

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

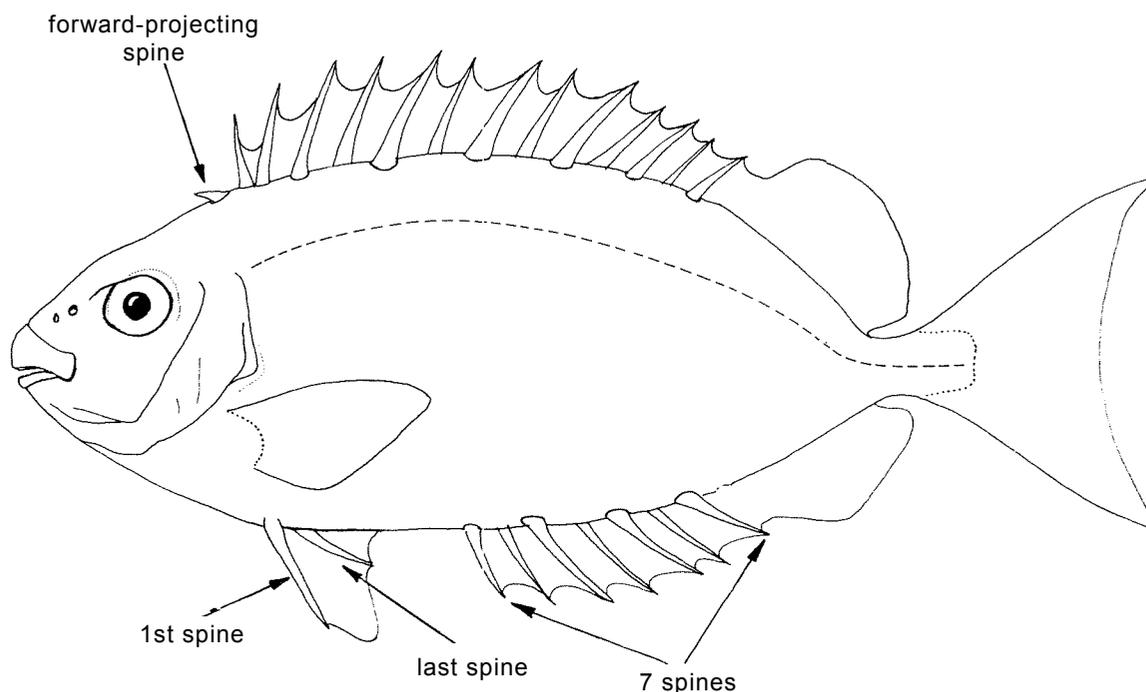
SIGANIDAE

Spinefoots, rabbitfishes

Body laterally compressed, oval, deep or slender, covered with small scales. Mouth small with a single row of fine, close-set teeth in each jaw. Dorsal fin with 13 strong spines and 10 soft rays, preceded by a forward projecting spine, embedded to varying degrees in the nape; pelvic fins with 2 strong spines separate by 3 soft rays, character unique to the family; anal fin with 7 strong spines and 9 soft rays (variations in the number of dorsal and anal spines and rays are extremely rare); the spines are venomous.

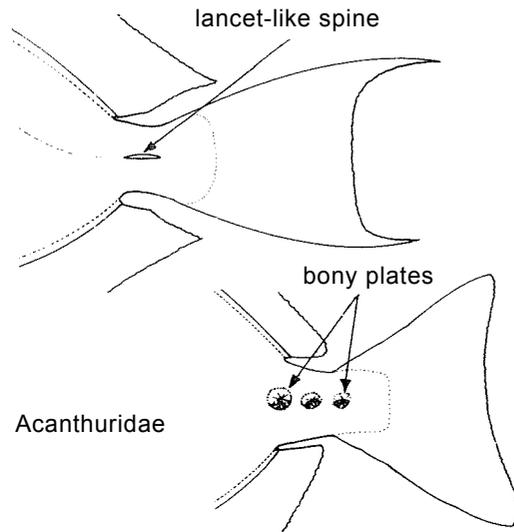
Colour: coral associating species usually brightly coloured and ornately patterned; others often drab and becoming variously mottled with brown at death.

