

## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SPECIES

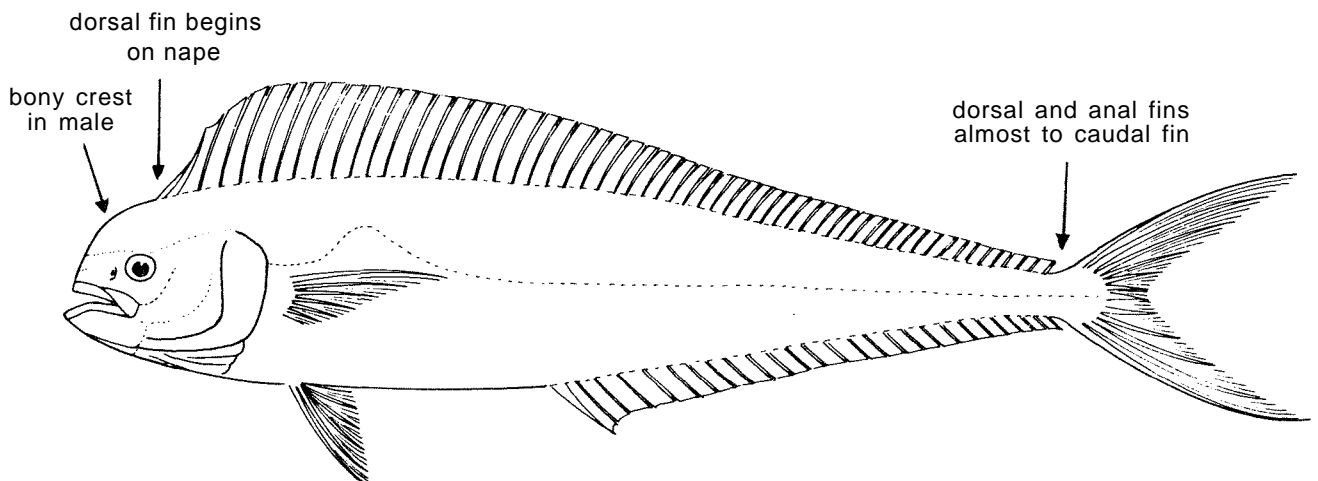
FISHING AREA 51  
(W. Indian Ocean)

## CORYPHAENIDAE

Dolphinfishes, "dolphins"

Elongate compressed fishes. Scales small and cycloid (smooth). Mouth large, with many fine teeth in bands; adult males develop a bony crest on front of head. Lateral line curved upward above pectoral fin. Dorsal and anal fins very long, continuing almost to caudal fin, without sharp spines, or finlets; dorsal fin origin on nape; anal fin origin at or before mid-point of body; pelvic fins fitting into a groove on body; caudal fin deeply forked, without any keels on fin or caudal peduncle.

Colour: in life very variable, sides with golden hues and back brilliant metallic greens and blues; many small, black spots on head and body. Specimens less than 15 cm have dark vertical bars.

**SIMILAR FAMILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:**

No other fishes have a combination of characters such as dorsal fin from nape almost to caudal fin; anal fin from about mid-point of body almost to caudal fin; no sharp spines in dorsal and anal fins; caudal fin deeply forked; and pelvic fins well developed.

**GENERA OCCURRING IN THE AREA:**

Coryphaena only.

**LIST OF SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:**

Code numbers are given for those species for which Identification Sheets are included

Coryphaena equiselis Linnaeus 1758

CORY Cory 2

Coryphaena hippurus Linnaeus, 1758,

CORY Cory 1

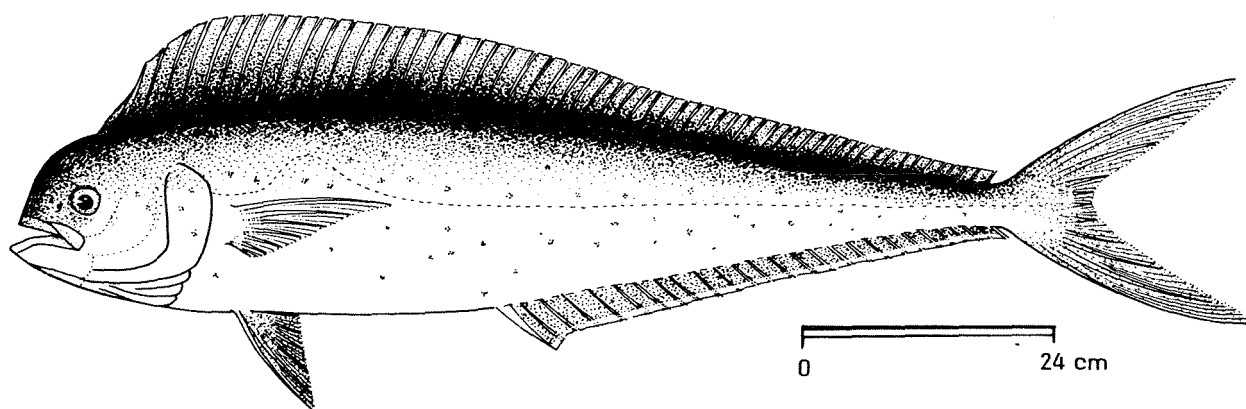
## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: CORYPHAENIDAE

