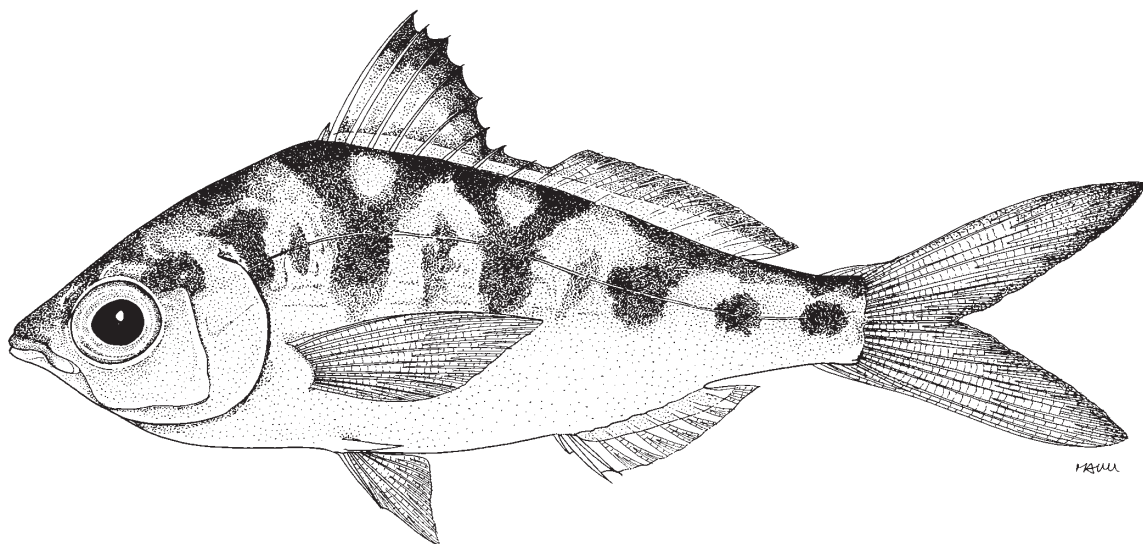


***Eucinostomus harengulus*** Baird and Girard, 1855

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Eucinostomus argenteus* Goode and Bean, 1879 / None.

**FAO names:** En - Tidewater mojarra.

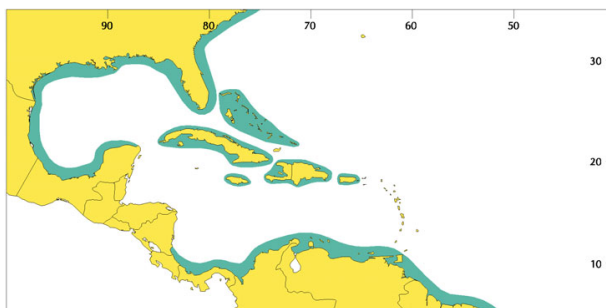


**Diagnostic characters:** Body fusiform and compressed, rather slender (depth 33.2 to 35.9% standard length). Least depth of caudal peduncle 10.4 to 11.1% standard length; Mouth strongly protrusible, maxilla usually not reaching anterior margin of pupil; **edge of preopercle smooth**; preorbital bone smooth; **premaxillary groove** (an unscaled median depression running on top of snout into interorbital space) **continuous, not interrupted by a transverse row of scales or constricted anteriorly**; scales extend forward of vertical line from anterior margin of orbit; 7 or 8 gill rakers (including 1 at angle but excluding rudiments at anterior end) on lower limb of anterior gill arch. **Lateral-line scales 43 to 46**, usually 45. **Colour:** the most heavily pigmented species of *Eucinostomus*; area between nares usually with fairly uniform pigment, no distinct, dark, V-shaped mark on snout; 7 dorsal dark bars variously connected to 6 dark lateral spots, S7 through S9 present (Fig. 4 in key).

**Size:** Maximum to 15 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** The most common euryhaline mojarra within the genus *Eucinostomus* occurring primarily in estuarine waters, in seagrass meadows, open sand and mud bottoms, and mangrove forests, and penetrates considerable distances into fresh-water tributaries. Does not commonly occur in ocean inlets nor on continental shelves. Feeds predominantly on benthic invertebrates.

