

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

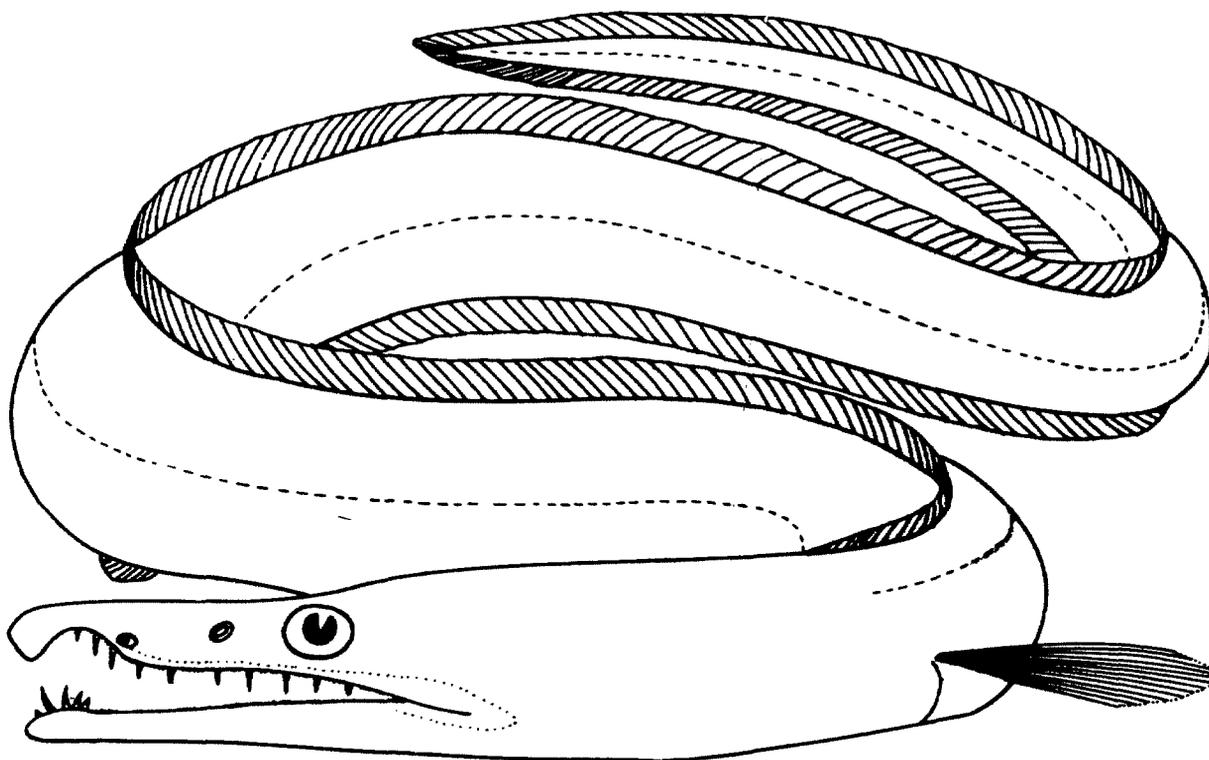
FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)

MURAENESOCIDAE

Pike-congers

Eel-like fishes, cylindrical in front, compressed towards tail. Large mouth with upper jaw extending well behind eye. Fangs (large canine teeth) on vomer (a median tooth-bearing bone on roof of mouth) and at front of lower jaw; tongue not free from floor of mouth. *Gill openings large, separate and placed low on body. Pectoral fins present; dorsal and anal fins long, continuous with caudal fin; pelvic fins absent. Anus well behind pectoral fin and somewhat before midpoint of body. No scales.*

Colour: grey, yellow or white, sometimes almost black on back.



SIMILAR FAMILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Muraenidae: lack pectoral fins.

Dysommidae: anus below the pectoral fin (well behind in Muraenesocidae).

All other eel families: lack large canine teeth on vomer.