FISHING AREA 51  
(W. Indian Ocean)

Coryphaena hippurus Linnaeus, 1758

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Common dolphinfish (Amer.Fish.Soc.: common dolphin)  
Fr - Coryphène commune  
Sp - Dorado común (= Llampuga, Area 37)

NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate and compressed, greatest body depth in adults less than 25% of standard length; young fish (up to 30 cm) have a slender, elongate body with head profile slightly convex; in larger males (30 to 200 cm) the head profile becomes vertical with development of a bony crest; tooth patch on tongue small and oval; bands of teeth on jaws, vomer and palatines roof of mouth). A single dorsal fin extending from above eye almost to caudal fin, with 58 to 66 rays; a concave anal fin extending from anus almost to caudal fin; pectoral fin more than half of head length; caudal fin deeply forked; lateral-line scales 200 or more; vertebrae 31.

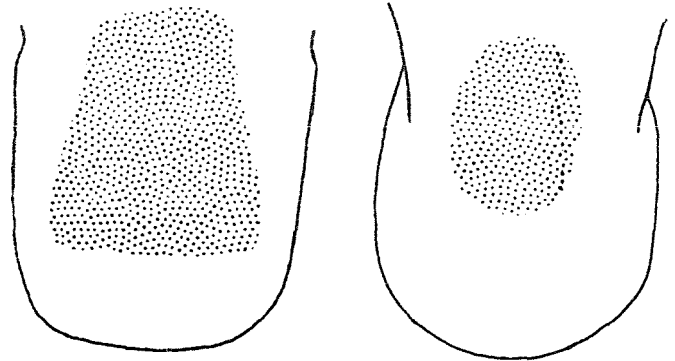
Colour: back brilliant metallic blue/green in life, after death fading to grey with a green tinge; sides silvery with a golden sheen, and 1 row of dark spots or golden blotches running below dorsal fin and 1, 2 or more rows on and below lateral line, some scattered irregularly; dorsal and anal fins black, the latter with a white edge; pectoral fins pale; caudal fin silvery with a golden sheen. In juveniles, only tips of caudal fin lobes white; pelvic fins black.



head showing increase  
in steepness of  
profile with  
age in male

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:**

Coryphaena equiselis: dorsal fin rays 52 to 59 (58 to 66 in C. hippurus), a broad and square tooth patch on tongue; greatest body depth more than 25% of standard length; pectoral fins about half of head length; anal fin convex in outline. In juveniles, entire margin of caudal fin white, but pelvic fins not pigmented. Vertebrae 33 (31 in C. hippurus).



C. equiselis

C. hippurus

**SIZE:**

Maximum: 200 cm; common to 100 cm.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:**

Throughout the whole area to about 32°S, except possibly the Red Sea and the "Gulf"; worldwide in tropical and subtropical seas.

Pelagic, inhabiting open waters, but also approaching the coast; follows ships and forms small concentrations below floating objects.

Feeds mainly on fishes, but also on crustaceans and squids.

Breeds in the open sea probably approaching the coast as water temperatures rise.

**PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:**

Mainly oceanic waters.

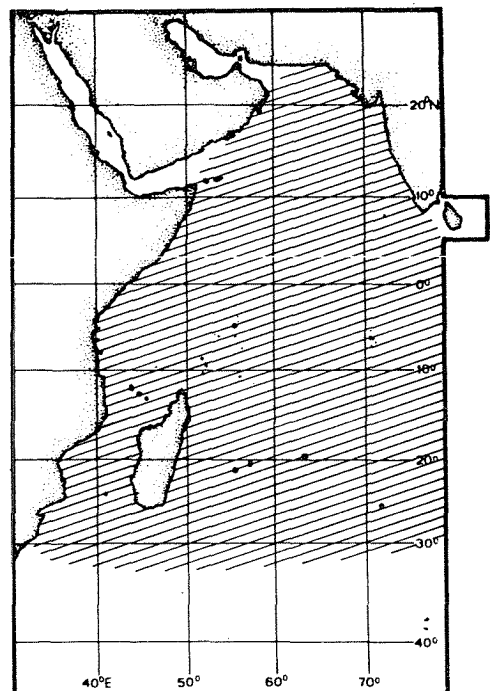
**CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:**

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught by trolling and on tuna longlines; also occasionally with drift nets.

