

***Spondyliosoma cantharus* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**FAO names:** En - Black seabream; Fr - Dorade grise; Sp - Pargo chopá.

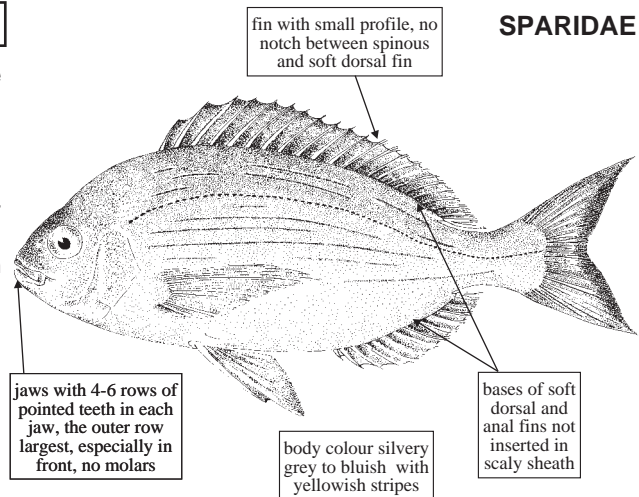
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 60 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught occasionally by shore anglers. More abundant in the north.

**Habitat and biology:** A demersal species, on rocky and sandy bottoms. Feeds on seaweeds, small crustaceans, and other invertebrates. Found mainly in northern Namibia.

**SPARIDAE**



***Argyrosomus coronus* Griffiths and Heemstra, 1995**

**FAO names:** En - Corona meagre.

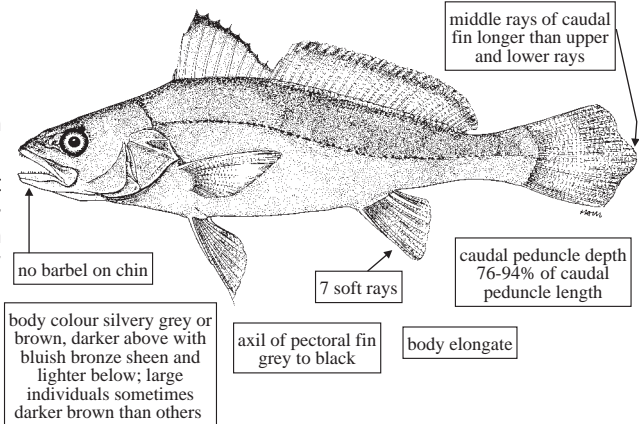
**Local names:** Dusky kob; Kabeljou (Ak).

**Size:** To 200 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught mostly with handlines in fairly low numbers.

**Habitat and biology:** Mostly on the bottom at depths between 20 and 40 m, but also in shallow water and down to 100 m. More common in northern Namibia with large adults found mostly in Angola.

**SCIAENIDAE**



***Argyrosomus inodorus* Griffiths and Heemstra, 1995**

**FAO names:** En - Mild meagre.

**Local names:** Silver kob; Kabeljou (Ak).

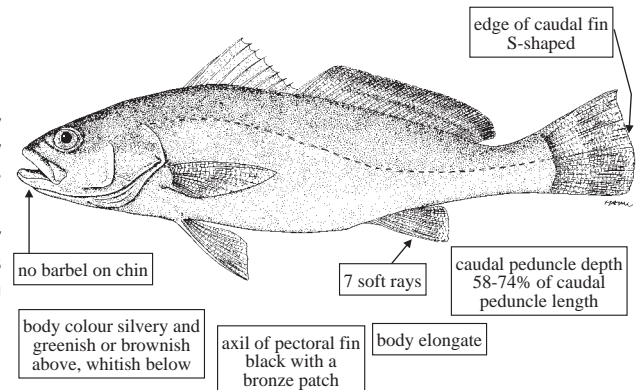
**Size:** To 130 cm, commonly to 115 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught in large numbers by line-boat fishermen and anglers; also caught by trawls. Most important of the recreational angling fishes.

**Habitat and biology:** In Namibia, typically close to shore in depths less than 20 m. Less common in northern Namibia. Feeds mostly on shrimp and small fish.

**Remarks:** Previously reported as *Argyrosomus hololepidotus*.

**SCIAENIDAE**



***Atractoscion aequidens* (Cuvier, 1830)**

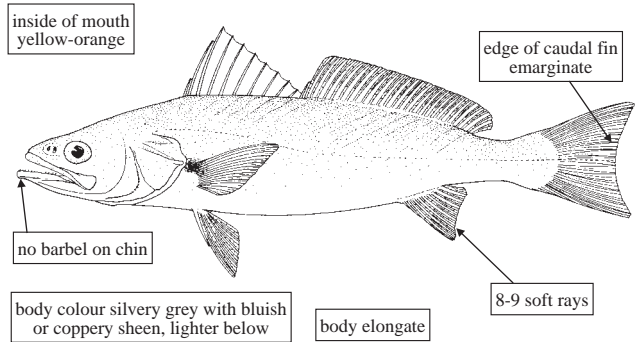
**FAO names:** **En** - African weakfish;  
**Fr** - Téraglin; **Sp** - Corvinata prieta.

**Local names:** Cape salmon, Geelbek;  
Geelbek (Ak); Afrikanischer Umberfisch (Gr).

**Size:** To 120 cm, common to 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught occasionally with bottom trawls and by shore anglers, mainly in the north.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits mud and sandy bottoms in coastal waters, from depths of 15 to 200 m, most abundant between 100 and 200 m. Although mainly demersal, feeds also on pelagic fish such as mackerel and horse mackerel.

