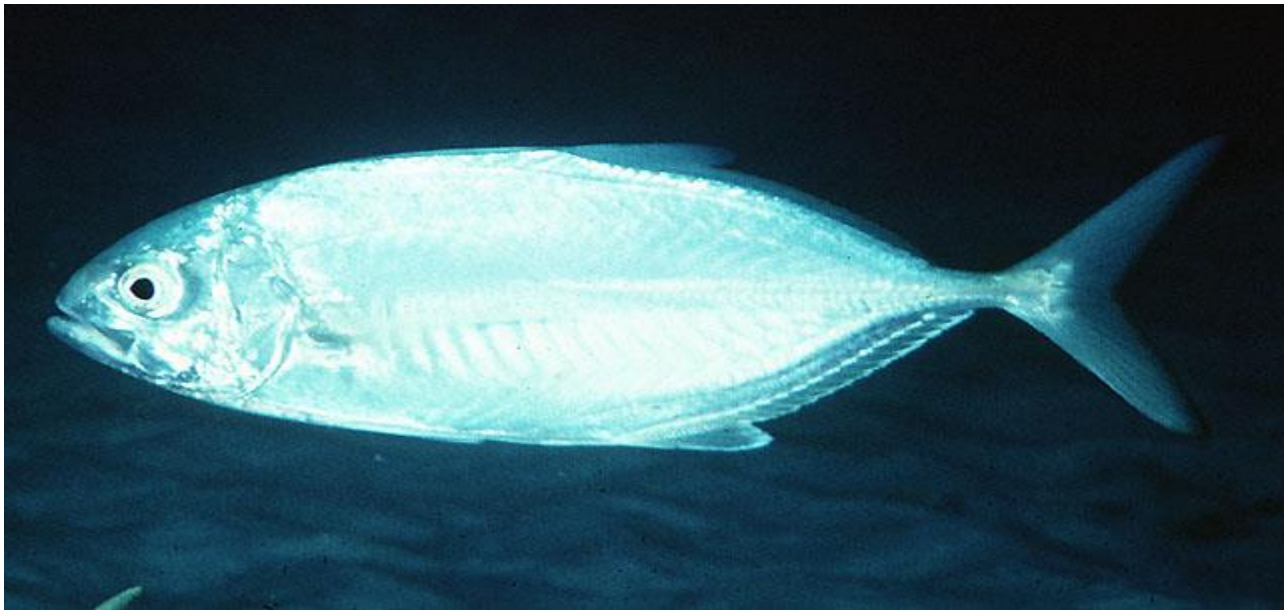
22. Atlantic horse mackerel



BONY FISH	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Carangidae	Trachurus trachurus	Linnaeus, 1758	Atlantic Horse Mackerel	Njuna (Jai bou gnoul)

Family:	Carangidae (Jacks and pompanos)
Order:	Perciformes (perch-likes)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
Max. size:	70.0 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 3197); max. published weight: 2,000 g
Environment:	pelagic; oceanodromous ; depth range 0 - 1050 m
Global Importance:	fisheries: highly commercial; bait: usually
Resilience:	Low, minimum population doubling time 4.5 - 14 years (K=0.12-0.16; tm=2-4; tmax=11)
Distribution:	Eastern Atlantic: Iceland (Ref. 4233) to Senegal, including the Mediterranean and Marmara seas (Ref. 4233), and the Black Sea. Also western Atlantic, Indian, and western Pacific (Ref. 27584).
Diagnosis:	Dorsal spines (total): 9-9; Dorsal soft rays (total): 30-36; Anal spines: 3-3; Anal soft rays: 24-32. Bluish green, grey or black above, silvery white below; opercle with black spot (Ref. 3197). Lateral scales tall and keeled. Gill cover with a distinct black spot. First dorsal fin tall (Ref. 35388).
Biology:	Forms large schools in coastal areas with sandy substrate. Feeds on fish, crustaceans, and cephalopods. Utilized fresh, smoked, canned and frozen; can be fried, broiled and baked (Ref. 9988). Divided into two stocks: West stock and North Sea stock. West stock spawns in a belt from the Biscay to Ireland in early spring, migrates north and eastwards to southern Norway and northern North Sea. North Sea stock spawns in the southern North Sea in summer, migrates to central North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat. Females lays 140,000 eggs, hatch into 5mm long larvae (Ref. 35388)
Threatened:	Not in IUCN Red List , (Ref. 36508)
Dangerous:	harmless

23. Blue runner



SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	LOCAL NAME
Caranx Crysos	Blue Runner	Fetta

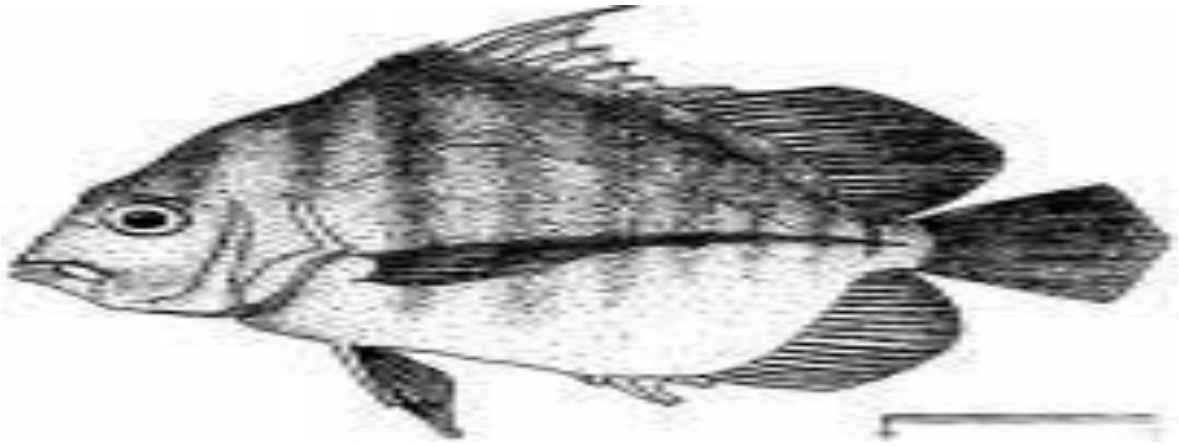
Family:	Carangidae (Jacks and pompanos)
Order:	Perciformes (perch-likes)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
FishBase name:	Blue runner
Max. size:	70.0 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 5217); max. published weight: 5,050 g (Ref. 40637); max. reported age: 11 years
Environment:	reef-associated ; depth range 0 - 100 m
Global Importance:	fisheries: minor commercial; aquarium: public aquariums
Resilience:	High, minimum population doubling time less than 15 months (K=0.32-0.38; tmax=11; Fec=41,000)
Distribution:	Eastern Atlantic: Senegal to Angola, including the western Mediterranean, St. Paul's Rocks (Ref. 13121), and Ascension Island. Reported from Mauritania (Ref. 55783). Western Atlantic: Nova Scotia, Canada to Brazil (Ref. 7251), including the Gulf of Mexico (Ref. 9626) and the Caribbean. In the tropical Eastern Pacific, it is replaced by Caranx caballus Günther 1869, which may be conspecific.
Diagnosis:	Dorsal spines (total): 9-9; Dorsal soft rays (total): 23-23; Anal spines: 3-3; Anal soft rays: 19-19. Maxilla ends below middle of eye. 45-46 scutes along straight part of lateral line (Ref. 26938).
Biology:	A schooling species generally not far from the coast (Ref. 5217). Juveniles often found in association with floating Sargassum (Ref. 5217). Feeds on fishes, shrimps, and other invertebrates. Spawns offshore from January through August (Ref. 26938). Excellent food fish (Ref. 9626); marketed fresh, frozen (Ref. 5521), and salted. Often used for bait (Ref. 26938)
Threatened:	Not in IUCN Red List , (Ref. 36508)
Dangerous:	reports of ciguatera poisoning

24. Crevalle jack

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	LOCAL NAME
Caranx hippos	**Grevalle jack**	**Saka**

Family:	Carangidae (Jacks and pompanos)
Order:	Perciformes (perch-likes)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
FishBase name:	Crevalle jack
Max. size:	124 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 5217); max. published weight: 32.0 kg (Ref. 27584)
Environment:	reef-associated; oceanodromous ; depth range 1 - 350 m
Climate:	subtropical; 45°N - 33°S
Global Importance:	fisheries: commercial; aquarium: public aquariums
Resilience:	Medium, minimum population doubling time 1.4 - 4.4 years (Assuming tm 3-4)
Distribution:	Eastern Atlantic: Portugal to Angola, including the western Mediterranean. Western Atlantic: Nova Scotia, Canada and northern Gulf of Mexico to Uruguay (Ref. 7251), including the Greater Antilles (Ref. 9626). Absent from eastern Lesser Antilles (Ref. 26938). Indian Ocean records are probably misidentifications of Caranx ignobilis. Reports from Pacific refer to Caranx caninus, which may be conspecific.
Diagnosis:	Dorsal spines (total): 9-9; Dorsal soft rays (total): 19-21; Anal spines: 3-3; Anal soft rays: 15-17. Scutes 25 to 42; no scales on chest, except a small mid-ventral patch in front of pelvic fins; upper profile of head steep; maxilla ending approximately below posterior edge of eye; front of soft dorsal and anal fins elevated; olivaceous to bluish green dorsally, silvery to brassy on the sides; prominent black spot posteriorly on gill cover at level of eye, another at upper axil of pectoral fins, and often a third on lower pectoral rays; caudal yellowish (Ref. 13442).
Biology:	Generally in neritic waters over the continental shelf (Ref. 5217). Ascends rivers (Ref. 26938). Juveniles abundant in brackish estuaries with muddy bottoms, near sandy beaches and on seagrass beds (Ref. 5217). Forms fast-moving schools, although larger fish may be solitary. Feeds on smaller fish, shrimp, and other invertebrates (Ref. 5521). Often grunts or croaks when caught
Dangerous:	reports of ciguatera poisoning

25. African sicklefish



SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	LOCAL NAME
Drepane africana	African Sickle fish	Tapandarr