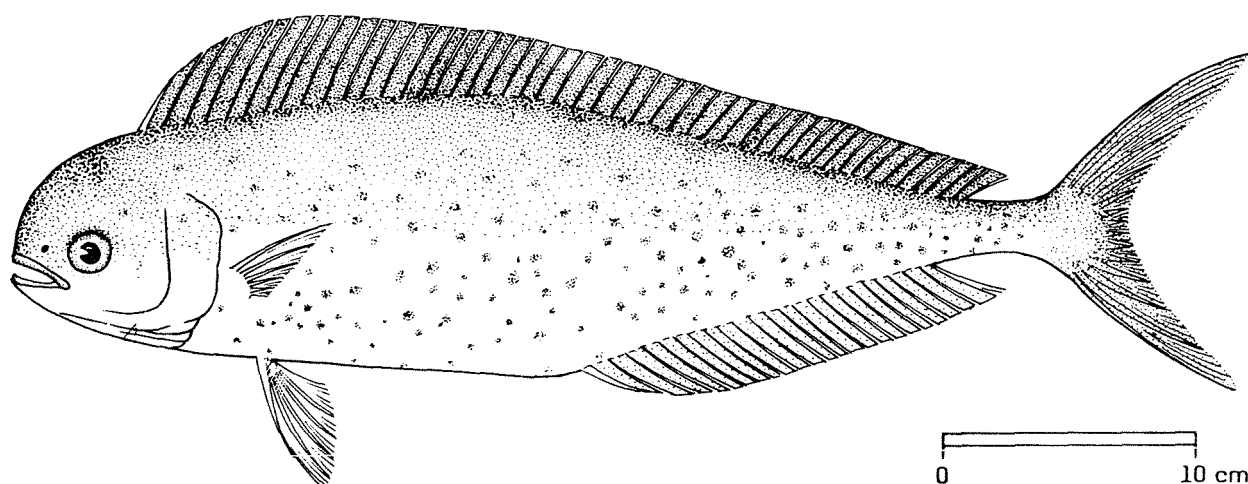
Marketed fresh; a very highly appreciated food fish.

dorsal surface of tongue with tooth patches



## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY : CORYPHAENIDAE

FISHING AREA 51  
(W. Indian Ocean)Coryphaena equiselis Linnaeus, 1758OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: Coryphaena equisetis Linnaeus, 1758

## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Pompano dolphinfish (Amer.Fish.Soc.: pompano dolphin)  
Fr - Coryphène dauphin  
Sp - Dorado

NATIONAL:

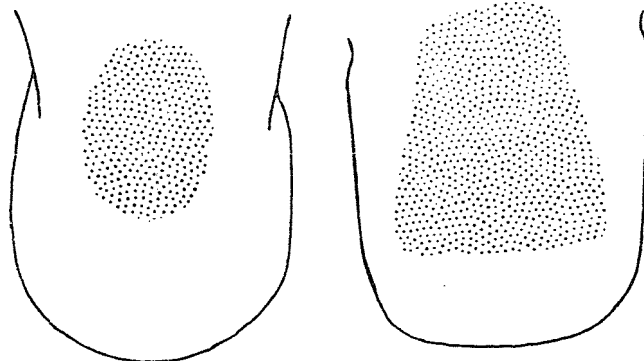
## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate and compressed, greatest body depth in adults more than 25% of standard length; young fish (up to 30 cm) have head profile slightly convex. Tooth patch on tongue broad and square; bands of teeth on jaws, vomer and palatines (roof of mouth). A single dorsal fin extending from just behind eye almost to caudal fin, with 52 to 59 rays; a convex anal fin extending from anus almost to caudal fin; pectoral fin about half of head length; caudal fin deeply forked; lateral-line scales 200 or fewer; vertebrae 33.

Colour: back brilliant metallic blue/green in life; fading rapidly after death to grey with a green tinge; sides silvery with a golden sheen and numerous black spots; dorsal fin dark. In juveniles, entire margin of caudal fin white; pelvic fins not pigmented.

## DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Coryphaena hippurus: 58 to 66 dorsal fin rays (52 to 59 in C. equiselis); an oval tooth patch on tongue; greatest body depth less than 25% of standard length; pectoral fins more than half of head length; anal fin concave in outline. In juveniles, only caudal fin tips white, pelvic fins pigmented. Vertebrae 31 (33 in C. equiselis).



C. hippurus

C. equiselis

## SIZE :

Maximum: 75 cm; common to 50 cm.

## GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Probably throughout the area to about 30°S, but not always distinguished from C. hippurus; also, probably in most tropical and subtropical seas.

Pelagic, inhabiting open waters, but also approaching the coast. Probably resembles C. hippurus in following ships and concentrating below floating objects.

Feeds on small fishes and squids.

## PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Mainly oceanic waters.

## CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly by trolling and with floating lines.

Marketed fresh.

dorsal surface of tongue with tooth patches

