

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

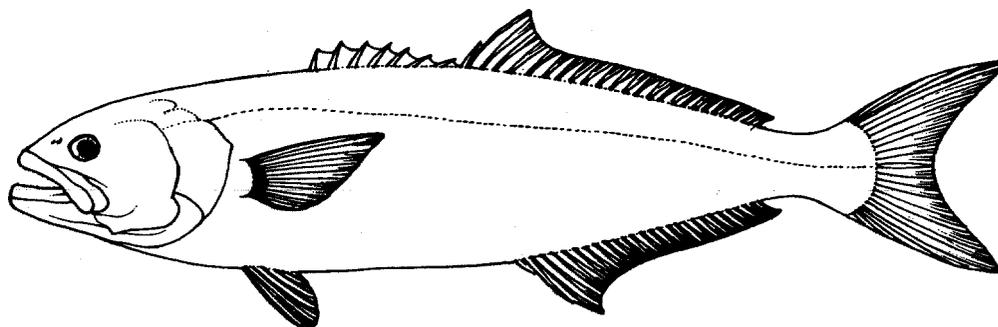
FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)

POMATOMIDAE

Bluefishes

Large fishes with a sturdy; compressed body and large head. Mouth large and terminal, jaws with sharp, compressed teeth in a single series. Two dorsal fins, the 1st short, often low, with 7 to 8 feeble spines connected by a membrane, the 2nd long, with 1 spine and 23 to 28 soft fin rays; anal fin a little shorter than soft dorsal fin, with 2 spines and 23 to 27 soft fin rays; caudal fin forked, but not deeply so. Scales small, covering head and body; lateral line almost straight.

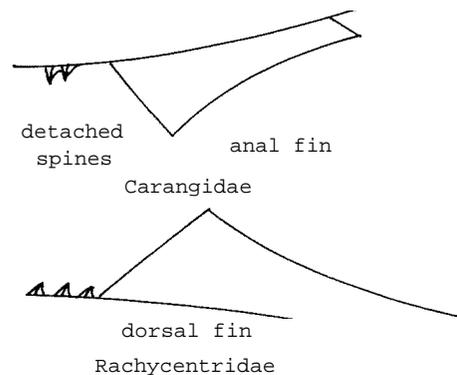
Colour: back greenish blue, sides and belly silvery.



SIMILAR FAMILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Carangidae: 2 detached spines in front of anal fin; also, scutes on caudal peduncle in many species.

Rachycentridae: spines of dorsal fin short, isolated, not connected by a membrane.



Key to Genera

- 1 a. Eye small; spinous dorsal fin low; soft dorsal and anal
fins each with about 25 finrays *Pomatomus*
- 1 b. Eye large; spinous dorsal fin high; soft dorsal and anal
fins each with about 13 finrays *Scombrops*

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

Pomatomus saltator POMAT Pomat 1

Scombrops hoops

(The genus *Neoseombrops* and sometimes also *Howella* have been placed in this family by some authors.)

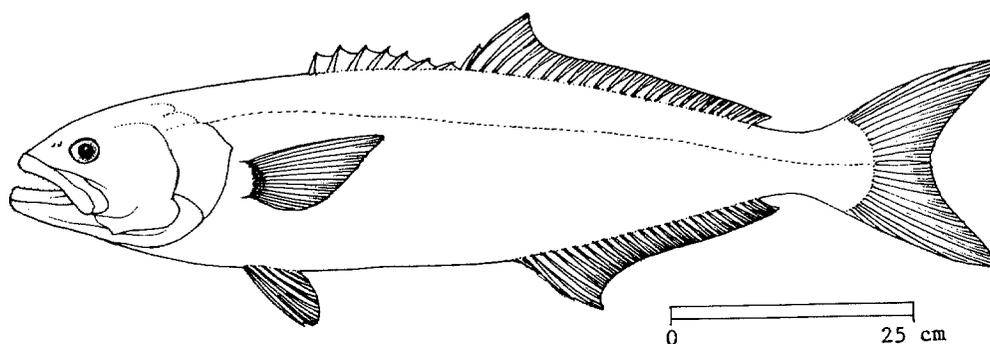
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: POMATOMIDAE

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

Pomatomus saltator Linnaeus, 1758

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Temnodon saltator* (Valenciennes, 1833)



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Bluefish
Fr -
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

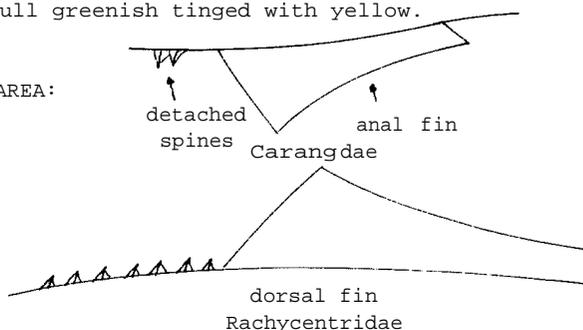
A large species with a sturdy, compressed body and large head. Mouth large, terminal, lower jaw sometimes slightly projecting; *jam teeth sharp, compressed*, in a single series. *Two dorsal fins, the 1st short and low, with 7 to 8 feeble spines connected by a membrane*, the 2nd long with 1 spine and 23 to 28 soft rays; pectoral fin short, not reaching to origin of soft dorsal fin; anal fin a little shorter than soft dorsal fin, with 2 spines and 23 to 27 soft fin rays; caudal fin forked, but not deeply so. *Scales small*, covering head and body and bases of fins; lateral line almost straight.

