



Department of
Fisheries



NORTH COAST FISH IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

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The intention of the North Coast Fish Identification Guide is to provide a simple, easy to use manual to assist commercial, recreational, charter and customary fishers to identify the most commonly caught marine finfish species in the North Coast Bioregion. This guide is not intended to be a comprehensive taxonomic fish ID guide for all species. It is anticipated that this guide will assist fishers in providing a more comprehensive species level description of their catch and hence assist scientists and managers in understanding any variation in the species composition of catches over both spatial and temporal scales.

Fish taxonomy is a dynamic and evolving field. Advances in molecular analytical techniques are resolving many of the relationships and inter-relationships among species, genera and families of fishes. In this guide, we have used and adopted the latest taxonomic nomenclature. Any changes to fish taxonomy will be updated and revised in subsequent editions.

The North Coast Bioregion extends from the Ashburton River near Onslow to the Northern Territory border. Within this region there is a diverse range of habitats from mangrove creeks, rivers, offshore islands, coral reef systems to continental shelf and slope waters. These habitats provide abundant living space for a variety of marine and freshwater species. This fish identification guide includes nearshore, estuarine, pelagic, oceanic and deep slope fish species that are common to these ecological zones. Although most species occur widely across the Indo-West Pacific region, the fish photographed for this guide were caught in Western Australian waters, predominantly in the North Coast Bioregion. They should therefore show any subtle variations peculiar to this region.

Fish have been grouped into their respective families and identified down to the species level. Australian Standard common names have been used. Information about size, distribution and the common habitats for each species has been compiled. Other common names or synonyms, which are often used by the fishing industry and fish markets, have also been included.

Photos are not to scale and the distinguishing features of each fish are highlighted in order to help fishers identify individual fish to species level. For some species both adult and juvenile fish have been included to demonstrate the changes that occur over their life history.

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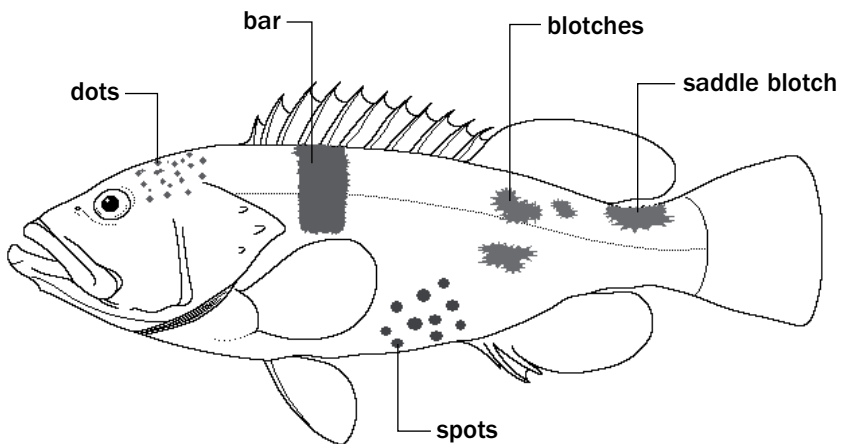
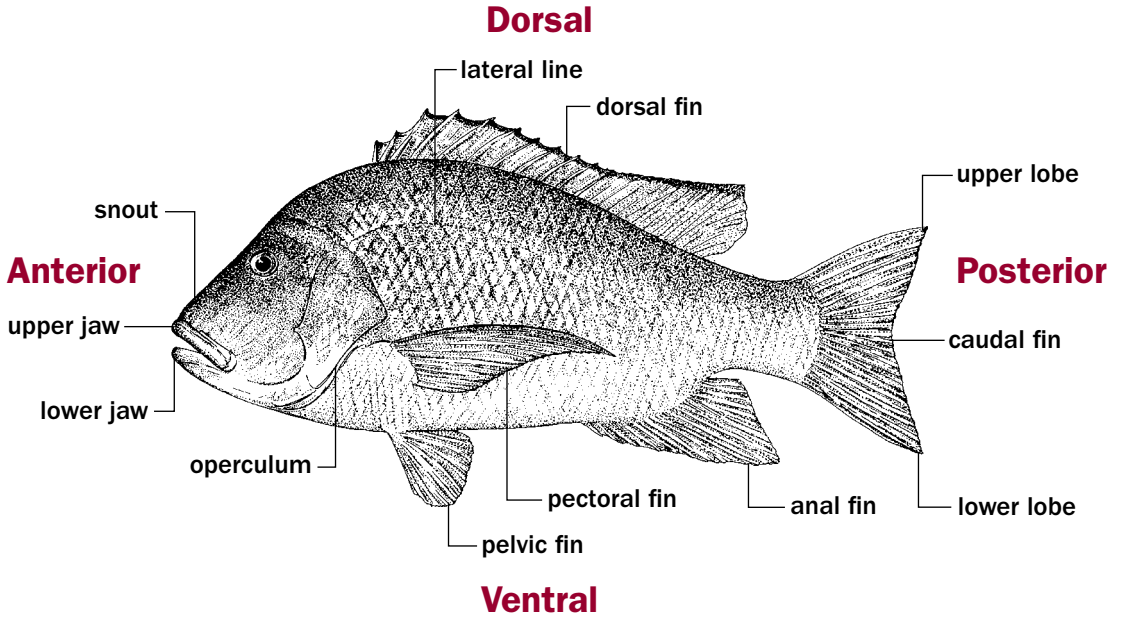
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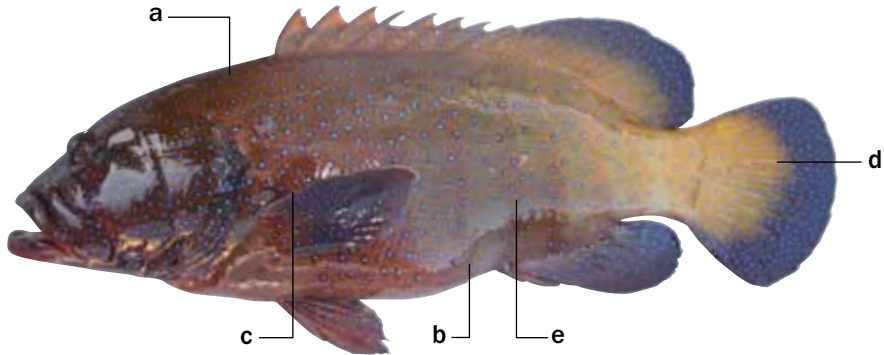
Fish body parts and markings



