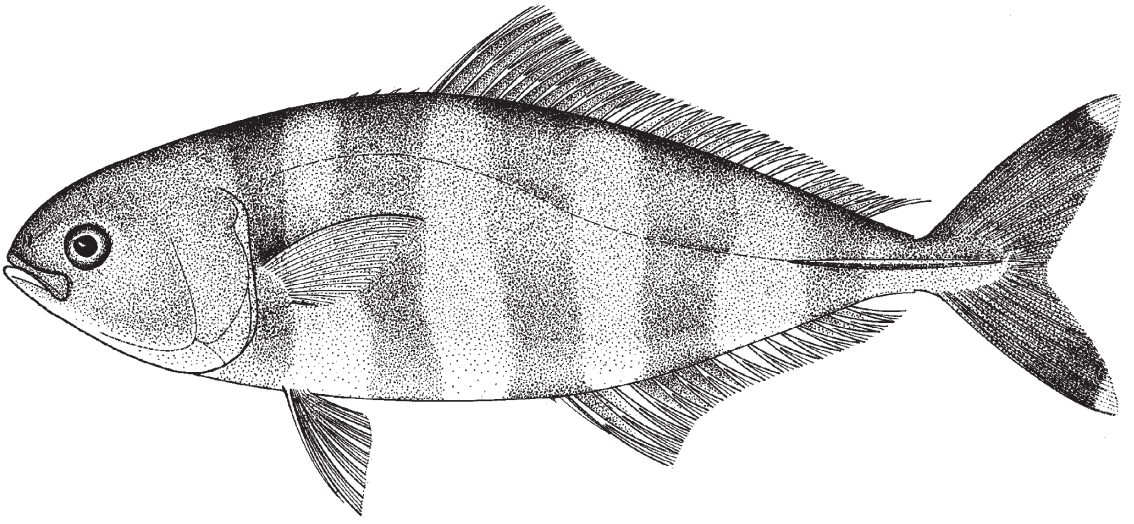
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Naucrates ductor (Linnaeus, 1758) NAU

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

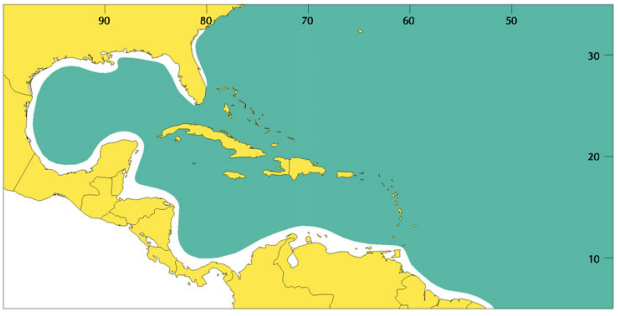
FAO names: En - Pilotfish; **Fr** - Poisson pilote; **Sp** - Pez piloto.



Diagnostic characters: Body elongate, shallow, and barely compressed, with nearly equal upper and lower profiles, but head profile tapering sharply above anterior half of upper jaw to produce a nearly blunt snout. **Upper jaw very narrow posteriorly and extending to about anterior margin of eye**. Teeth minute, in a band in upper and lower jaws. Gill rakers 6 or 7 upper, 15 to 20 lower and 21 to 27 total. **Dorsal fin with 4 or 5 spines (first spine may be minute and/or last spine may be reduced and skin-covered in fish larger than 20 cm fork length)**, followed by 1 spine and 25 to 29 soft rays; anal fin with 2 spines separated from rest of fin (first may be reduced and skin-covered) followed by 1 spine and 15 to 17 soft rays; second dorsal-fin lobe short, contained 7.1 to 8.2 times in fork length; anal-fin base short, contained 1.6 to 1.9 times in second dorsal-fin base. Scales very small and ctenoid (rough); no scutes. **Caudal peduncle with a well-developed lateral, fleshy keel on each side and dorsal and ventral peduncle grooves**. Vertebrae 10 precaudal and 15 caudal. **Colour:** in live fish, 6 or 7 black bands against a light silvery background, but there also is a transient coloration (possibly aggressive display) with bands disappearing and most of fish silvery white with 3 broad blue patches in tandem across back. In fresh or preserved fish, head dark, **5 or 6 dark broad body bands** and a similar band at end of caudal peduncle, bands 3 to 6 extending through soft dorsal and anal-fin membranes, and the bars persistent at all sizes; rest of body bluish (fresh) or light or dusky; **white tips prominent on upper and lower caudal-fin lobes and smaller white tips on second dorsal- and anal-fin lobes**; most of fins dusky to dark.

Size: Maximum to 63 cm fork length, 70 cm total length, common to 35 cm fork length; weight 0.5 kg at 33 cm fork length.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Pelagic in oceanic water. Has a semi-obligate commensalism with large sharks, rays, other fishes, turtles, ships, and driftwood; juveniles often associated with seaweeds and jellyfishes; larvae are epipelagic in ocean waters. Feeds on host's food scraps, small invertebrates; may be ectoparasites on host. Caught with dip nets, hook-and-line, and gill nets. No real fishery.