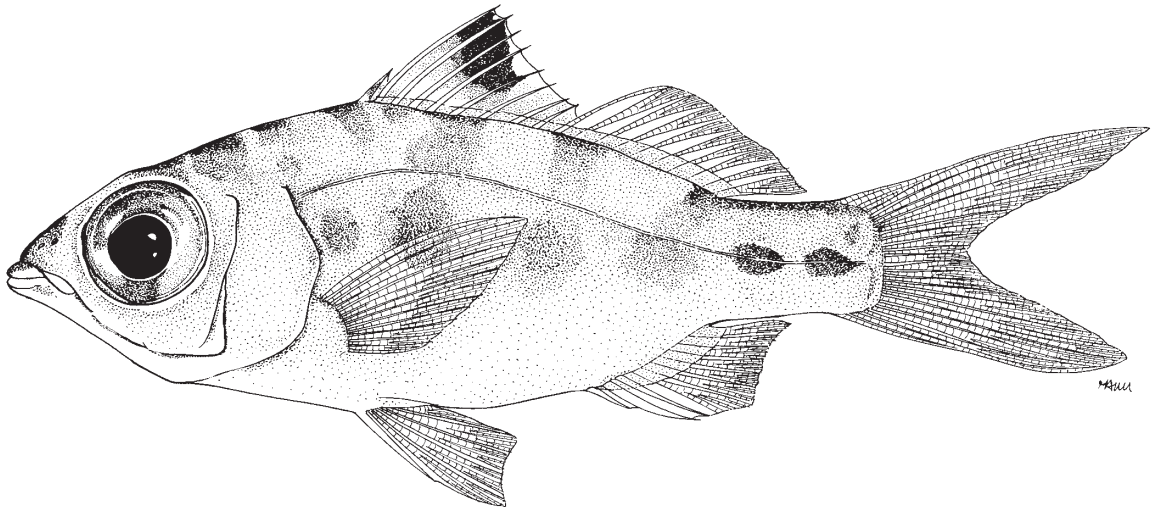
**Distribution:** This is one of the most abundant mojarra in the region, occurring from Bermuda, Chesapeake Bay south to São Paulo, Brazil, including the Bahamas, West Indies and throughout the entire Gulf of Mexico. Not recorded from Belize and only from Barbados in the West Indies.



***Eucinostomus havana*** (Nichols, 1912)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Lepidochir havana* (Nichols, 1912) / None.

**FAO names:** **En** - Bigeye mojarra; **Fr** - Blanche gros yeux; **Sp** - Mojarrita cubana.



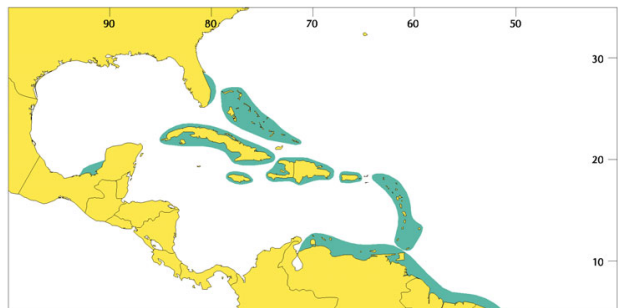
**Diagnostic characters:** Body fusiform, compressed, moderately slender (depth 30.3 to 37% standard length). Mouth strongly protrusible, maxilla usually not reaching anterior margin of pupil; **edge of preopercle smooth**; preorbital bone smooth; premaxillary groove (an unscaled median depression running on top of snout into interorbital space) continuous, not interrupted by a transverse row of scales; 7 or 8 gill rakers (including 1 at angle but excluding rudiments at anterior end) on lower limb of anterior gill arch. Dorsal fin only slightly notched; **pectoral fins completely scaled in adults** (scales restricted to basal portion of fins in young); **3 weak spines in anal fin**. **Colour:** silver, body with 6 light dorsal bars connected to 6 lateral spots; a broad black area on upper part of spinous dorsal fin.

**Size:** Maximum to 18 cm; common to 14 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Inhabits very shallow water, usually less than 10 m, rarely in deeper water to 45 m; generally found over sites with mixed vegetation and sand; also found over mud bottoms in mangrove areas. Does not penetrate estuaries, and not euryhaline. May form sizeable aggregations. Feeds predominantly on benthic invertebrates. Caught mainly with beach and boat seines, gill nets, and trammel nets; also with traps and cast nets. Marketed fresh in many localities, although its flesh is not highly esteemed; also made into fishmeal (Cuba). Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

**Distribution:** Bermuda; from eastern Florida through the Bahamas and Antilles; along the South American coast from Venezuela to northeast Brazil; apparently largely absent from the Gulf of Mexico except for the Laguna de Términos, Mexico.

