

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

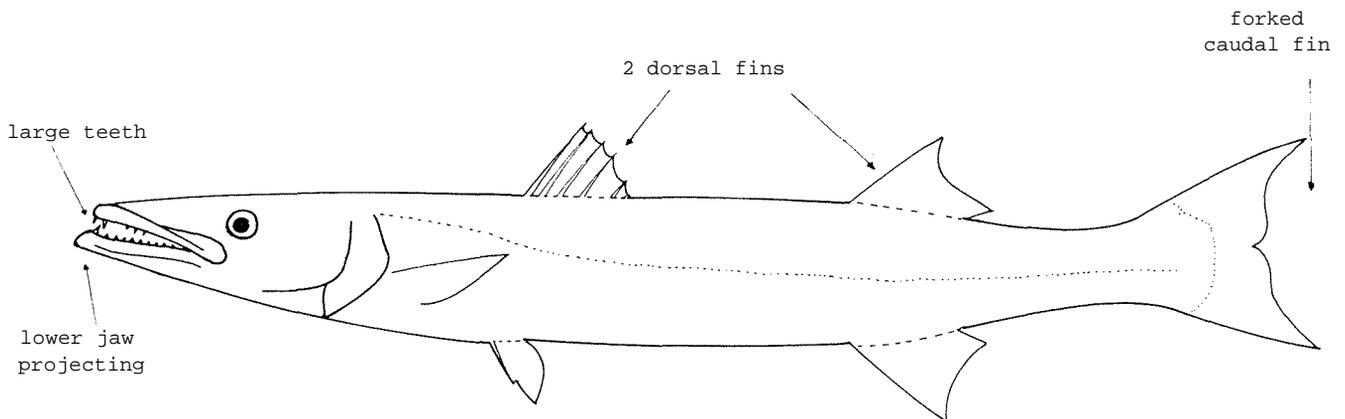
FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Indian Ocean)
(W Central Pacific)

SPHYRAENIDAE

Barracudas

Body elongate, usually slightly compressed. Head very long, with long snout; mouth large, with lower jaw projecting beyond upper. Strong canine teeth in jaws and on palatines, of unequal size. Scales small, cycloid; lateral line well developed, nearly straight. Two widely separated dorsal fins, the first with 5 strong spines, usually beginning just behind pelvic fins; the second opposite anal fin; pelvic fins closer to pectoral fin base than to anal fin origin; caudal fin forked.

Colour: usually brown/blue or silver/grey, lighter below. Body sometimes with vertical bars. Fins sometimes yellow, black or grey.



SIMILAR FAMILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Other families with 2 short but widely spaced dorsal fins: lack such strong teeth in jaws and on palatines; lower jaw not projecting.

Key to Genera

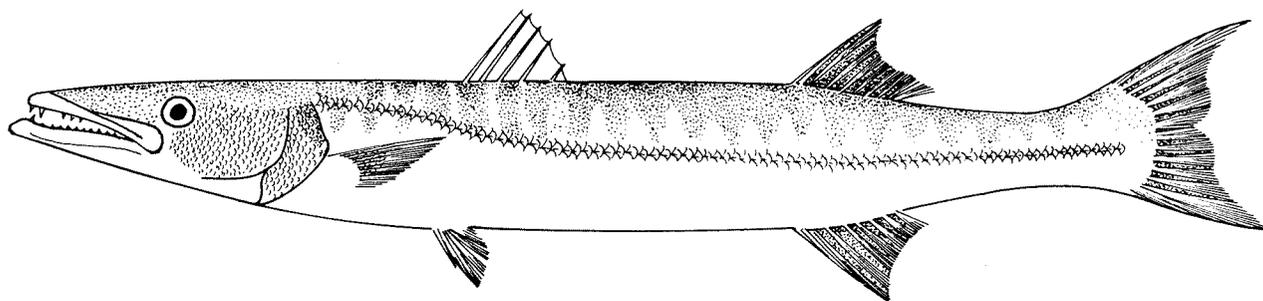
Sphyraena only

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

<i>Sphpraena barracuda</i>	SPHY Sphy 1	<i>Sphpraena obtusata</i>	SPRY Sphy 4
<i>Sphyraena forsteri</i>	SPHY Sphy 2	<i>Sphyraena brachygnathus</i>	(doubtful)
<i>Sphyraena jello</i>	SPHY Sphy 3	<i>Sphyraena chrysotaenia</i>	(doubtful)

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SPHYRAENIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)*Sphyraena barracuda* (Walbaum, 1792)SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Sphyraena picuda* Bloch & Schneider, 1801
Sphyraena commersonii Cuvier, 1829

0 30 cm

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Great barracuda
Fr -
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

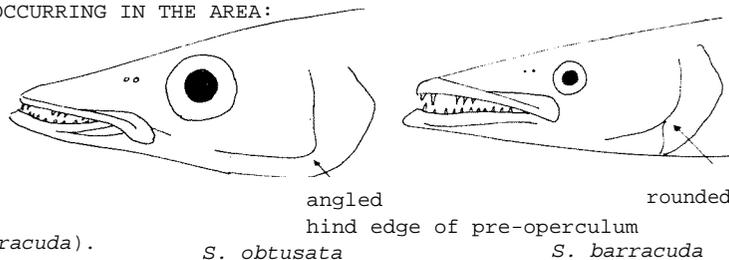
Body elongate, slightly compressed; head large, with long pointed snout and lower jaw projecting beyond upper jaw. Mouth large, maxilla (upper jaw) reaching to level of eye. Upper jaw with small teeth and 2 sharp canines in front, palatines with 5 or 6 large broad teeth becoming smaller toward back of jaw; lower jaw with single series of about 15 teeth on each side and 2 large teeth in front. Edge of pre-operculum rounded. Gill rakers minute. Lateral line with 75 to 90 scales; 11 or 12 scales above Lateral line at level of origin of 1st dorsal fin.