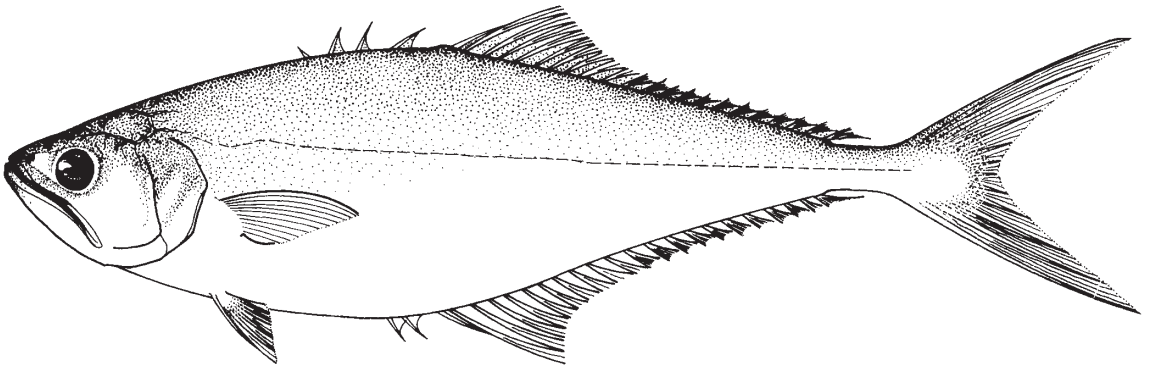


Distribution: Circumtropical in marine waters. In the western Atlantic known from off Nova Scotia (Sable Island and Sambro Banks) and Bermuda south to off Argentina.

Oligoplites palometa (Cuvier in Cuvier and Valenciennes, 1832) OLP

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Maracaibo leatherjack; **Fr** - Sauteur palomette; **Sp** - Zapatero palometa.

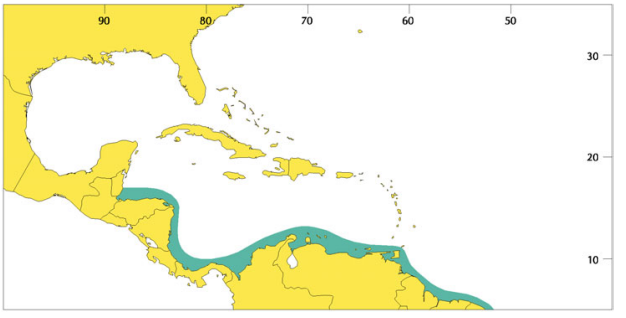


Diagnostic characters: Body elongate, slightly deep, and greatly compressed, with upper and lower profiles similar, except throat more convex than top of head. Eye small (diameter contained 3.6 to 4.0 times in head length). Upper jaw not protractile at snout tip, very narrow at end, and extending beyond a vertical through posterior margin of eye. **Teeth in jaws small, those in upper jaw in a villiform band, wider anteriorly**; lower jaw with 2 rows of conical teeth at sizes longer than about 16 cm fork length (young with numerous outwardly-hooked spatulate teeth in outer row, these deciduous and replaced). **Gill rakers** 3 to 6 upper, 11 to 14 lower and **14 to 20 total. Dorsal fin with 4 spines** (rarely 5), followed by 1 spine and 20 or 21 soft rays; anal fin with 2 pungent spines separated from rest of fin, followed by 1 spine and 19 or 20 soft rays; **posterior 11 to 15 dorsal- and anal-fin rays forming semidetached finlets**; bases of anal and second dorsal fins about equal in length; pectoral fins shorter than head length. Lateral line slightly arched over pectoral fin and straight thereafter; no scutes; **scales needle-like and embedded**, but visible. No caudal keels or caudal peduncle grooves. Vertebrae 10 precaudal and 16 caudal. **Colour:** preserved, dusky above, sides and belly silvery; dorsal-fin spines dusky with clear membranes; second dorsal fin clear to slightly dusky with darker areas between the first 5 or 6 rays extending from base to 2/3 of fin; rest of dorsal fin and anal fin clear; caudal fin dusky with a narrow clear posterior margin.

Size: Maximum to about 43 cm fork length at 0.9 kg; common to 28 cm fork length.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Pelagic; principally in brackish and fresh water, but also inhabits muddy sea bottoms at depths between 18 and 45 m. Caught in seines and trawls; not fished selectively, but abundant enough to be seen in Venezuelan markets; flavour reported to be poor.

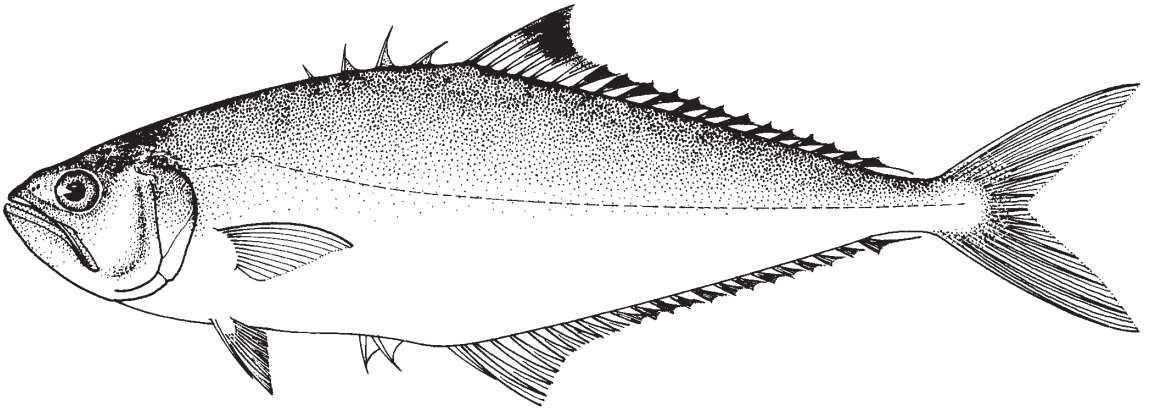
Distribution: Lake Yzabal, Guatemala, to São Paulo, Brazil. Closely related to *Oligoplites altus* (Günther) of the eastern Pacific, but probably not as a geminate species pair.