**SCIAENIDAE*****Pteroscion peli* (Bleeker, 1863)**

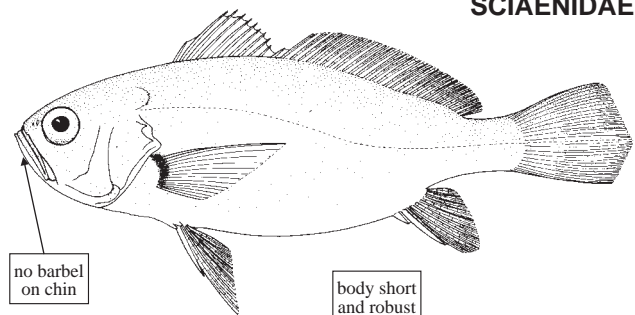
**FAO names:** **En** - Boe drum; **Fr** - Courbine pélin; **Sp** - Bombache boé.

**Local names:** Boe-Umberfisch (Gr).

**Size:** Maximum to 32 cm, commonly to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** None at present.

**Habitat and biology:** In midwater over soft bottoms in coastal areas down to depths of 200 m. Occurs occasionally off northern Namibia.

**SCIAENIDAE*****Umbrina canariensis* Valenciennes, 1843**

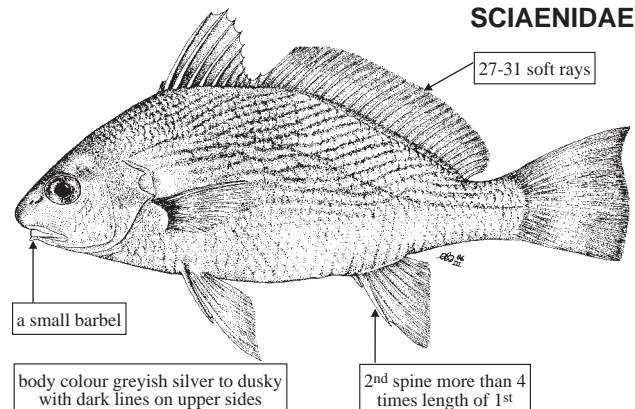
**FAO names:** **En** - Canary drum; **Fr** - Ombrine bronze; **Sp** - Verrugato de Canarias.

**Local names:** Baardman; Baardman (Ak).

**Size:** To 60 cm.

**Fisheries:** Rarely caught with bottom trawls, and by shore anglers.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits sand and mud bottoms from depths of 50 to 300 m, most common between 160 and 180 m (14 to 15°C), juveniles in shallower waters. Feeds on shrimps, worms, and other bottom dwelling invertebrates.

**SCIAENIDAE**

***Dichistius capensis* (Cuvier, 1831)**

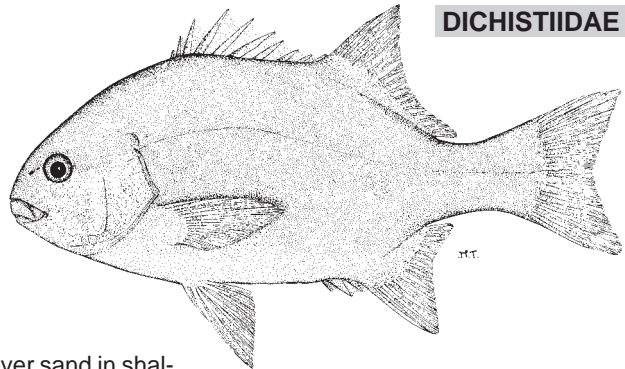
**FAO names:** **En** - Galjoen; **Fr** - Galjoin franc; **Sp** - Damba.

**Local names:** Galjoen (Ak); Südafrikanischer Galjoen (Gr).

**Size:** To 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Mainly by shore anglers and rarely as incidental catch of seines. No trade is allowed in this species. Favoured by anglers, this is one of 4 most important recreational angling fishes. Most abundant in winter.

**Habitat and biology:** Found among rocks and over sand in shallow coastal waters; breeding occurs in deeper water. Feeds mainly on ascidians, mussels, barnacles, and to a lesser extent on seaweeds. Once abundant, now becoming scarce because of overfishing.

**DICHISTIIDAE*****Cheilodactylus fasciatus* Lacepède, 1803**

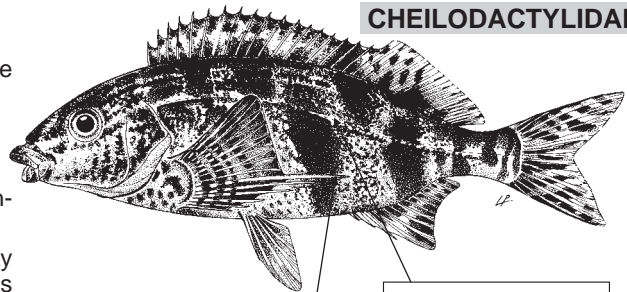
**FAO names:** **En** - Redfingers; **Fr** - Castanette léopard; **Sp** - Pintadilla leopardo.

**Local names:** Rooivingers (Ak).

**Size:** To 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught occasionally by shore anglers.

**Habitat and biology:** Common in rocky tidepools. Feeds on small invertebrates (worms, crabs, and shellfish).

**CHEILODACTYLIDAE**

lower rays with elongate, free tips

about 80 scales in lateral line

***Chirodactylus brachydactylus* (Cuvier, 1830)**

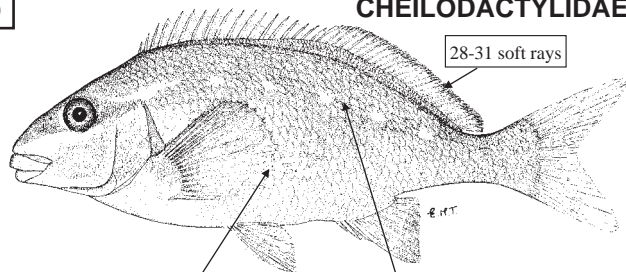
**FAO names:** **En** - Twotone fingerfin; **Fr** - Castanette bicolore; **Sp** - Pintadilla bicolor.

