

PSET

1983

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

**FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)**

PSETTODIDAE

Spiny turbot

A single species in the area; see species sheet for:
Psettodes erumei (Schneider, 1801) PSET Pset 1

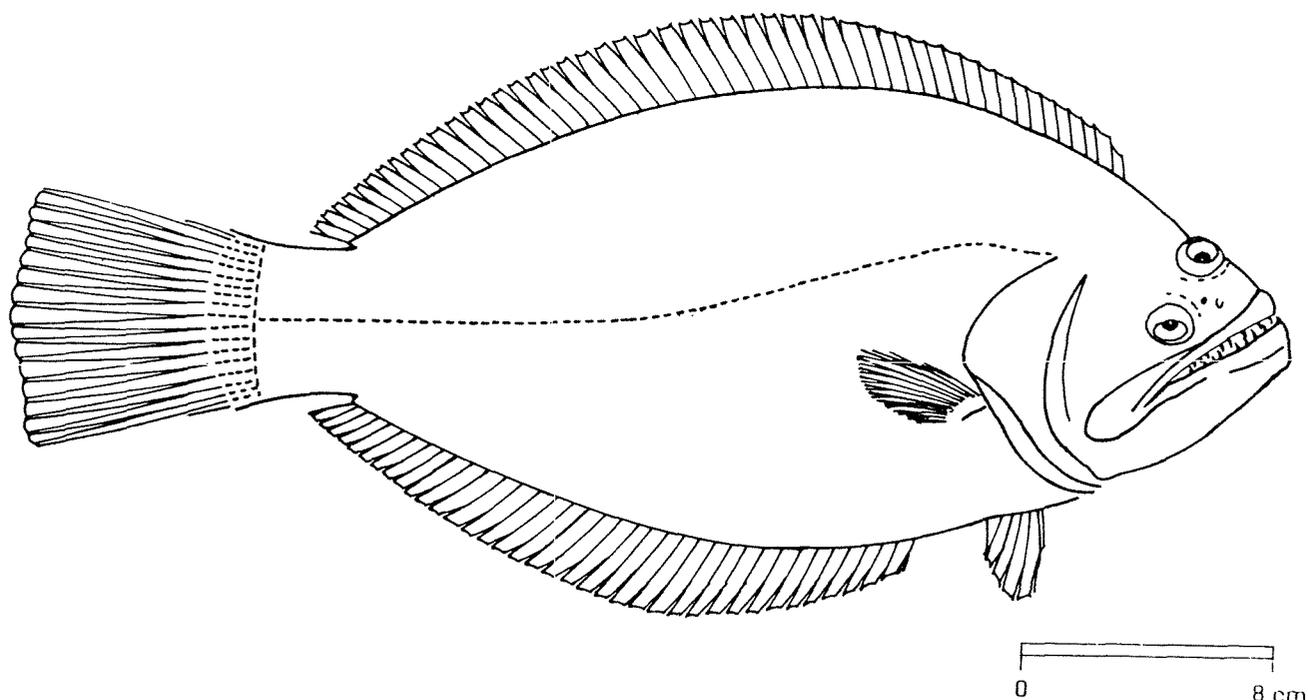
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: PSETTODIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

<i>Psettodes erumei</i> (Schneider, 1801)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Indian spiny turbot
 Fr - Turbot épineux indien
 Sp - Lenguado espinudo

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body oval and flat, but thicker than in most other flatfishes. Mouth large with strong teeth; maxillary extends well beyond hind edge of lower eye; both eyes on left or right side; upper eye lying immediately below dorsal edge; gillrakers not developed. Dorsal fin origin well posterior to eyes; anterior fin rays spinous. Lateral line almost straight.

Colour: usually brown/grey, sometimes with 4 broad, dark crossbars. Dorsal, anal and caudal fin tips black. Blind side occasionally partially coloured.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

All other flatfishes: dorsal fin origin above or in front of upper eye; also, anterior rays of dorsal fin soft and flexible.

SIZE:

Maximum: about 60 cm; common to 40 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Found almost throughout the area, except south of Delagoa Bay and off the southwest, south and east coasts of Madagascar. Also widespread in the Eastern Indian Ocean and Western Central Pacific.

Lives on muddy and sandy bottoms of the continental shelf down to about 100 m depth.