Family:	Drepaneidae (Sicklefishes)
Order:	Perciformes (perch-likes)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
FishBase name:	African sicklefish
Max. size:	45.0 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 1380); max. published weight: 750 g (Ref. 4883)
Environment:	benthopelagic ; depth range 10 - 75 m
Climate:	tropical; 20°N - 2°S
Global Importance:	fisheries: minor commercial
Resilience:	Medium, minimum population doubling time 1.4 - 4.4 years (K=0.13-0.25)
Distribution:	Eastern Atlantic: Canary Islands and Mauritania to Angola, including Cape Verde.
Biology:	Neritic species (Ref. 7350). Inhabit sandy and muddy bottoms (Ref. 2683). Feeds of fish eggs, benthic invertebrates and detritus (Ref. 28587)
Threatened:	Not in IUCN Red List , (Ref. 36508)
Dangerous:	harmless

26. West African ladyfish

BONY FISH	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Elopidae	Elops lacerta	Valenciennes, 1846	West African ladyfish	Lak

Family:	Elopidae (Tenpounders)
Order:	Elopiformes (tarpons and tenpounders)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
FishBase name:	West African ladyfish
Max. size:	100.0 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 5377)
Environment:	pelagic ; depth range - 50 m
Climate:	tropical; 18°N - 23°S
Global Importance:	fisheries: commercial
Resilience:	Medium, minimum population doubling time 1.4 - 4.4 years (Assuming tm=2-3)
Distribution:	Eastern Atlantic: Senegal to Angola. Reported to occur to at least 23°S (Ref. 3968). Reported from Mauritania (Ref. 2844). Often confused with Elops senegalensis.
Diagnosis:	Dorsal spines (total): 0-0; Anal spines: 0-0. Lateral line scales ornamented with non-ramified small tubes. Gray back, silver glossy sides; fins tinted yellow.
Biology:	Live in shallow coastal waters with sandy-muddy substrates. Occasionally enters brackish waters and downstreams of rivers. Feed on fish and shrimps (Ref. 28587). Spawn at sea
Threatened:	Not in IUCN Red List , (Ref. 36508)
Dangerous:	harmless

27. Blue butterfish

BONY FISH	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Stromateidae	Stromateus fiatola	Linnaeus, 1758	Butterfish	Khassaw

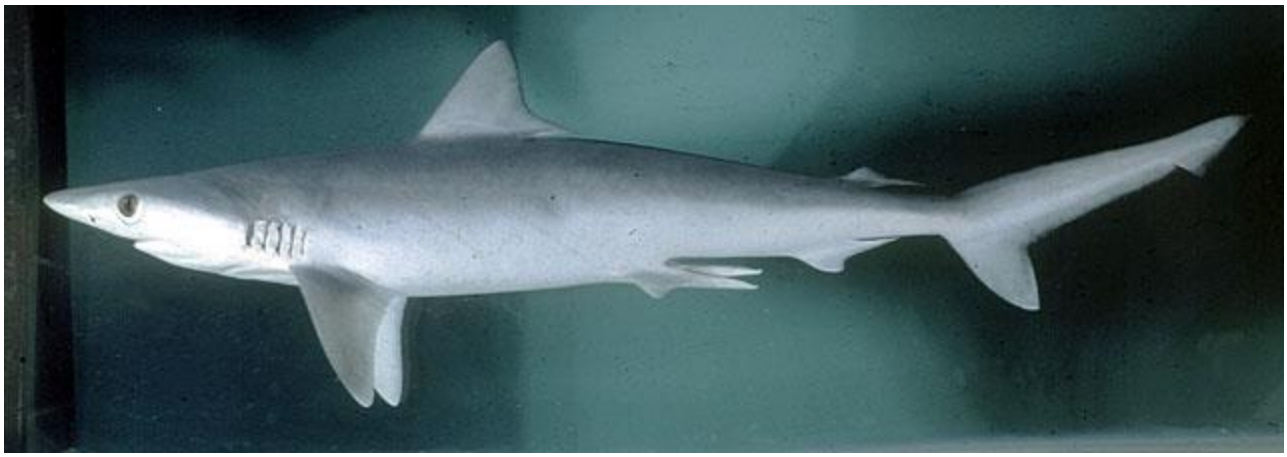
Family:	Stromateidae (Butterfishes)
Order:	Perciformes (perch-likes)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
Max. size:	50.0 cm SL (male/unsexed; Ref. 6561)
Environment:	benthopelagic; marine; depth range 10 – 70 m
Importance:	fisheries: minor commercial
Resilience:	Medium, minimum population doubling time 1.4 - 4.4 years (Assuming tm=2-3)
Distribution:	Eastern Atlantic: Bay of Biscay where rare (Ref. 6561) and the Mediterranean southward to the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa.
Gazetteer	
Morphology:	Dorsal soft rays (total): 42 - 50; Anal soft rays: 33 – 38. Blue to brownish in color and darker spots dorsally, silver to whitish ventrally; juveniles with vertical bars on body and small black pelvic fins
Biology:	Found over continental shelves (Ref. 6561). Young are often found associated with pelagic medusae (Ref. 6561). Form large shoals (Ref. 27121). Feeds on small fishes and zooplankton, also medusae (Ref. 6561).
Red List Status:	Not in IUCN Red List (Ref. 53964)
Dangerous:	harmless

28. Senegalese tonguesole

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	LOCAL NAME
Cynoglossus Senegalensis	Sole fish	Sol

Family:	Cynoglossidae (Tonguefishes) , subfamily: Cynoglossinae
Order:	Pleuronectiformes (flatfishes)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
FishBase name:	Senegalese tonguesole
Max. size:	66.0 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 6806)
Environment:	demersal ; depth range 10 - 110 m
Climate:	tropical; 45°n - 8°s
Global Importance:	fisheries: commercial
Resilience:	Low, minimum population doubling time 4.5 - 14 years (K=0.10)
Distribution:	Eastern Atlantic: Mauritania (Ref. 5377) to Angola.
Biology:	Found on sand and mud bottoms of coastal waters (Ref. 2683). Feeds on mollusks, shrimps, crabs and fish (Ref. 28587). Sold as frozen filet under the name 'filets de sole' (Ref. 5377)
Threatened:	Not in IUCN Red List , (Ref. 36508)
Dangerous:	harmless

29. Milk shark



	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Carcharhinidae	Rhizoprionodon acutus	Ruppell 1837	Milk shark	Thiour, Tiukh

Family:	Carcharhinidae (Requiem sharks)
Order:	Carcharhiniformes (ground sharks)
Class:	Elasmobranchii (sharks and rays)
FishBase name:	Milk shark
Max. size:	175 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 12693); 80.8 cm TL (female); max. published weight: 5,000 g (Ref. 40637); max. reported age: 8 years
Environment:	benthopelagic; amphidromous ; depth range 1 - 200 m
Climate:	tropical; 35°N - 30°S
Global Importance:	fisheries: commercial
Resilience:	Very low, minimum population doubling time more than 14 years (Fec=1)
Distribution:	Eastern Atlantic: Madeira and Mauritania to Angola; reported from the Gulf of Taranto (Ref. 231). Indo-West Pacific: Red Sea and East Africa to Indonesia, north to Japan, south to Australia.
Diagnosis:	Dorsal spines (total): 0-0; Anal spines: 0-0. A small shark with a long, narrow, snout, big eyes without notches, long labial furrows, and oblique-cusped teeth which may be smooth-edged or weakly serrated; 2nd dorsal fin small, low and behind larger anal fin; no interdorsal ridge (Ref. 5578). Grey or grey-brown above, white below (Ref. 5578). Dorsal and anal fins with dusky or blackish edges, fins slightly darker than back (Ref. 9997).
Biology:	Found on continental shelves, often on sandy beaches and rarely in estuaries (Ref. 244). Reported to enter freshwater and recorded several times from Cambodia as far upstream as the Great Lake (Ref. 12693). Occurs near the surface in shallow waters (Ref. 12693). Feeds mainly on small pelagic and benthic bony fishes, also cephalopods and other invertebrates (Ref. 244). Viviparous (Ref. 50449). Utilized fresh and possibly dried salted for human consumption and for fishmeal (Ref. 9997). The 178 cm specimen recorded off Africa is possibly based on some other species (Ref. 9997)
Threatened:	, (Ref. 36508)
Dangerous:	harmless , Compagno, L.J.V.. 1984

30. Blacktip shark

	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Carcharhinidae	Carchaarhinus	Valenciennes 1839	Blacktip shark	Gainde guetj

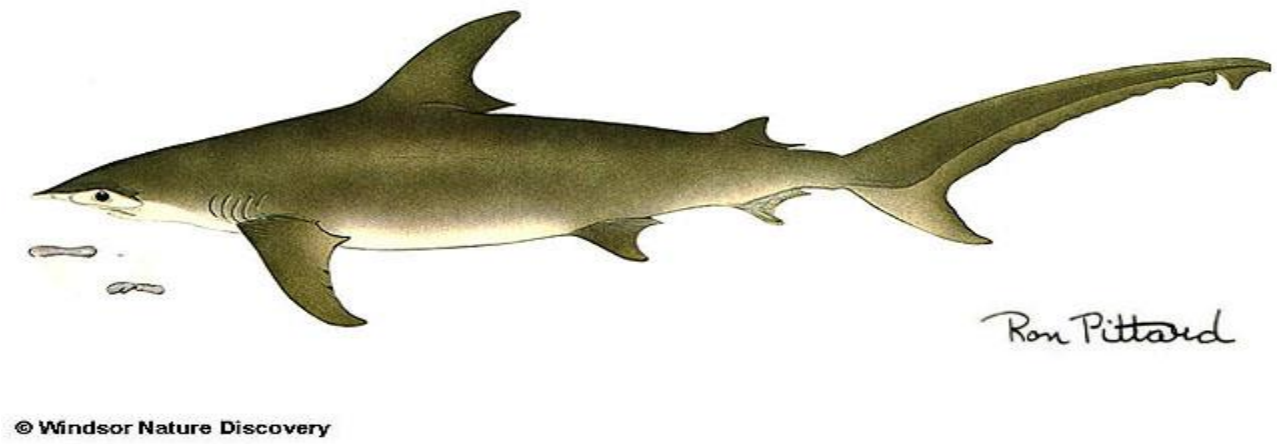
Family:	Carcharhinidae (Requiem sharks)
Class:	Elasmobranchii (sharks and rays)
Max. size:	275 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 27169); max. published weight: 122.8 kg (Ref. 4699); max. reported age: 12 years
Diagnosis:	Dorsal spines (total): 0-0; Anal spines: 0-0. A stout shark with a long, narrow, pointed snout, long gill slits and erect, narrow-cusped upper teeth; first dorsal fin high; no interdorsal ridge (Ref. 5578). Dark grey, ashy blue or dusky bronze on back, belly white or yellowish white; a dark band extending rearward along each side to about over origin of pelvic fin; tips of pelvic fins with a persistent black spot; tips of dorsal fins, pectoral fins, anal, and lower lobe of caudal fin usually black or dusky in young individuals, fading with growth (Ref. 9997).
Biology:	An inshore and offshore shark found on or adjacent to continental and insular shelves (Ref. 244). Often off river mouths and estuaries, muddy bays, mangrove swamps, lagoons, and coral reef drop-offs (Ref. 244). Young common along beaches (Ref. 9710). Active hunter in midwater (Ref. 5485). Feeds mainly on pelagic and benthic fishes, also small sharks and rays, cephalopods and crustaceans (Ref. 5578; 37816). Viviparous (Ref. 50449). Produces litters of one to 10 young (Ref. 26938, 1602). Incriminated in very few attacks but dangerous when provoked (Ref. 244). Often taken by shore anglers (Ref. 5485). Used fresh for human consumption, hides for leather, liver for oil (Ref. 244)