**Local names:** Steenklipvis (Ak).

**Size:** To 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** None at present.

**Habitat and biology:** In coastal waters from the shoreline to a depth of 240 m; associated with rocky bottoms. Feeds on various invertebrates.

**CHEILODACTYLIDAE**

lower rays with elongate, free tips

46-50 scales in lateral line

28-31 soft rays

***Chirodactylus grandis* (Günther, 1860)**

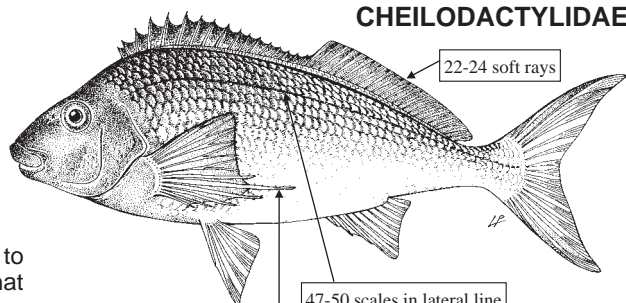
**FAO names:** **En** - Bank steenbras; **Fr** - Castanette des bancs; **Sp** - Pintadilla de bancs.

**Local names:** Banksteenbras (Ak).

**Size:** To 180 cm.

**Fisheries:** Rare in Namibia.

**Habitat and biology:** Found from the shoreline to a depth of 150 m; primarily an offshore species that prefers rocky or muddy bottoms. Feeds during daytime on bottom-dwelling invertebrates.

**CHEILODACTYLIDAE**

lower rays with elongate, free tips

47-50 scales in lateral line

22-24 soft rays

***Liza dumerili*** (Steindachner, 1870)

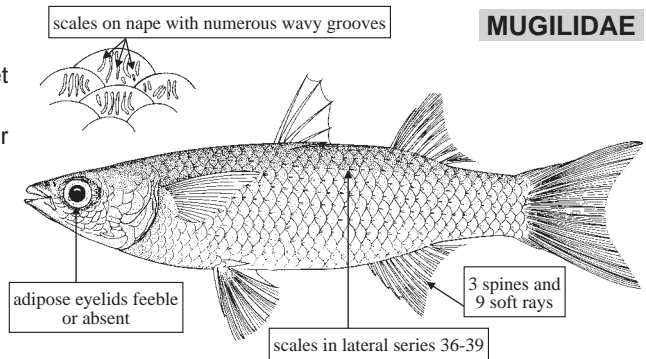
**FAO names:** **En** - Grooved mullet; **Fr** - Mulet bouri; **Sp** - Liza acanalada.

**Local names:** Groovy mullet; Keep-harder (Ak).

**Size:** To almost 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** None at present.

**Habitat and biology:** Shallow coastal waters.



**MUGILIDAE**

***Liza richardsonii*** (Smith, 1846)

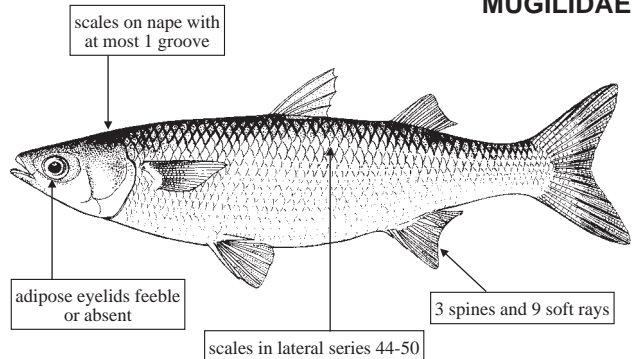
**FAO names:** **En** - South African mullet; **Fr** - Mulet sudafricain; **Sp** - Liza sudafricana.

**Local names:** Southern mullet; Suidelike harder (Ak).

**Size:** To 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with beach seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits coastal waters, mainly off rocky points and sandy beaches; may also enter estuaries as nursery areas. Feeds mostly on diatoms and detritus, but also on small planktonic crustaceans. Sexual maturity is reached at about 20 cm.



**MUGILIDAE**

***Mugil cephalus*** Linnaeus, 1758

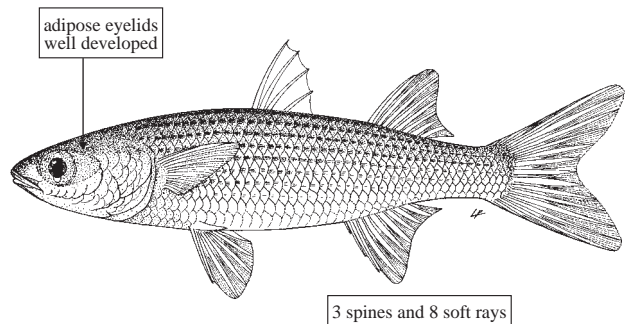
**FAO names:** **En** - Flathead grey mullet; **Fr** - Mulet cabot; **Sp** - Pardete.

**Local names:** Flathead mullet; Platkop-harder (Ak); Gestreifte Meeräsche, Gewöhnliche Meeräsche, Großkopf-Meerüsche.

**Size:** Maximum 120 cm, common to 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught occasionally with beach seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits coastal marine waters, estuaries, brackish lagoons, and rivers. Feeds on algae and small benthic organisms. Sexual maturity is reached at the age of 3 to 4 years (about 45 cm). Spawning occurs near estuaries where juveniles remain for up to 3 years.



