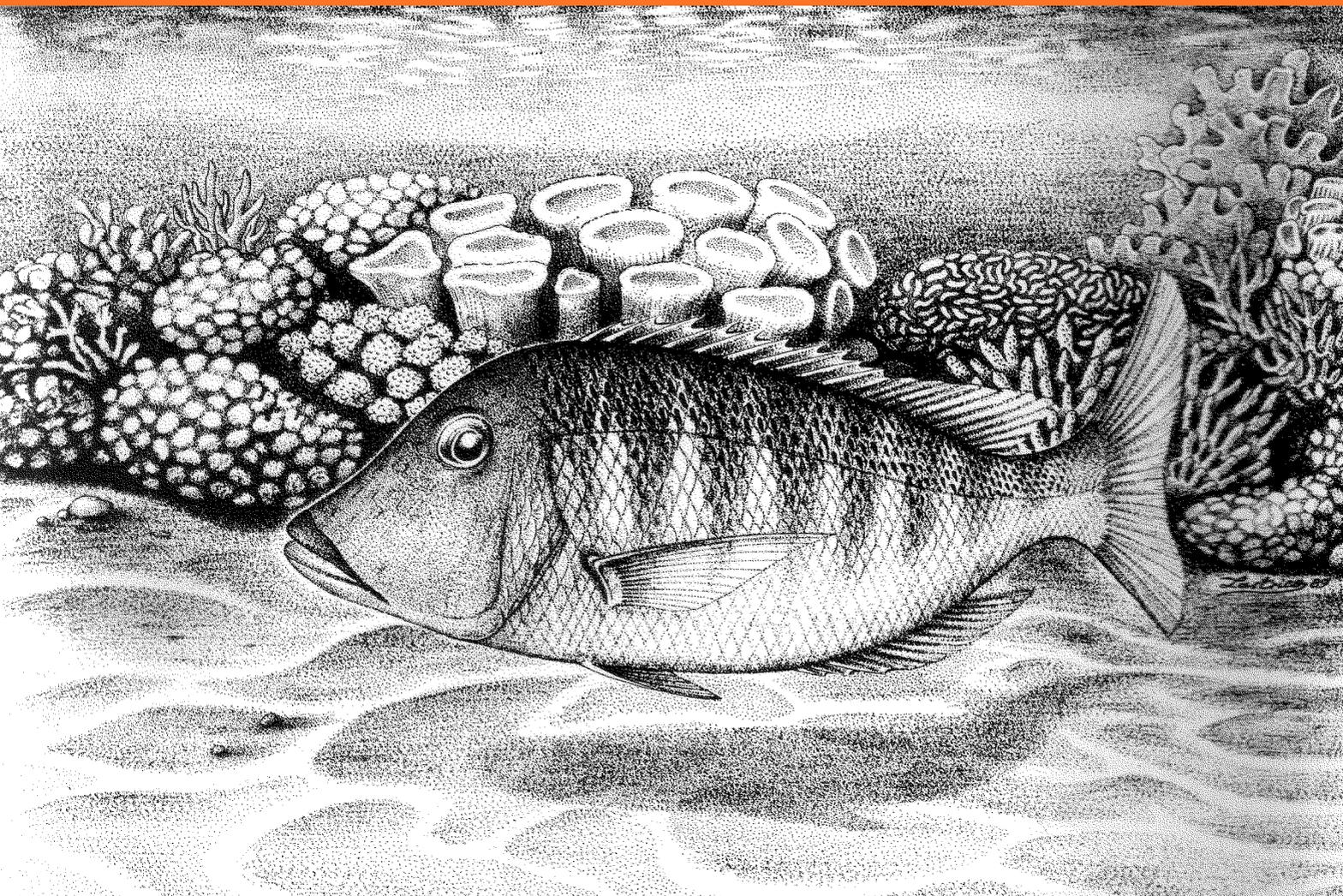




FAO SPECIES CATALOGUE

VOL. 9. EMPEROR FISHES AND LARGE-EYE BREAMS OF THE WORLD (FAMILY LETHRINIDAE)

AN ANNOTATED AND ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE OF LETHRINID SPECIES KNOWN TO DATE



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS



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VOL.9 EMPEROR FISHES AND LARGE-EYE BREAMS OF THE WORLD

(Family Lethrinidae)

An Annotated and Illustrated Catalogue of
Lethrinid Species Known to Date

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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

Although most emperor fishes and large-eye breams are of significant interest to fisheries in the Indo-Pacific region, information on their biology and fisheries is rather scanty, largely due to the difficulties with correct identification of the species in this group.

The authors of the present catalogue are engaged since several years in a world-wide revision of the family. Even if the completion of their study will probably take several more years, they have made substantial progress in the basic taxonomy of the most important commercial representatives, namely the species of the genus *Lethrinus*, and it hence appears justified to make these findings available without delay to the fishery workers who need them for their daily work.

K. Carpenter has prepared the material pertaining to the 28 species of the genus *Lethrinus*, while G.R. Allen wrote the accounts on the 11 species belonging to the other genera, e.g. *Gnathodentex*, *Gymnocranius*, *Monotaxis* and *Wattsia*. The work of the authors has been based, apart from a comprehensive review of pertinent literature, on the study of type specimens kept in the major museum collections in Europe and the USA, and on the examination of fresh material from various parts of the world.

In view of the importance of colour patterns as diagnostic characters for identification, colour plates for all species have been included.

The problems still pending regard in particular the taxonomy of the species of *Gymnocranius* and the assignation of valid scientific names to 2 species of *Lethrinus* and to 1 species of *Gymnocranius*.

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FAO Fisheries Synopsis. No. 125, Volume9. Rome, FAO. 1989. 118p.

ABSTRACT

This is the ninth issue in the FAO series of worldwide annotated and illustrated catalogues of major groups of organisms that enter marine fisheries. The present volume includes 39 lethrinid species belonging to 5 genera. It comprises an introductory section with general remarks on the systematics, habitat and fisheries of the family, a glossary of technical terms used, illustrated keys to genera and species, and detailed accounts on all species. Species accounts include drawings, scientific and vernacular names, information on habitat, biology and fisheries, and a distribution map. Lists of nominal species in the family, a table of species by major marine fishing areas and colour plates follow the species accounts. The work is fully indexed and there is ample reference to pertinent literature.

Distribution

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