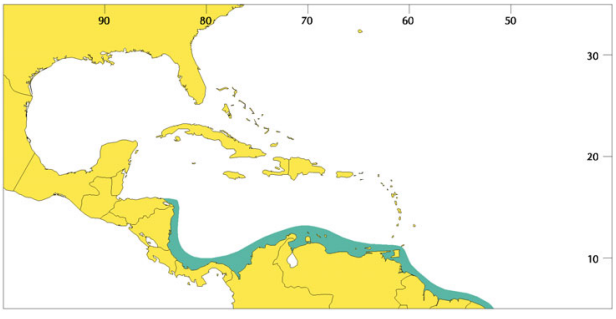
Oligoplites saliens (Bloch, 1793) OLS

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Castin leatherjack; **Fr** - Sauteur castin; **Sp** - Zapatero castín.



Diagnostic characters: Body elongate, slightly deep, and greatly compressed, with upper and lower profiles similar, except **lower jaw expanded, with a convex profile** and profile of top of head nearly straight. Eye small (diameter contained about 4.3 to 4.4 times in head length). Upper jaw not protractile at snout tip, very narrow at end, and extending beyond a vertical through posterior margin of eye. **Teeth in jaws small, those in upper jaw in a single row**; lower jaw with 2 rows of conical teeth at all sizes. Gill rakers about 4 to 7 upper, 17 to 20 lower, and **23 to 26 total**. Dorsal fin with 4 spines, followed by 1 spine and 20 or 21 soft rays; anal fin with 2 pungent spines separated from rest of fin, followed by 1 spine and 20 or 21 soft rays; **posterior 11 to 15 dorsal- and anal-fin rays forming semidetached finlets**; bases of anal and second dorsal fins about equal in length; pectoral fins shorter than head length. Lateral line slightly arched over pectoral fin and straight thereafter; no scutes; **scales needle-like and embedded**, but visible. Vertebrae 10 precaudal and 16 caudal. No caudal keels or caudal-peduncle grooves. **Colour:** fresh, dull bluish grey above with a dark dorsal midline, sides and belly silvery white; lower sides suffused with irregular golden olive areas; dorsal-fin lobe dusky with grey markings along bases of anterior 6 rays, rest of fin clear; anal fin mostly clear; caudal fin dark to dusky on scaly portion of base, remainder of fin dusky amber.



Size: Maximum to 43.2 cm fork length at 0.9 kg; common to 30 cm fork length.

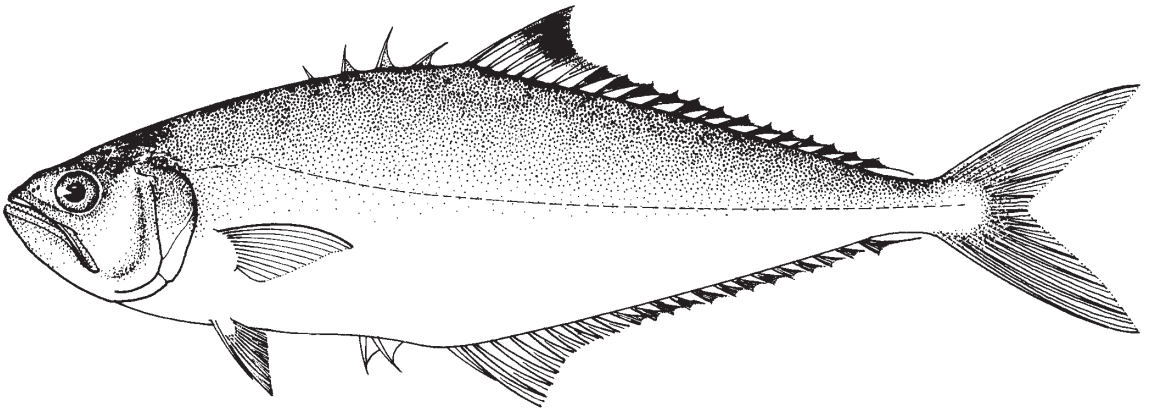
Habitat, biology, and fisheries: An inshore species at least in waters of 18 m. Caught in trawls and seines; marketed mostly fresh.

Distribution: Cartasca Lagoon, Honduras to Montevideo, Uruguay.

Oligoplites saurus (Bloch and Schneider, 1801) OLI

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Atlantic leatherjack (AFS: Leatherjack); **Fr** - Sauteur cuir; **Sp** - Zapatero sietecueros.