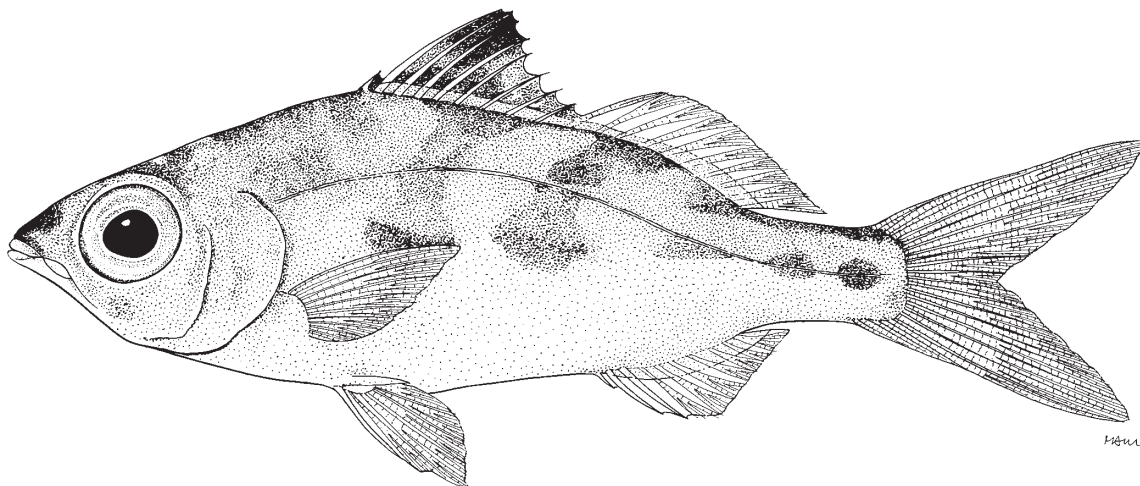
**Note:** The generic name *Lepidochir* was proposed in a Ph.D. thesis by H.W. Curran (1942), University of Michigan, for *E. havana*. The name has not been formally published.



***Eucinostomus jonesii* (Günther, 1879)**

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / None.

**FAO names:** En - Slender mojarra; Sp - Mojarrita esbelta.

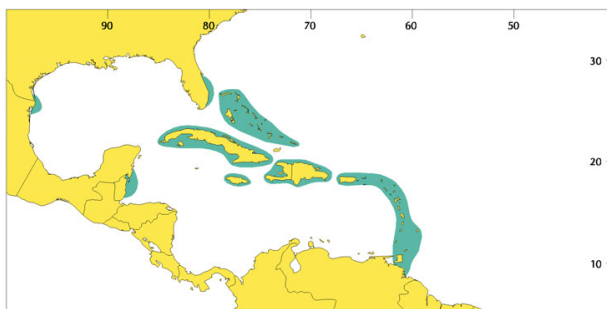


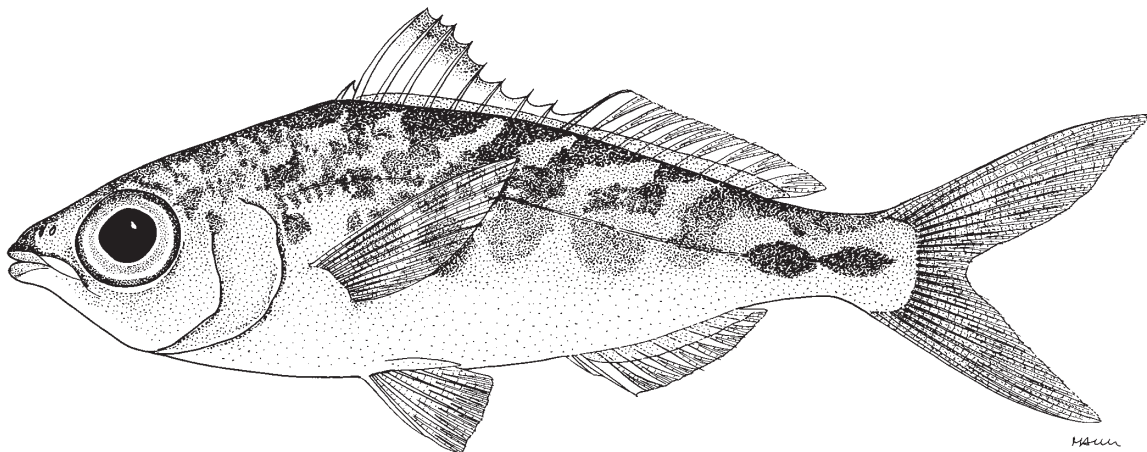
**Diagnostic characters:** Body fusiform, compressed, slender (depth 30.2 to 32.1% standard length); least depth of caudal peduncle 8.9 to 10.1% standard length. Mouth strongly protrusible, maxilla usually not reaching anterior margin of pupil; **edge of preopercle smooth**; preorbital bone smooth; **premaxillary groove** (an unscaled median depression running on top of snout into interorbital space) **continuous, not interrupted by a transverse row of scales**; 7 or 8 gill rakers (including 1 at angle but excluding rudiments at anterior end) on lower limb of anterior gill arch. Scales extend forward of vertical line from anterior margin of orbit. Dorsal fin moderately notched. **Lateral-line scales usually 47 or more.** **Colour:** distinct, dark, V-shaped mark on snout; body silvery, greenish above with bluish reflections; smaller individuals may have dusky diagonal bars and blotches on upper half of sides.