Colour: blue/grey above and silver below with more than 18 (usually more than 20) darker vertical bars on sides. Pectoral and pelvic fins white; upper part of 1st dorsal fin, anal fin and middle rays of caudal fin black.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Sphyraena obtusata: has sharp angle to hind edge of pre-operculum (rounded in *S. barracuda*).

Sphyraena jello: has vertical black bars on body but maxilla (upper jaw) does not reach to level of eye; also, scales in lateral line 122 to 135 (75 to 90 in *S. barracuda*).



Other *Sphyraena* species in area: lack the combination of more than 20 vertical bars on each side of body and 75 to 90 scales in lateral line.

SIZE:

Maximum: 180 cm; common: 100 to 150

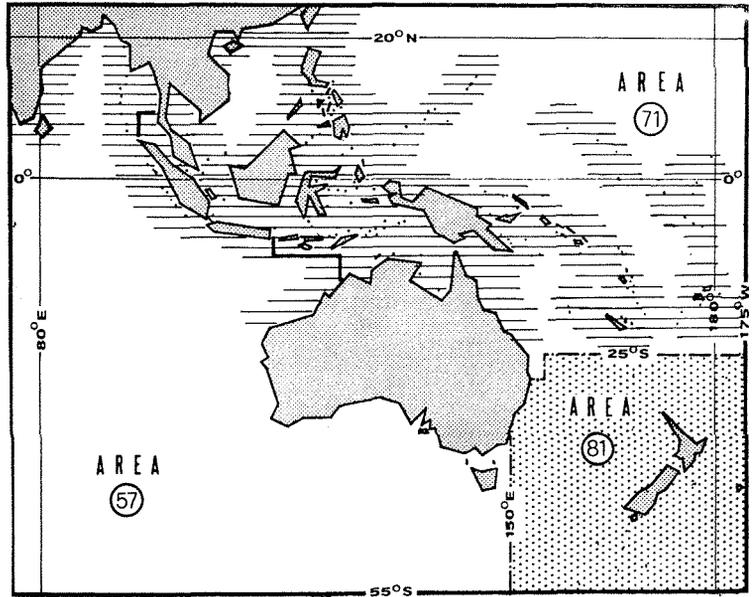
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Recorded throughout most of area covered; common elsewhere in Indo-Pacific.

Feeds predominantly on pelagic fishes.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Caught in shallow coastal waters, throughout its range.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species. The total reported catch of unclassified barracudas in 1972 was:

- area 57 (Eastern Indian Ocean): 900 tons (India only)
- area 71 (Western Central Pacific): 15 500 tons (Philippines: 13 100 tons)

Caught with trolling pines, less frequently with set nets and traps.

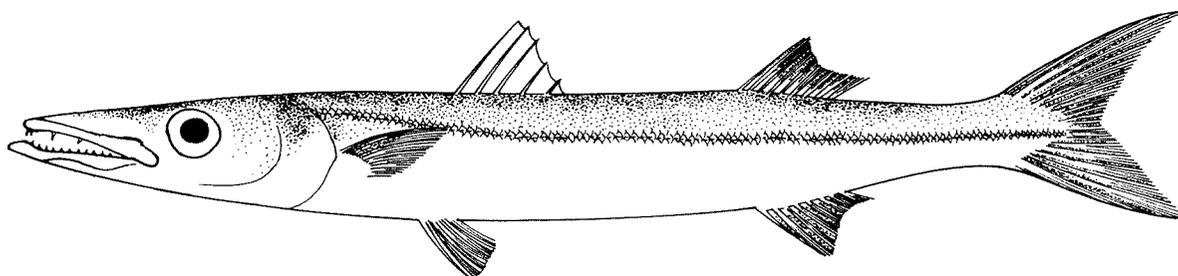
Marketed fresh; also dried-salted, fermented, or prepared as fish sauce.

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SPHYRAENIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)*Sphyraena forsteri* Cuvier, 1829

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Forster's barracuda
Fr -
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate, slightly compressed; head large, with long pointed snout and lower jaw projecting beyond upper. Mouth large, maxilla (upper jaw) about reaching to level of front of eye. Upper jaw with a series of minute teeth and 2 sharp canines in front; lower jaw with a series of about 20 flattened, triangular teeth, those on middle and hind parts larger and directed slightly backward; a single backward-directed canine at front of lower jaw. Palatine with a few sharp, flattened, triangular teeth. Edge of pre-operculum rounded. Gill rakers minute. Lateral line with, 105 to 115 scales, 15 to 17 scale rows above lateral line at level of origin of 1st dorsal fin.

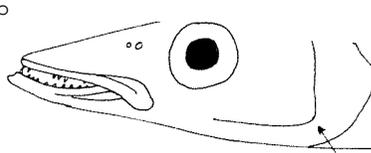
Colour: black above, silver below; inside of mouth dark grey. Dorsal and caudal fins black; pelvic fins white; pectoral and anal fins white.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Sphyraena obtusata: has sharp angle to hind edge of pre-operculum (rounded in *S. forsteri*); a yellow anal fin and 2 long gill rakers in addition to the minute gill rakers.

