

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

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

HARPADONTIDAE

Bombay-ducks

A single species in the area - see species sheet for:

Harpadon nehereus (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822) HARP Harp 1

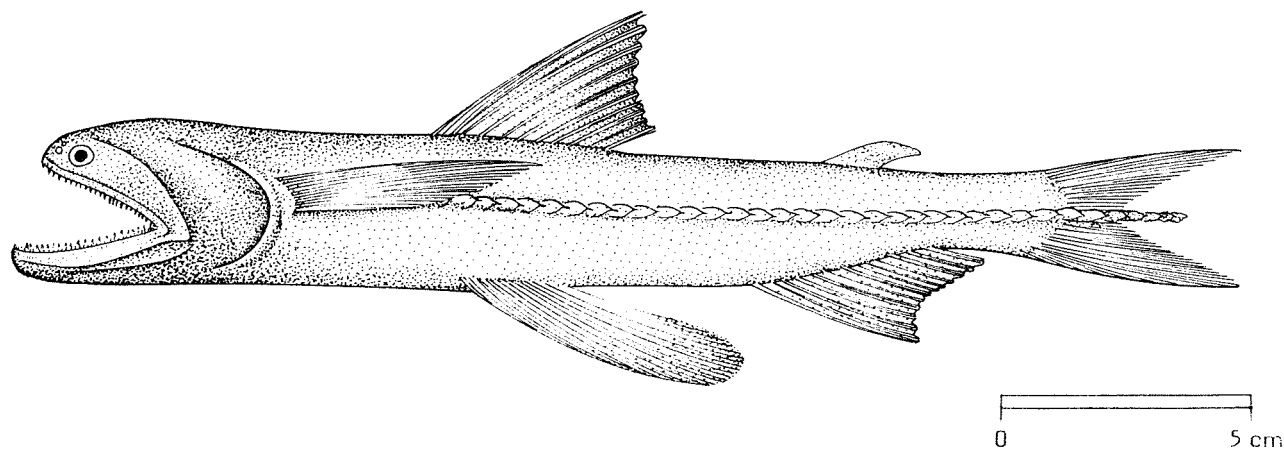
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FAMILY: HARPADONTIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

Harpadon nehereus (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Bombay-duck
Fr - Bumalo
Sp - Bumalo

NATIONAL

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate and compressed, eyes small, snout very short. Mouth very wide, armed with slender, recurved and depressible teeth of unequal size; palatine teeth also large and depressible; lower jaw longer than upper. Dorsal fin followed by a conspicuous adipose fin; pelvic fins very long. Lateral line extending onto pointed median lobe of caudal fin.

Colour: uniform light grey; semitransparent appearance.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Species of Synodontidae (lizard fishes): have the lateral line confined to the body and not extending as a median lobe of caudal fin.

SIZE:

Maximum: over 40 cm; common between 10 and 25 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Known from the east coast of Africa, northward from about Zanzibar; also Red Sea, the "Gulf" and Arabian Sea. Elsewhere, eastward to the Western Pacific.

Inhabits coastal waters and estuaries.

Feeds on small fishes.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Shallow grounds in inshore waters and estuaries.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with bottom trawls.

Marketed fresh, salted, dried or smoked; extensively used as a relish with curry.