**MUGILIDAE**

***Sphyraena afra*** Peters, 1841

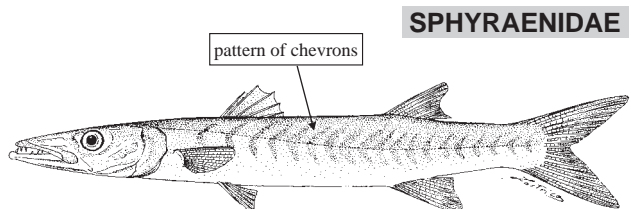
**FAO names:** **En** - Guinean barracuda; **Fr** - Bé-cune guinéenne; **Sp** - Espetón de Guinea.

**Local names:** Guinean-barrakuda (Ak); Guinea-Barrakuda (Gr).

**Size:** To 205 cm.

**Fisheries:** Rare in Namibia.

**Habitat and biology:** Known to occur on the continental shelf, from the surface to a depth of 75 m.



**SPHYRAENIDAE**



***Gymnammodytes capensis*** (Barnard, 1927)**AMMODYTIDAE**

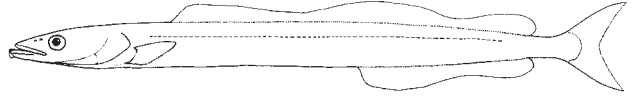
**FAO names:** **En** - Cape sandlance; **Fr** - Cicerello du Cap; **Sp** - Barrinaire del Cabo.

**Local names:** Kaapse sanddolk (Ak).

**Size:** To 17 cm.

**Fisheries:** None at present.

**Habitat and biology:** In shallow coastal waters, mainly on sandy bottoms.

***Paracallionymus costatus*** (Boulenger, 1899)**CALLIONYMIDAE**

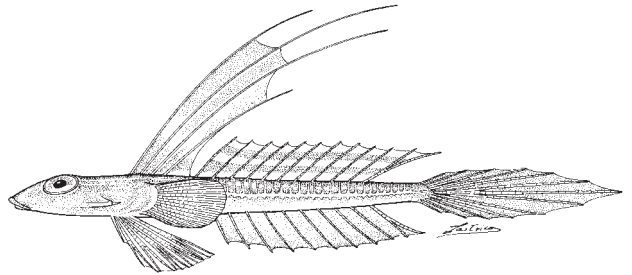
**FAO names:** **En** - Cape dragonet; **Fr** - Dragonnet-lyre du Cap; **Sp** - Costurones.

**Local names:** Ladder dragonet; Leer-drakie (Ak).

**Size:** To 15 cm total length.

**Fisheries:** Occasionally caught in trawl fisheries in the southern part of Namibia.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs on the bottom in depths between 55 and 400 m.

***Sufflogobius bibarbatus*** (von Bonde, 1923)

(plate VII, 56)

**GobiIDAE**

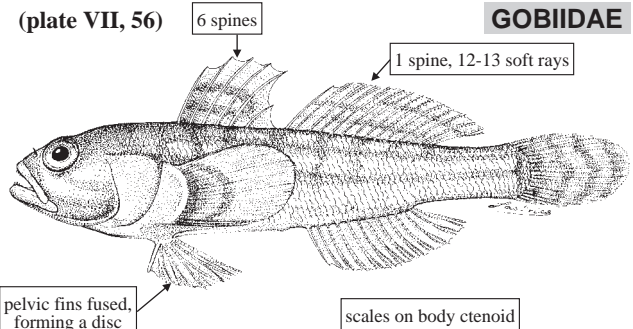
**FAO names:** **En** - Pelagic goby; **Fr** - Gobie pélagique; **Sp** - Cabezudo de barbas.

**Local names:** Pelagiese dikkop (Ak).

**Size:** To 17 cm.

**Fisheries:** Commonly caught in trawls. Occasionally targeted by purse seines for use in the fish meal and oil industry. Over 30 000 t was landed in 1998.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in shoals to depths of about 90 m; juveniles (3 to 7 cm long) are epipelagic while adults (7 to 15 cm) migrate to deeper waters; large adults (12 to 15 cm) are only recorded from demersal trawls; they appear to prefer cooler waters of 11° to 15°C. They reach maturity at 4 years of age. Feeds on phytoplankton and is an important prey of horse mackerel, hake, penguins, Cape cormorants, fur seals, and snoek. Found south of Cape Cross.

***Diplospinus multistriatus*** Maul, 1948**GEMPYLIDAE**

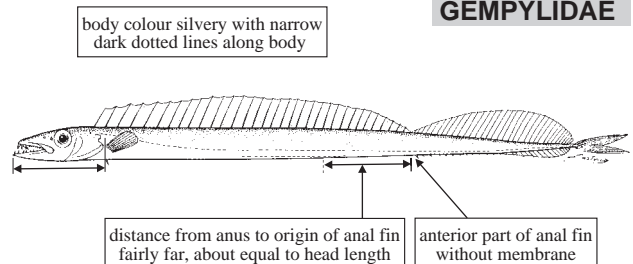
**FAO names:** **En** - Striped escolar; **Fr** - Escolier rayé; **Sp** - Escolar rayado.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 33 cm standard length.

**Fisheries:**

**Habitat and biology:** Mesopelagic and oceanic in depths between 100 and 1 000 m. Migrates to upper water layers (100 to 200 m) at night. Feeds on crustaceans and small fishes. Females mature at about 16 cm.



***Gempylus serpens*** Cuvier, 1829

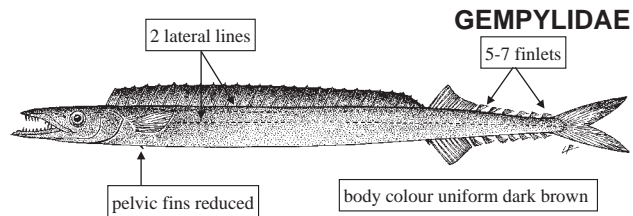
**FAO names:** **En** - Snake mackerel; **Fr** - Escolier serpent; **Sp** - Escolar de caval.