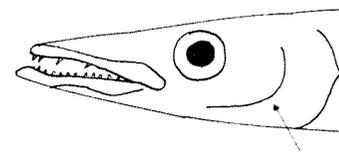
Sphyraena barracuda: has larger scales (75 to 90 scales in lateral line; 105 to 115 in *S. forsteri*) and vertically directed teeth.

Sphyraena jello: has about 20 dark vertical bars on body and all fins except pelvic black; also, scales in lateral line 122 to 135.



angled

hind edge of pre-operculum

S. obtusata

rounded

S. forsteri

SIZE:

Maximum: 60 cm; common: 20 to 30 cm

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

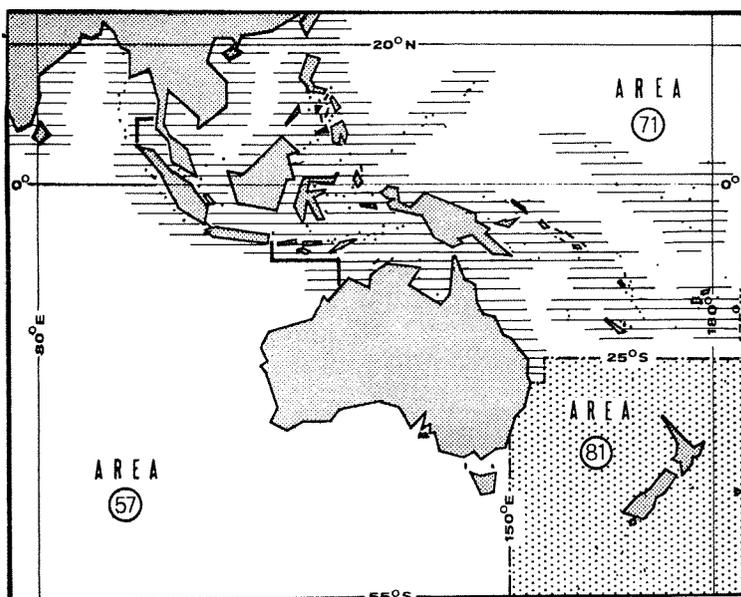
Recorded throughout most of area covered; common elsewhere in Indo-Pacific.

Found in coastal waters to a depth of 50 m.

Feeds predominantly on fish.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

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



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species. The total reported catch of unclassified barracudas in 1972 was:

area 57 (Eastern Indian Ocean): 900 tons (India only)

area 71 (Western Central Pacific): 15 500 tons (Philippines: 13 100 tons)

Caught with trawls, set nets and longlines.

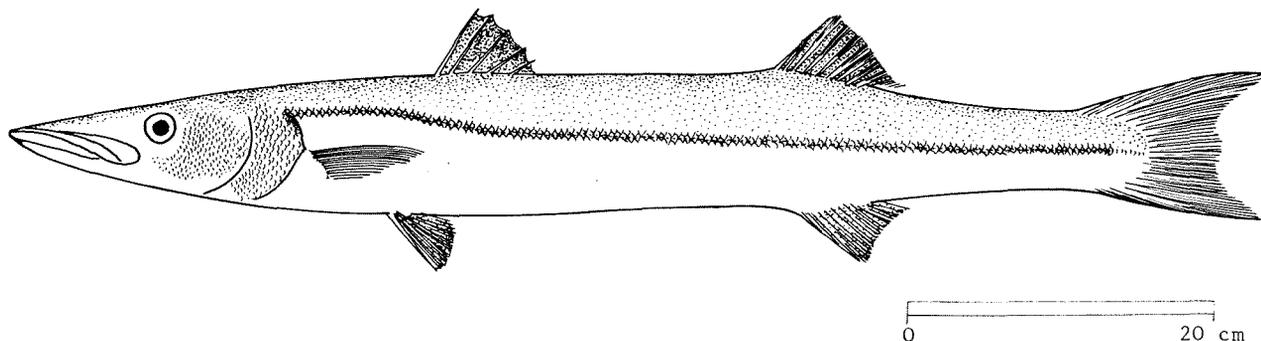
Marketed fresh; also dried-salted, fermented, or prepared as fish sauce.

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SPHYRAENIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)*Sphyraena jello* Cuvier, 1829

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Banded barracuda
Fr -
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

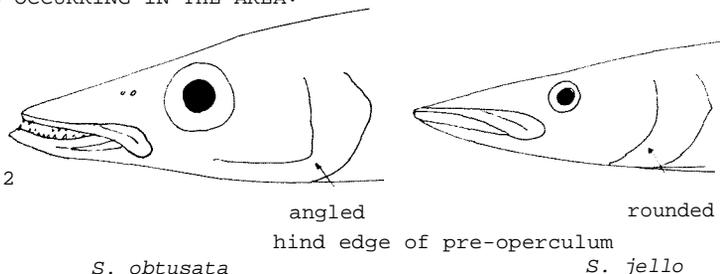
Body elongate, slightly compressed; head large, with long pointed snout and lower jaw projecting beyond upper. Mouth large, maxilla (upper jaw) not reaching to level of front of eye. Upper jaw with a single series of very small triangular teeth and 2 sharp triangular canines in front; lower jaw with triangular teeth, much larger than those in upper jaw, in a single series with hind teeth much longer than those in front; a single strong canine at front of lower jaw, which fits into a recess in upper jaw. Edge of pre-operculum rounded. Gill rakers minute. Lateral line with 122 to 135 scales; 17 to 18 scale rows above lateral line at level of origin of 1st dorsal fin.