31. Nurse shark

	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Giglymostomatidae	Ginglymostoma cirratum	Bonnaterre, 1788	Nurse shark	Nelewan

Family:	Ginglymostomatidae (Nurse sharks)
Order:	Orectolobiformes (carpet sharks)
Class:	Elasmobranchii (sharks and rays)
Max. size:	430 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 247); max. published weight: 109.6 kg (Ref. 40637)
Environment:	reef-associated ; depth range 0 - 130 m
Resilience:	Low, minimum population doubling time 4.5 - 14 years (K=0.14; tmax=25; Fec=21-28)
Distribution:	Western Atlantic: Rhode Island, USA to southern Brazil, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean, Antilles. Eastern Atlantic: Cape Verde to Gabon; accidental to France. Eastern Pacific: Gulf of California and southern Baja California, Mexico to Peru. Closely related species are found in the Indian Ocean.
Diagnosis:	Dorsal spines (total): 0-0. Moderately long barbels, nasoral grooves present but no perinasal grooves, mouth well in front of eyes, spiracles minute, precaudal tail shorter than head and body, dorsal fins broadly rounded (the first much larger than the second and anal fins), caudal fin moderately long, over 1/4 of total length, yellow-brown to grey-brown in color, with or without small dark spots and obscure dorsal saddle markings (Ref. 247). Head blunt, mouth inferior, pair of conspicuous barbels between nostrils (Ref. 26938).
Biology:	Found on continental and insular shelves. A solitary (Ref. 26340) and sluggish fish, often encountered lying on the bottom (Ref. 9987). Nocturnal, feeding on bottom invertebrates such as spiny lobsters, shrimps, crabs, sea urchins, squids, octopi, snails and bivalves, and fishes like catfishes, mullets, puffers and stingrays. Ovoviviparous with 21 to 28 young in a litter. Kept in captivity for researches. May attack humans if they are molested or stepped upon accidentally. Edible, but mainly valued for its hide, which makes extremely tough and durable leather (Ref. 9987). Common over shallow sand flats, in channels, and around coral reefs; Young may be found among prop roots of red mangroves (Ref. 26938)
Threatened:	Data deficient, see IUCN Red List , (Ref. 36508)
Dangerous:	traumatogenic , Halstead, B.W., P.S. Auerbach and D.R. Campbell. 1990

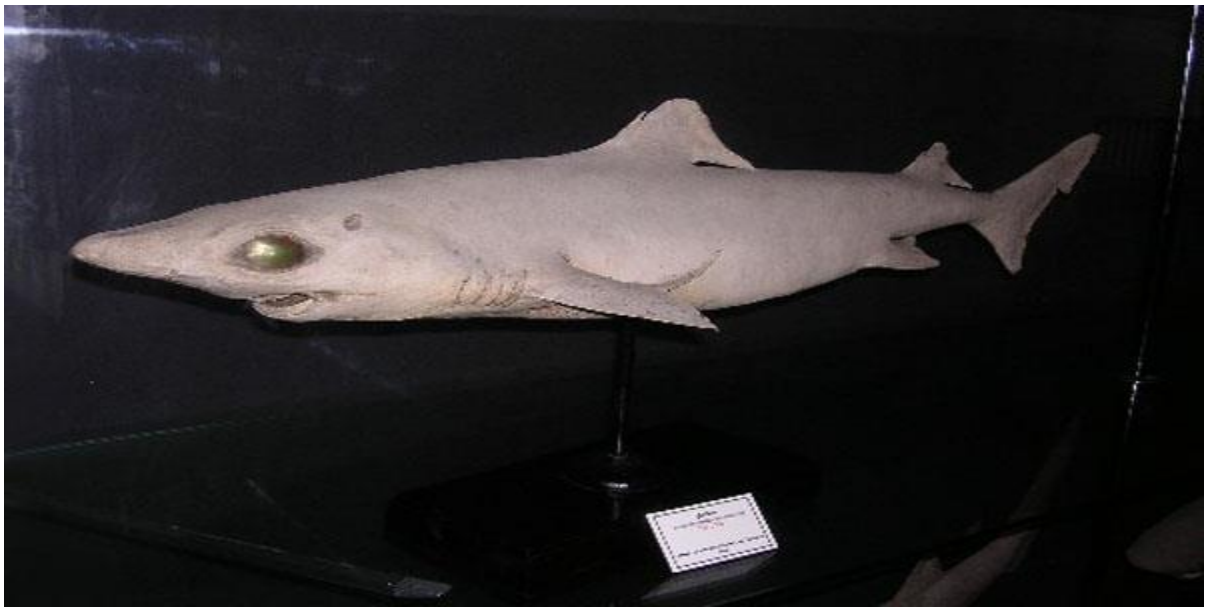
32. Great hammerhead



	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Sphyrnidae	Sphyrna mokarran	Ruppell, 1837	Great hammerhead	Diange

Family:	Sphyrnidae (Hammerhead, bonnethead, or scoophead sharks)
Order:	Carcharhiniformes (ground sharks)
Class:	Elasmobranchii (sharks and rays)
FishBase name:	Great hammerhead
Max. size:	610 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 244); max. published weight: 449.5 kg (Ref. 40637)
Climate:	subtropical; 45°N - 37°S
Global Importance:	fisheries: commercial
Resilience:	Low, minimum population doubling time 4.5 - 14 years (Fec=13)
Distribution:	Circumglobal in coastal warm temperate and tropical seas (Ref. 13562). Western Atlantic: North Carolina, USA to Uruguay, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean. Eastern Atlantic: Mediterranean and Morocco to Senegal. Indo-Pacific: throughout the Indian Ocean; Ryukyu Islands to New Caledonia and French Polynesia. Eastern Pacific: southern Baja California, Mexico to Peru. Highly migratory species, Annex I of the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea (Ref. 26139).
Diagnosis:	Dorsal spines (total): 0-0; Anal spines: 0-0. A very large hammerhead also with a notch at the center of the head (Ref. 5578). Front margin of head gently curved in juveniles, becoming nearly straight in adults, with slight median notch (Ref. 26938). 1st dorsal fin very high and curved; 2nd dorsal and pelvic fins high and with deeply concave rear margins. Light grey or grey-brown above, white below; fins without conspicuous markings (Ref. 5578).
Biology:	A coastal-pelagic, semi-oceanic shark, found close inshore and well offshore, over the continental shelves, island terraces, and in passes and lagoons (Ref. 244). Prefers to feed on stingrays and other batoids, groupers and sea catfishes, but also preys on other small bony fishes, crabs, squid, other sharks, rays, and lobsters (Ref. 244, 13562, 1602). A viviparous species, with 13-42 of about 56 to 70 cm young in a litter (Ref. 26938, 1602). Potentially dangerous to people (Ref. 13562) but only few, if any, of the attacks on people can be definitely attributed to it because of the apparent difficulty of distinguishing large hammerhead species involved in attacks (Ref. 244). Meat utilized for human consumption (fresh, fresh-frozen, dried-salted, and smoked), liver oil for vitamins, fins for soup, hides for leather, and carcasses for fishmeal (Ref. 244)
Threatened:	Data deficient, see IUCN Red List , (Ref. 36508)
Dangerous:	other , Compagno, L.J.V.. 1984

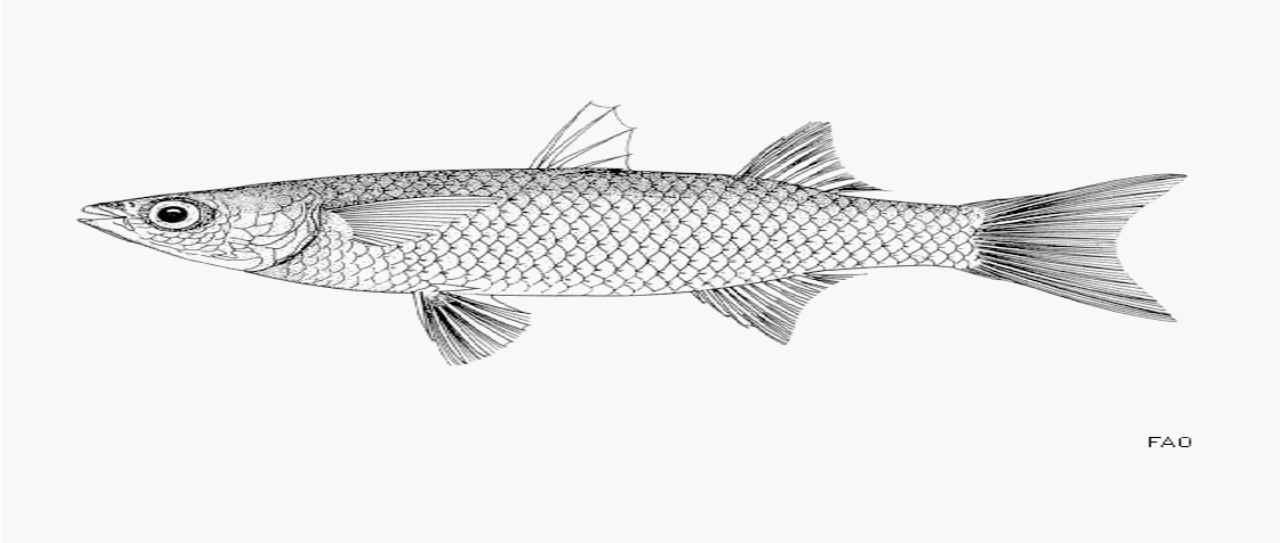
33. Gulper shark



	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Squalidae	Centrophorus granulosus	Schneider, 1801	Gulper shark	Mbiram laye