Moderate sized, herbivorous fishes of shallow coastal waters; some species live in pairs around coral, others in schools around rock and coral reefs, mangroves, estuaries and brackish lagoons. The reported catch of rabbitfishes in Fishing Area 51 totalled 480 metric tons in 1981.



SIMILAR FAMILIES, OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

All other families have at most i pelvic fin spine (2 in siganid species). The Acanthuridae superficially resemble the deeper bodied siganids, but have bony plates or lancet-like spines on each side of caudal peduncle and only 2 or 3 caudal fin spines (7 in species of Siganidae).



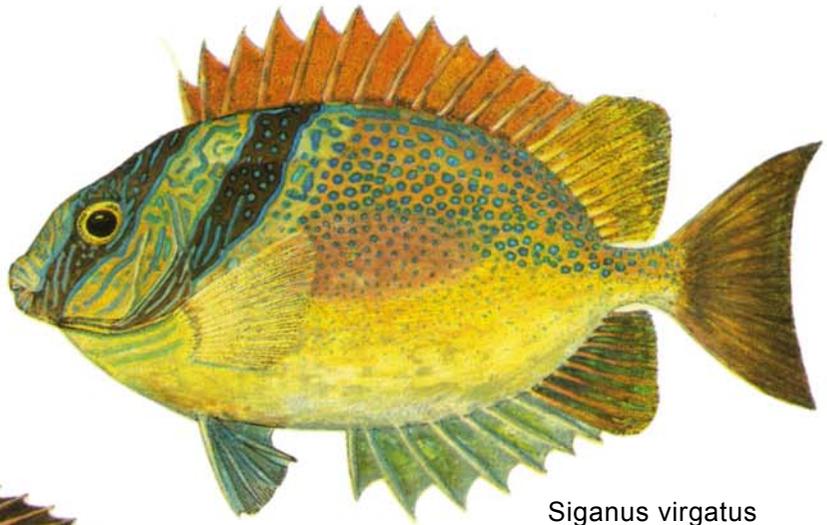
KEY TO GENERA OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Siganus only.

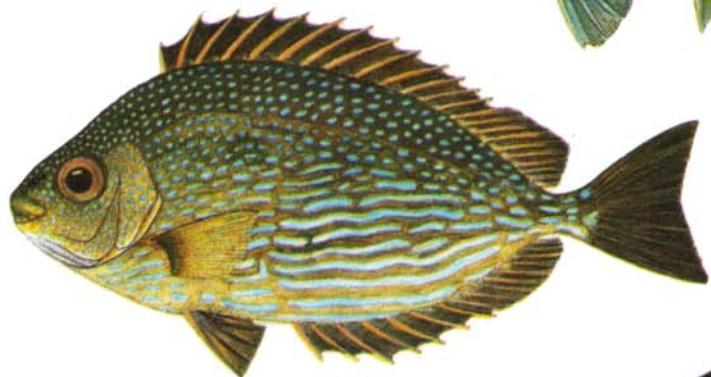
LIST OF SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Code numbers are given for those species for which Identification Sheets are included

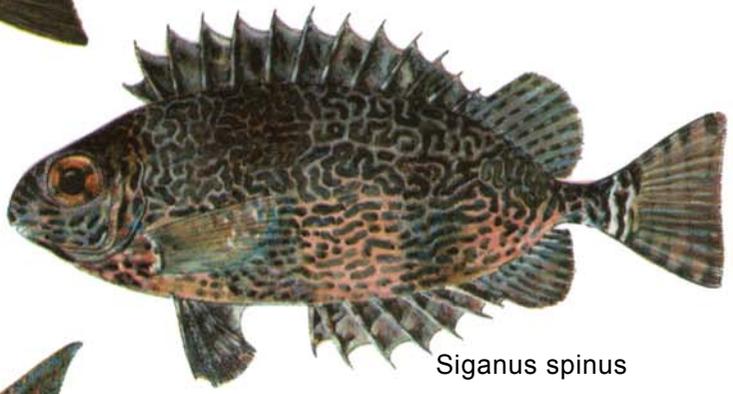
<u>Siganus argenteus</u> (Quoy & Gaimard, 1825)	SIGAN Sigan 5
<u>Siganus canaliculatus</u> (Park, 1797)	SIGAN Sigan 4
<u>Siganus corallinus</u> (Valenciennes, 1835)	SIGAN Sigan 6
<u>Siganus javus</u> (Linnaeus, 1766)	SIGAN Sigan 3
<u>Siganus lineatus</u> (Valenciennes, 1835)	SIGAN Sigan 7
<u>Siganus luridus</u> (Rüppell, 1828)	SIGAN Sigan 2
<u>Siganus puelloides</u> Woodland & Randall, 1979	SIGAN Sigan 8
<u>Siganus rivulatus</u> Forsskål, 1775	SIGAN Sigan 1
<u>Siganus spines</u> (Linnaeus 1758)	SIGAN Sigan 9
<u>Siganus stellatus</u> Forsskål, 1775	SIGAN Sigan 10
<u>Siganus sutor</u> (Valenciennes, 1835)	SIGAN Sigan 11
<u>Siganus vermiculatus</u> (Valenciennes, 1835)	SIGAN Sigan 12
<u>Siganus virgatus</u> (Valenciennes, 1835)	SIGAN Sigan 13