Colour: *back greenish blue, sides and belly silvery*; dorsal and anal fins pale green tinged with yellow; pectoral fins bluish at base; caudal fin dull greenish tinged with yellow.

DISTINCTION FROM MOST SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Carangidae: 2 detached spines in front of anal fin; also, scutes on caudal peduncle in many species.

Rachycentridae: spines of dorsal fin short, isolated, not connected by a membrane.



SIZE:

Maximum: 110 cm; common: 30 to 60 cm.

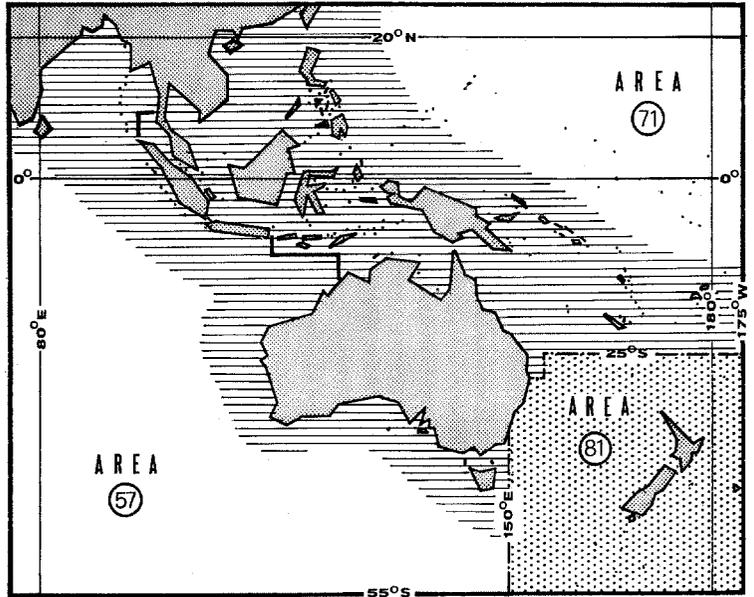
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Throughout whole area as far south as Tasmania (Australia).

A powerful, swift fish, the young hunting in schools, the adults in loose groups, often attacking shoals of mullet or other fishes and destroying numbers apparently far in excess of feeding requirements.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Coastal waters throughout its range.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

The total reported catch for this species in 1472 was:

area 57 (Eastern Indian Ocean): 100 tons (Australia only)
area 71 (Western Central Pacific): 400 tons (Australia only)

Caught mainly with gill nets, lines and purse seines.

Marketed mostly fresh; also dried-salted.

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

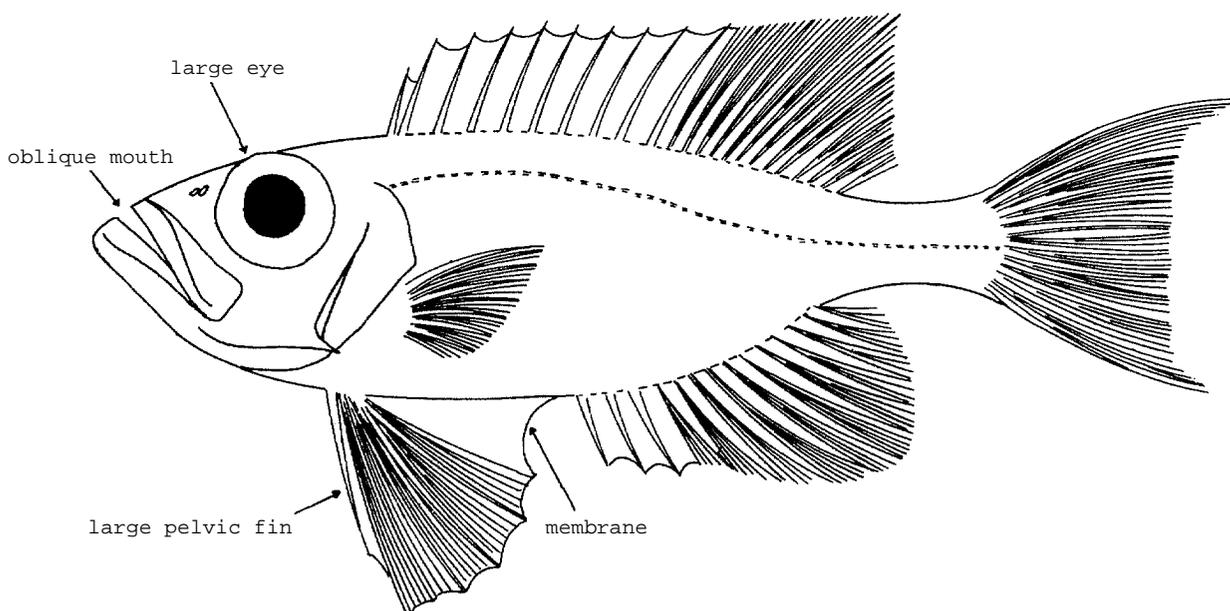
FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)

PRIACANTHIDAE

Bigeyes, bulleeyes

Body ovoid, with small, rough scales difficult to detach. Mouth large and oblique; eye very large; head completely covered with scales. A single dorsal fin with 10 spines and 11 to 15 soft rays; pectoral fins small, rounded or pointed, with 18 to 20 soft rays of which the uppermost are the longest. No axillary scale. Pelvic fins large, originating in advance of pectoral fin and joined to body along their length by a membrane, with a single, very strong spine and 5 soft rays. Anal fin with 3 spines and 10 to 16 soft rays. Caudal fin truncate or lunate.