Family:	Centrophoridae ()
Order:	Squaliformes (bramble, sleeper and dogfish sharks)
Class:	Elasmobranchii (sharks and rays)
FishBase name:	Gulper shark
Max. size:	160 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 6871)
Environment:	bathydemersal ; depth range 100 - 1200 m
Climate:	deep-water; 51°N - 36°S
Global Importance:	fisheries: minor commercial
Resilience:	Low, minimum population doubling time 4.5 - 14 years (Fec assumed to be <100)
Distribution:	Eastern Atlantic: France to South Africa, including the Mediterranean (Ref. 31367). Western Central Atlantic: northern Gulf of Mexico (Ref. 247, 6871). Indian Ocean: Mozambique, South Africa and the Aldabra Islands (Ref. 31367); Western Australia (Ref. 6871). Western Pacific: Japan, Papua New Guinea, and Australia (Ref. 31367).
Diagnosis:	Dorsal spines (total): 2-2; Anal spines: 0-0. Light grayish brown dorsally, paler ventrally; eyes greenish (Ref. 6871). Adults with tips of dorsal fins dusky, not prominently marked (Ref. 31367).
Biology:	A common deepwater dogfish of the outer continental shelves and upper slopes, commonest below 200 m (Ref. 247). Solitary (Ref. 26340). Also mesopelagic (Ref. 27000). Feeds mainly on bony fishes such as hake, epigonids and lanternfish (Ref. 247). Ovoviviparous (Ref. 50449). Smoked and dried salted for human consumption; also processed into fishmeal and a source of liver oil (Ref. 247)
Threatened:	Vulnerable, see IUCN Red List (A2abd+3d+4d) , (Ref. 36508)
Dangerous:	harmless

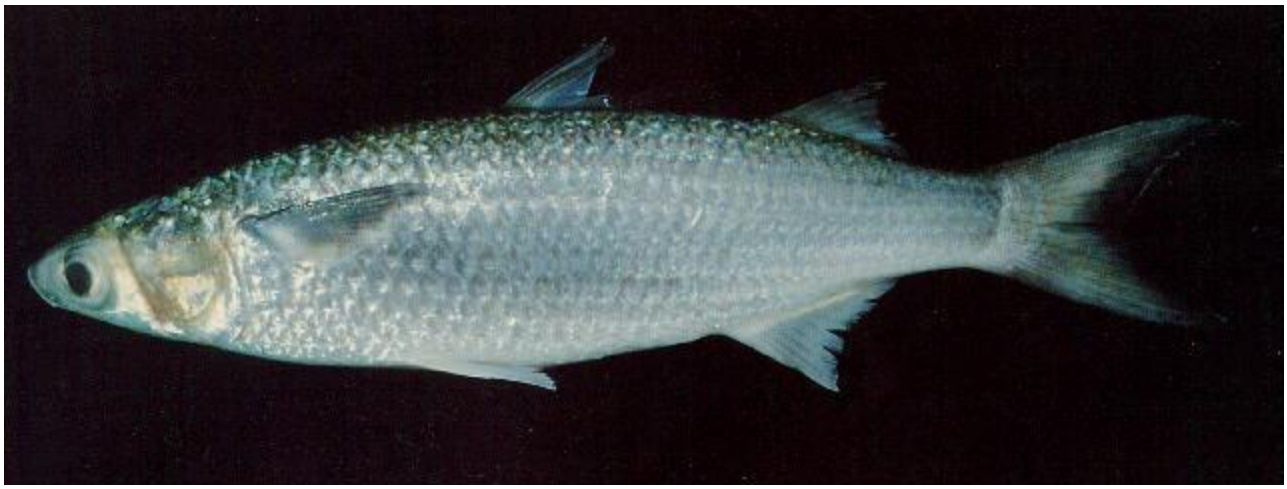
34. Liza dumerili (*Grooved mullet*)



BONY FISH	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Mugilidae	Liza dumerili	Steindachner, 1870	Grooved mullet	Thiap

Family:	Mugilidae (Mullets)
Order:	Perciformes (perch-likes)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
FishBase name:	Grooved mullet
Max. size:	40.0 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 4393)
Environment:	demersal; catadromous (Ref. 51243); freshwater; brackish; marine
Climate:	tropical; 20 – 25°C; 15°N - 32°S
Importance:	fisheries: commercial
Resilience:	Medium, minimum population doubling time 1.4 - 4.4 years (Preliminary K or Fecundity.)
Distribution:	Eastern Atlantic: Mauritania to South Africa. Western Indian Ocean: Delagoa Bay, Mozambique to Mossel Bay, South Africa.
Gazetteer	
Morphology:	Dorsal spines (total): 5 - 5; Dorsal soft rays (total): 8 - 8; Anal spines: 3; Anal soft rays: 9
Biology:	Inhabits shallow coastal waters (Ref. 27121), including estuaries (Ref. 2683) and tidal rivers (Ref. 3573). Feeds on plankton and detritus (Ref. 28587).
Red List Status:	Not in IUCN Red List (Ref. 53964)
Dangerous:	harmless

35. Mugil curema (*White mullet*)



BONY FISH	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Mugilidae	Mugil curema	Valenciennes, 1836	Curema mullet	Guiss/Khir

Family:	Mugilidae (Mullets)
Order:	Perciformes (perch-likes)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
FishBase name:	White mullet
Max. size:	90.0 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 9321); max. published weight: 680 g (Ref. 40637)
Environment:	reef-associated; catadromous (Ref. 51243); freshwater; brackish; marine; depth range 15 – ? m
Climate:	subtropical; 45°N - 5°N
Importance:	fisheries: commercial; aquaculture: commercial; bait: occasionally
Resilience:	Medium, minimum population doubling time 1.4 - 4.4 years (tm=2-3)
Distribution:	Western Atlantic: Nova Scotia, but uncommon north of Cape Cod (Harrison, pers. comm.), Bermuda, and northern Gulf of Mexico to southern Brazil (Ref. 7251). Eastern Atlantic: Senegal to Namibia (Harrison, pers. comm.). Eastern Pacific: Gulf of California to Chile (Ref. 9321); recorded from San Diego, California, USA (Ref. 3814).
Gazetteer	
Morphology:	Dorsal spines (total): 4 - 5; Dorsal soft rays (total): 8 - 9; Anal spines: 3; Anal soft rays: 9 – 10. Usually 38 or 39 scales in lateral series. Scales on side covered with smaller secondary scales (Ref. 26938).
Biology:	Inhabits sandy coasts and littoral pools but also occurs in muddy bottoms of brackish lagoons and estuaries. Sometimes penetrates rivers. May also be found on coral reefs (Ref. 9710). Juveniles are common in coastal waters and are known to find their way to estuaries and coastal lagoons. Growth in juveniles is moderate (30-40 cm in 4 years). Adults form schools (Ref. 9321). Feeds on microscopic or filamentous algae and small juveniles of planktonic organisms (Ref. 9626). Reproduction occurs between March and August. Spawns several million eggs provided with a notable yolk (Ref. 35237). An important foodfish, it is marketed fresh and salted (Ref. 9321).
Red List Status:	Not in IUCN Red List (Ref. 53964)
Dangerous:	harmless

36. Lagocephalus laevigatus (*Smooth puffer*)

BONY FISH	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Tetraodontidae	Ephippion guttifer	Bennett, 1831	Smooth puffer	Boun foki/konkareh

Family:	Tetraodontidae (Puffers)
Order:	Tetraodontiformes (puffers and filefishes)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
FishBase name:	Smooth puffer
Max. size:	100.0 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 3694); max. published weight: 4,870 g (Ref. 40637)
Environment:	pelagic; brackish; marine; depth range 10 – 180 m
Climate:	Subtropical
Importance:	fisheries: minor commercial
Resilience:	Low, minimum population doubling time 4.5 - 14 years (Preliminary K or Fecundity.)
Distribution:	Western Atlantic: New England, USA and Bermuda to Argentina (Ref. 47377). Eastern Atlantic: Mauritania to Namibia (Ref. 27121).
Gazetteer	
Morphology:	Dorsal spines (total): 0 - 0; Dorsal soft rays (total): 13 - 15; Anal spines: 0; Anal soft rays: 12 – 13
Biology:	Inhabits inshore and near-shore areas, over sand or mud bottoms. Usually found alone or in small, loose aggregates. Adults are pelagic, but near continental margins; young are commonly found on coastal and offshore banks (Ref. 7251). Feeds on fish and shrimps (Ref. 28587). Minimum depth from Ref. 26912. Its flesh is very delicate; nevertheless, in certain region like the Pacific and the Indian Ocean, it is toxic (particularly the skin and the viscera) (Ref. 5377). Poisonous, should not be eaten (Ref. 36731).
Red List Status:	Not in IUCN Red List (Ref. 53964)
Dangerous:	other , Maigret, J. and B. Ly. 1986

37. CuttleFish

	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Sepiidae	Sepia officinalis officinalis 2 sub. Spp.	Linnaeus, 1758	Common cuttlefish	Sepiidae

Cuttlefish are marine animals of the order Sepiida belonging to the Cephalopoda class (which also includes squid, octopuses, and nautiluses). Despite their common name, cuttlefish are not fish but molluscs. Recent studies indicate that cuttlefish may be the most intelligent invertebrate species. [1]

Cuttlefish have an internal shell (cuttlebone), large W shaped eyes, and eight arms and two tentacles furnished with denticulated suckers, with which they secure their prey.