Siganus virgatus



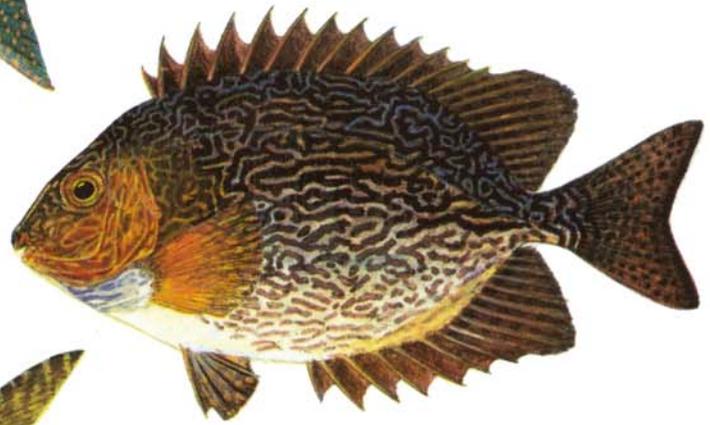
Siganus javus



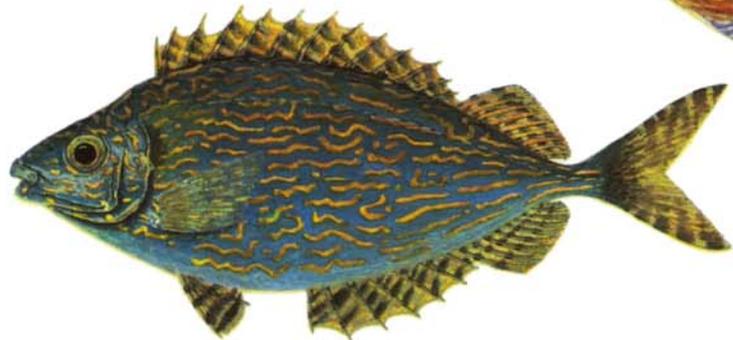
Siganus spinus



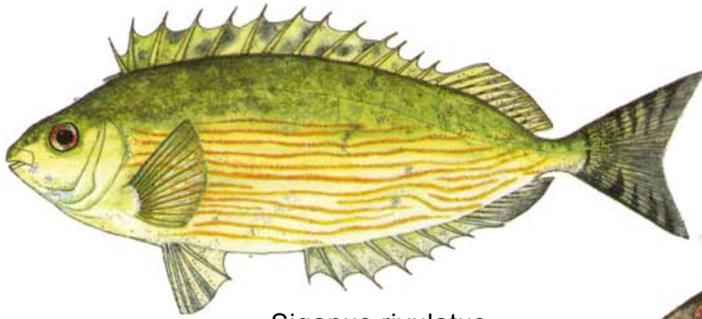
Siganus lineatus



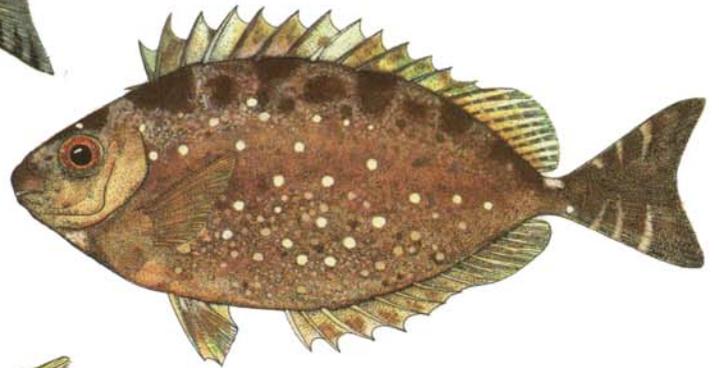
Siganus vermiculatus



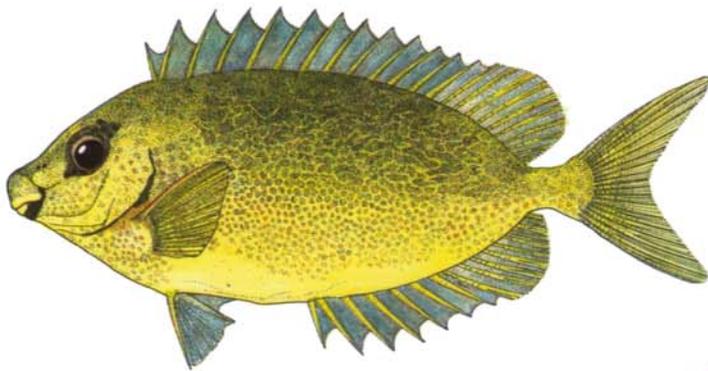