Glossary

Anal fin	the fin located on the belly behind the anus
Anterior	situated more to the front end of the fish
Concave	used to describe the curved shape of the caudal fin
Caudal fin	the back end tail fin
Dorsal fin	are the fins that run along the back (on top) of the fish
Elongate	extended in length
Lateral line	is a sensory canal system, can be identified by a series of specialised scales which run along side the fish's body
Lunate	shaped like a crescent moon(refers to the shape of the caudal fin)
Lobe	refers to the roundish projection or division of an organ
Longitudinal	running the length of the body from the head to tail
Operculum	gill cover consisting of opercule and preopercle bones
Oblique	refers to bars or lines on a fish, which are not straight or parallel, instead are slanting or sloping
Pectoral fin	are paired fins located on the sides of the fish behind the gill openings
Pelvic fins	are the paired fins located ventrally on the fish below the pectoral fins
Posterior	towards the tail end or rear of the body
Protrusion	refers to a part of the body which sticks out
Radiating	to spread or disperse from a central point
Reticulate	refers to a network of lines over the body of a fish
Snout	the part of the head in front of the eye (snout runs from the from the upper lip to the anterior edge of the eye)
Thorax	chest area
Total length	measured from nose to tip of tail
Truncate	used to describe a mainly straight posterior edge of the caudal fin

Peacock rockcod *Cephalopholis argus*



Distinguishing features: (a) Body colour is dark brown to black becoming yellowish brown towards the caudal fin (b) contains bright blue or purple dark edged spots over the entire body (c) there is a whitish patch in front of the pectoral fin (d) caudal fin is lunate with a white margin (e) at the posterior end of the body five to six dark bars run laterally on the body.

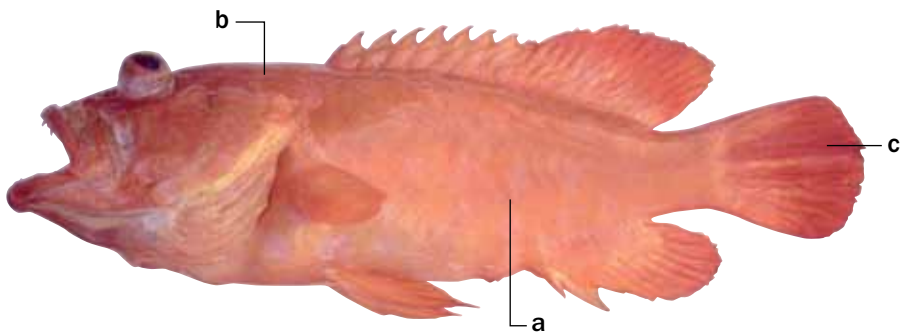
Other common names: Peacock cod, Peacock hind.