**Local names:** Slangmakriel (Ak).

**Size:** To 100 cm (standard length).

**Fisheries:** Rarely in bottom trawls

**Habitat and biology:** Mesopelagic or pelagic and oceanic, from the surface to a depth of 200 m; close to the surface at night. Feeds on bony fishes (flyingfishes and myctophids), crustaceans, and cephalopods. Males mature at 43 cm standard length, females at 50 cm.

**GEMPYLIDAE*****Lepidocybium flavobrunneum*** (Smith, 1849)

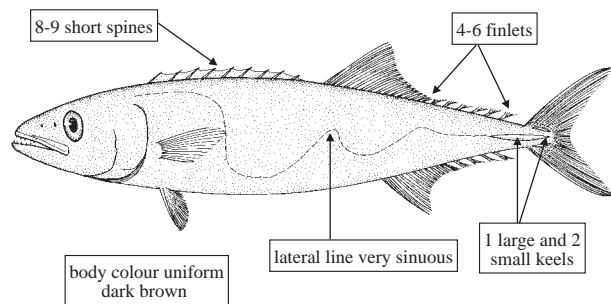
**FAO names:** **En** - Escolar; **Fr** - Escolier noir; **Sp** - Escolar negro.

**Local names:** Skolier (Ak); Escolar-Schlangenmakrele (Gr).

**Size:** To 200 cm (standard length).

**Fisheries:** Caught mainly with longlines as bycatch of hake fisheries off Lüderitz.

**Habitat and biology:** Mesopelagic, to depths of 200 m or more. Feeds on a wide variety of fishes, crustaceans, and cephalopods. Flesh oily, with purgative properties.

**GEMPYLIDAE*****Nealotus tripes*** Johnson, 1865

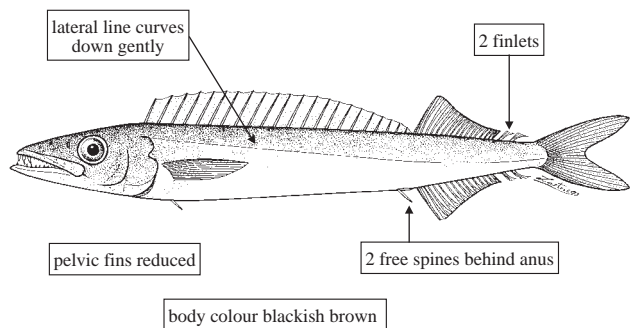
**FAO names:** **En** - Black snake mackerel; **Fr** - Escolier reptile; **Sp** - Escolar oscuro.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Maximum to 25 cm, common to 15 cm standard length.

**Fisheries:** None at present.

**Habitat and biology:** Epi- to mesopelagic from the surface to a depth of about 600 m. Migrates to surface waters at night. Feeds on myctophids and other small fishes, squid, and crustaceans. Matures at 15 cm standard length.

**GEMPYLIDAE*****Nesiarchus nasutus*** Johnson, 1862

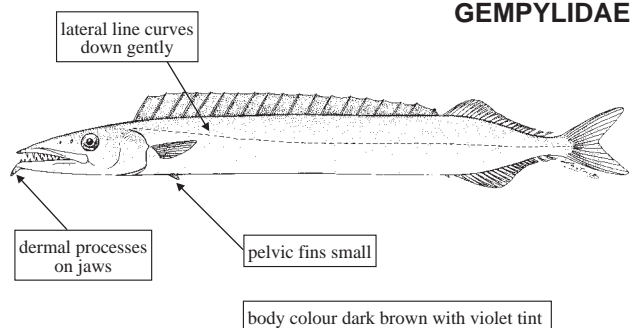
**FAO names:** **En** - Black gemfish; **Fr** - Escolier long nez; **Sp** - Escolar narigudo.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Maximum about 130 cm standard length, commonly 30 to 80 cm.

**Fisheries:** None at present.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic- to mesopelagic in depths between 200 and 1 200 m. Feeds on squids, shrimps, and crustaceans.

**GEMPYLIDAE**

***Paradiplospinus gracilis* (Brauer, 1906)****GEMPYLIDAE**

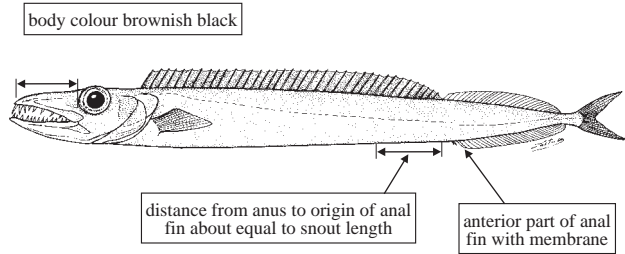
**FAO names:** **En** - Slender escolar; **Fr** - Escolier élégant; **Sp** - Escolar magro.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 52 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught rarely in deep-water trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthopelagic to upper continental slope (depths of 350 to 650 m), juveniles pelagic. Specimens of 35 to 40 cm standard length collected with ripe gonads.

***Promethichthys prometheus* (Cuvier, 1832)****GEMPYLIDAE**

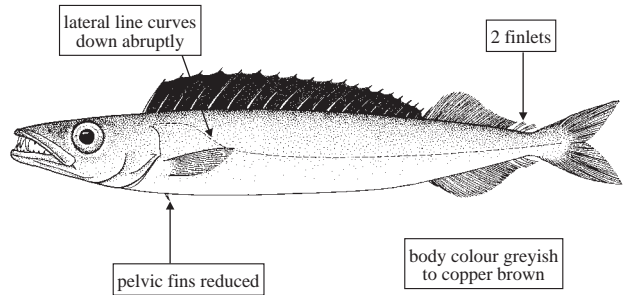
**FAO names:** **En** - Roudi escolar; **Fr** - Escolier clair; **Sp** - Escolar prometeo.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Maximum to about 100 cm.