Colour: red, fins may be spotted or dark-coloured; body may have vertical bands or blotches.



SIMILAR FAMILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

(No other similar fishes have the hind margin of the pelvic fins united to the body by a membrane).

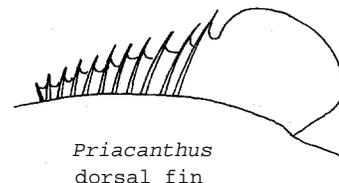
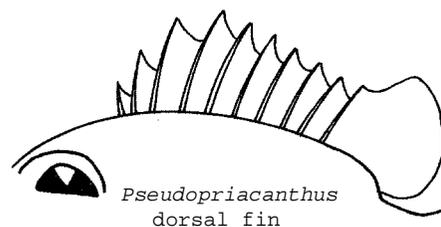
Glucosomidae: only 8 dorsal fin spines; also, pelvic fins smaller than pectoral fins.

Holocentridae: 4 anal fin spines, the 3rd often greatly enlarged, and scales large.

Berycidae: dorsal fin short, not nearly reaching to caudal peduncle.

Key to Genera

- 1 a. Body ovate, middle spines of dorsal fin longest; scales large, more than 55 in lateral line *Pseudopriacanthus*
- 1 b. Body oblong, last spine of dorsal fin longest; scales more than 70 in lateral line *Priacanthus*



List of Species occurring in the Area

(Code numbers are given for those species for which Identification Sheets are, included)

Priacanthus hoops
Priacanthus cruentatus
Priacanthus hamrur
 ? *Priacanthus junonus*
Priacanthus macracanthus

PRIAC Priac 1

Priacanthus tayenus
 ? *Priacanthus velabundus*

PRIAC Priac 2

Pseudopriacanthus niphonius

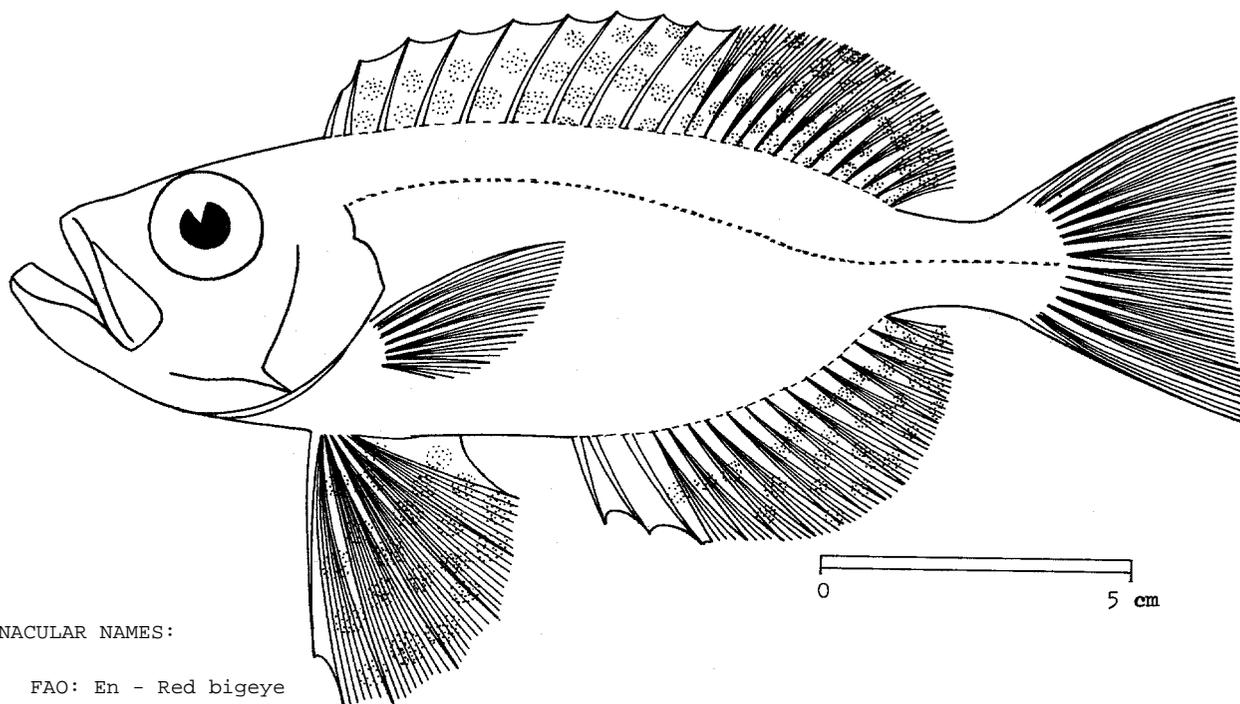
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: PRIACANTHIDAE

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

Priacanthus macracanthus Cuvier, 1829

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Red bigeye
Fr -
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

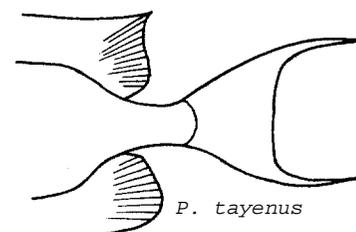
Body stocky and compressed, eye very large. Soft part of dorsal fin and anal fin rounded; pelvic fins shorter than head, joined to body by a membrane; caudal fin truncate or slightly emarginate, without filaments. Scales small, rough, difficult to detach.