Size: Maximum total length is 50 cm.

Distribution: Relatively limited distribution in Western Australia. Found mainly on the offshore emerged coral reef systems of north Western Australia i.e. Rowley Shoals, Scott Reef and Ashmore Reef.

Habitat: Found in a variety of coral reef habitats usually within 10 metre of reef but can be found in depths of up to 40 m. Inhabits areas near coral thickets and on the edge of the reef slope.

Golden rockcod *Cephalopholis aurantia*



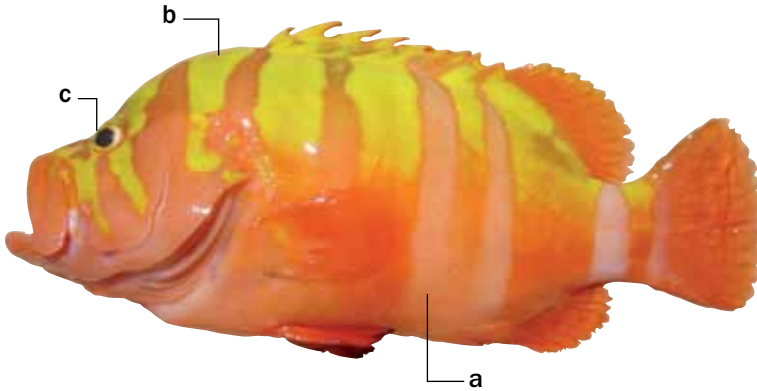
Distinguishing features: (a) Body is orange to yellow (b) yellow or white dots are visible on the head and body (c) anal fin and caudal fin have a narrow pale blue margin.

Size: Maximum total length is approximately 50 cm.

Distribution: A relatively rare species in Australia found only on remote coral atolls and reef systems off north Western Australia.

Habitat: Found on the deep reef slopes in a depth generally below 100 m.

Garish rockcod *Cephalopholis igarashiensis*



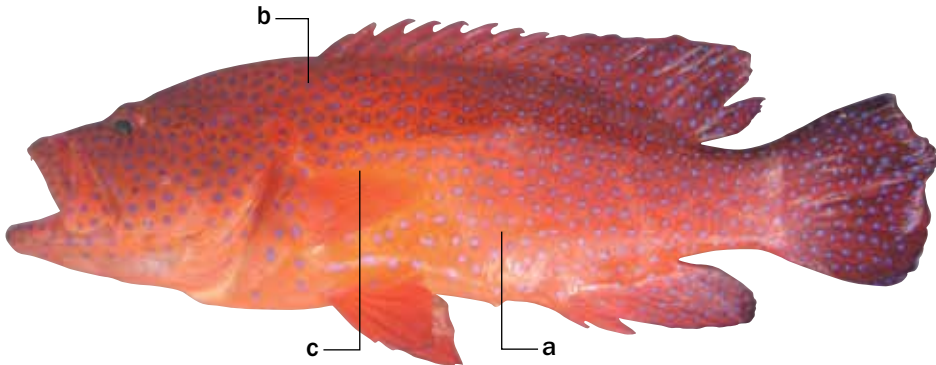
Distinguishing features: (a) Body reddish orange (b) contains seven bright yellow bands on the side of the body (c) yellow bands radiating from the eye. Juveniles are more yellow and contain a large dark spot on the posterior end of the dorsal fin.

Size: Maximum total length is 43 cm.

Distribution: A very rare species in Western Australia, found in deep reef areas such as Rowley Shoals and Scott Reef.

Habitat: A deep water grouper found on the outer reef slope between a depth range of 80 to 250 m.

Coral rockcod *Cephalopholis miniata*



Distinguishing features: (a) Body can vary from bright red to red brown (b) bright blue spots visible over entire body (c) pectoral fins contains a yellow edge.