**Fisheries:** Rarely caught in bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthopelagic on continental slopes at depths between 100 and 750 m. Migrates to midwater at night and feeds on fish, cephalopods, and crustaceans.

***Ruvettus pretiosus* Cocco, 1829 (plate XI, 88)****GEMPYLIDAE**

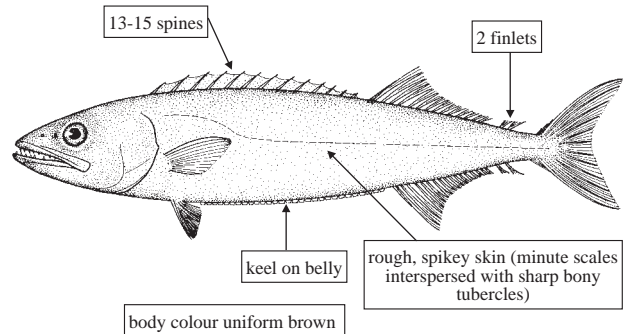
**FAO names:** **En** - Oilfish; **Fr** - Rouvet; **Sp** - Escolar clavo.

**Local names:** Oliveis (Ak); Ölfisch, Rizinusöl-Fisch, Shlangenmakrele (Gr).

**Size:** To 200 cm, common to 150 cm.

**Fisheries:** Rarely caught in bottom trawls. A significant bycatch of the swordfish fishery.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthopelagic, usually over the continental shelf but also recorded to depths of 800 m. Feeds on a wide variety of fishes, crustaceans, and cephalopods. The flesh may cause diarrhea.



***Thyrsites atun*** (Euphrasen, 1791) (plate VIII, 57)

**SNK GEMPYLIDAE**

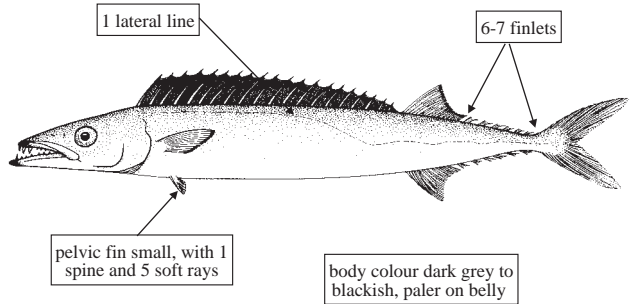
**FAO names:** En - Snoek; Fr - Escolier; Sp - Sierra.

**Local names:** Snoek (Ak); Atun (Gr).

**Size:** To 100 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught commercially by ski-boats and linefish boats. A bycatch of midwater trawlers and occasionally caught in bottom trawls or longliners.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in coastal waters, preferring temperatures between 13° and 18°C. Feeds on anchovy and pilchard, but when these resources are less available, also on crustaceans, molluscs, and other fishes. Sexual maturity is reached at 60 cm.



***Aphanopus microphthalmus*** Norman, 1939

**TRICHIURIDAE**

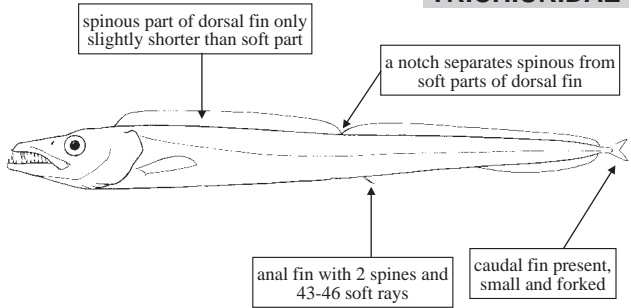
**FAO names:** En - Smalleye scabbardfish; Fr - Poisson sabre petits yeux; Sp - Sable ojito.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 100 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught incidentally in trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits deeper waters of the continental shelf and slope.



***Aphanopus mikhailini*** Parin, 1983

**TRICHIURIDAE**

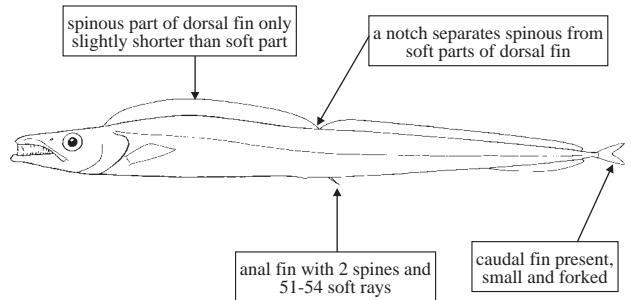
**FAO names:** En - Mikhailin's scabbardfish; Fr - Poisson sabre jarretière; Sp - Sable de Mikhailin.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 90 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught incidentally in bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Caught at depths of 1 035 to 2 000 m.



***Benthodesmus tenuis*** (Günther, 1877)

**TRICHIURIDAE**

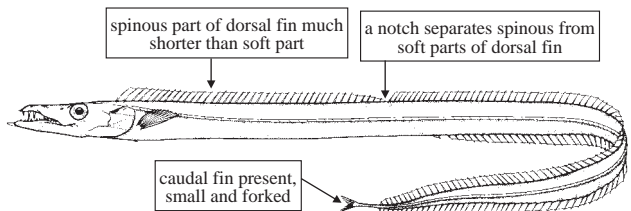
**FAO names:** En - Slender frostfish; Fr - Sabre fleuret; Sp - Cintilla.

**Local names:** Slant kalkvis (Ak).

**Size:** To around 72 cm standard length.

**Fisheries:** Caught as bycatch in trawls and on longlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthopelagic, mostly over the continental slope in depths between 200 and 800 m.