Colour: body crimson red, silvery below; dorsal, pelvic, and anal fins with yellow spots.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

P. tayenus: caudal fin lunate, lobes often with filaments; also, pelvic fins with black spots, other fins without spots.

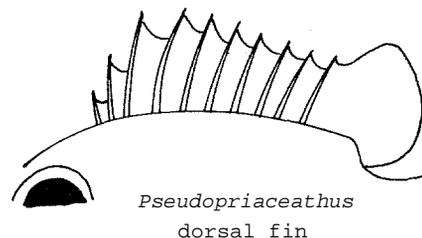
P. cruentatus: no spots on pelvic fins, but black spots on soft parts of dorsal and anal fins and on caudal fin; caudal fin usually with a black margin.



Priacanthus hamrur: pelvic fins black or partly black; no spots but usually dusky margins on dorsal, anal and caudal fins; sometimes vertical bars on body.

Priacanthus hoops: pelvic fins black and much longer than head.

Pseudopriacanthus nipponius: last dorsal fin spine shorter than 4th to 6th spines, and no distinct spine on preoperculum. Young fish often have darker lines on body, and scattered black spots may occur on soft parts of dorsal and anal fins and on caudal fin.



SIZE:

Maximum: 30 cm; common: 15 to 25 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

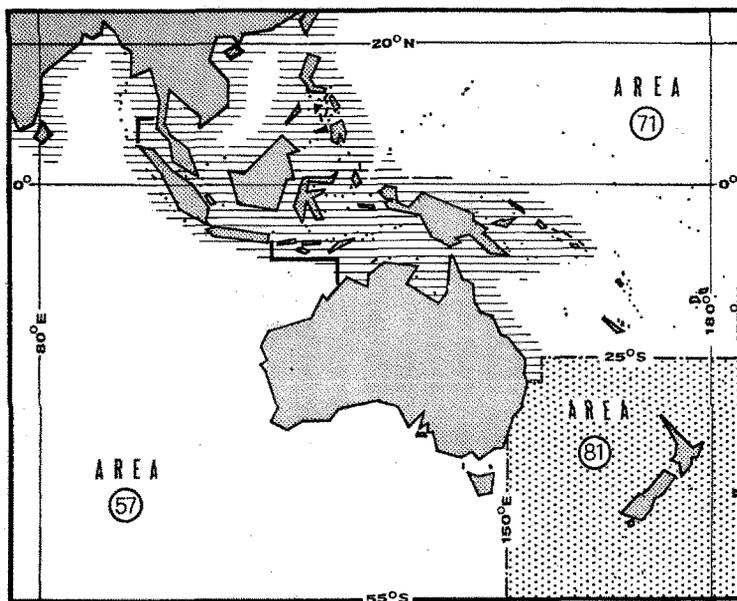
Judo-Australian archipelago southward to New South Wales (Australia); westward possibly to eastern part of Bay of Bengal; northward to Japan.

Bottom-living from shallow waters to depths of 200 m. Small fish occur mainly inshore.

Feeds on a wide range of bottom-living animals.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Mainly shallower grounds of continental shelf, throughout its range.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly with bottom trawls; catch rates are highest at dawn and dusk; also taken with lines by day.

Marketed mostly fresh, whole; also dried-salted and made into fish balls.

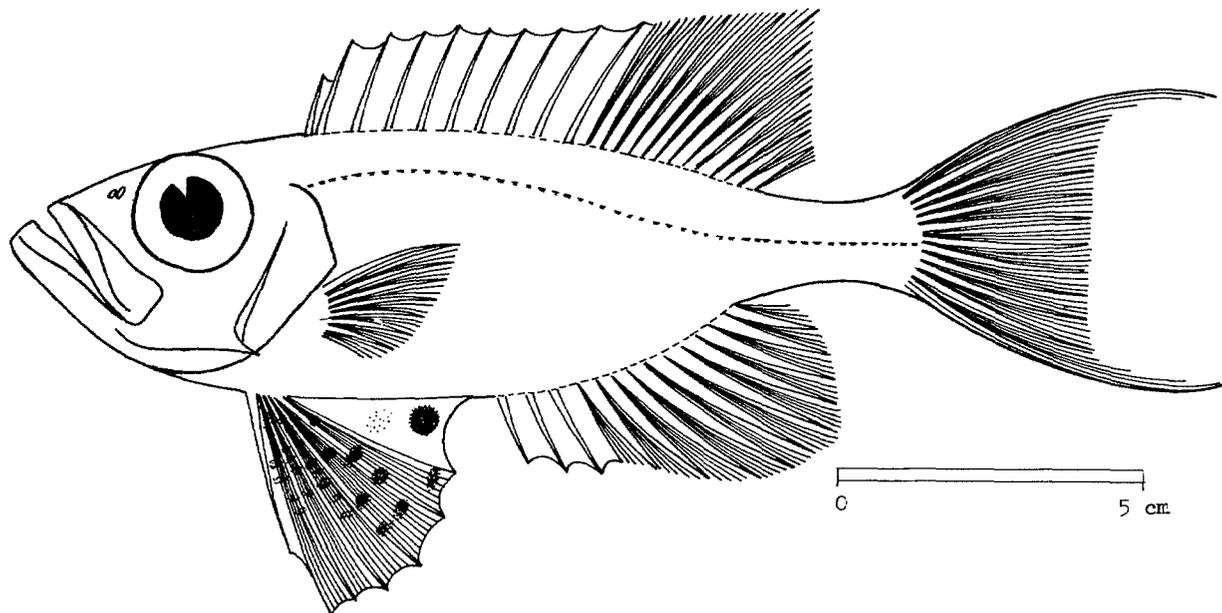
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: PRIACANTHIDAE