Cuttlefish eat small molluscs, crabs, shrimp, fish and other cuttlefish. Their predators include dolphins, sharks, fish, seals and other cuttlefish. They live about 1 to 2 years.

38. Octopus vulgares

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	LOCAL NAME
Octopus vulgares	Octopus	Octupus

FAO Names

En - Common octopus, Fr - Pieuvre, Sp - Pulpo común.
3Alpha Code: OCC Taxonomic Code: 3210900507

Scientific Name with Original Description

Octopus vulgaris Cuvier, 1797, Tabl.élém.hist.nat. 380.

Diagnostic Features
Habitat and Biology

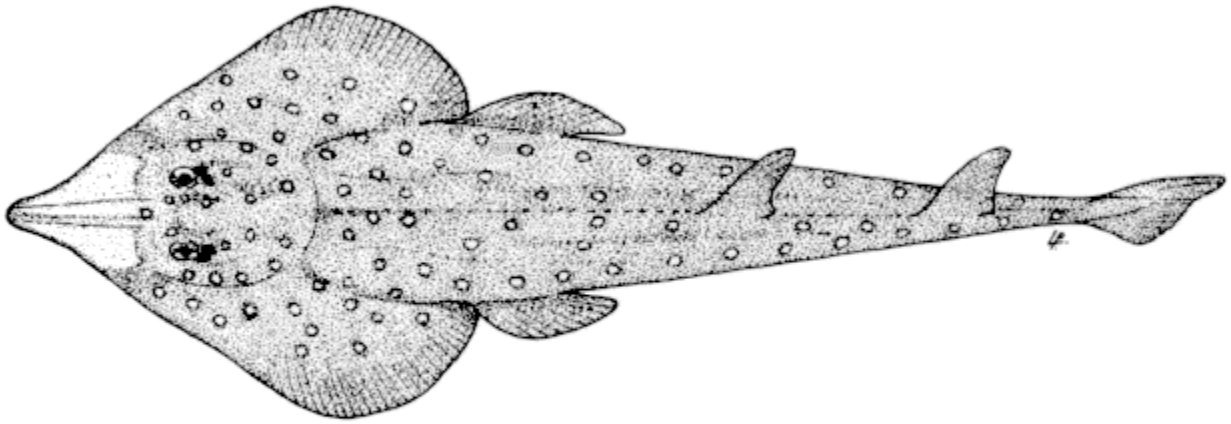
A benthic, neritic species occurring from the coastline to the outer edge of the continental shelf(in depths from 0 to 200 m), where it is found in a variety of habitats, such as rocks, coral reefs, and grass beds.It is inactive in waters of 7°C and colder.
Throughout its distribution range, this species is known to undertake limited seasonal migrations, usually overwintering in deeper waters and occurring in shallower waters during summer. In the western Mediterranean, large mature or maturing individuals migrate inshore in early spring, followed later on by smaller, immature individuals. These two groups begin their retreat into deeper waters by August/September and November/ December respectively. Similar migration patterns are found in other sea areas.

Mediterranean and eastern Atlantic populations by Guerra (1979).
Food consists of bivalves and crustaceans.Larvae and juveniles are preyed upon by albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) etc., and adults by benthic finfishes.

Size

Maximum total length 1.2 m in females and to 1.3 m in males; maximum weight 10 kg; common to 3 kg. In the western Mediterranean, mantle length at first maturity is about 9.5 cm in males, 13.5 cm in females.

39. White-spotted guitarfish



FAO

	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Rhinobatidae	Rhinobatos albomaculatus	Norman, 1930	Whitespotted guiterfish	Thiaukher

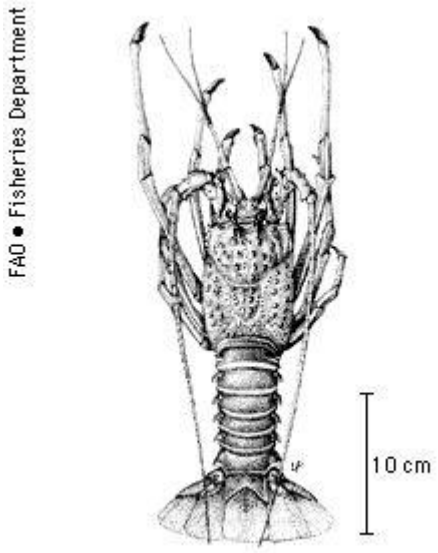
Family:	Rhinobatidae (Guitarfishes), subfamily: Rhinobatinae
Order:	Rajiformes (skates and rays)
Class:	Elasmobranchii (sharks and rays)
FishBase name:	White-spotted guitarfish
Max. size:	75.0 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 6497)
Environment:	demersal; brackish; marine; depth range ? – 35 m
Climate:	tropical; 5°N - 17°S
Importance:	fisheries: minor commercial
Resilience:	Low, minimum population doubling time 4.5 - 14 years (Fec assumed to be <100)
Distribution:	Eastern Atlantic: Gulf of Guinea to Angola.
Gazetteer	
Biology:	Benthic and more or less stationary in inshore coastal waters. Feeds on fish and shrimps (Ref. 28587). Ovoviviparous.
Red List Status:	Not in IUCN Red List (Ref. 53964)
Dangerous:	harmless

40. Rhinoptera marginata (*Lusitanian cownose ray*)

	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Rhinobatidae	Rhinoptera marginata	Hilaire, 1817	Lsuitanian cownose ray	Toumboulan/Ndiaoratt

Family:	Myliobatidae (Eagle and manta rays), subfamily: Rhinopterinae
Order:	Rajiformes (skates and rays)
Class:	Elasmobranchii (sharks and rays)
FishBase name:	Lusitanian cownose ray
Max. size:	200 cm WD (male/unsexed; Ref. 6678)
Environment:	benthopelagic; marine
Climate:	subtropical; 38°N - 15°N, 18°W - 36°E
Importance:	fisheries: commercial
Resilience:	Very low, minimum population doubling time more than 14 years (Fec=2)
Distribution:	Eastern Atlantic: southern Spain to Senegal, including the Mediterranean.
Gazetteer	
Biology:	Found in tropical to warm temperate coastal waters, but absent from islands of western Pacific. Often forming large groups swimming near the surface and quite destructive of commercial oyster and clam beds. Feeds on bottom-living mollusks, crustaceans and fishes. Seldom marketed. Ovoviviparous, gestation period up to one year with 2-6 embryos produced.
Red List Status:	Not in IUCN Red List (Ref. 53964)
Dangerous:	Harmless

41. Palinurus regius (Royal Spiny Lobster)

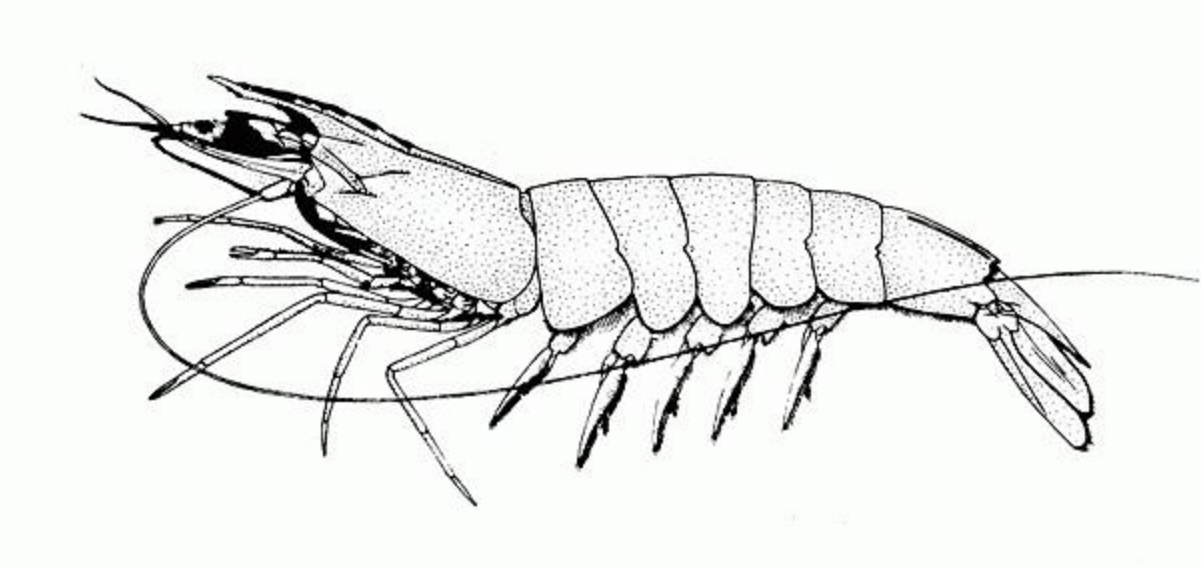


	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Palinuridae	Palinurus regius	De Brito Capello, 1864	Royal spiny lobster	soum

Diagnosis: Antennular plate with four large spines arranged in a square, withoutscatteredsmall spinules. Third maxilliped without exopod. Transverse groove of bdominal somites with straight margins, not crenulated, where interrupted, gradually narrowing towards middle of body, not ending abruptly.
Colour: abdominal somites greenish with a very distinct white transverse band along posterior margin and separated from that margin by a dark band. A distinct eyespot (white or yellowish surrounded by open dark ring) above bases pleura somites 1 to 6; those of the posterior pleura smaller and more elongate than those of the anterior. Tail fan rather uniformly greenish or brownish.

Type:
Type locality of *P. regius:* "Habita os mares das ilhas de Cabo-verde. Na ilha de S. Vicente d'este

42. Penaeus notialis (Pink Shrimp)



	Scientific Name	Authority	Common Name	Local Name
Penaeidae	Penaeus notialis	Perez-Farfente, 1967	Pink shrimp (Southern)	Sipah

Geographical Distribution

Eastern Atlantic: West African coast from Mauritania to Angola. Western Atlantic: Greater Antilles from Cuba to the Virgin Islands; Atlantic coast of Middle and South America from S. Mexico (Quintana Roo) to Brazil (S. to Rio de Janeiro).