**Size:** Maximum to 20 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** This species typically occurs over sand bottoms and seagrass meadows in high energy zones of ocean inlets and passes, on continental shelves, particularly in the surf zone. Does not penetrate estuaries, and not euryhaline. Feeds predominantly on benthic invertebrates.

**Distribution:** Bermuda, strays to Chesapeake Bay, abundant from eastern Florida to southern Brazil, including the Bahamas and Antilles; but apparently largely absent from most of the Gulf of Mexico, with few records from the western Gulf of Mexico, southern Texas. Not recorded from Venezuela.



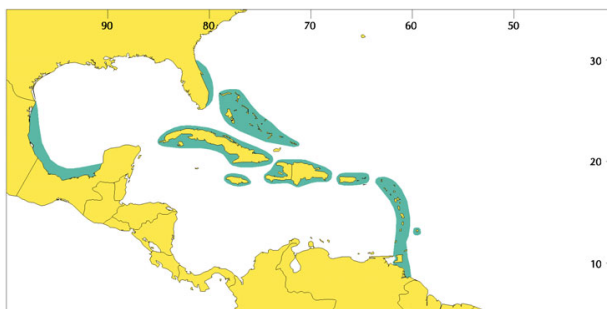
***Eucinostomus lefroyi* (Goode, 1874)****Frequent synonyms/misidentifications:** *Ulaema lefroyi* (Goode, 1874)**FAO names:** En - Mottled mojarra.

**Diagnostic characters:** Body fusiform and compressed, very slender (27.8 to 32.3% standard length). Mouth strongly protrusible, maxilla usually not reaching anterior margin of pupil; **edge of preopercle smooth**; preorbital bone smooth; 7 gill rakers (including 1 at angle but excluding rudiments at anterior end) on lower limb of anterior gill arch. **Anal fin with 2 spines. Colour:** silver with 7 wavy, often broken bars angled anteriorly down from back (unique and not as in Fig. 4 in key for other *Eucinostomus*) with 8 lateral spots, darkest 2 on lateral line at caudal peduncle; tip of spinous dorsal fin usually clear occasionally with dusky pigment, caudal fin dusky.

**Size:** To 15 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Abundant along high energy sandy beaches, ocean inlets, and passes. Does not penetrate estuaries, and not euryhaline. Feeds predominantly on benthic invertebrates.

**Distribution:** Recorded from Bermuda and North Carolina. Most abundant from eastern Florida south to Brazil, including the Bahamas, western and southern Gulf of Mexico from Laguna Madre to Laguna de Términos, and the Caribbean. Absent from the northern and eastern Gulf of Mexico, and from Belize south to Venezuela.