***Lepidopus caudatus*** (Euphrasen, 1788)

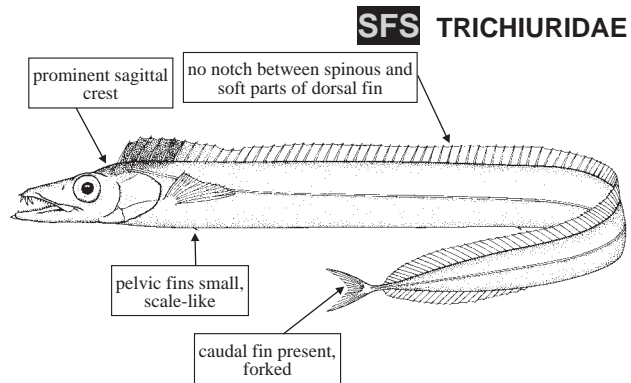
**FAO names:** **En** - Silver scabbardfish; **Fr** - Sabre argenté; **Sp** - Pez cinto.

**Local names:** Buttersnoek; Bottersnoek (Ak); Degenfisch, Strumpfbandfisch (Gr).

**Size:** To 210 cm.

**Fisheries:** Commonly caught with bottom trawls, sometimes on line gear. A bycatch of the deep-water fishery.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthopelagic, down to 600 m or more, usually over sandy bottoms. Found in inshore waters in upwelling areas. Feeds on krill, shrimps, clupeoids, mesopelagic fish, and chub mackerel.

***Trichiurus lepturus*** Linnaeus, 1758

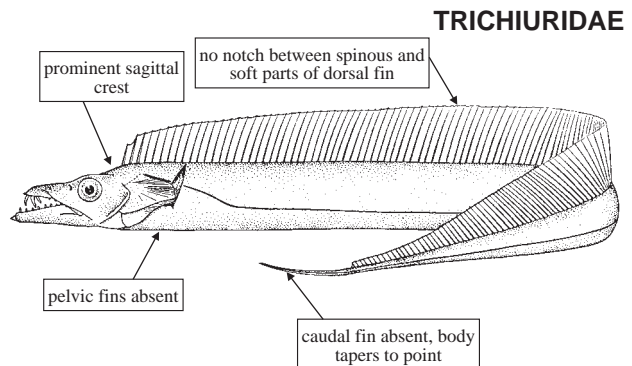
**FAO names:** **En** - Largehead hairtail; **Fr** - Poisson sabre commun; **Sp** - Pez sable.

**Local names:** Cutlassfish; Haarstert (Ak); Degenfisch, Haarschwanz (Gr).

**Size:** To 200 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught rarely with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthopelagic on the continental shelf and upper slope to at least a depth of 350 m; often in shallow coastal waters, on muddy bottoms. Feeds mainly on fishes, but occasionally on crustaceans and cephalopods.

***Allothunnus fallai*** Serventy, 1948

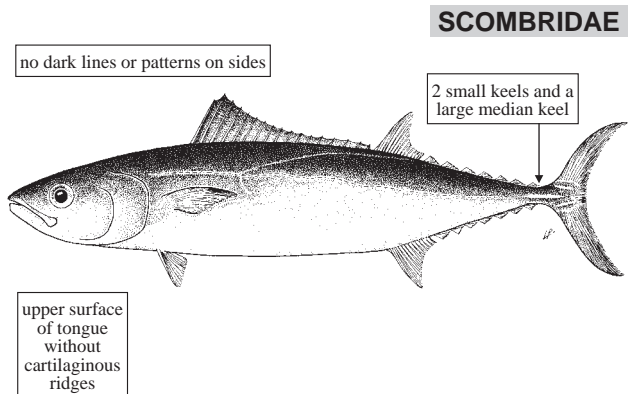
**FAO names:** **En** - Slender tuna; **Fr** - Thon élégant; **Sp** - Atún lanzón.

**Local names:** Slank tuna (Ak); Schlankthun (Gr).

**Size:** To 96 cm (fork length), typically much smaller.

**Fisheries:** Caught incidentally with longlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Epipelagic. Feeds on krill, squid, and small fishes.



***Katsuwonus pelamis*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

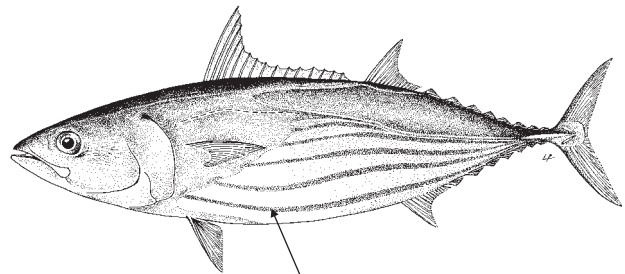
**FAO names:** **En** - Skipjack tuna; **Fr** - Bonite à ventre rayé (Listao); **Sp** - Listado.

**Local names:** Pensstrep-tuna (Ak); Bauchstreifiger Bonito, Bonito, Echter Bonito, Gestreifter Thunfisch (Gr).

**Size:** To 108 cm (fork length).

**Fisheries:** Targeted by pole-and-line vessels and caught with longlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Epipelagic and oceanic, widely distributed in all oceans within the 15°C isotherm; usually concentrated in the more productive upwelling or discontinuity areas, ranges from the surface, during nighttime, to about a depth of 250 m during daytime. Feeds on fishes, crustaceans, and molluscs; cannibalism is also common.



a series of dark lines on belly

**SKJ** SCOMBRIDAE

***Sarda sarda*** (Bloch, 1793)

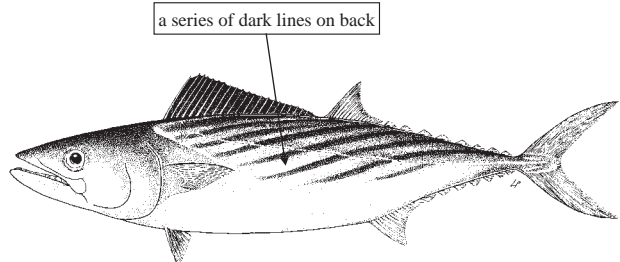
**FAO names:** **En** - Atlantic bonito; **Fr** - Bonite à dos rayé; **Sp** - Bonito atlantico.