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

Priacanthus tayenus Richardson 1846

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Purple-spotted bigeye
Fr -
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

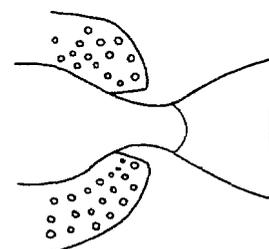
Body stocky and compressed, eye very large. Soft parts of dorsal and anal fins angulate or pointed; pelvic fins shorter than head, joined to body by a membrane; caudal fin lunate, often with both upper and lower filaments. Scales small, rough, difficult to detach.

Colour: body brilliant crimson red, paler below. Pelvic fins with distinct blackish red spots, other fins without spots.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

P. macracanthus: caudal fin truncate or slightly emarginate, soft parts of dorsal and anal fins rounded, and yellow/brown spots on dorsal, anal and pelvic fins.

P. cruentatus: caudal fin truncate or slightly emarginate; soft parts of dorsal and anal fins rounded; no spots on pelvic fins but black spots on soft parts of dorsal and anal fins and on caudal fin, the latter usually with a black margin.

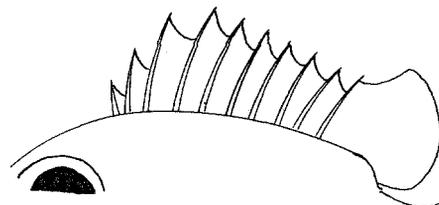


P. macracanthus

P. hamrur: black or partly black pelvic fins, no spots but usually a dusky margin to dorsal, anal and caudal fins. Bars sometimes present on body.

P. boops: pelvic fins black and much longer than head.

Pseudopriacanthus niphonius: last dorsal fin spine shorter than 4th to 6th spines, and no distinct preopercular spine. Young fish often have light bars on body.



Pseudopriacanthus
dorsal fin

SIZE (excluding caudal fin filaments):

Maximum: 30 cm; common: 15 to 25 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

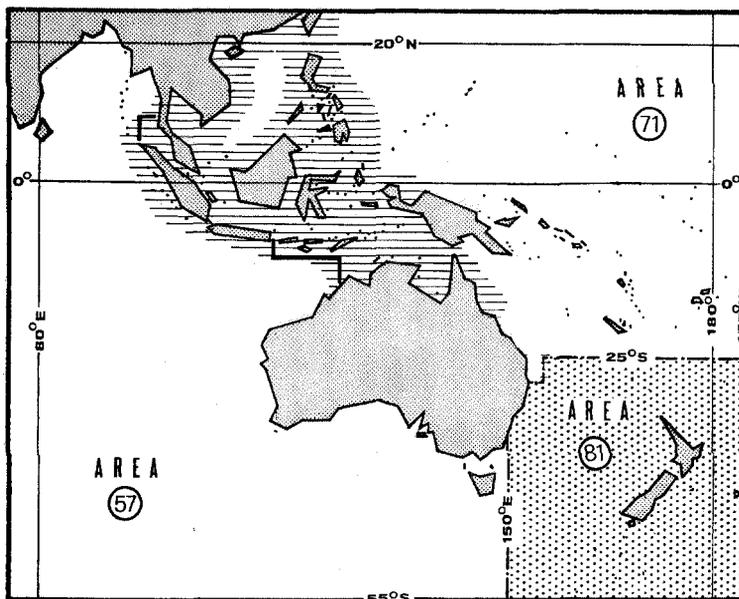
Throughout northern part of area and southward to northern Queensland (Australia); also, westward to East Africa.

A bottom fish found in shallow water and down to depths of 150 to 200 m. Small fish mainly occur inshore.

Feeds on a wide range of bottom-living animals.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Mainly shallower grounds of the continental shelf, throughout its range.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly with bottom trawls; catch rates are highest at dawn and dusk; also taken with lines by day.

Marketed mostly fresh, whole; also dried-salted or made into fish balls.