Habitat and Biology

Depth 3 to 100 m, rarely as deep as 700 m, usually between 3 and 50 m.Bottom mud or sandy mud, and sandy patches among rocks. Marine; juveniles estuarine.

Size

Maximum total length 175 mm (male), 192 mm (female); maximum carapace length 41 mm (male), 48 mm (female).

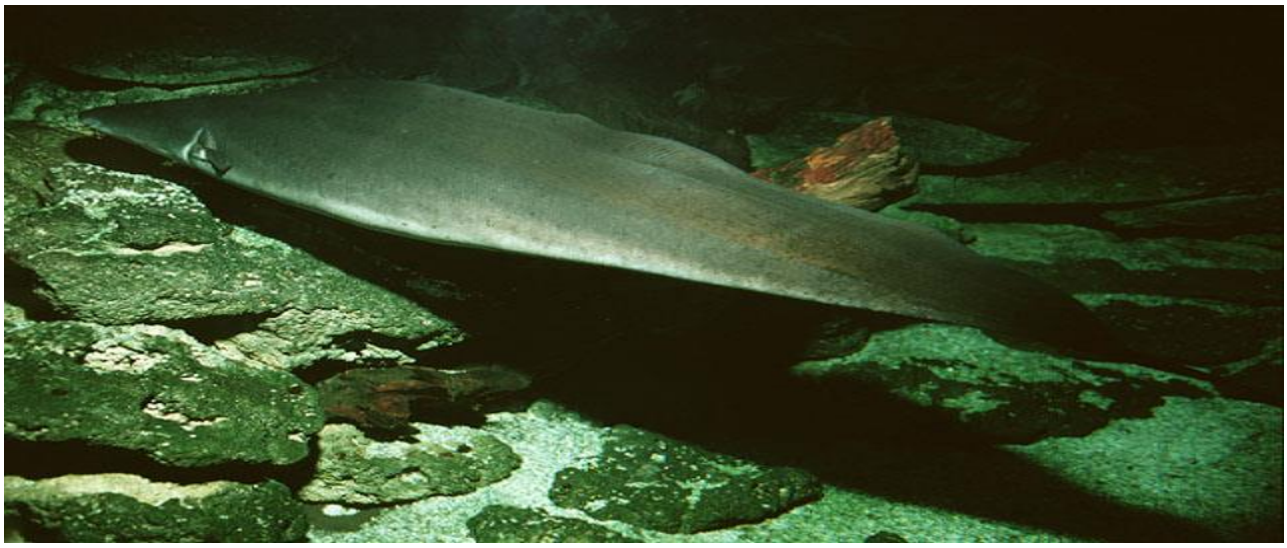
INLAND FISH SPECIES

1. Heterotis Niloticus

SCIENTIFIC NAMES	ENGLISH NAMES	LOCAL NAMES
Heterotis niloticus	**Bony tongue**	**Fantango**

Family:	Arapaimidae (Bonytongues)
Order:	Osteoglossiformes (bony tongues)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
FishBase name:	Heterotis
Max. size:	100.0 cm SL (male/unsexed; Ref. 31256); max. published weight: 10.2 kg (Ref. 2920)
Environment:	pelagic ; depth range - 1 m
Diagnosis:	Dorsal spines (total): 0-0; Dorsal soft rays (total): 32-37; Anal spines: 0-0; Anal soft rays: 34-39; Vertebrae: 66-69. Elongated and robust body, its height 3.5 to 5 times in standard length (Ref. 2920). Relatively short head, its length 3.5 to 5 times in standard length (Ref. 2920, Ref. 5156). Dermal bones of the cranium are deeply carved by large sensory pits (Ref. 1878, Ref. 2920). The lips are thick and there is a dermal flap on the border of the gill cover (Ref. 13851). Conical teeth (Ref. 5156). Dorsal and anal fins, which are spineless, elongated and posteriorly positioned, ending close to the small, rounded caudal fin (Ref. 3032, Ref. 13851, Ref. 28714, Ref. 30488). Caudal peduncle very short (Ref. 2756, Ref. 3054, Ref. 3069). Strong, large scales (Ref. 28714, Ref. 30488), oval with the exposed portion thick and corrugated, with a more or less vermiform sculpture (Ref. 53264): 34-40 lateral-line scales, 2.5/6 scales on the lateral side of the body before the pelvic fin, 5-6 scales between dorsal and anal fin (Ref. 367, Ref. 2756, Ref. 2920, Ref. 5156). The lateral line is extending in a straight line from above the operculum to the middle of the caudal peduncle (Ref. 1878). The number of gill rakers increases with the length; 33 (young) to 98 on the ceratobranchial and 21 (young) to 76 on the epibranchial (Ref. 2920). Young specimens possess external gills (Ref. 30488). Uniform gray, brown or bronze colored (Ref. 2920), darker during th

2. Aba



SCIENTIFIC NAMES	ENGLISH NAMES	LOCAL NAMES
Gymnarchus niloticus	Gymnarchus	Suyewo

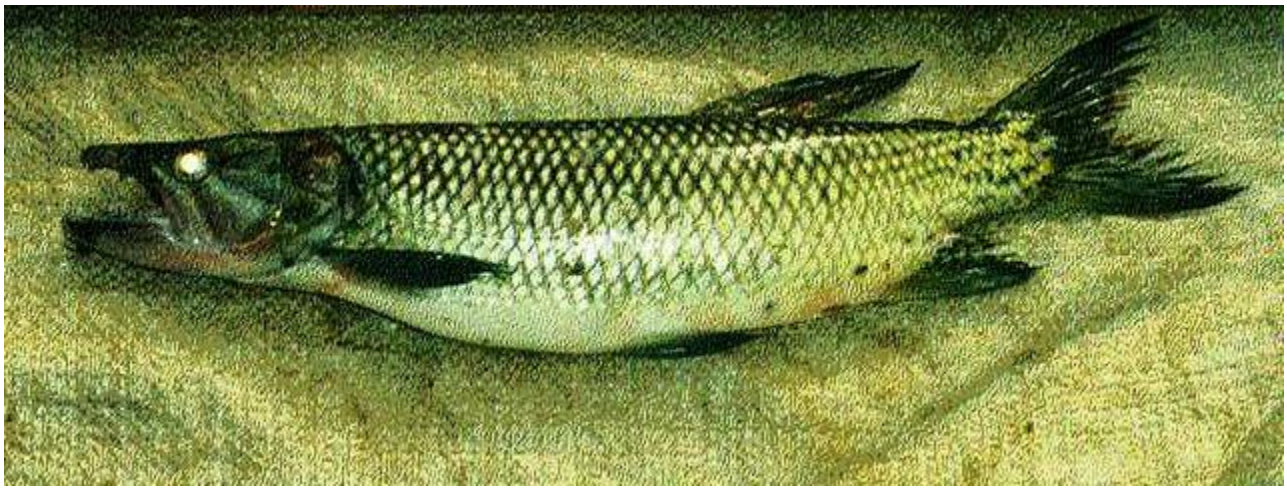
Order:	Osteoglossiformes (bony tongues)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
FishBase name:	Aba
Max. size:	167 cm SL (male/unsexed; Ref. 2915); max. published weight: 18.5 kg (Ref. 2915)
Environment:	demersal; potamodromous; pH range: 6.5 - 8; dH range: 10 - 25
Climate:	tropical; 23 - 28°C; 5°N - 18°N
Global Importance:	fisheries: commercial
Resilience:	Low, minimum population doubling time 4.5 - 14 years (K=0.12-0.17)
Distribution:	Africa: occurring widely in the Nile, Niger, Volta, Chad, Senegal and Gambia basins and Lake Rudolf.
Diagnosis:	Dorsal spines (total): 0-0; Dorsal soft rays (total): 183-230. Body depth 7.2-10.3 x SL. Head 5.6-6.9 x SL. Snout prominent. Pectorals 1.9-5.0 x head length. Body terminates in thin point. Head without scales. Scales small.
Biology:	Following flooding of the river banks (Gambia River), this species builds large elliptical floating nests in densely vegetated swamps at depths of about 1-1.5 m; lays about 1000 `amber-like' eggs; larvae hatching after 5 days (Ref. 10609). Feeds on crustaceans, insects and fish (Ref. 28714). No pelvic, anal or caudal fins. Possesses an electric organ that extends along almost the entire trunk to the tip of the tail (Ref. 10840). Also equipped with ampullary receptors and two types of tuberous receptors for electroreception (Ref. 10841). Showed increased electric organ discharge (EOD) rate by 50-60 Hz between 21 and 31°C (Ref. 10837)
Threatened:	Not in IUCN Red List , (Ref. 36508)
Dangerous:	harmless

3. Bichir

SCIENTIFIC NAMES	ENGLISH NAMES	LOCAL NAMES
Polypterus bichir	Polypterus	Sayewo

Family:	Polypteridae (Bichirs)
Order:	Polypteriformes (bichirs)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
Max. size:	74.0 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 2835); max. published weight: 2,000 g (Ref. 3034)
Environment:	demersal
Climate:	tropical
Global Importance:	fisheries: commercial
Resilience:	
Diagnosis:	Dorsal spines (total): 13-15; Anal spines: 0-0; Anal soft rays: 14-15; Vertebrae: 60-62. Subcylindrical body; its depth 6.6-11.2 times in its length; head length 4.3-5.6 times in body length (Ref. 2835). Head width 1.5-2.2 times in head length; eye-diameter 8-12 times in head length (Ref. 2835). Lower jaw longer than upper jaw (Ref. 2835). Number of dorsal finlets: 13-15 (Ref. 42908). Number of branched dorsal and caudal rays: 20-21 (Ref. 2835). Pectoral fin reaching first dorsal spine (Ref. 2835). Ganoid scales (Ref. 42904): 58-68 lateral line scales, 46-52 scales around body, 11-15 predorsal scales (Ref. 2835, Ref. 42908). Lateral line scales are notched on the posterior border (Ref. 2835). Yellowish or greenish colored on the dorsal side, ventral side more clear; darker longitudinal bands on lateral side (Ref. 2835). Dark spots and blotches are sometimes present on caudal, ventral and pelvic fins and underside of the belly (Ref. 13851).
Biology:	This species inhabits rivers and swamps (Ref. 9695). It migrates to the flooded lands and swamps to spawn (Ref. 3074, Ref. 43852). It appears to be entirely piscivorous when adult (Ref. 3034)
Dangerous:	harmless