Colour: black/brown above, silver below, with about 20 vertical black bars along sides; inside of mouth dark grey. All fins except pelvic black.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Sphyraena obtusata: has sharp angle to hind edge of pre-operculum (rounded in *S. jello*).

All other *Sphyraena* species in area: have either a shorter snout (about 2 to 2 1/2 times eye diameter; 3 times in *S. jello*) or a yellow anal fin (black in *S. jello* and *S. barracuda*).

*S. obtusata**S. jello*

SIZE:

Maximum: 150 cm; common: 50 to 100 cm.

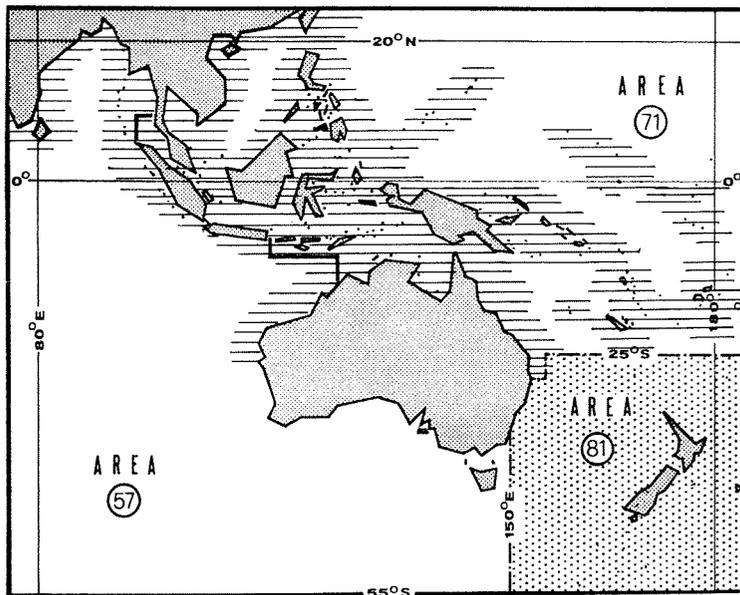
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Recorded throughout most of area covered; common elsewhere in Indo-Pacific.

Feeds predominantly on fishes and often swims near the surface.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Caught in shallow coastal waters and estuaries, throughout its range.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species. The total reported catch of unclassified barracudas in 1972 was:

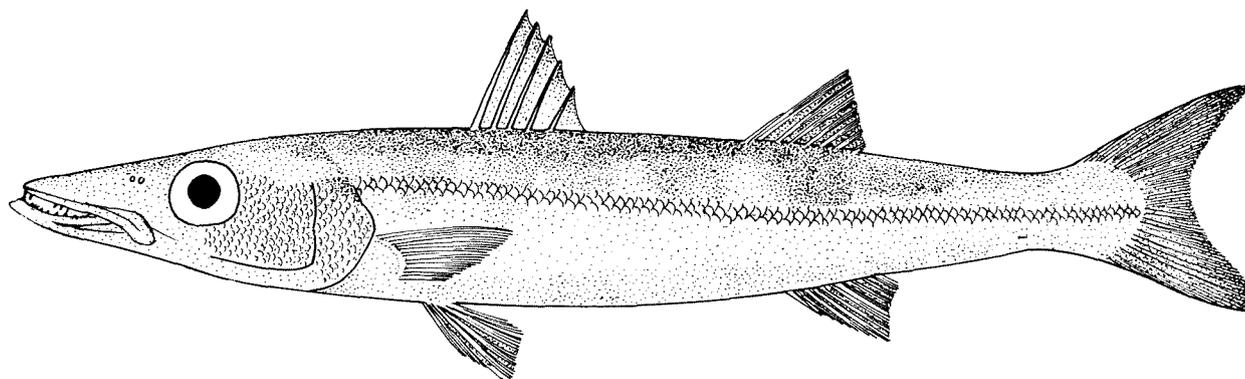
- area 57 (Eastern Indian Ocean): 900 tons (India only)
- area 71 (Western Central Pacific): 15 500 tons (Philippines: 13 100 tons)

Caught with trawls, set nets, trolling lines and traps.

Marketed fresh; also dried-salted, fermented, or prepared as fish sauce.

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SPHYRAENIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Ceat. Pacific)*Sphyraena obtusata* Cuvier, 1829SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Sphyraena pinguis* Günther, 1874

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Obtuse barracuda
Fr -
Sp -

NATIONAL:

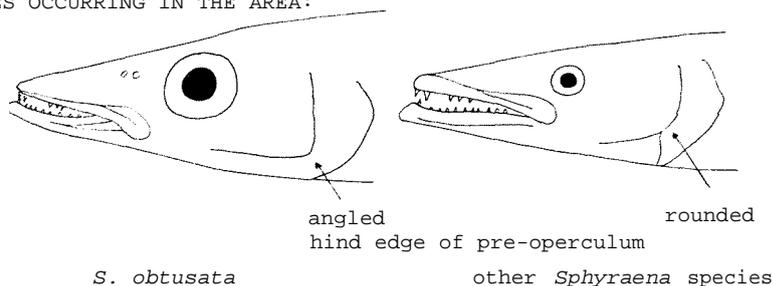
DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongated, slightly compressed; head large, with long pointed snout and lower jaw projecting beyond upper. Mouth large, maxilla (upper jaw) not reaching to level of front of eye. Upper jaw with a series of minute teeth and 2 sharp canines in front; teeth in lower jaw slender, nearly vertical and well separated, a single canine at front. Palatines with a single row of a few sharp teeth followed by numerous minute teeth. Edge of pre-operculum triangular. Gill rakers minute except for 2 long rakers on 1st gill arch. Lateral line with 80 to 90 scales; 7 1/2 scale rows above lateral line at level of origin of 1st dorsal fin.