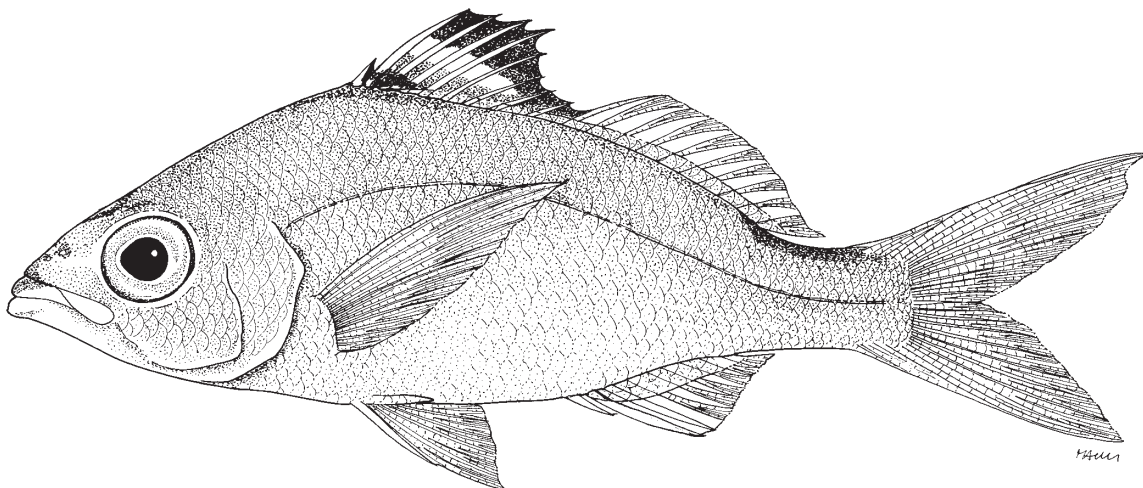


*Eucinostomus melanopterus* (Bleeker, 1863)

MFF

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / None.

**FAO names:** **En** - Flagfin mojarra; **Fr** - Blanche drapeau; **Sp** - Mojarrita de ley.

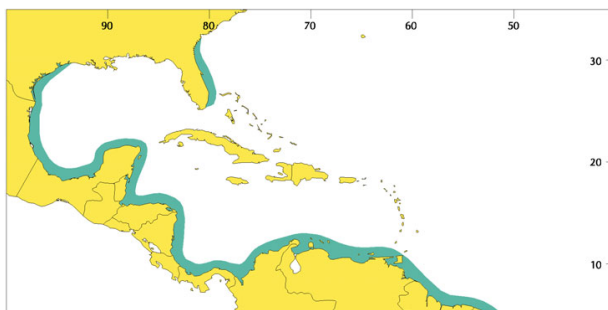


**Diagnostic characters:** Body fusiform and compressed, moderately deep (depth 28.6 to 38.5% standard length). Mouth strongly protrusible, maxilla usually not reaching anterior margin of pupil; **edge of preopercle smooth**; preorbital bone smooth; **9 gill rakers** (including 1 at angle but excluding rudiments at anterior end) **on lower limb of anterior gill arch**; premaxillary groove (unscaled median depressed region on top of snout) not interrupted by a transverse row of scales. **Anal fin with 3 spines**, the second stronger but not longer than third. **Colour:** silver, darker above, without distinctive dark markings on body; fins pale or lightly dusky, spinous portion of **dorsal fin has prominent solid jet black pigment above a white area**, with a dusky area below.

**Size:** Maximum to 19 cm; common to 15 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Primarily a marine to polyhaline species inhabiting shallow coastal waters ocean inlets over open sand, mud, or shell bottoms, with and without vegetation. Feeds predominantly on benthic invertebrates. Caught mainly with beach and boat seines, gill nets, and trammel nets; also with traps and cast nets. Marketed fresh in many localities, although its flesh is not highly esteemed; also made into fishmeal (Cuba). Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