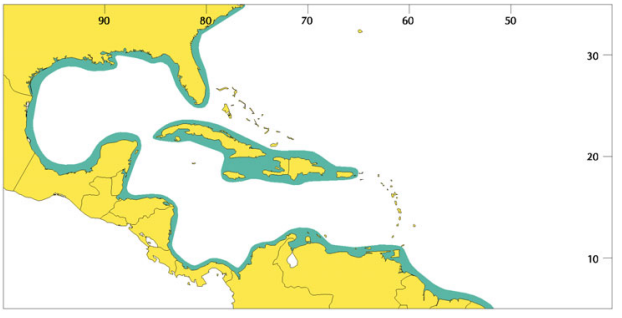


Diagnostic characters: Body elongate, slightly deep, and greatly compressed, with upper and lower profiles similar, except throat more convex than top of head; eye small (diameter contained 4 to 4.5 times in head length). Upper jaw not protractile at snout tip, very narrow at end, and extending nearly to vertical through posterior margin of eye. **Teeth in jaws small, upper jaw with 2 closely spaced rows, teeth in outer row irregular and smaller anteriorly**; lower jaw with 2 rows of conical teeth at sizes longer than about 16 cm fork length (young with numerous outwardly-hooked spatulate teeth in outer row, these deciduous and replaced). **Gill rakers** 5 to 8 upper, 13 to 16 lower, and **19 to 23 total. Dorsal fin with 5 spines** (rarely 4 or 6), followed by 1 spine and 19 to 21 soft rays; anal fin with 2 pungent spines separated from rest of fin, followed by 1 spine and 19 to 22 soft rays; **posterior 11 to 15 dorsal- and anal-fin rays forming semidetached finlets**; bases of anal and second dorsal fins about equal in length; pectoral fins shorter than head length. Lateral line slightly arched over pectoral fin and straight thereafter; no scutes; **scales needle-like and embedded**, but visible. No caudal keels or caudal-peduncle grooves. Vertebrae 10 precaudal and 16 caudal. **Colour:** fresh, aqua or bluish above, sides and belly silvery to white, sometimes with 7 to 8 irregular broken silvery bands and white interspaces along middle of sides; some fish suffused with gold or yellow on lower belly and cheeks. Dorsal-fin spines dusky or dark with clear membranes, second dorsal and anal fins usually clear, but with dusky markings on lobes of both fins in some fish; caudal fin clear to amber.

Size: Maximum to 29.7 cm fork length at 0.287 kg; common to 27 cm fork length.

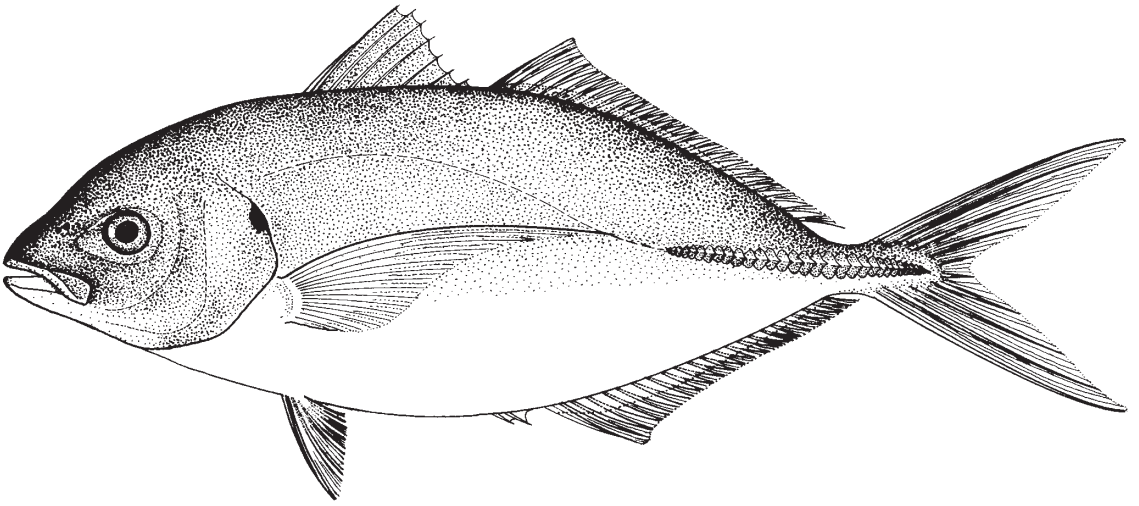
Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Usually occurs in large schools inshore along sandy beaches and in bays and inlets; may occur in nearly fresh water; more often in turbid than clear water; juveniles may float at surface with tail bent and head down. Spawns in shallow, inshore waters from early spring to midsummer. Feeds on fishes and crustaceans; will take live or dead bait; plant parts have been found in gut; juveniles may feed on ectoparasites and other fishes' scales. Anal-fin spines can produce intense pain. Caught in seines, trawls, traps, and gill nets; not fished selectively, but sold fresh in some Central and South American markets; also used as bait; flesh not of good quality.

Distribution: In the western Atlantic from Chatham, Massachusetts to at least Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, possibly to Uruguay); throughout most of the West Indies, excluding the Bahamas. Subspecies *Oligoplites saurus inornatus* (Pacific leatherjack) occurs in the eastern Pacific only, from Baja, California to Ecuador and at the Galapagos Islands. Molecular studies are needed to confirm subspecific taxonomic rank.



Pseudocaranx dentex (Bloch and Schneider, 1801) TRZ

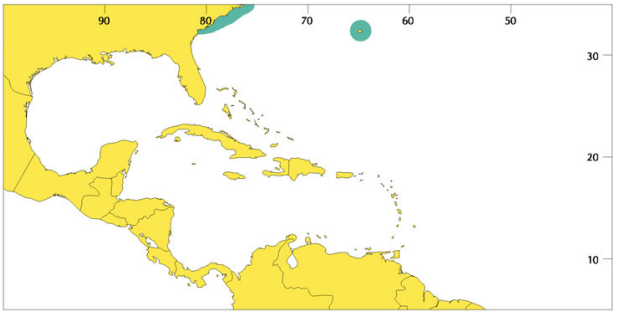
Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Caranx dentex* (Bloch and Schneider, 1801) / None.
FAO names: En - White trevally; **Fr** - Carangue dentue; **Sp** - Jurel dentón.



