

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

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

AULOSTOMIDAE

Trumpetfishes

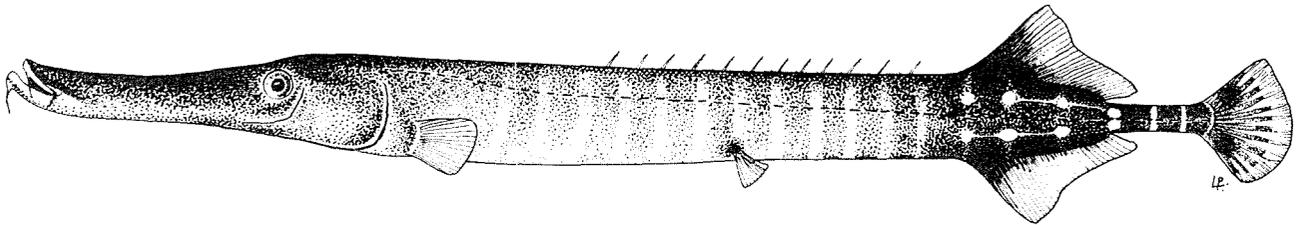
A single species in the area; see species sheet for:
Aulostomus chinensis (Linnaeus, 1766) AULOST Aulost 1

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: AULOSTOMIDAE

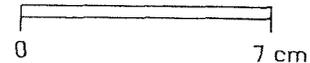
FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Aulostomus chinensis (Linnaeus, 1766)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Chinese trumpetfish
Fr - Trompette chinoise
Sp - Trompetero chino



NATIONAL:

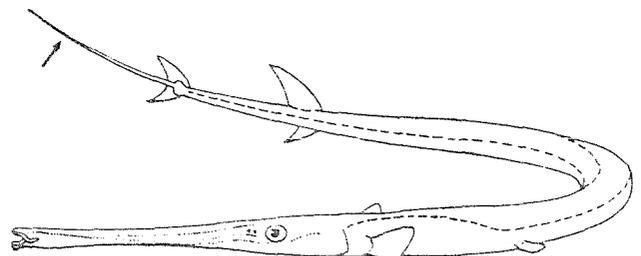
DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate and compressed. Mouth at end of elongate snout; a single barbel on chin. First dorsal fin with 8 to 12 isolated spines; second dorsal and anal fins opposite to each other and similarly shaped, the dorsal fin with 24 to 27, and the anal fin with 26 or 29 segmented (soft) rays; pelvic fins small, abdominal, with 6 rays. Lateral line continuous. Body covered with small ctenoid (rough) scales, except for the head and anterior part of the back, which are scaleless. Vertebrae 62 to 64, the first 4 elongate and fused.

Colour: overall colour variable; body most commonly brownish with irregular light vertical bars. A black maxillary stripe usually present, but may be reduced; dorsal and anal fins light, but with a dark basal bar; caudal fin usually with two round black spots; a black spot at base of each pelvic fin.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Species of *Fistulariidae*: a distinct caudal filament present; body depressed rather than compressed; no spines before soft dorsal fin.



SIZE :

Maximum: 75 cm; common to 40 cm.

Fistulariidae

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Within the area, known from the East African coast (Mozambique to Somalia), Madagascar, Seychelles, Laccadives, and southern coasts of India and Sri Lanka. Also found in the Eastern Indian Ocean and the Western Central Pacific.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Occurs in shallow, clear water, most frequently observed to be hanging vertically in the water with the head down.

Feeds on small fishes and shrimps.

Taken occasionally as bycatch in artisanal fisheries. Of no commercial importance.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION :

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with several types of artisanal gear.

Occasionally consumed by the local population.