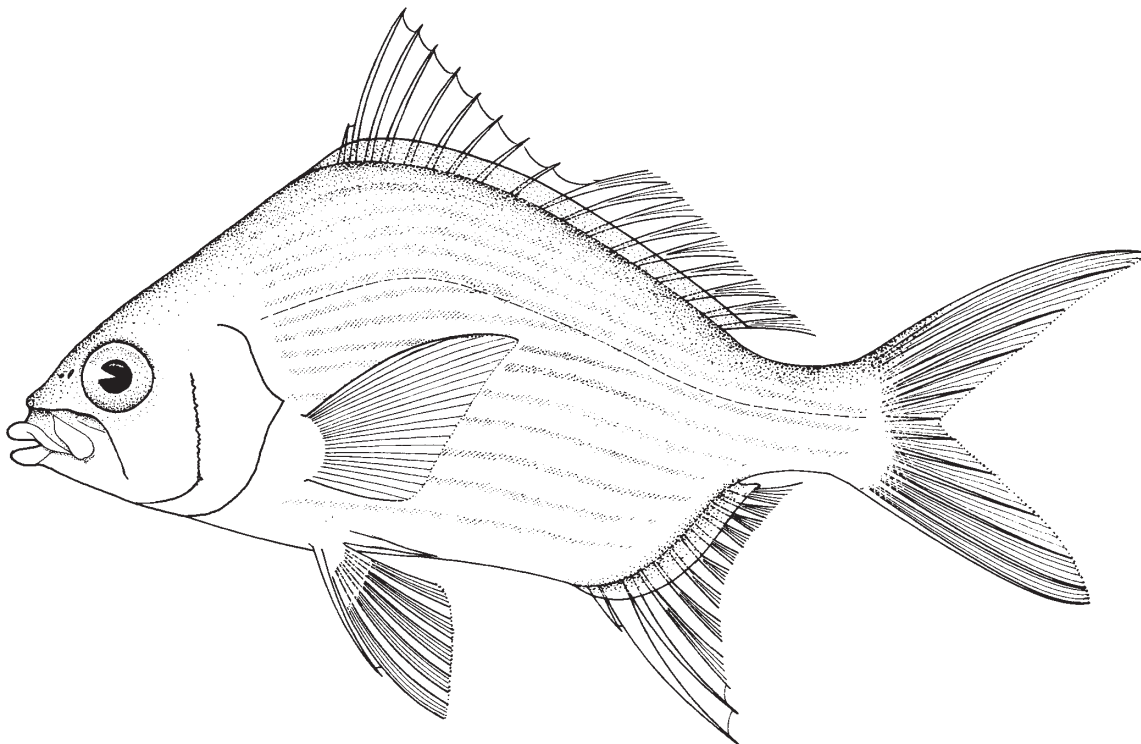
**Distribution:** Rare north of Cape Hatteras, recorded from New Jersey, most abundant from eastern Florida south through the Antilles to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It is absent from the tip of Florida and eastern Gulf of Mexico to the Mississippi River, but is present in the western Gulf of Mexico from Louisiana south along the coasts of Mexico, Central America, and northern South America. Largely absent from insular locations, Bermuda, the Bahama Islands and the Antilles. Also occurs in the eastern Atlantic Ocean from Senegal to Angola.



***Eugerres brasilianus*** (Cuvier, 1830)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / None.

**FAO names:** **En** - Brazilian mojarra; **Fr** - Blanche brésilienne; **Sp** - Mojarra del Brasil (Patao brasileño).

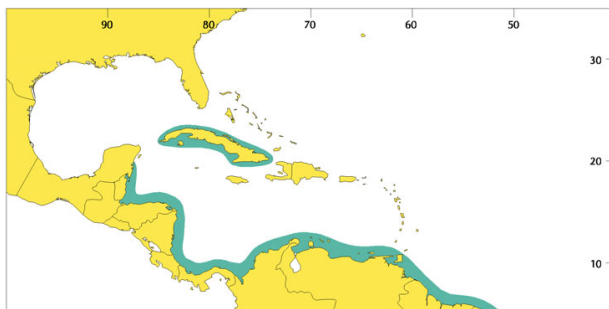


**Diagnostic characters:** Body rhomboidal, compressed, moderately deep (depth 1.9 to 2.7 in standard length). Mouth strongly protrusible, maxilla usually extending to or beyond the anterior margin of pupil; **edge of preopercle serrated; preorbital bone serrated; 10 to 12 (usually 11 or 12) gill rakers on lower limb of anterior gill arch.** Pored lateral-line scales 34 to 39 (usually 36 or 37). Dorsal fin with a notably high spinous portion; pectoral fins slightly falcate and moderately long, reaching to (or nearly to) anal-fin origin when appressed; **anal fin with 3 spines and 7 soft rays;** second anal-fin spine very strong. **Colour:** body silvery, slightly darker on back, with conspicuous dark brown to black longitudinal stripes on sides following centres of scale rows.

**Size:** Maximum to 27 cm standard length.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Nothing is known about the biology of this species but in Belize it has been taken in fresh water as well as coastal marine locations.