Colour: light brown above, silver below; inside of mouth yellow. 1st dorsal fin dusky with yellow tinge; pectoral and anal fins yellow; 2nd dorsal and caudal fins yellow with dark margin; pelvic fins white.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

All other *Sphyraena* species in area: have hind edge of pre-operculum rounded (an angle in *S. obtusata*); also, all gill rakers minute (2 longer gill rakers on 1st gill arch in *S. obtusata*).

*S. obtusata*other *Sphyraena* species

SIZE:

Maximum: 40 cm; common: 20 to 30 cm

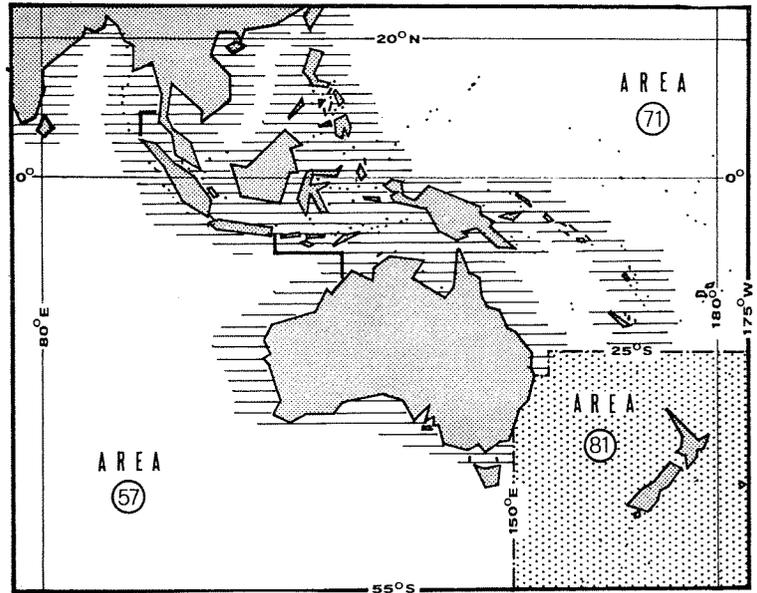
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Recorded throughout most of area covered; perhaps common throughout Indo-Pacific region, but identifications uncertain.

Feeds predominantly on small fish.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Caught in shallow coastal waters, throughout its range.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species. The total reported catch of unclassified barracudas in 1972 was:

- area 57 (Eastern Indian Ocean): 900 tons (India only)
- area 71 (Western Central Pacific): 15 500 tons (Philippines: 13 100 tons)

Caught with bottom trawls, set nets and longlines.

Marketed fresh; also dried-salted, fermented, or prepared as fish sauce.

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

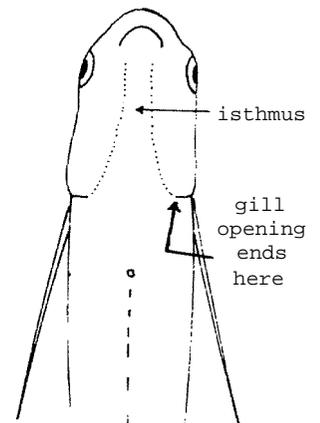
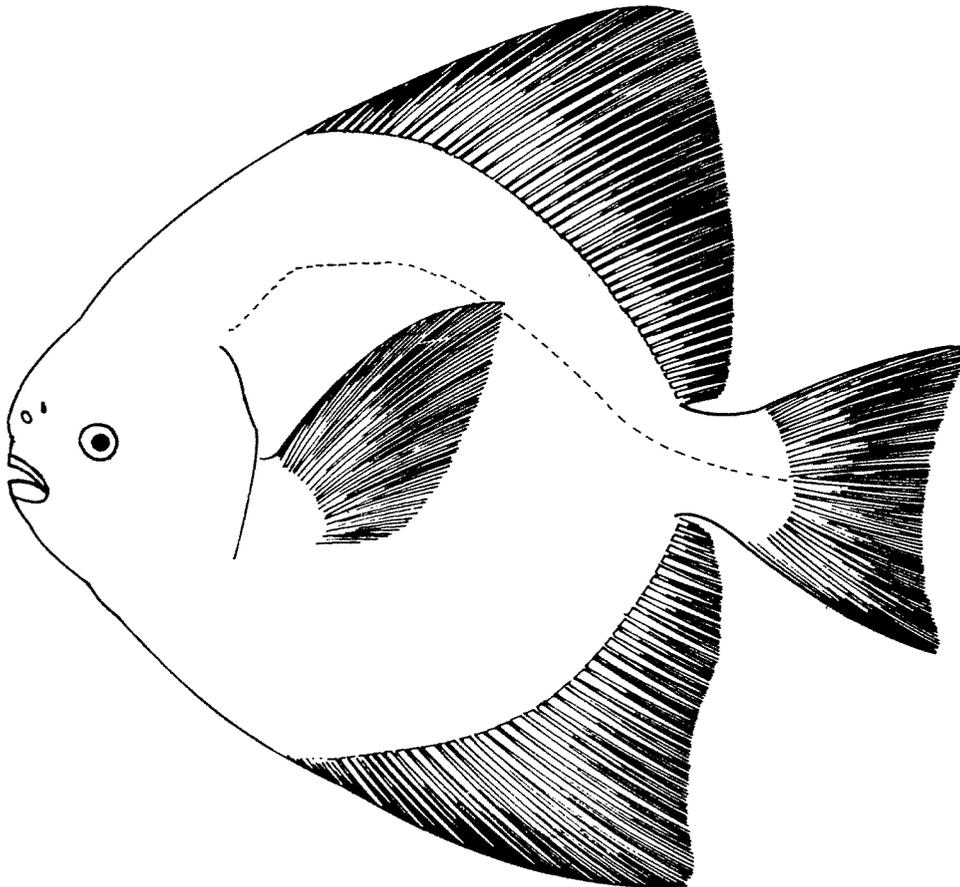
FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)