FAO Sheets

MURAENESOCIDAE

Fishing Areas 57,71

Key to Genera

- I a. Distinct bulge at bases of canine teeth on middle part of vomer *Muraenesox*
- 1 b. Canine teeth on vomer conical, or if flattened, then not bulging at bases *Congresox*

List of Species occurring in the Area
(Code numbers are given for those species for which Identification Sheets are included)

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Congresox talabon</i> | MURSOC Consox 1 | <i>Muraenesox bagio</i> | MURSOC Mursox 1 |
| <i>Congresox talabonoides</i> | MURSOC Consox 2 | <i>Muraenesox cinereus</i> | MURSOC Mursox 2 |

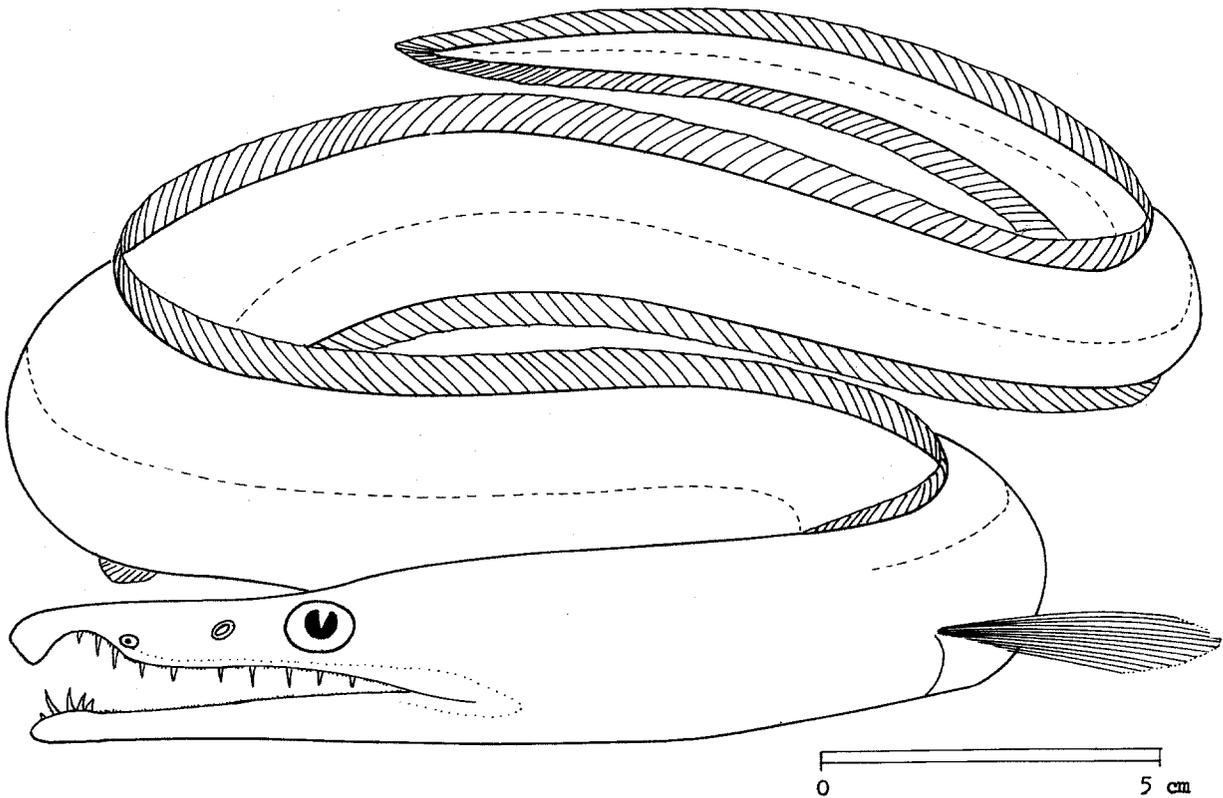
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: MURAENESOCIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)

Congresox talabon (Cuvier, 1829)

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Muraenesox talabon* (Cuvier, 1829)



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Yellow pike-conger
Fr -
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Eel-shaped fish without scales. Mouth large, upper jaw ending well behind eye. Outer tooth row in lower jaw leaning outward; middle canines on vomer (roof of mouth) conical (needle-like, not blade-shaped). Dorsal and anal fins joined to caudal fin; pectoral fins well developed, their length about 3 times in, length of head.

Colour: head and body yellow.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Congresox talabonoides: pectoral fins shorter (length at least 4 times in, length of head; about 3 times in *C. talabon*).