**Local names:** Atlantiese bonito (Ak); Bonito, Pelamide (Gr).

**Size:** To 90 cm (fork length).

**Fisheries:** None at present.

**Habitat and biology:** An epipelagic neritic schooling species, able to adapt to different temperatures (12° to 27°C) and salinities (14‰ to 39‰). Feeds on fishes, squids, and shrimps. Both juveniles and adults are known to be cannibalistic.



a series of dark lines on back

SCOMBRIDAE

***Scomber japonicus*** Houttuyn, 1782

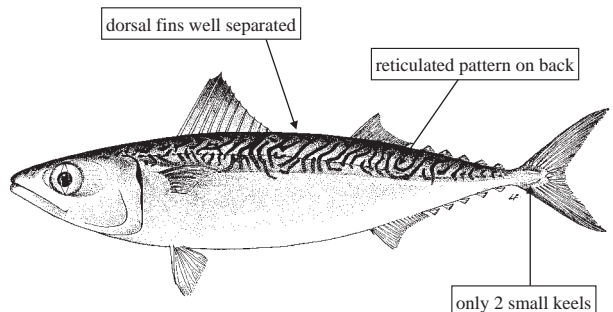
**FAO names:** **En** - Chub mackerel; **Fr** - Maquereau espagnol; **Sp** - Estornino.

**Local names:** Mackerel; Makriel (Ak); Caballa (Sp).

**Size:** To 50 cm (fork length).

**Fisheries:** Caught occasionally as a bycatch of midwater trawls but also in bottom trawls and occasionally targeted by purse seines.

**Habitat and biology:** A coastal pelagic species, occurring from the surface to 300 m depth. An opportunistic, non-selective feeder, its prey includes krill, mantis shrimps, megalops crab larvae, and small fish. Its predators include tunas, billfishes, sharks, sea lions, and pelicans.



dorsal fins well separated

reticulated pattern on back

only 2 small keels

**MAS** SCOMBRIDAE



***Thunnus alalunga*** (Bonnaterre, 1788)**ALB** SCOMBRIDAE

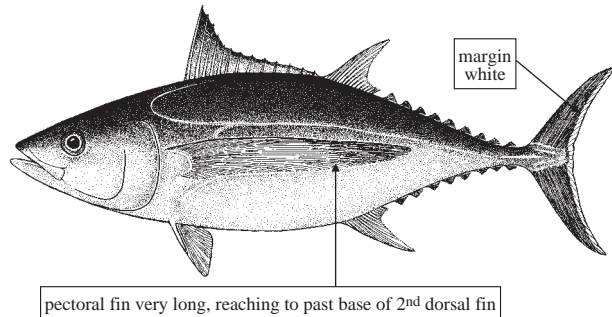
**FAO names:** **En** - Albacore; **Fr** - Germon; **Sp** - Atún blanco.

**Local names:** Albakoor (Ak); Germon, Langflossenthun, Weißer Thun, Wießer Thunfisch (Gr).

**Size:** To 130 cm (fork length).

**Fisheries:** Caught with longlines, pole-and-line, trolling, and live-bait fishing. A bycatch of the swordfish fishery.

**Habitat and biology:** Epi- and mesopelagic, oceanic species, concentrating along thermal discontinuities with oxygen content higher than about 2 ml/l. Feeds on a wide variety of organisms but preferred items comprise anchovy, pilchard, and lanternfishes; feeding may occur at the surface as well as in deep waters below the thermocline. Sexual maturity is reached at about 90 cm.

***Thunnus albacares*** (Bonnaterre, 1788)**YFT** SCOMBRIDAE

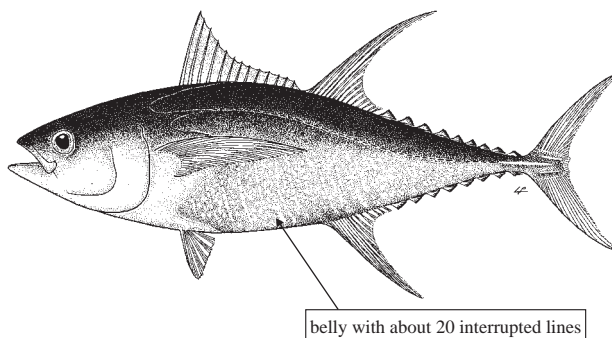
**FAO names:** **En** - Yellowfin tuna; **Fr** - Albacore; **Sp** - Rabil.

**Local names:** Geelvin-tuna (Ak); Albacore, Gelbflossenthun (Gr).

**Size:** To over 200 cm (fork length).

**Fisheries:** Caught mainly with longlines. An occasional bycatch of midwater trawlers.

**Habitat and biology:** An oceanic species, found above and below the thermocline, at temperatures between 18° and 31°C and oxygen levels more than 2 ml/l. An opportunistic feeder, preys on almost any small pelagic organism such as fish, mantis shrimp, and squid.

***Thunnus obesus*** (Lowe, 1839)**BET** SCOMBRIDAE

**FAO names:** **En** - Bigeye tuna; **Fr** - Thon obèse; **Sp** - Patudo.

**Local names:** Grootoog-tuna (Ak); Dickleibiger Thun, Großaugenthun Großaugiger, Thun (Gr).

**Size:** To 200 cm (fork length).

**Fisheries:** Caught mainly with longlines. A significant bycatch of the swordfish fishery.

**Habitat and biology:** A pelagic, oceanic species, caught from the surface to 250 m depth, at water temperatures ranging from 13° to 29°C. Feeds on a wide variety of fish species, cephalopods, and crustaceans, and is preyed upon by large billfishes and toothed whales.