Feeds mainly on bottom-living animals.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

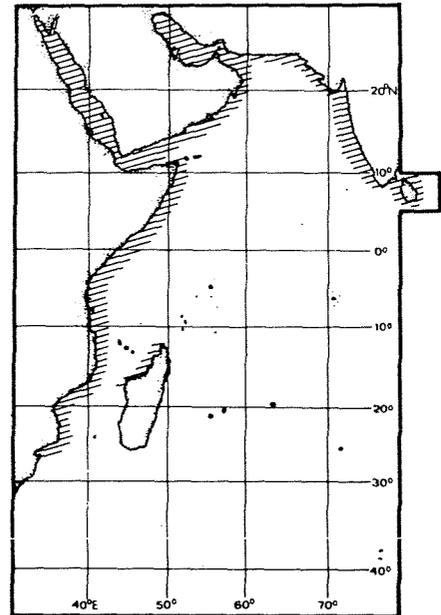
Continental shelf.

CATCHES. FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly with bottom trawls.

Marketed mainly fresh.



RACH

1983

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

RACHYCENTRIDAE

Cobias

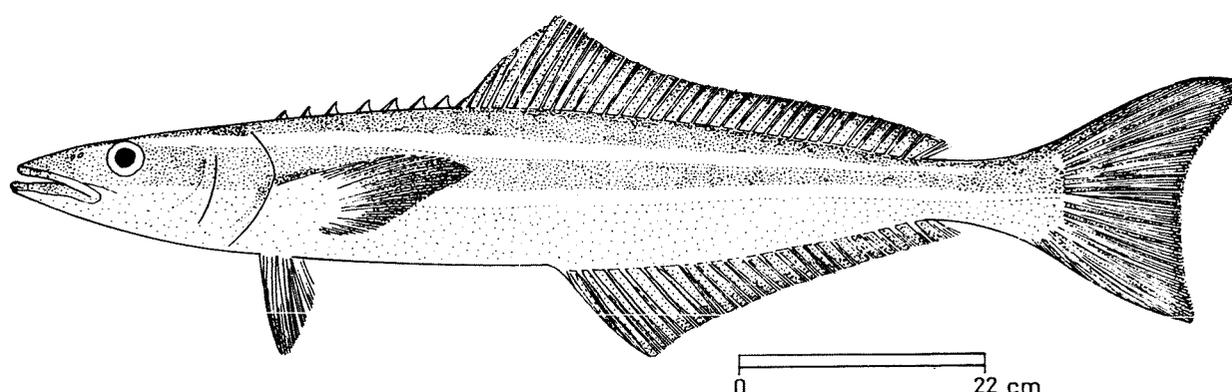
A single species in the area; see species sheet for:
Rachycentron canadum (Linnaeus, 1766) RACH Rach 1

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: RACHYCENTRIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Rachycentron canadum (Linnaeus, 1766)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Cobia
Fr - Mafou
Sp - Cobia

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate, subcylindrical; head broad and depressed. Mouth large, terminal, with projecting lower jaw; villiform teeth in jaws and on roof of mouth and tongue. First dorsal fin with 7 to 9 (usually 8) short but strong isolated spines, not connected by a membrane; second dorsal fin long, anterior rays somewhat elevated in adults; pectoral fins pointed, becoming more falcate with age; anal fin similar to dorsal, but shorter; caudal fin lunate in adults, upper lobe longer than lower (caudal fin rounded in young, the central rays much prolonged). Scales small, embedded in thick skin; lateral line slightly wavy anteriorly.

Colour: back and sides dark brown, with 2 sharply defined narrow light bands; belly yellowish.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Pomatomus saltator: spines of dorsal fin connected by a membrane; also, body and head deeper and no stripes on sides; teeth large and very sharp.

Species of Echeineidae: first dorsal fin modified into a sucking disc of 9 to 28 lamellae.

Species of Carangidae: usually, 2 detached spines visible in front of anal fin; also, distinctly elongate carangid species have either scutes on lateral line (Decapterus, Trachurus) or detached finlets behind dorsal and anal fins (Decapterus, Elagatis).

SIZE:

Maximum: 200 cm; common to 110 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR

Throughout the area. Worldwide in warm seas except for the Eastern Pacific.

Pelagic, but also found over shallow coral reefs and off rocky shores, occasionally in estuaries.

Feeds on crabs, squids and fishes.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

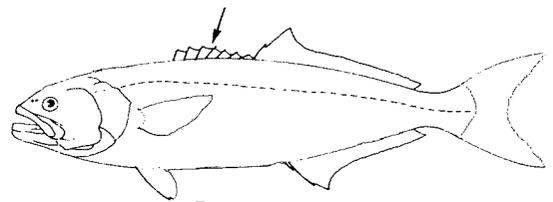
Throughout its range, especially in the Mozambique Channel and off South Africa.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

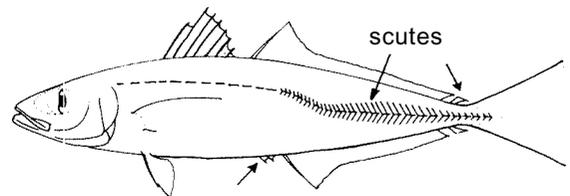
Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly with handlines and bottom trawls by trolling and with driftnets and floating gillnets.