Diagnostic characters: Body elongate, moderately deep, and compressed, with dorsal and ventral profiles similar. Eye relatively small (diameter contained 4.4 to 5.3 times in head length) with weak adipose eyelid. **Lips noticeably papillose and upper jaw projecting beyond lower in large adults. Upper jaw not reaching anterior margin of eye. Both jaws with a row of blunt conical teeth**, upper jaw sometimes with an inner series of conical teeth anteriorly. Gill rakers 11 to 14 upper, 23 to 28 lower. Two separate dorsal fins, the first with 8 spines, the second with 1 spine and 25 to 27 soft rays; **anal fin with** 2 spines followed by 1 spine and **21 to 26 soft rays; dorsal-fin spines long, longest spine longer than lobe of soft dorsal fin**; pectoral fins falcate (longer than head). Lateral line with a weak and extended anterior arch, with junction of curved and straight parts of lateral line below vertical from twelfth to fourteenth rays of second dorsal fin; chord of curved part of lateral line contained 0.6 to 0.85 times in straight part (to caudal-fin base); curved part of lateral line with 57 to 78 scales; straight part of lateral line 2 to 27 anterior scales and 16 to 31 scutes; scales small and cycloid (smooth to touch); chest completely scaly. No bilateral paired caudal keels. Vertebrae 10 precaudal and15 caudal. **Colour:** pale greenish blue above, silvery below; **yellow stripe along sides (wider posteriorly)** and at base of soft dorsal and anal fins; caudal and soft dorsal fins dusky yellow; **a black spot on posterodorsal margin of opercle.**

Size: Attains 82 cm fork length and 10.7 kg; common to 40 cm fork length. All-tackle IGFA world angling record 15.25 kg.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Found in inshore schools, feeding on bottom. Taken incidentally; some caught on handlines 20 to 50 m deep with *Caranx crysos* as bait; caught with fish traps in Bermuda; marketed fresh locally.

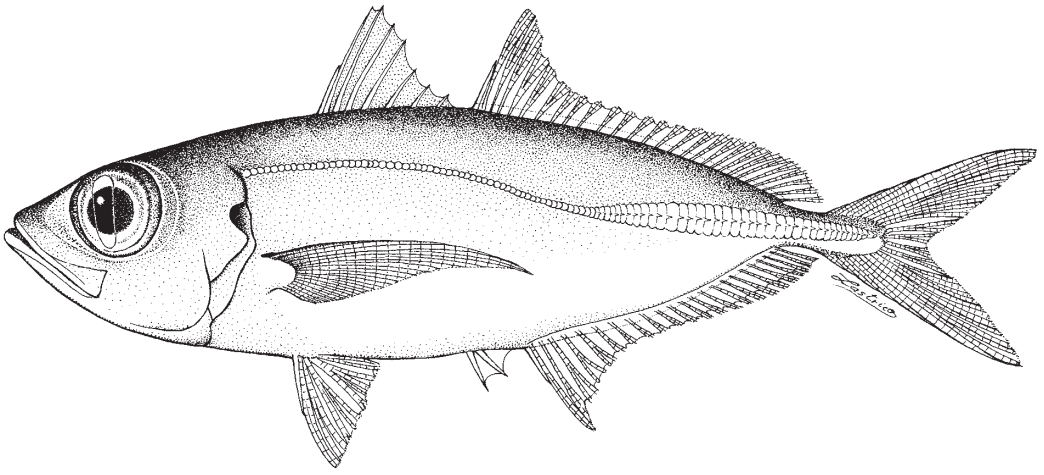


Distribution: Broadly distributed anti-tropical species in eastern Atlantic, Mediterranean Sea, Indian Ocean, and Indo-West Pacific. In the western Atlantic known only from Bermuda, North Carolina to Georgia, and southern Brazil; unconfirmed reports of the species from Little Bahama Bank.

Selar crumenophthalmus (Bloch, 1793) BIS

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

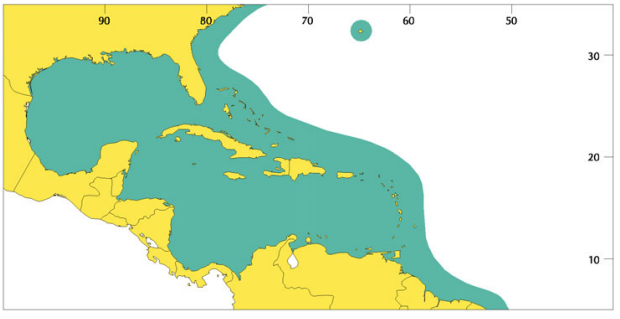
FAO names: En - Bigeye scad; **Fr** - Selar coulisou; **Sp** - Chicharro ojón.



Diagnostic characters: Body elongate and moderately compressed, with lower profile slightly more convex than upper. **Eye very large** (diameter contained 2.7 to 3 times in head length), **with a well-developed adipose eyelid completely covering eye except for a vertical slit centred on pupil**. Upper jaw moderately broad at end and extending to below anterior margin of pupil. Teeth small and recurved; upper jaw with a narrow band, tapering posteriorly; lower jaw with an irregular single row. Gill rakers 9 to 12 upper, 27 to 31 lower, and 37 to 42 total. **Shoulder girdle margin with a deep (cleithral) furrow, a large papilla immediately above it and a smaller papilla near upper edge**. Dorsal fin with 8 spines, followed by 1 spine and 24 to 27 soft rays; anal fin with 2 spines separated from rest of fin, followed by 1 spine and 21 to 23 soft rays; pectoral fins shorter than head. Lateral line with a weak and extended anterior arch; chord of curved part of lateral line contained 0.7 to 1.2 times in straight part (to caudal-fin base); scales in curved part of lateral line 48 to 56; 0 to 4 scutes in curved part, 48 to 58 total scales and scutes, straight part with 0 to 11 anterior pored scales and 29 to 42 scutes (to caudal-fin base), total 30 to 43 scales and scutes; total number of scales and scutes in lateral line 83 to 94. Dorsal accessory lateral line extending posteriorly to beneath origin of first dorsal fin. Vertebrae 10 precaudal and 14 caudal. **Colour:** in fresh fish, upper third of body and top of head metallic blue or bluish green; tip of snout dusky or blackish; lower 2/3 of body and head silvery or whitish; a **narrow, yellowish stripe may be present from edge of opercle to upper part of caudal peduncle**; blackish areas above and below pupil with a reddish area sometimes present; a small elongated, blackish opercular spot on edge near upper margin. First dorsal fin dusky on margins with rest of fin clear; second dorsal fin dusky over most of fin with dorsal lobe blackish; anal fin clear or slightly dusky along base; caudal fin dusky with tip of upper lobe dark; pectoral fins clear or slightly dusky near base and with a yellowish tint sometimes present; pelvic fins clear.