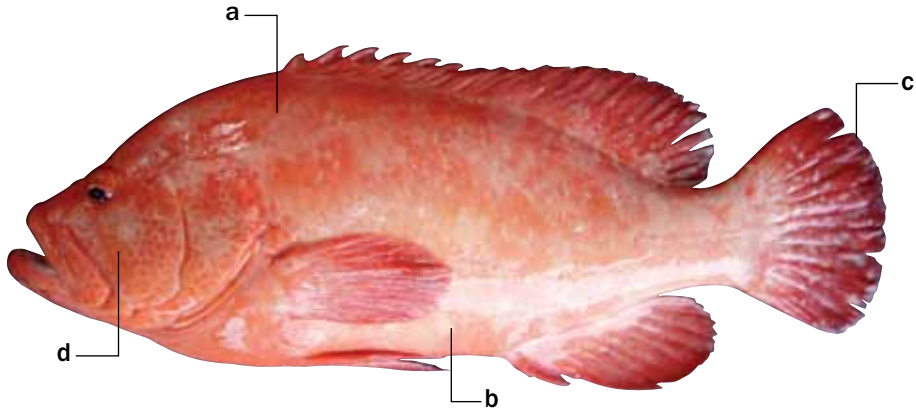
Other common names: Coral cod.

Size: Maximum total length is 45 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia found from Abrolhos Islands northwards to Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Usually found in caves or crevices on well-developed coral reef systems. Often gets incorrectly identified as a coral trout due to similar colouration.

Tomato rockcod *Cephalopholis sonnerati*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Body can vary from being bright red orange to reddish brown (b) white blotches can be found over the entire body (c) caudal fin is rounded (d) red dots are more pronounced on the head.

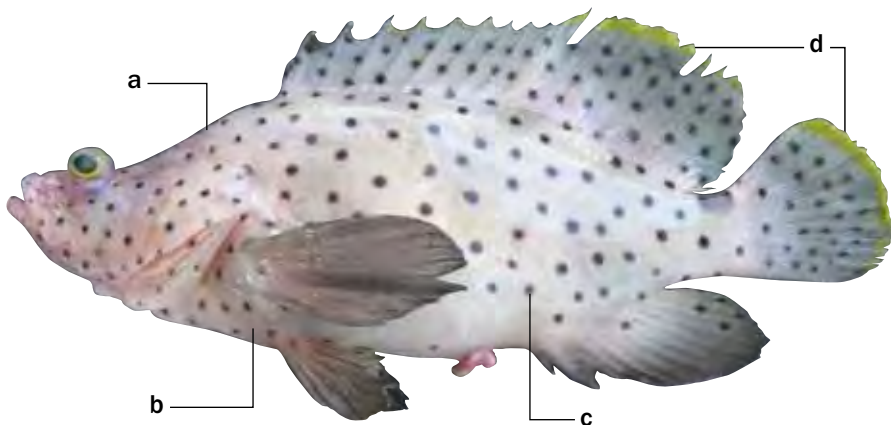
Other Common Names: Tomato cod.

Size: Maximum total length recorded is 58 cm and weight of 2.2 kg.

Distribution: In Western Australia found from Shark Bay to Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Typically found in a coral and rock reefs in depths ranging from 30 to 100 m.

Barramundi cod *Cromileptes altivelis*



Distinguishing features: (a) Body is very similar in shape to barramundi *Lates calcarifer*, contains a small head and a humped back (b) body colour is greyish brown (c) contains dark spots over entire body (d) soft dorsal and caudal fin have a yellow margin.

Size: Maximum total length is 70 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia found from Shark Bay to Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Usually found in caves and crevices of well-developed coral reefs and in soft and broken reef areas.

Banded grouper *Epinephelus amblycephalus*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Contains five distinct dark bars over the body and tail plus similar patch on nape (b) dorsal and caudal fin have yellow margins (c) also has distinct yellow marking above upper jaw.

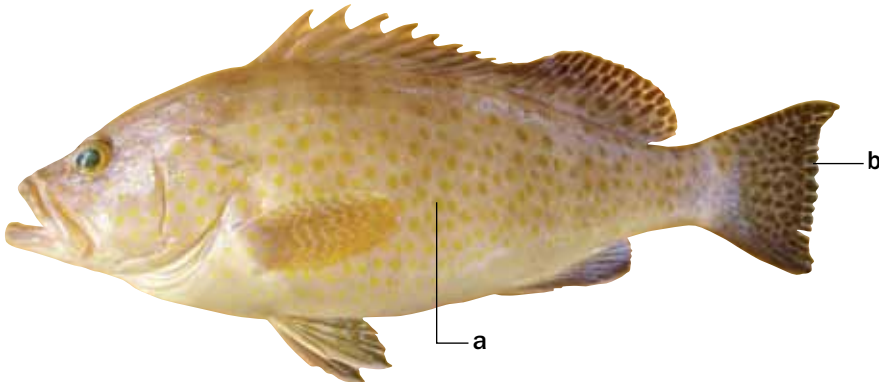
Other Common Names: Small-banded cod, banded cod.