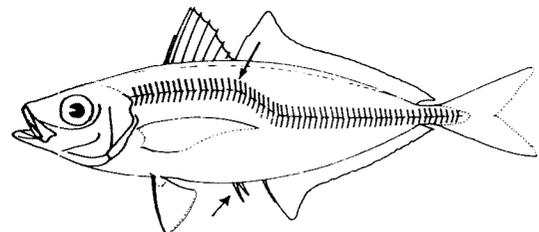
Marketed mostly fresh, flesh wholesome.



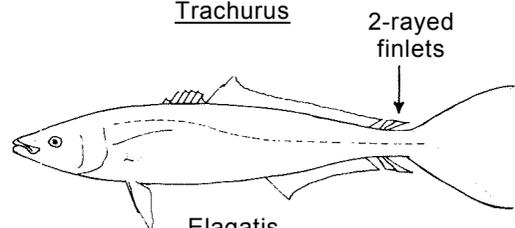
Pomatomus



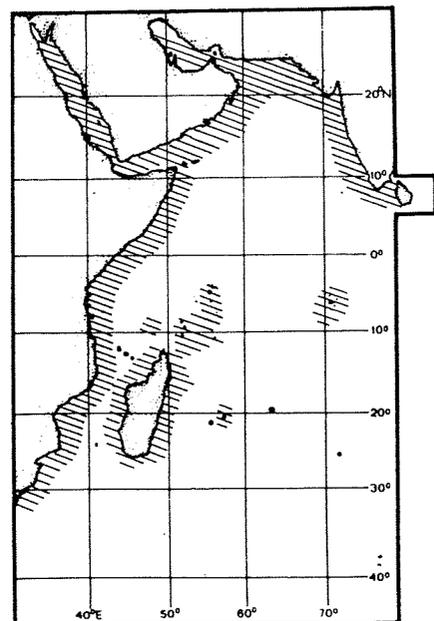
Decapterus



Trachurus



Elagatis



FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

REGALECIDAE

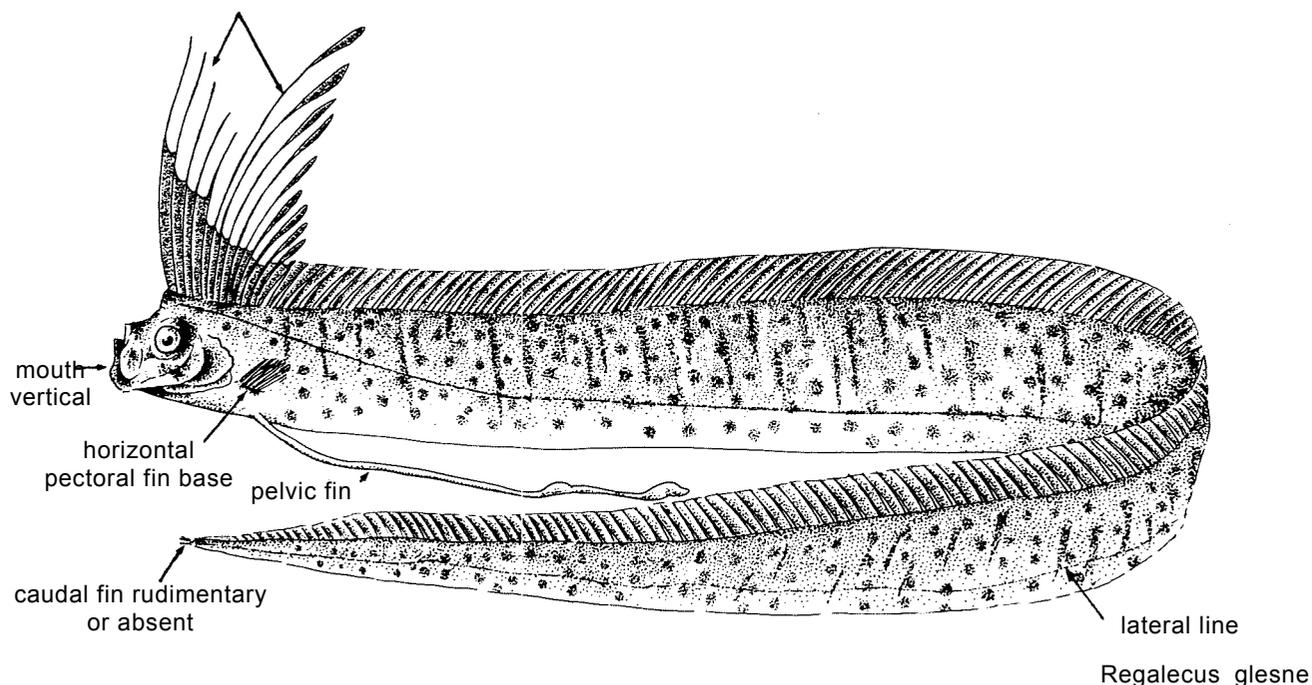
Oarfishes

Extremely elongate, fragile, ribbon-like -fishes, with anus located on anterior third of body. Head short, with a high crest; opercular bones well developed; mouth small protrusible, vertical or nearly so; teeth, when present, minute, uniserial in both jaws; palate toothless; 6 branchiostegal rays. Dorsal fin extending along whole of body, with 150 to 500 rays, rays on nape very elongate, erectile and distally free and leaf-shaped; no anal fin; caudal fin rudimentary or wanting, except in young where it consists of some long, free rays; pectoral fins short, inserted horizontally; pelvic fins each consisting of a single, sometimes extremely long ray fringed by a distally expanded membrane. Skin naked, studded with numerous hard tubercles arranged in more or less longitudinal bands or ridges. Lateral line running along lower sides of body and consistin of a chain of oblong plates loosely imbedded in the skin (Regalecus) or forming a continuous tube Agrostichthys).

Colour: body intense silver with small, more or less diffuse, brown patches set in longitudinal rows, or with blackish subvertical lines (these markings variable in shape and size); dorsal fin and occipital crest vivid red; head bluish.