STROMATEIDAE

Pomfrets

Body deep and compressed with single dorsal and anal fins; pelvic fins never present in adults, rarely in young. Teeth in jaws laterally compressed, either simple or with 3 to 5 cusps. No supra-maxillary bone; gill membranes broadly united to isthmus, the gill opening not reaching to under throat. Dorsal fin rays not preceded by stout spines, but in some species, 5 to 10 small blade-like spines are present before the fin. 30 to 50 anal fin rays. Vertical fins often falcate, their bases about equal in length.

Colour: light grey merging to silvery white on belly, sometimes with spots.

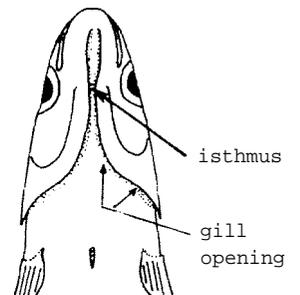


Stromateidae

SIMILAR FAMILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Ariommidae and Monodactylidae: gill membranes not broadly united to isthmus (gill openings continue to under throat).

Ephippidae, Platacidae, Scatophagidae: pelvic fins present; also, gill membranes not broadly united to isthmus (gill openings continue to under throat).



Ariommidae

FAO Sheets

STROMATEIDAE

Fishing Areas 57,71

Key to Genera

Pampus only

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

Pampus argenteus
Pampus chinensis

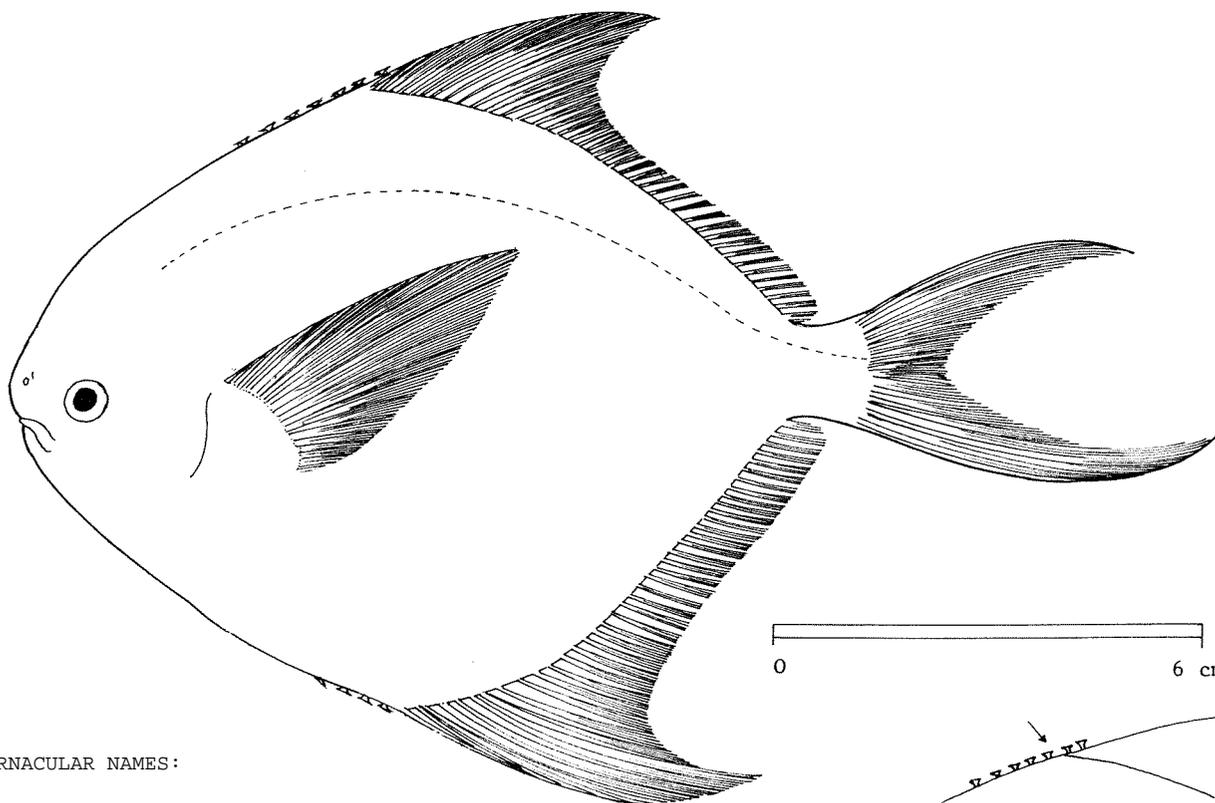
STROM Pamp 1
STROM Pamp 2

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: STROMATEIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)*Pampus argenteus* (Euphrasen, 1788)