4. Kafue pike



SCIENTIFIC NAMES	ENGLISH NAMES	LOCAL NAMES
Hepsetus odeo	Hepsetus	Sanko

Family:	Hepsetidae ()
Order:	Characiformes (characins)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
FishBase name:	Kafue pike
Max. size:	70.0 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 3569); max. published weight: 4,000 g (Ref. 3569); max. reported age: 5 years
Environment:	demersal; potamodromous; pH range: 6 - 7.5; dH range: 18
Climate:	tropical; 26 - 28°C
Global Importance:	fisheries: subsistence fisheries; aquarium: commercial
Resilience:	Medium, minimum population doubling time 1.4 - 4.4 years (K=0.27; tmax=5)
Distribution:	Africa: widespread from Senegal to Angola including Niger, Volta, Chad, Ogowe, Democratic Republic of the Congo and upper Zambezi Rivers; as well as in the Cunene, Okavango, and Kafue systems. Widespread in central and west Africa. Absent in the Nile River; Zambian Congo and the Great Lakes (Ref. 7248).
Diagnosis:	Dorsal spines (total): 2-2; Dorsal soft rays (total): 7-9; Anal spines: 2-3; Anal soft rays: 9-9; Vertebrae: 45-49. Accessory ectopterygoids. Sensory canal on supraoperculum. Nasals close to each other. Triangular dermic fold on lower jaw and small and rounded on upper. Body depth 4.5-5.8 x SL. Head 3-3.7 x SL. Eye diameter 6-8 x head length. Skeletal formula 8-10/51-58/7-9, 4. Area above eye red-orange marks. Light and dark bands radiating behind eye. Black adipose fin. Pink to grayish fins. Adults may have black spots on paired fins.
Biology:	Occurs in most coastal rivers, lakes and swamps (Ref. 3569). Prefers quiet, deep water, like channels and lagoons of large floodplains. Juveniles and fry inhabit well-vegetated marginal habitats. Adults feed on fish, juveniles feed on small invertebrates and fish. Multiple spawner; breeds over the summer months. Relatively short-lived, only 4-5 years (Ref. 7248). Also caught with drawnets
Threatened:	Not in IUCN Red List , (Ref. 36508)
Dangerous:	harmless

5. Channa obscura

SCIENTIFIC NAMES	ENGLISH NAMES	LOCAL NAMES
Chana Obscura	Snake head	Patikuto

Family:	CHANNIDAE
Species:	*Channa obscura*
Common Name:	Snake-head
Size:	up to 19 inches (50cm)
Habitat:	West Africa
Diet:	Carnivorous, mostly live fish
Behavior:	Aggressive predator
Water:	pH 6.5 to 7.5, dH to 15º, temperature range 79 to 82f
Care:	medium
Communities:	no, are cannabals if kept together
Suitability:	not for the novice.

6. Citharinus citharus intermedius

SCIENTIFIC NAMES	ENGLISH NAMES	LOCAL NAMES
Citharinus citharus		Taro

No FishBase or Google image available.

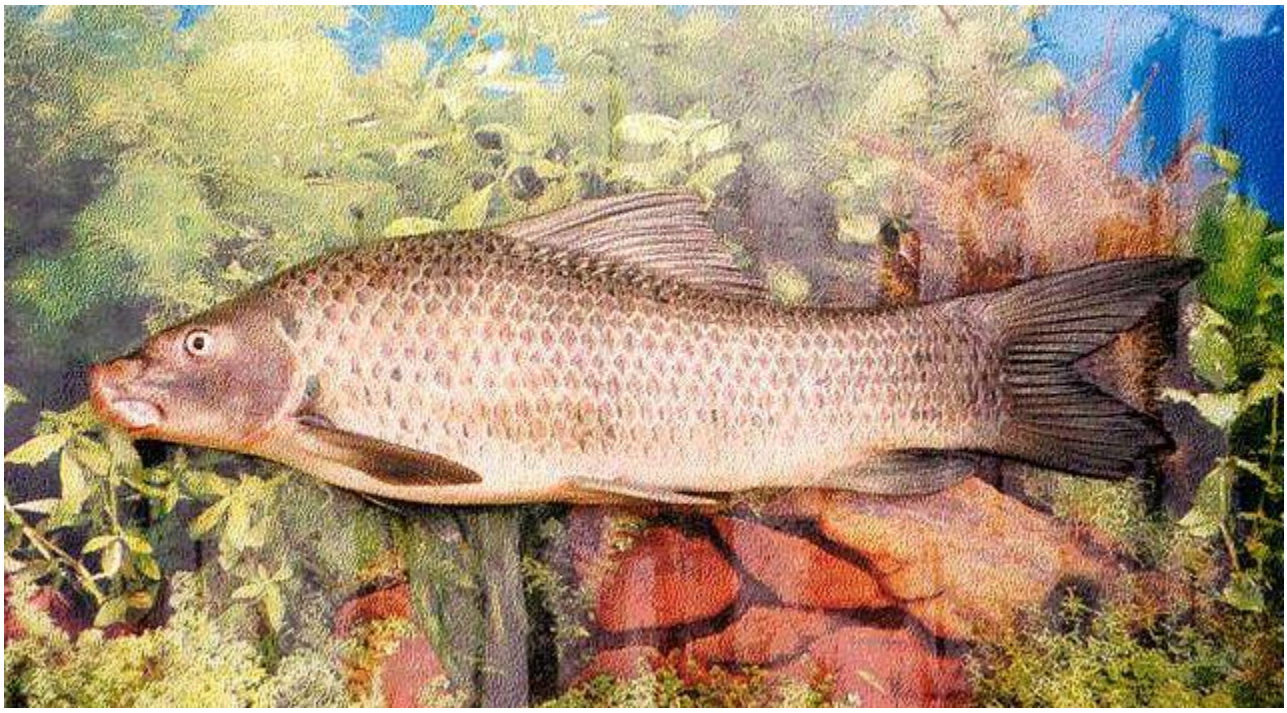
Family:	Citharinidae (), subfamily: Citharininae
Order:	Characiformes (characins)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
FishBase name:	
Max. size:	58.0 cm SL (male/unsexed; Ref. 52331)
Environment:	pelagic; freshwater
Climate:	tropical
Resilience:	Medium, minimum population doubling time 1.4 - 4.4 years (Preliminary K or Fecundity.)
Distribution:	Africa: endemic to Lake Turkana.
Gazetteer	
Biology:	
Red List Status:	Not in IUCN Red List (Ref. 53964)
Dangerous:	harmless

7. Tiger-fish

SCIENTIFIC NAMES	ENGLISH NAMES	LOCAL NAMES
Hydrocynus brevis		Sokoro

Family:	Alestiidae (African tetras
Order:	Characiformes (characins)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
FishBase name:	Tiger-fish
Max. size:	86.0 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 3799); max. published weight: 8,250 g (Ref. 2880)
Environment:	demersal; potamodromous
Climate:	tropical
Global Importance:	fisheries: commercial
Resilience:	Medium, minimum population doubling time 1.4 - 4.4 years (Preliminary K or Fecundity.)
Distribution:	Africa: Occurs only in sudano-sahalian basins - Nile, Chad, Niger/Bénoué, Volta, Senegal and Gambia.
Diagnosis:	Massive profile specially on anterior part. Eye <60% of interorbital space. Very short gill rakers. Inferior lobe of caudal and anterior end of anal red-orange.
Biology:	Occurs in open water habitats. Piscivorous but may also eat Caridina and insects (Ref. 28714). Affinities: easily distinguished from two other species in West Africa from number of scale-rows below lateral line (3 instead of 2)
Threatened:	Not in IUCN Red List , (Ref. 36508)
Dangerous:	harmless

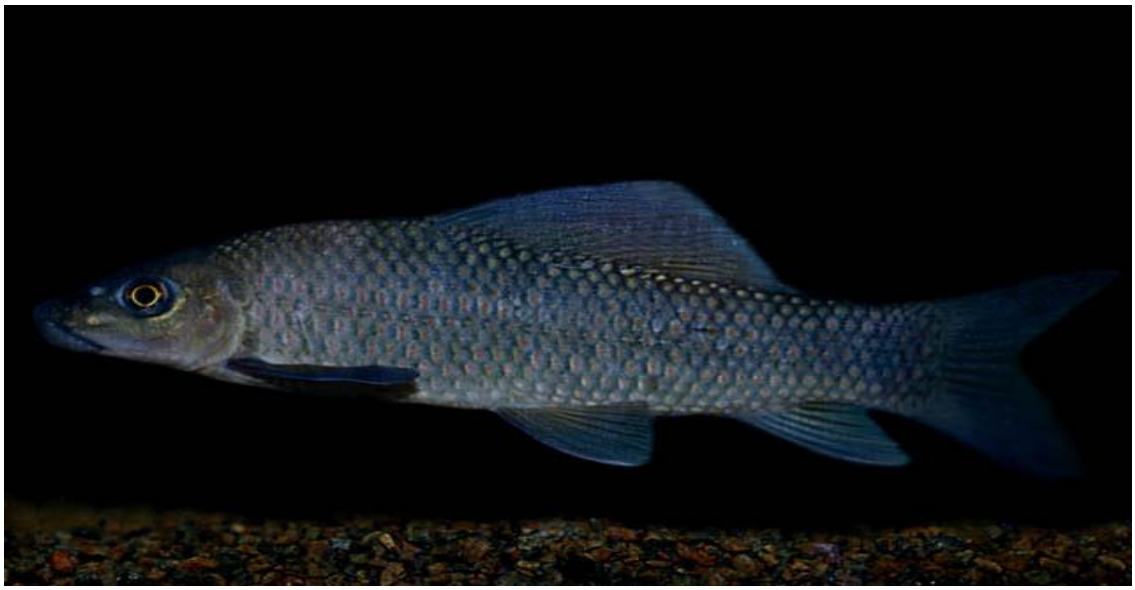
8. Labeo senegalensis



SCIENTIFIC NAMES	ENGLISH NAMES	LOCAL NAMES
Labeo Senegalensis		

Family:	Cyprinidae (Minnows or carps)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
Max. size:	65.0 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 2801); max. published weight: 3,750 g (Ref. 2801); max. reported age: 6 years
Environment:	benthopelagic; potamodromous
Climate:	tropical; 22 - 26°C
Global Importance:	fisheries: commercial
Resilience:	Medium, minimum population doubling time 1.4 - 4.4 years (K=0.19-0.63(?); tmax=6)
Distribution:	Africa: Senegal, Volta, Niger-Benue, Chad basin drainage basin, Gambia and Culufi rivers. Not known to occur outside West Africa.
Diagnosis:	Dorsal soft rays (total): 16-19; Anal soft rays: 8-8. Internal surface of lips with transverse folds. Snout with tubercles slightly apparent. Short barbel at angle of mouth. Dorsal: 4 simple, 12-15 branched, upper edge straight or slightly convex. Anal: 3 simple, 5 branched. Light body, silvery, gray or greenish back, white belly. Center of scales pinkish and surrounding zones lined with melanophores which form undulating longitudinal lines, visible in young. Pectorals, ventrals and anal pinkish; dorsal and caudal with pink rays and grayish membrane.
Biology:	Affinities: L. horie Heckel, 1846
Dangerous:	harmless