Size: Maximum documented record of 27 cm standard length; unsubstantiated report of 60 cm standard length; common to about 24 cm fork length at weights of about 0.23 kg.

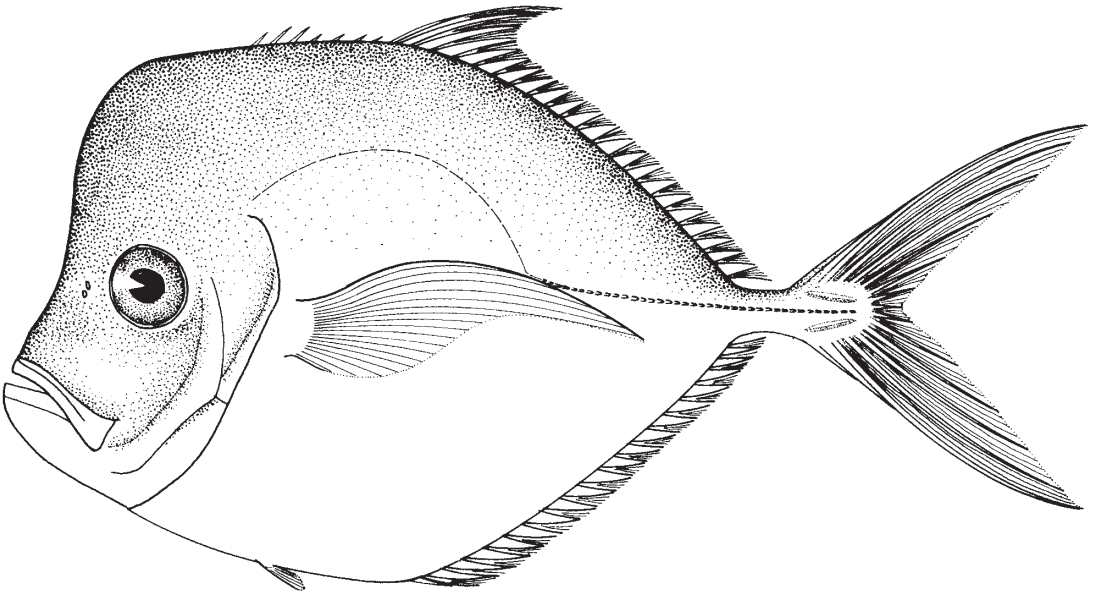
Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Occurs in schools, large ones usually in inshore or shallow waters; may occur over shallow reefs or in turbid water. Feeds mostly on planktonic or benthic invertebrates; also feeds on fish. Caught with trawls, seines, and hook-and-line. Sold in markets; highly rated live bait for sailfish. Edibility fair to good.



Distribution: Worldwide in tropical and subtropical marine waters. In the western Atlantic, from Bermuda, Nova Scotia to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and throughout the West Indies.

Selene brownii (Cuvier, 1816) LNW

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / *Selene spixii* (Agassiz in Spix and Agassiz, 1831).
FAO names: En - Full moonfish (AFS: Caribbean moonfish); **Fr** - Musso lune; **Sp** - Jorobado luna.

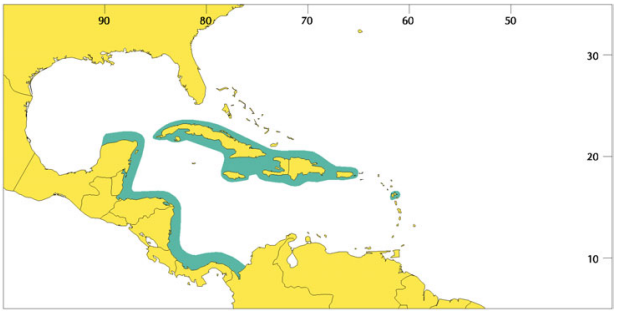


Diagnostic characters: Body short, very deep (at sizes greater than 10 cm fork length, body depth 61.0 to 65.7% fork length), and extremely compressed, with ventral profile more convex than dorsal; head profile rounded at top and sharply sloping through a slight concavity in front of eye to a blunt snout with lower jaw protruding. Eye moderately small (diameter contained 3.4 to 3.7 times in head length). Upper jaw short, expanded at posterior end, and ending far below and about under anterior margin of eye. Teeth relatively small, upper jaw with a narrow irregular band; lower jaw with a narrow irregular band tapering to an irregular row posteriorly. **Gill rakers** 6 to 8 upper, 24 to 28 lower, and 30 to 36 total, **usually 31 to 34**. Dorsal fin with 8 spines, followed by 1 spine and 21 to 23 soft rays; anal fin with 2 spines (resorbed into body at about 13 cm fork length) separated from rest of fin, followed by 1 spine and 17 to 19 soft rays; **first 4 dorsal-fin spines elongated in fish shorter than 6 cm fork length**, with the longest (second) spine about equal in length to body depth, these spines becoming very short and nearly resorbed by 30 cm fork length; **second dorsal-fin lobe slightly elongated, shorter than head**, contained about 5.4 to 8.3 times in fork length; pelvic fins relatively short at all sizes, becoming nearly rudimentary (about 8 to 9.5 times in pectoral-fin length). Scutes in straight part of lateral line weak, scarcely differentiated, numbering from 7 to 12 over caudal peduncle; **body superficially naked, scales small and embedded**, covering most of lower half of body but absent anteriorly on most of area from pelvic-fin base to junction of curved and straight portions of lateral line. Vertebrae 10 precaudal and 14 caudal. **Colour:** generally silvery; a faint dark spot on edge of opercle; a narrow dark area on top of caudal peduncle; fins clear or dusky on caudal-fin lobes in some. **Juveniles with an oval black spot over straight portion of lateral line to about 7 to 19 cm fork length.**