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

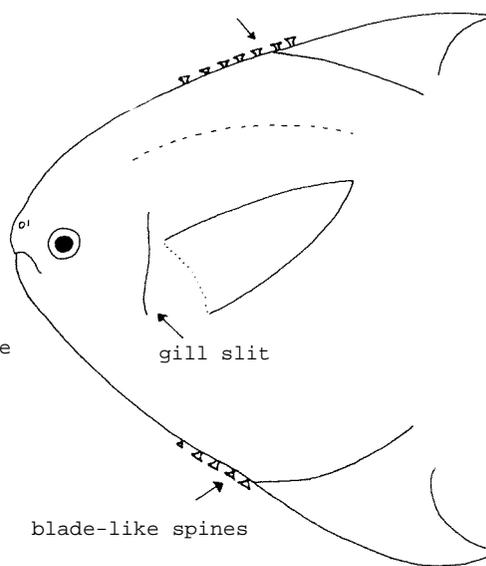
FAO: En - Silver pomfret
Fr -
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body very deep and compressed, with firm flesh. Gill membrane broadly united to isthmus, the gill opening restricted to a vertical slit on side of body. Dorsal and anal fins preceded by a series of 5 to 10 blade-like spines with anterior and posterior points. No pelvic fins; dorsal fin single and falcate, as also anal fin; caudal fin deeply forked, the lower lobe longest.

Colour: back grey, merging to silvery white toward belly; very small black dots all over body; vertical fins with dark edges and all fins faintly yellow.



DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Pampus chinensis: dorsal and anal fins not falcate, caudal fin less deeply forked; also, no blade-like spines before dorsal and anal fins.

SIZE:

Maximum: 50 cm; common: 20 to 30 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

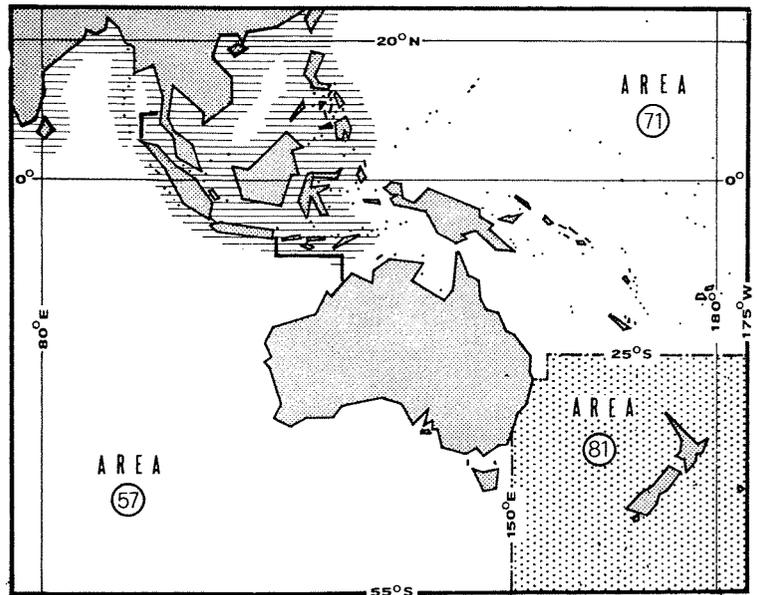
Coasts of India eastward to Hong Kong, but not recorded from New Guinea or Australia; also, westward to Persian Gulf and northward to Japan.

Inhabits waters over muddy bottoms down to 100 m. Usually found in schools; enters brackish waters.

Feeds predominantly on soft bottom-living and larger planktonic invertebrates.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Coastal waters of the continental shelf.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not collected for this species.

Caught mainly with bottom trawls and traps.