Muraenesox cinereus, *M. bagio*: outer tooth row in lower jaw pointing straight upward and body greyish; also, middle canines on vomer with distinct basal lobes (blade-shaped, not needle-like).

SIZE:

Maximum: 200 cm;
common: about 150 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Coasts of India eastward to Celebes, the Philippines, and South China Sea.

Lives over soft bottoms down to about 100 m; also in estuaries.

Feeds mainly on bottom-living fishes.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

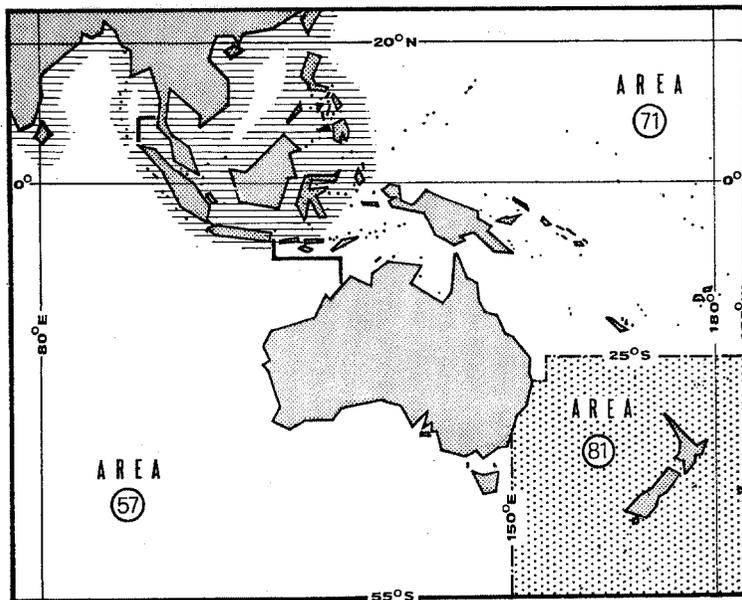
Caught in coastal waters, mostly at depths around 50 m, throughout its range.

CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly with longlines at night.

Marketed fresh; predominantly used for fish balls.

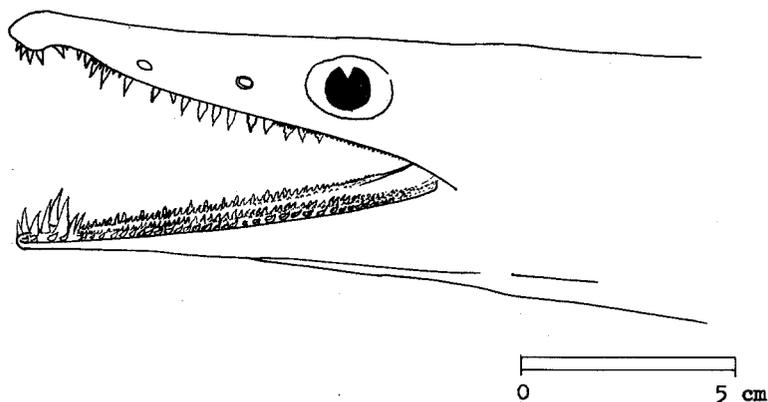


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: MURAENESOCIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)

| |
|---|
| <i>Congresox talabonoides</i> (Bleeker, 1853) |
|---|

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Muraenesox talabonoides* (Bleeker, 1853)

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Indian pike-conger
Fr -
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Eel-shaped fish without scales. Outer tooth row in lower jaw leaning outward; middle canines on vomer conical (needle-like, not blade-shaped). Dorsal and anal fins joined to caudal fin; pectoral fins well developed, their length at least 4 times in length of head.

Colour: head and body yellow.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Congresox talabon: pectoral fins longer (length about 3 times in length of head; at least 4 times in *C. talabonoides*).

Muraenesox cinereus, *M. bagio*: outer tooth row in lower jaw pointing straight upward and body greyish; also, middle canines on vomer with distinct basal lobes (blade-shaped, not needle-like).

SIZE:

Maximum: 200 cm; common: 150 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Coasts of India to Indonesia and Borneo, and off Hong Kong.

Lives over soft bottoms down to about 100 m; also in estuaries.