Size: Maximum to about 23 cm fork length, 29 cm total length.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Found in waters over the continental shelf. Caught with trawls and seines (often with *Selene setapinnis*), but not abundant. No real fishery. Edibility not known.

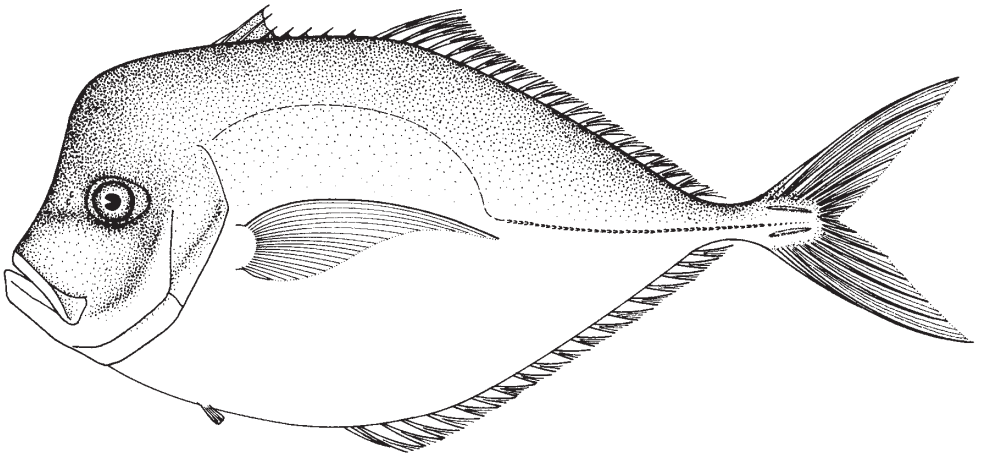
Distribution: Western Atlantic only, along continental shelf from Mexico to Colombia and Brazil, and from Cuba to Guadeloupe in the West Indies.



Selene setapinnis (Mitchill, 1815) MOA

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

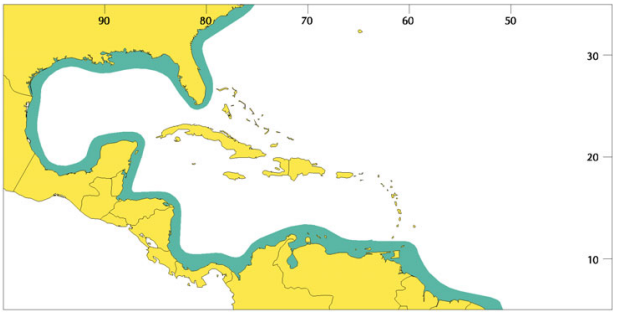
FAO names: En - Atlantic moonfish; **Fr** - Musso atlantique; **Sp** - Jorobado lamparosa.



Diagnostic characters: Body short, very deep (at sizes greater than 10 cm fork length, body depth 46.0 to 51.5% fork length), and extremely compressed, with ventral profile more convex than dorsal; head profile rounded at top and sharply sloping through a slight concavity in front of eye to a blunt snout with lower jaw protruding. Eye moderately small (diameter contained 3.4 to 3.7 times in head length). Upper jaw short, expanded at posterior end, and ending far below and about under anterior margin of eye. Teeth relatively small; upper jaw with a narrow irregular band; lower jaw with a narrow irregular band tapering to an irregular row posteriorly. **Gill rakers** 7 to 10 upper, 27 to 35 lower, and **34 to 44 total**. Dorsal fin with 8 spines, followed by 1 spine and 21 to 24 soft rays; anal fin with 2 spines (resorbed into body at about 13 cm fork length) separated from rest of fin, followed by 1 spine and 16 to 19 soft rays; **first 4 dorsal-fin spines elongated in fish shorter than 6 cm fork length**, with the longest (second) spine about equal in length to body depth, these spines becoming very short and nearly resorbed by 30 cm fork length; **second dorsal-fin lobe only slightly elongated, shorter than head**, contained 7.5 to 11.4 times in fork length; pelvic fins relatively short at all sizes, becoming nearly rudimentary (contained 7.2 to 9.8 times in pectoral fin length). Scutes in straight part of lateral line weak, scarcely differentiated, numbering from 7 to 17 over caudal peduncle; **body superficially naked, scales small and embedded**, covering most of lower half of body but absent anteriorly on most of area from pelvic-fin base to junction of curved and straight portions of lateral line. Vertebrae 10 precaudal and 14 caudal. **Colour:** in fresh fish, body and head silvery, sometimes with a metallic bluish cast, more pronounced on upper body, head, and snout; a faint dark spot on edge of opercle near upper margin; a narrow black area on top of caudal peduncle; fins clear or hyaline, with dusky or olive yellow tints on second dorsal- and caudal-fin lobes in some. **Juveniles generally silvery with an oval black spot over straight portion of lateral line, persistent on some individuals to 9 cm fork length but disappearing on others at 7 cm fork length.**

Size: Maximum to 33 cm fork length; 39 cm total length; common to 24 cm fork length.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: A schooling species, usually near the bottom from inshore waters to at least 54 m depth. Young occur near the surface, as far as 180 km offshore. Juveniles may occur in bays and river mouths. Sexual maturity is reached by about 13 cm fork length. Feeds on small fishes and crustaceans. Caught with trawls or seines. Edibility rated poor to good.