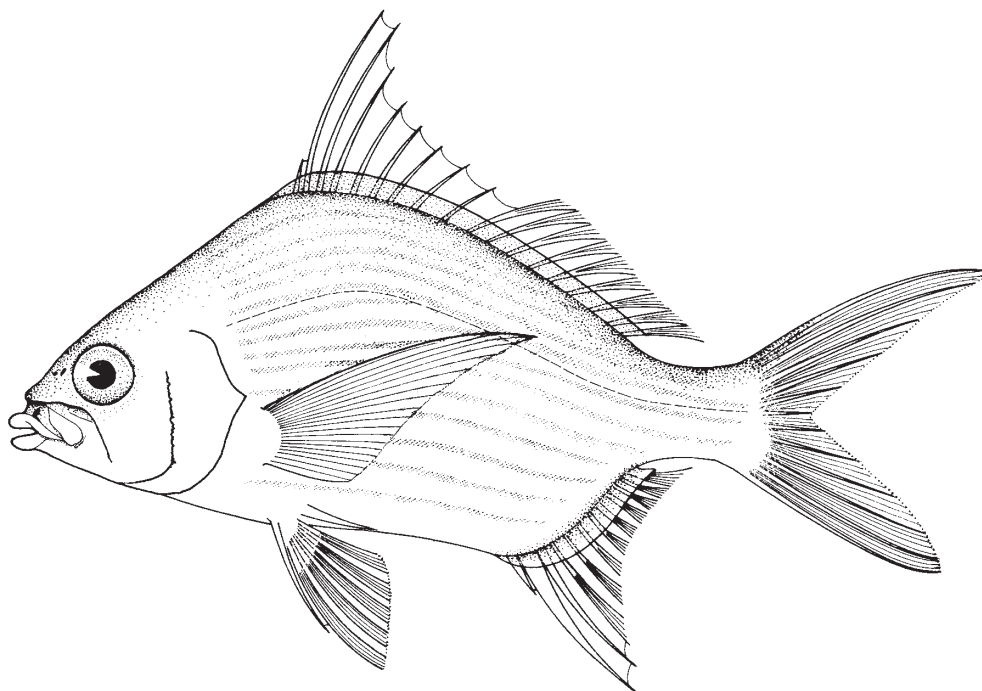
**Distribution:** Known from Belize, Central America south to Brazil, including Cuba and the West Indies. There is a record from Laguna Alvarado, Mexico.



***Eugerres plumieri* (Cuvier, 1830)**

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Diapterus plumieri* (Cuvier, 1830); *Eugerres awlae* Schultz, 1949 / None.

**FAO names:** **En** - Striped mojarra; **Fr** - Blanche raye; **Sp** - Mojarra rayada.

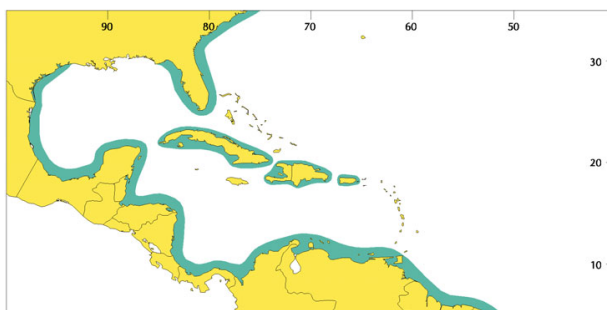


**Diagnostic characters:** Body rhomboidal, compressed, moderately deep (depth 1.9 to 2.3 in standard length). Mouth strongly protrusible, the maxilla usually extending to or beyond the anterior margin of pupil; **edge of preopercle serrated; preorbital bone serrated; 13 to 17 (usually 15) gill rakers on lower limb of anterior gill arch.** Pored lateral-line scales 32 to 38 (usually 34 to 36). Dorsal fin with a notably high spinous portion; pectoral fins slightly falcate and very long, reaching beyond anal-fin origin when appressed; **anal fin with 3 spines and usually 8 soft rays;** second anal-fin spine very strong. **Colour:** body silvery, with greenish blue tinges on back; conspicuous dark brown to black longitudinal stripes on sides following centres of scale rows.