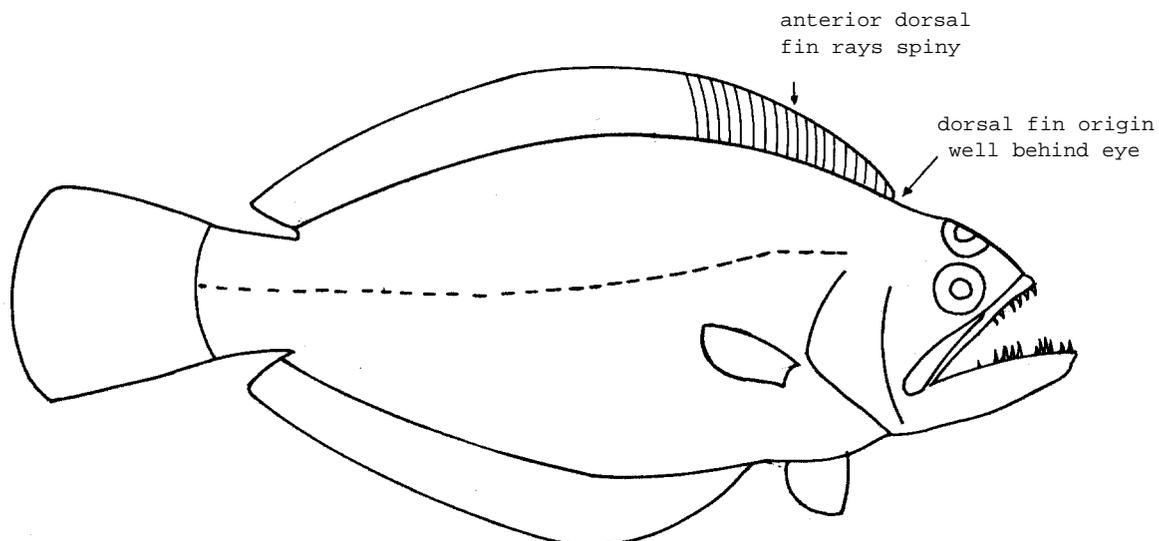
FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)

PSETTODIDAE

Indian halibuts

Body oval and flat. Both eyes on left or right side; *upper eye very close to dorsal edge*. *Dorsal fin origin well behind eyes; anterior dorsal fin rays spiny*. Mouth large with strong teeth.

Colour: eyed side brownish, *sometimes with dark cross-bars*; blind side pale.



SIMILAR FAMILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

No other flatfishes have the dorsal fin with spiny rays and beginning well behind the eyes.

Key to Genera

Psettodes only

List of Species occurring in the Area
(Code numbers are given for those species
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Psettodes erumei

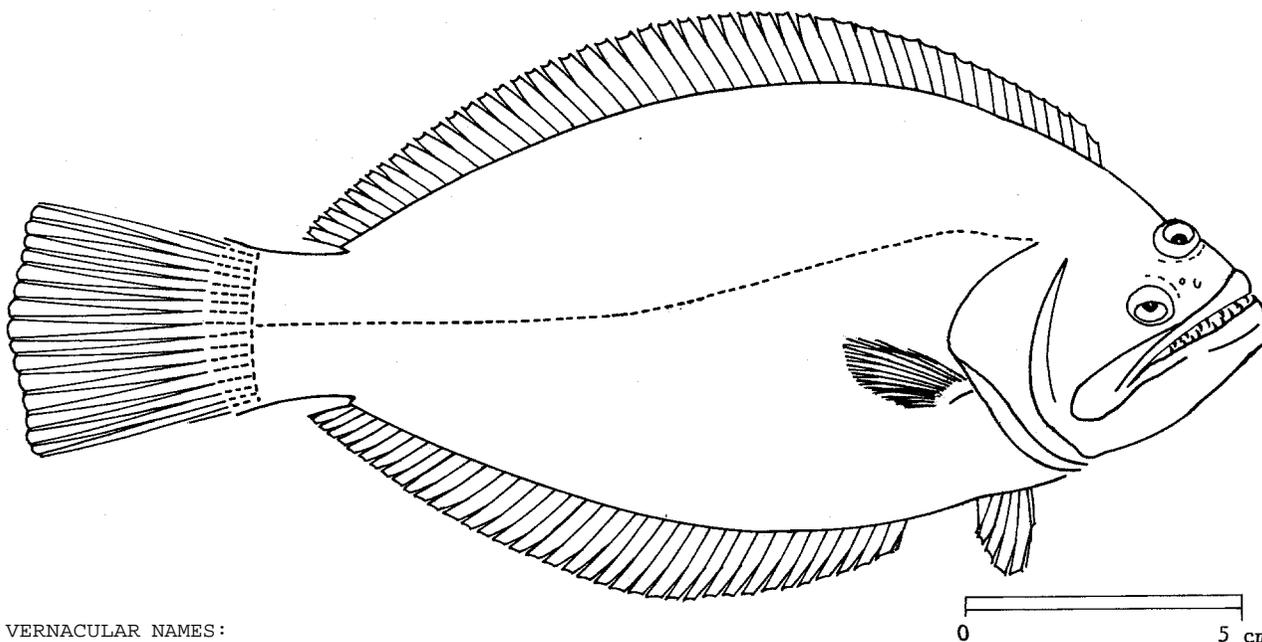
PSET Pset 1

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: PSETTODIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)*Psettodes erwnei* (Schneider, 1801)

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Indian halibut
Fr -
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body oval and flat, but thicker than in most other flatfishes. Both eyes on left or right side. Upper eye lying immediately below dorsal edge. Dorsal fin origin well behind eyes; anterior fin rays spinous. Lateral line almost straight. Mouth large with strong teeth; maxillary extends well beyond hind edge of lower eye. Gill rakers not developed.