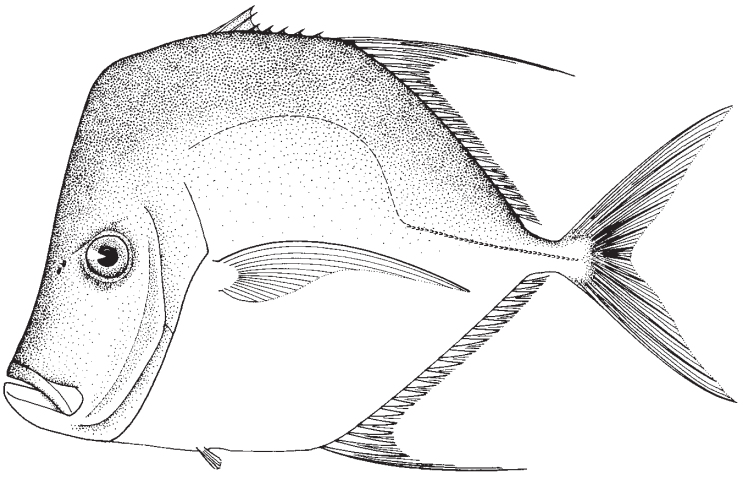


Distribution: In the Western Atlantic apparently restricted to continental margins from Nova Scotia to Mar del Plata, Argentina. Two closely related species occur in other areas, *Selene dorsalis* (Gill) in the eastern Atlantic, and *Selene peruviana* (Guichenot) in the eastern Pacific.

Selene vomer (Linnaeus, 1758) LNM

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

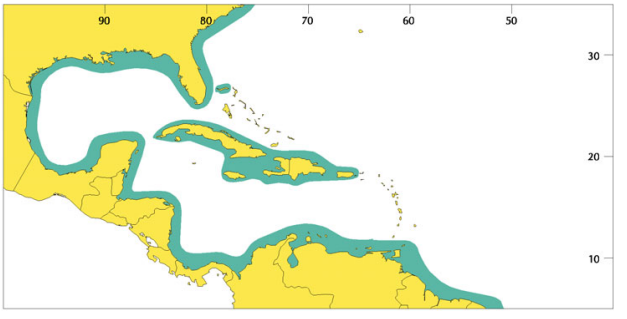
FAO names: En - Atlantic look down (AFS: Lookdown); **Fr** - Musso panache; **Sp** - Jorobado de penacho.



Diagnostic characters: Body short, very deep, and extremely compressed, with dorsal and ventral profiles similar and parallel in abdominal area; head very deep, with dorsal profile sharply sloping to a basal terminal mouth with lower jaw protruding. Eye small (diameter contained 5.5 to 6.0 times in head length). Upper jaw broad at end and ending below and in front of anterior margin of eye. Teeth minute, conical and recurved in jaws; upper jaw teeth in a band, becoming an irregular row posteriorly; lower jaw teeth similar but band narrower. Gill rakers 6 to 9 upper, 23 to 27 lower, 31 to 35 total. Dorsal fin with 8 spines, followed by 1 spine and 20 to 23 soft rays; anal fin with 2 spines (resorbed by about 11 cm fork length), followed by 1 spine and 17 to 20 soft rays; **first 4 dorsal-fin spines elongated in small fish** (second spine about 2.5 times longer than fork length at about 3.5 cm fork length), these spines becoming shorter and resorbed as the fish grows until the spine length goes about 10 to 25 times into the fork length; **second dorsal-fin lobe also elongated at about 2 cm fork length, its length contained about 1.3 times in fork length at 23 cm fork length and 1.5 to 2.0 times at larger sizes**; pelvic fins elongated in larvae (longer than pectoral fins to about 5 cm fork length) becoming shorter with growth to about 10 times into pectoral-fin length. Lateral-line scutes weak and scarcely differentiated, numbering from 7 to 12 over caudal peduncle. **Body superficially naked, scales small and embedded**, covering most of body but absent in area anterior to second dorsal fin to below curved portion of lateral line. Vertebrae 10 precaudal and 14 caudal. **Colour:** no distinctive colour marks, silvery or golden; back above lateral line with a metallic bluish tinge; first prolonged dorsal- and anal-fin ray often blackish. **Young with** pelvic-fin spine and prolonged second and third dorsal-fin spines black, and with dusky, somewhat oblique crossband; a band over eye continued and tapering below eye; **4 or 5 interrupted bands on body usually very faint.**

Size: Maximum to 40 cm fork length at 1.47 kg; common to 24 cm fork length. All-tackle IGFA world angling record 2.1 kg.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Occurs in small schools often near the bottom in shallow coastal waters over hard or sandy bottoms; often around pilings and bridges. Feeds on small crustaceans, fish, and worms. Caught in trawls and seines; reported to fight well on light tackle. Caught inadvertently with other species, but not fished selectively. Flesh rated from good to excellent.



Distribution: Confined to the western Atlantic, from Maine to Uruguay; rare in the West Indies; absent from Bermuda. A geminate species, *Selene brevoortii* (Gill), occurs in the eastern Pacific.

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