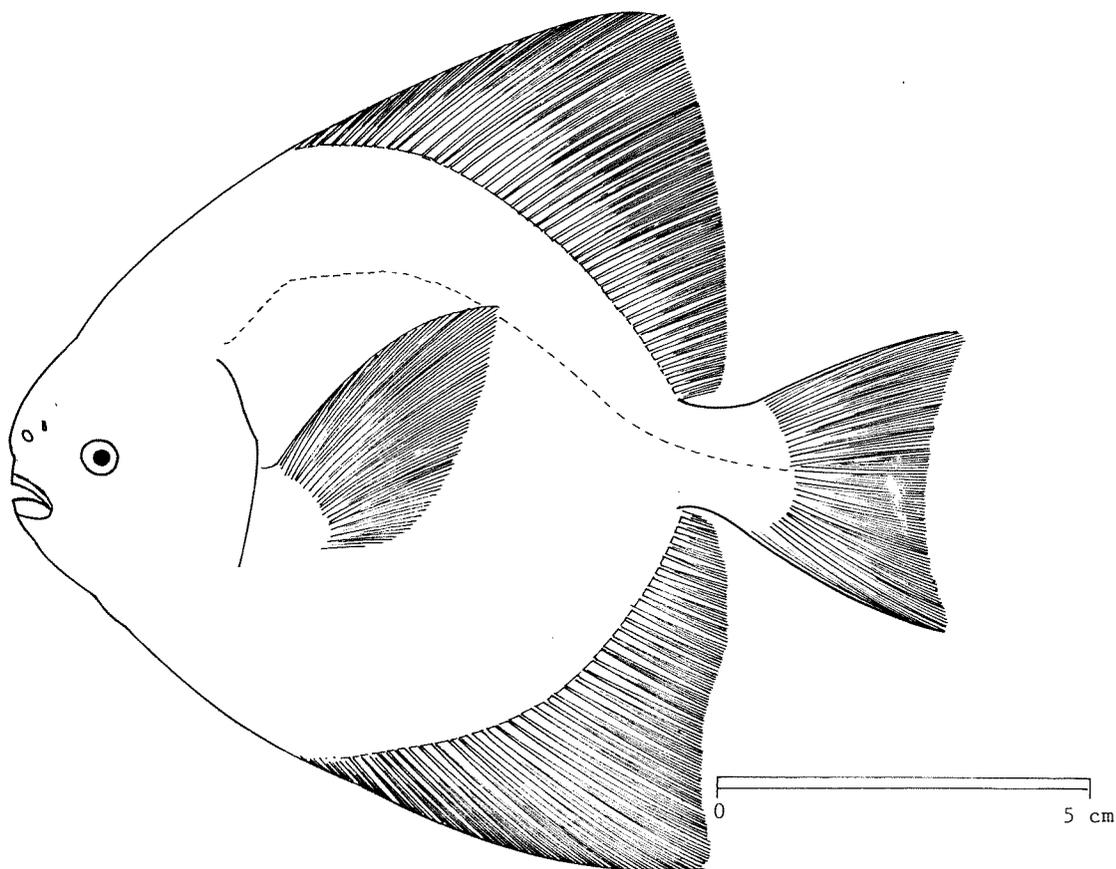
Marketed mainly fresh.

PAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: STROMATEIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)*Pampus chinensis* (Euphrasen, 1788)

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: In - Chinese pomfret
Fr -
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body very deep and compressed, with firm flesh. Gill membranes broadly united to isthmus, the gill opening restricted to a vertical slit on side of body. No flat, blade-like spines before dorsal and anal fins. No pelvic fins; dorsal fin single, and dorsal and anal fins not falcate, but gradually diminishing in height posteriorly; caudal fin only slightly forked.

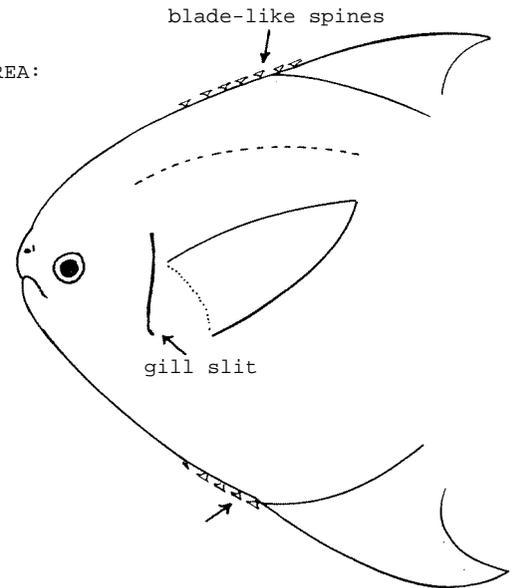
Colour: grey/brown on back, merging to silvery white toward belly; fins dusky.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Pampus argenteus: dorsal and anal fins falcate and caudal fin strongly forked, the lower lobe longest; also, 5 to 10 blade-like spines before dorsal and anal fins.

SIZE:

Maximum: 25 cm; common: 15 to 20 cm.



P. argenteus

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

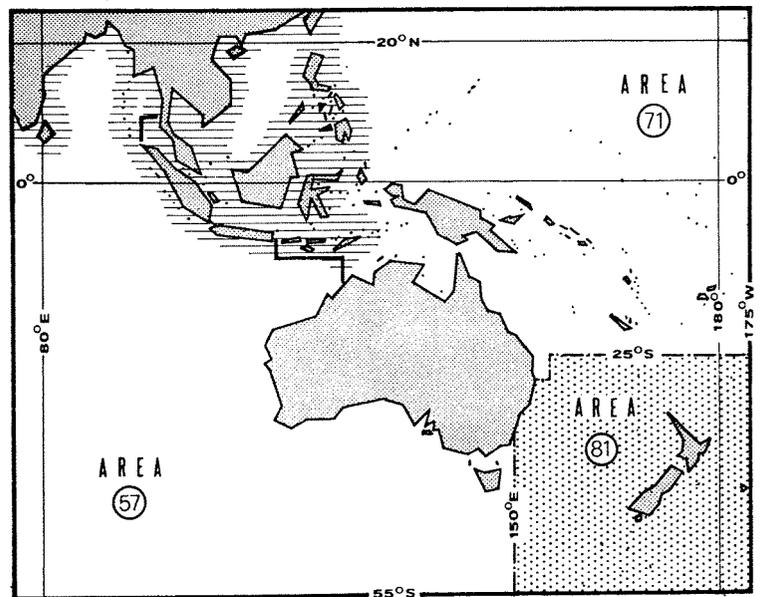
Coasts of India eastward to Hong Kong, but not recorded from New Guinea or Australia; also, westward to Persian Gulf and northward to Japan.

Inhabits waters over muddy bottoms of the continental shelf, down to 100 m; usually found in schools; enters brackish waters.

Feeds on small, soft bottom-living and larger planktonic invertebrates, such as salps.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Coastal waters over the continental shelf.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not collected for this species.

Caught mainly with bottom trawls; also with traps.

Marketed mainly fresh.