Colour: usually brownish/ greyish, sometimes with 4 broad, dark cross-bars.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

All other flatfishes: dorsal fin origin above or in front of upper eye; also, anterior rays of dorsal fin soft and flexible.

SIZE:

Maximum: about 60 cm;
common: 20 to 40 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

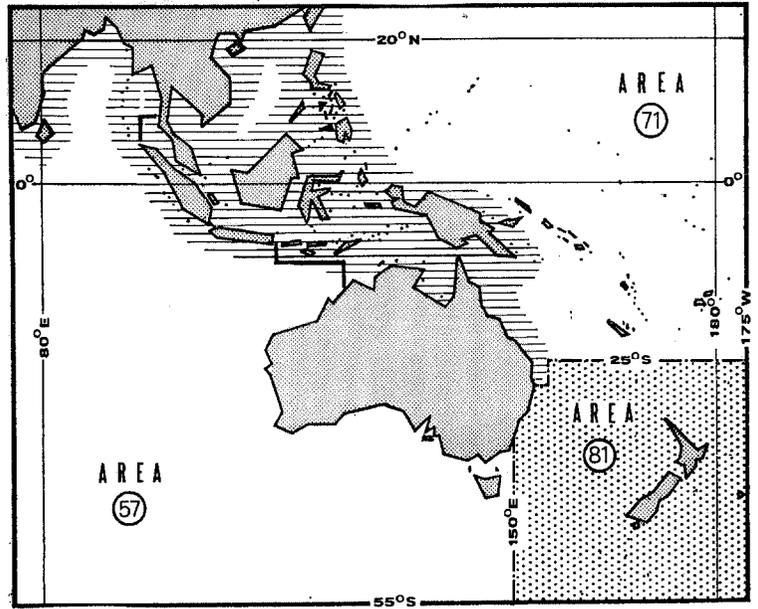
Northwestern part of area and southward to eastern coast of Australia; also, westward to East Africa.

Lives on muddy and sandy bottoms of the continental shelf down to about 100 m.

Feeds mainly on bottom-living animals.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Continental shelf.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not collected for this species.

Caught mainly with bottom trawls.

Marketed mainly fresh.

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

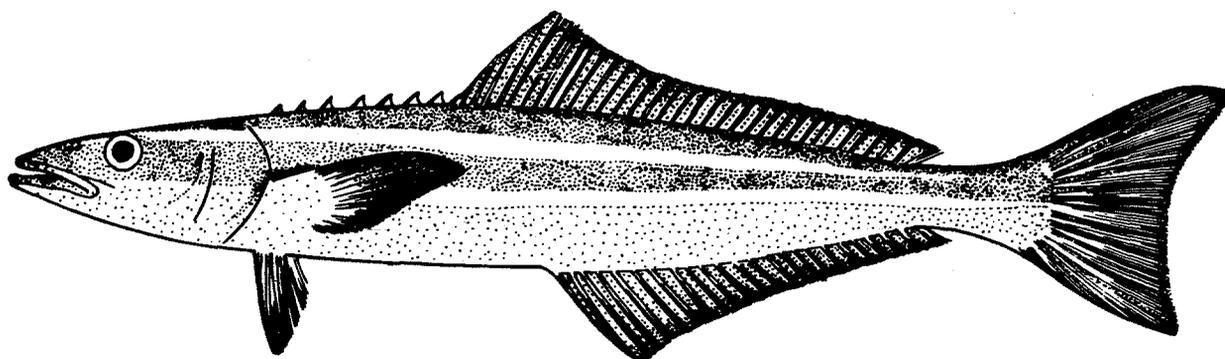
FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)

RACHYCENTRIDAE

Cobias, sergeantfishes

Body elongate, subcylindrical, with broad depressed head. Eye small, encircled by a narrow adipose eyelid. No keels or scutes at caudal base. Two dorsal fins, the first composed of very short, broad isolated spines not connected by a membrane and depressible into a groove; no finlets; pectoral fins pointed and set low down on body; caudal fin lunate in adults (but rounded in young and median rays prolonged). Scales small, embedded in thick skin.

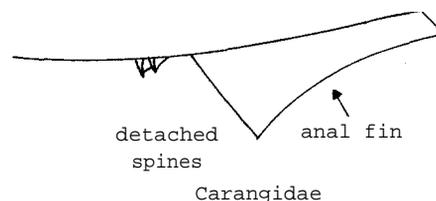
Colour: back dark brown, abdomen yellow; 1 or 2 silvery bands along flanks.



SIMILAR FAMILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Carangidae: 2 detached spines in front of anal fin; also, scutes on caudal peduncle in many species.

Pomatomidae: spines of dorsal fin connected by a membrane; also, head and body deeper.