Large-sized (up to 7 m total length), epi- or mesopelagic fishes (depth range from surface to below 1 000 m) occurring in most tropical and temperate seas. Rarely taken in offshore fisheries; occasionally, mutilated specimens appear floating on the surface or are thrown on the shore after gales.

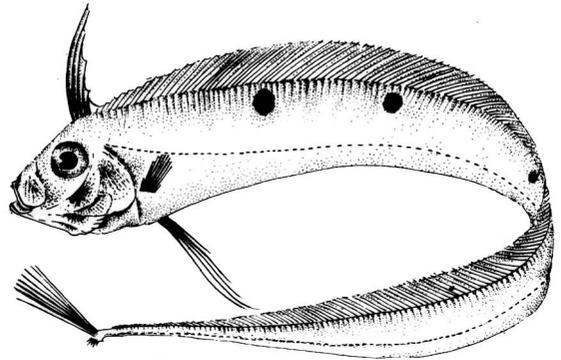
elongate, erectile, leaf-like
anterior dorsal rays



SIMILAR FAMILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Trachipteridae: pelvic fins with 5 to 9 rays; caudal fin usually in 2 parts, the upper rays upturned, the lower horizontal or slightly downturned; lateral-line plates each with a spine.

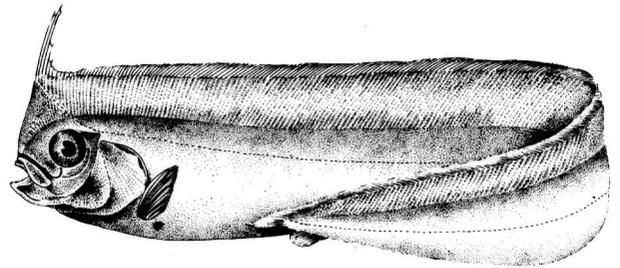
Lophotidae: anal fin present and located near caudal fin; anus near posterior end of body; skin smooth.



Trachipteridae (Trachipterus)

KEY TO SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

- 1a. Gillrakers 8 to 10; premaxilla extending forward along dorsal profile of head; great axis of maxilla oblique; colour pattern plain or banded Agrostichthys parkeri
(Benham, 1904), N. Zealand*
- 1b. Gillrakers 40 to 58; premaxilla set in a right angle to frontal profile; great axis of maxilla vertical; colour pattern of irregular subvertical lines and polka dots Regalecus glesne
(Ascanius, 1772) cosmopolitan



Lophotidae (Lophotes)

Prepared by M.L. Bauchot, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Ichtyologie générale et appliquée, Paris, France

*So far not recorded from Fishing Area 51, but possibly occurring there; possibly rare