**Size:** Maximum to 40 cm; common to 30 cm.

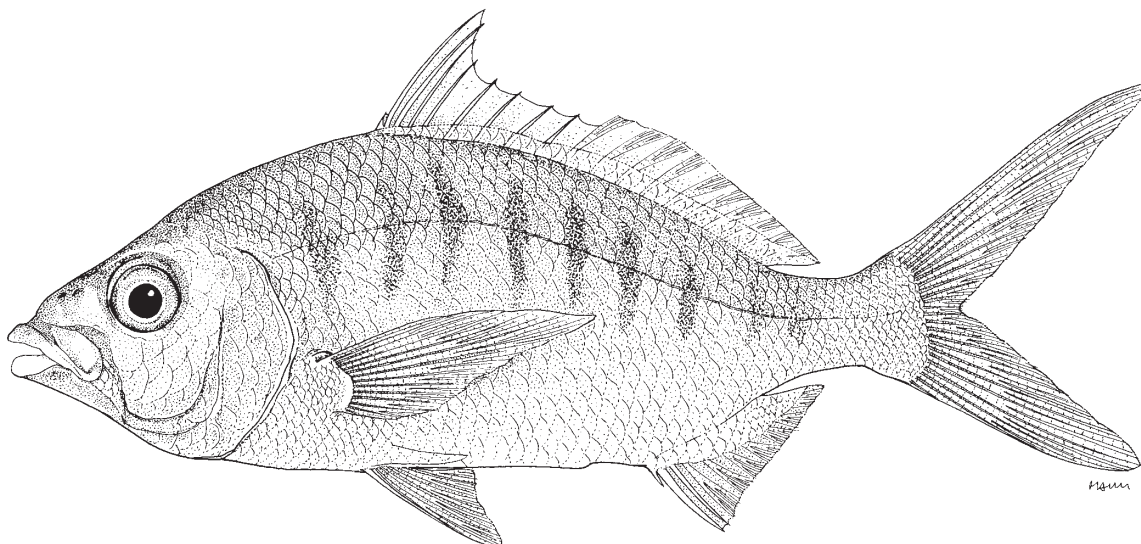
**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** A euryhaline mojarra, inhabiting shallow coastal waters, most commonly over mud bottoms in mangrove-lined creeks and lagoons, often entering fresh water. Feeds on a variety of invertebrates but most important are ostracods, amphipods, copepods, pelecypods, polychaetes, nematodes, and plant material. In Mexico it matures in the dry season at a total length of about 20.5 cm. Caught mainly with cast nets, boat seines, gill nets, trammel nets, beam trawls, and traps. Supports fisheries throughout its breeding range contributing to landings of 13 600 to 136 000 kg in the Florida mojarra fisheries. Marketed mostly fresh; also made into fishmeal (Cuba). Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

**Distribution:** Occurs to South Carolina, most abundant from eastern Florida south to Bahia, Brazil, including the eastern and western Gulf of Mexico from Laguna Pueblo Viejo, Mexico south along the coasts of Central America and northern South America. Absent from Bermuda, the Bahamas, and the West Indies.



***Gerres cinereus*** (Walbaum, 1792)

GEN

**Frequent synonyms/misidentifications:** None / None.**FAO names:** En - Yellowfin mojarra; Fr - Blanche cendré; Sp - Mojarra blanca (munama).

**Diagnostic characters:** Body compressed and moderately deep (depth 2.3 to 2.6 in standard length). Mouth strongly protrusible, maxilla reaching to or beyond anterior margin of pupil; **edge of preopercle smooth**; preorbital bone smooth; **posterior part of premaxillary groove** (unscaled median depressed region on snout) **broad, the scales to the side not reaching a vertical at front of eye**. Dorsal fin slightly notched, second to fourth spines much higher than remainder of fin; pectoral fins long, almost reaching to anal-fin origin when appressed; anal fin with 3 spines and 7 soft rays; second anal-fin spine not greatly enlarged. **Colour:** body silvery, with blue tinge on head and back; 7 or 8 dark bluish or pinkish vertical bars on sides; **pelvic and anal fins yellow**.

**Size:** Maximum to about 41 cm; common to 28 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Inhabits shallow coastal waters, especially exposed sand flats, sand bottoms in coral reef areas, bays, bights, and mangrove-lined creeks, entering brackish and sometimes even fresh water; may occur in small aggregations. Feeds on crabs, pelecypods, gastropods, polychaetes, and miscellaneous other benthic invertebrates. Caught mainly with beach and boat seines, gill nets, trammel nets, and cast nets; also with traps. Marketed mostly fresh, although its flesh is not highly esteemed; also made into fishmeal. Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

**Distribution:** Bermuda; Florida south to southeast Brazil, including the Bahamas, Gulf of Mexico, coasts of Central America and northern South America. Also occurs in the eastern Pacific Ocean from Bahia Santa Maria, Baja, California to Chimbote, Peru, including the Galapagos Islands.