Siganus argenteus



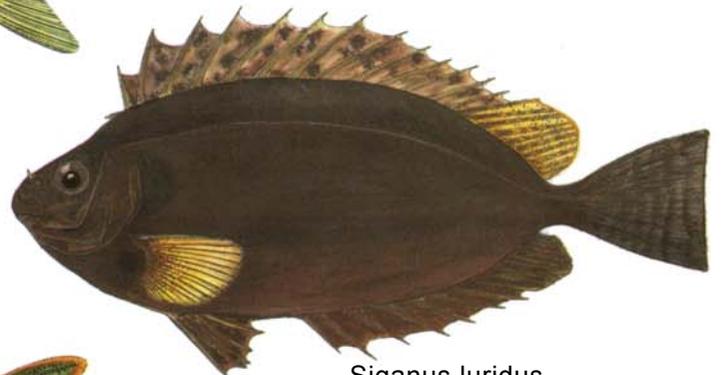
Siganus rivulatus



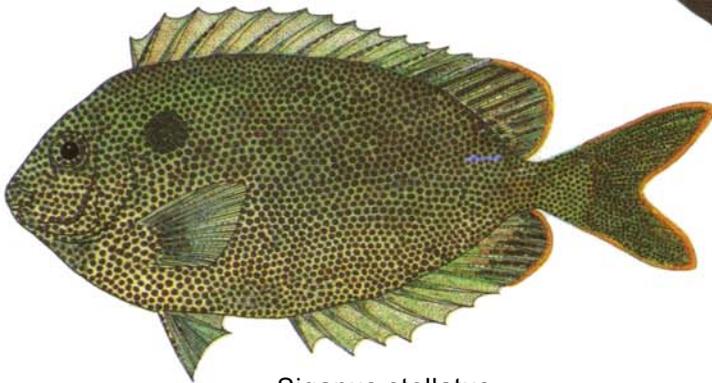
Siganus sutor



Siganus puelloides



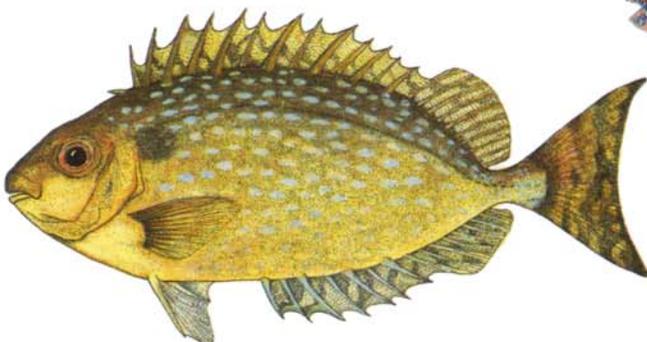
Siganus luridus



Siganus stellatus



Siganus corallinus



Siganus canaliculatus