FAO Sheets

RACHYCENTRIDAE

Fishing Areas 57,71

Key to Genera

Rachycentron only

List of Species occurring in the Area
(Code numbers are given for those species
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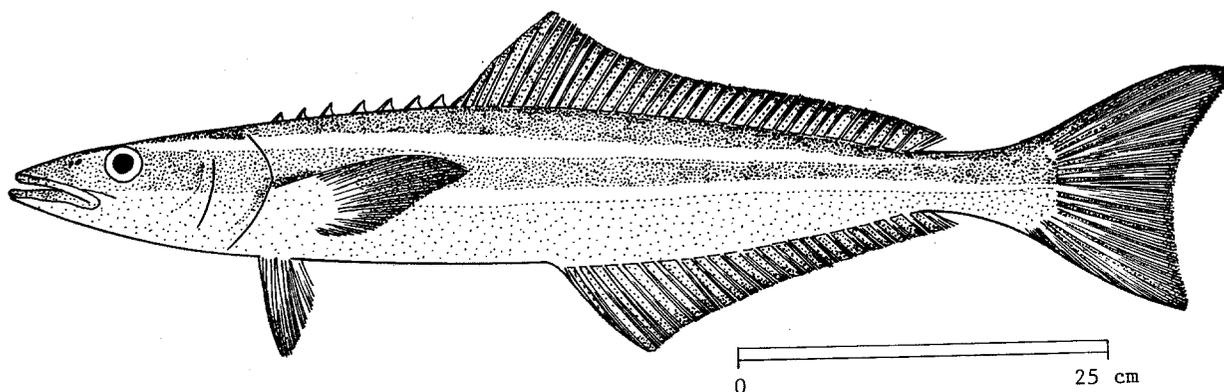
Rachycentron canadus RACH Rach 1

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: RACHYCENTRIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)*Rachycentron canadus* (Linnaeus, 1766)

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Cobia
Fr -
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

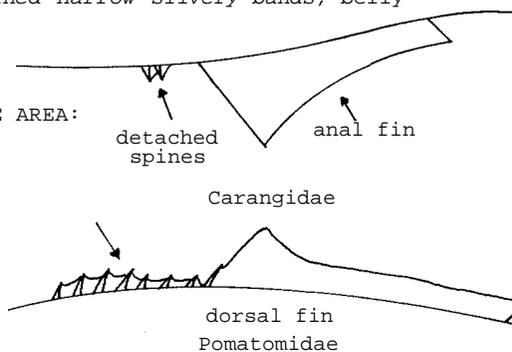
Body elongate, subcylindrical; head broad and depressed. Mouth large, terminal, with projecting lower jaw; villiform teeth in jaws and on roof of mouth and tongue. 1st dorsal fin with 7 to 9 (usually 8) short but strong isolated spines, not connected by a membrane; 2nd dorsal fin long, anterior rays somewhat elevated in adults; pectoral fin pointed, becoming more falcate with age; anal fin similar to dorsal, but shorter; caudal fin lunate in adults, upper lobe longer than lower (caudal fin rounded in young, the central rays much prolonged). Scales small, embedded in thick skin; lateral line slightly waving anteriorly.

Colour: back and flanks dark brown, with 2 sharply defined narrow silvery bands; belly yellowish.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Carangidae: 2 detached spines in front of anal fin; also, scutes on caudal peduncle in many species.

Pomatomidae: spines of dorsal fin connected by a membrane; also, body and head deeper and no stripes on flanks.



SIZE:

Maximum: 180 cm;
common: 80 to 100 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

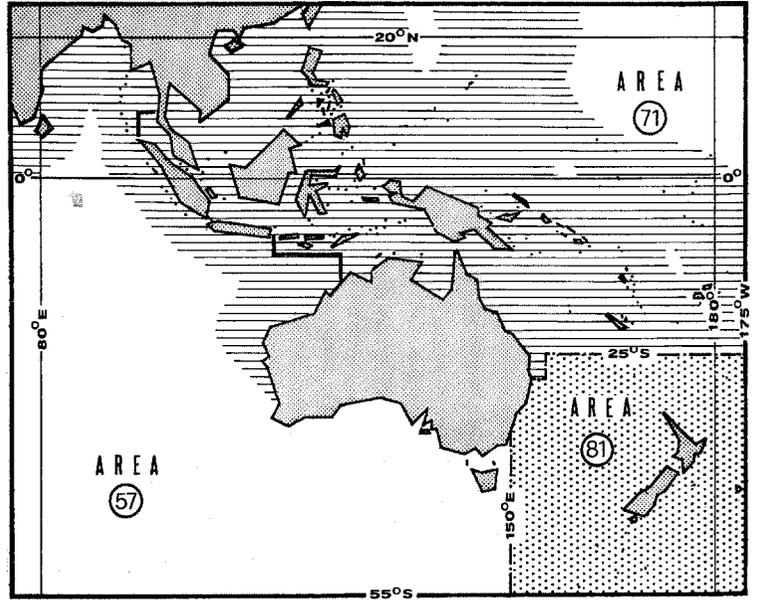
Throughout the area except for southern Australia.

Pelagic, but also found over shallow coral reefs and off rocky shores, occasionally in estuaries.

Feeds on crabs, squids and fishes.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Throughout its range.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly with bottom trawls, with handlines, and by trolling.

Marketed mostly fresh.