Feeds mainly on bottom-living fishes.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

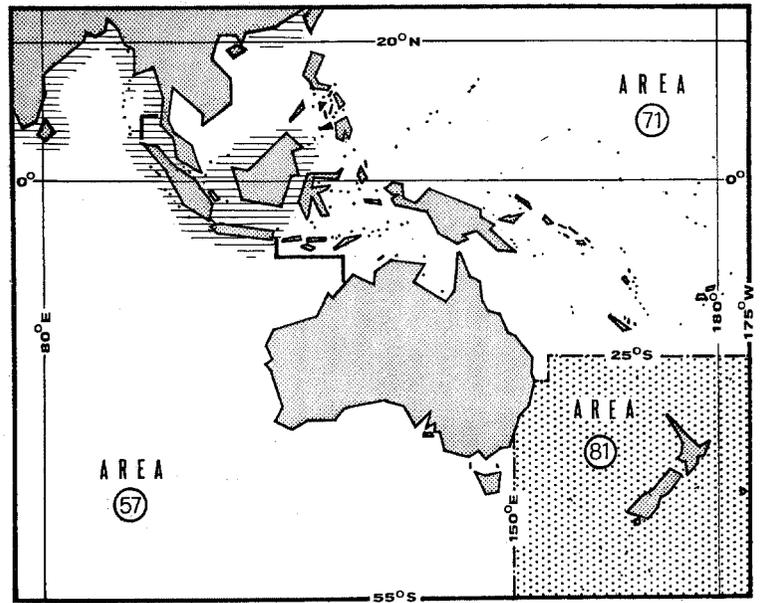
Caught in coastal waters, mostly at depths around 50 m, throughout its range.

CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

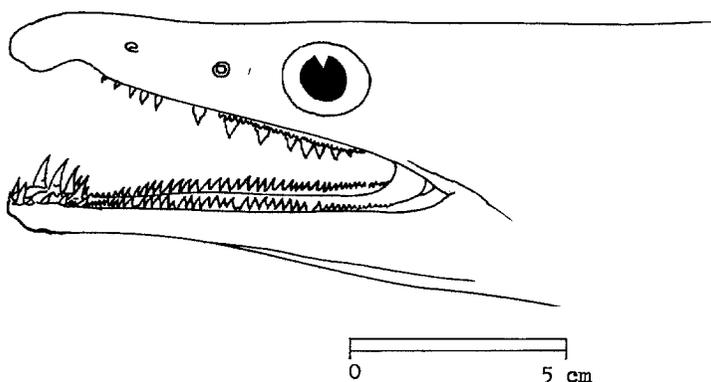
Caught mainly with longlines at night.

Marketed fresh; predominantly used for fish balls.



FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: MURAENESOCIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)*Muraenesox bagio* (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Muraenesox yamaguchiensis* Katayama & Takai, 1954

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Common pike-conger
Fr -
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Eel-shaped fish without scales. *Posterior nostril only a little closer to eye than to anterior nostril; snout long; eye 3 times in length of snout.* Mouth large, maxillary ending well behind eye; outer tooth row in lower jaw pointing straight upward; middle canines on vomer with distinct basal lobes, their bases sometimes in contact. Dorsal and anal fins joined to caudal fin; pectoral fins well developed; 35 to 38 pores in lateral line from head to above anus.

Colour: head and body greyish.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Muraenesox cinereus: 39 to 47 pores in lateral line from head to above anus (35 to 38 in *M. bagio*); also, posterior nostril much nearer to eye than to anterior nostril, and eye 2.0 to 2.5 times in length of snout.

Congresox talabon, *C. talabonoides*: outer tooth row in lower jaw leaning outward and yellow in colour. Middle canines on vomer needle-like, not blade-shaped.

SIZE:

Maximum: 200 cm;
common: about 150 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Throughout most of northern part of area and southward well down the coasts of Australia but not reaching the southern coasts; also, westward to East Africa and eastward to Samoa.

Lives over soft bottoms down to about 100 m, also in estuaries.