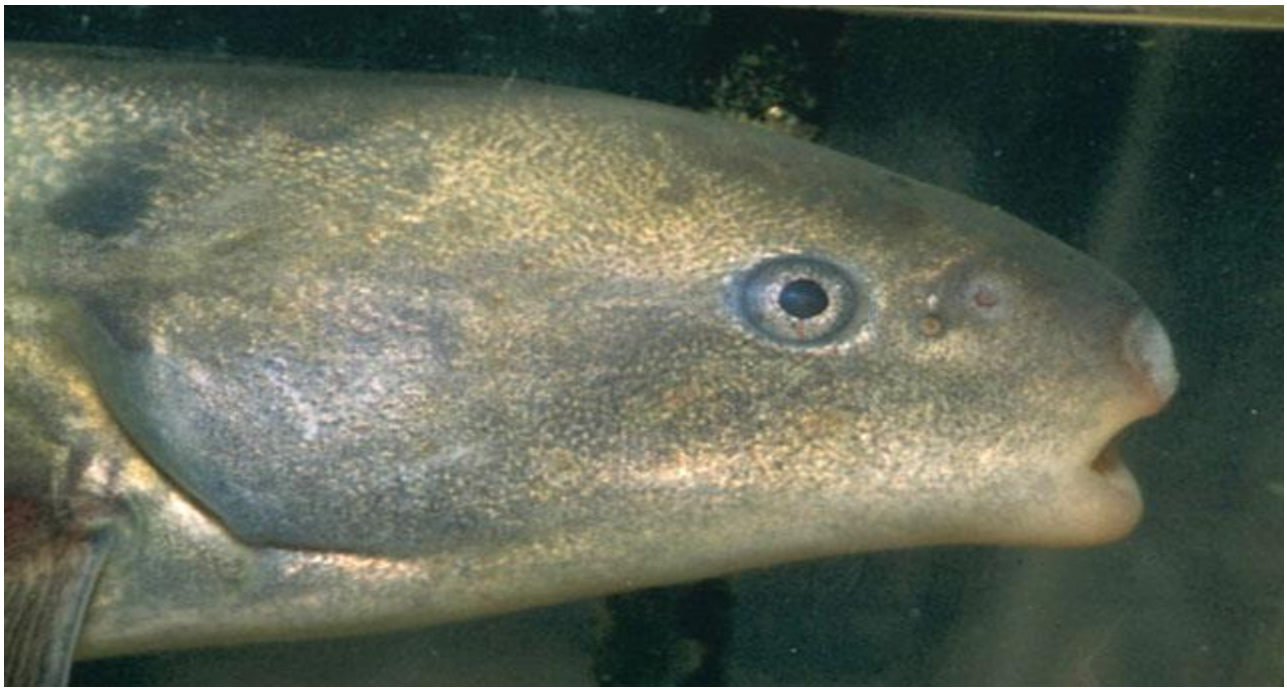
9. African carp



SCIENTIFIC NAMES	ENGLISH NAMES	LOCAL NAMES
Labeo coubie	**Indian carp**	**Kulundomo**

Family:	Cyprinidae (Minnows or carps)
Order:	Cypriniformes (carps)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
FishBase name:	African carp
Max. size:	75.0 cm SL (male/unsexed; Ref. 2801); max. published weight: 5,000 g (Ref. 3799)
Environment:	benthopelagic; potamodromous
Climate:	tropical; 6°N - 6°S
Global Importance:	fisheries: commercial; aquarium: public aquariums
Resilience:	Low, minimum population doubling time 4.5 - 14 years (K=0.12-0.26)
Distribution:	Africa: Very widespread, occurs within the drainage basin of the river Nile (Blue, White, Lake Albert) and Chad, Niger-Benue, Volta, Senegal and Gambia basins, Cross River and Cameroon coast rivers. Also known from East Africa and the middle reaches of the Congo (Ref. 26192). Not reliably known from the Zambezi drainage.
Diagnosis:	Dorsal soft rays (total): 11-13; Anal soft rays: 8-8; Vertebrae: 31-33. Small posterior barbel at angle of mouth. Anterior barbel visible in young disappears with age. Dorsal upper edge straight to convex, certain forms with dorsal very round and described under the name L. pseudocoubie. Gill rakers on 1st branchial arch. Dark body, bluish gray to violet black back and sides, light belly. Fins blackish or bluish-gray. Scales on sides with violet or red-violet center and bluish or blackish outer portion. Young grayish with scale rows separated by longitudinal dark sinuous lines. Outer lip has a series of folds (Ref.4967).
Biology:	Inhabits rivers (Ref. 4967)
Threatened:	Not in IUCN Red List , (Ref. 36508)
Dangerous:	harmless

10. Elephant snout



SCIENTIFIC NAMES	ENGLISH NAMES	LOCAL NAMES
Mormyrus Spp	Elephant nose	Nalo

Family:	Mormyridae (Elephantfishes)
FishBase name:	Elephant snout
Max. size:	50.0 cm SL (male/unsexed; Ref. 31256); max. published weight: 1,115 g (Ref. 2915)
Environment:	demersal; potamodromous
Climate:	tropical
Resilience:	Medium, minimum population doubling time 1.4 - 4.4 years (Preliminary K or Fecundity.)
Distribution:	Africa: Nile and Chad basins. Known from the great Sahelo-Soudanian basins in Senegal, Gambia and Volta; also in the Mono, the Gêba, the Bandama, the Comoe River, and the Ebrie and Aguien lagoons (Ref. 2915).
Diagnosis:	Dorsal spines (total): 0-0; Dorsal soft rays (total): 63-82; Anal spines: 0-0; Anal soft rays: 16-20. Caudal peduncle high, 1.1-2.0 length to length ratio. 4.2-6.2 SL/depth ratio; silver color sometimes grayish or darker, back grayish yellow, green or black, stomach white, whitish yellow or clear gray.
Biology:	Possesses electroreceptors over the entire head and on the ventral and dorsal regions of the body, but absent from the side and the caudal peduncle where the electric organ is located (Ref. 10011). A fractional spawner (Ref. 10605; 10606)
Threatened:	Not in IUCN Red List , (Ref. 36508)
Dangerous:	harmless

11. Synodontis gambiensis

SCIENTIFIC NAMES	ENGLISH NAMES	LOCAL NAMES
Chrysichthys	Catfish	Kosso

Family:	Mochokidae (Squeakers or upside-down catfishes)
Order:	Siluriformes (catfish)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
FishBase name:	
Max. size:	34.8 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 3202)
Environment:	benthopelagic; freshwater
Climate:	tropical; 22 – 28°C; 17°N - 4°N
Importance:	fisheries: commercial
Resilience:	Medium, minimum population doubling time 1.4 - 4.4 years (K=0.20; Fec=13,846)
Distribution:	Africa: Niger, Chad, Gambia, Géba, Taja, Waange, Volta and Ouémé basins.
Gazetteer	
Biology:	Occurs in shallow sheltered areas. Omnivore, feeds on algae, nymphs, arthropods and mollusks (Ref. 13868). Oviparous (Ref. 205).
Red List Status:	Not in IUCN Red List (Ref. 53964)
Dangerous:	harmless

12. **Jewelfish** (*Hemichromis bimaculatus)* **Kakolibo**

Family:	Cichlidae (Cichlids), subfamily: Pseudocrenilabrinae
Order:	Perciformes (perch-likes)
Class:	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)
FishBase name:	Jewelfish
Max. size:	13.6 cm SL (male/unsexed; Ref. 8992); max. published weight: 10.0 g (Ref. 3799)
Environment:	benthopelagic; potamodromous (Ref. 51243); freshwater; brackish; pH range: 6.5 – 7.5; dH range: 4 - 16
Climate:	tropical; 21 – 23°C; 11°N - 4°N
Importance:	fisheries: of no interest; aquarium: highly commercia
Resilience:	High, minimum population doubling time less than 15 months(Assuming tm<1 and multople annual spawning; Fec=200-500)
Distribution: **Gazetteer**	Africa: Coastal basins from Southern Guinea to Central Liberia, associated with forested biotopes. Also reported from Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana (Ref. 272), coastal basins of Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nile basins (Ref. 7378), Gambia and Senegal (Ref. 28587). Widely distributed in West Africa.
Biology:	Occurs in mud-bottomed and sand-bottomed canals (Ref. 5723); some distance inland from the coast, associated with areas of intact or recently disturbed forest cover. Considered the true 'jewel fish' of aquarists, this species is also used as an experimental animal by physiologists and ethologists (Ref. 5644). Attains a maximum of 12 cm in captivity. Aquarium keeping: aggressive; in pairs; minimum aquarium size 100 cm (Ref. 51539).
Dangerous:	harmless