Feeds mainly on bottom-living fishes.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

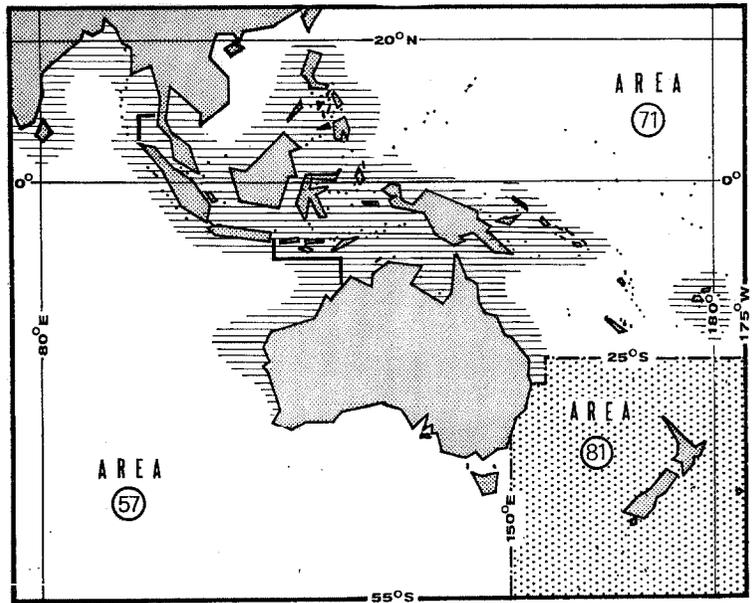
Caught in coastal waters, mostly at depths of 50 to 75 m, throughout its range.

CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

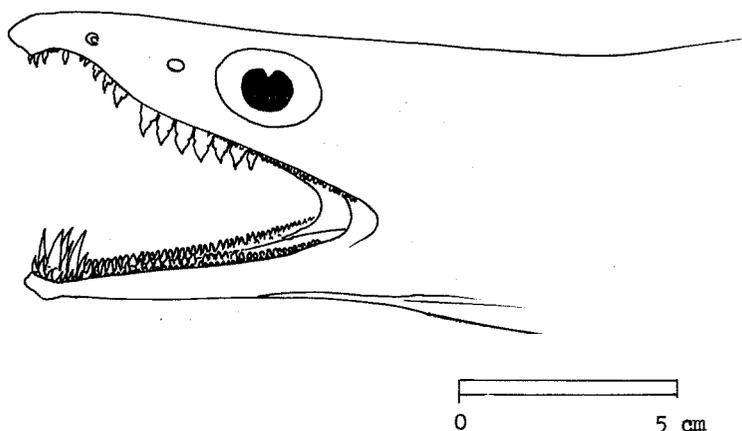
Caught mainly with longlines at night.

Marketed fresh; predominantly used for fish balls.



FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: MURAENESOCIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)*Muraenesox cinereus* (Forsskål, 1775)SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Muraenesox arabicus* (Schneider, 1801)

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Daggertooth pike-Conger
Fr -
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Eel-shaped fish without scales. *Posterior nostril much nearer to eye than to anterior nostril. Snout short; eye 2.0 to 2.5 times in length of snout. Mouth large, upper jaw ending well behind eye. Outer tooth row in lower jaw pointing straight upward; middle canines on vomer (roof of mouth) with distinct basal lobes, their bases more or less in contact. Dorsal and anal fins joined to caudal fin; pectoral fins well developed; 39 to 47 pores in lateral line from head to above anus.*

Colour: head and body normally quite dark to grey/black.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Muraenesox bagio: 35 to 38 pores in lateral line from head to above anus (39 to 47 in *M. cinereus*); also, posterior nostril only a little closer to eye than to anterior nostril, and eye 3 times in length of snout.

Congresox talabon, *C. talabonoides*: outer tooth row in lower jaw leaning outward, and body yellow; also, middle canines on vomer needle-like, not blade-shaped.

SIZE:

Maximum: about 200 cm;
common: about 150 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Coasts of India, Burma and Malaysia northward to Hong Kong (not Indonesia, New Guinea or Australia).

Lives over soft bottoms down to about 100 m; also in estuaries.

Feeds mainly on bottom-living fishes.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Caught in coastal waters, mostly at depths around 50 m. throughout its range.

CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics for this species are reported by Malaysia only (1972: 1 300 tons).

Caught mainly with longlines at night.

Marketed fresh; predominantly used for fish balls.