Size: Maximum total length is 50 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia found from Shark Bay to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Found on coral and rocky reefs in depths from 50 to 150 m.

Yellow spotted rockcod *Epinephelus areolatus*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Contains a dense pattern of large round yellow/brown spots on body (b) caudal fin is truncate with a distinct white margin, does not contain dark blotches on the dorsal ridge of the body as found in *Epinephelus bilobatus*.

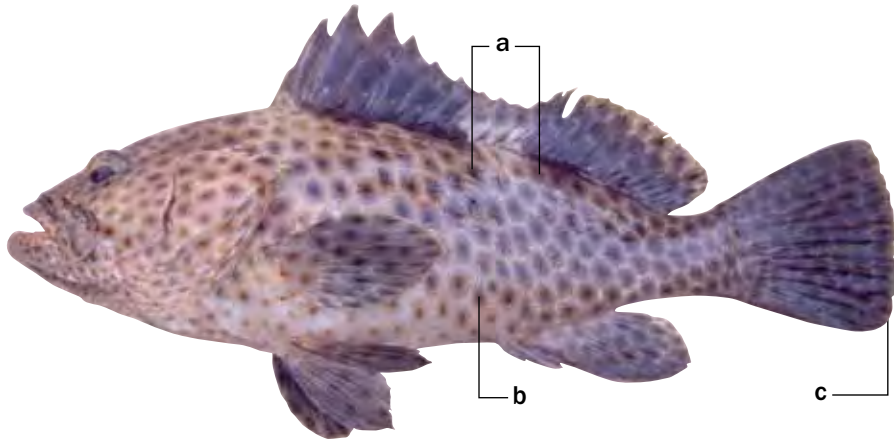
Other common names: Spotted cod, honeycomb cod.

Size: Maximum total length up to 50 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia found from Shark Bay northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits coral and rocky reef systems. Can be found in a range of depths up to 200 m.

Frostback rockcod *Epinephelus bilobatus*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Contains distinct dark blotches on the dorsal ridge of the body (b) contains a dense pattern of gold-brown spots over entire body (c) caudal fin is lunate, similar in appearance to *Epinephelus areolatus*.

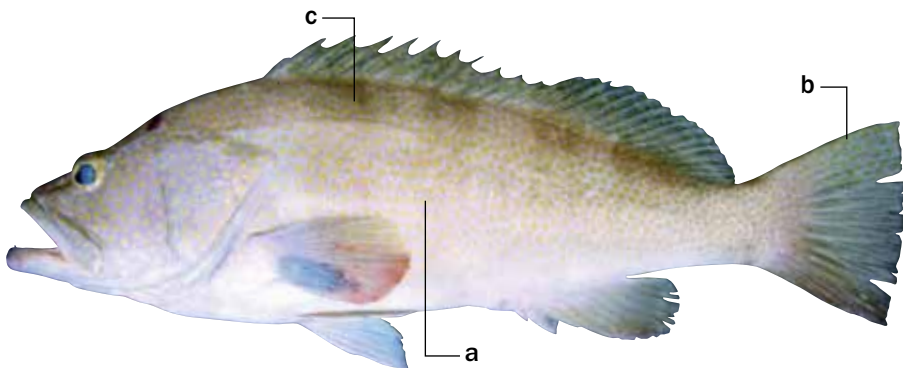
Other Common Names: Spotted cod, honeycomb cod, frostback cod.

Size: Maximum total length up to 40 cm.

Distribution: Endemic to Western Australia found from Shark Bay to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Found in coral reefs and rocky bottoms in depths ranging from 4 to 80 m.

Duskytail grouper *Epinephelus bleekeri*



Distinguishing features: (a) Gold brown spots are visible over entire body (b) gold/orange spots are found on the upper third of the caudal fin and are not visible on the lower two thirds of the caudal fin (c) body brownish often faint dark bars are visible on the body of the fish.

Other common names: Spotted trout, trout cod.

Size: Maximum total length of 76 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia found from Shark Bay northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Occurs on coral and rocky reef systems in depths ranging from 30 to 100 m.

Brown spotted rockcod *Epinephelus chlorostigma*



Distinguishing features: (a) Caudal fin contains a white margin (b) head, body and fins contain a dense matrix of brown spots.

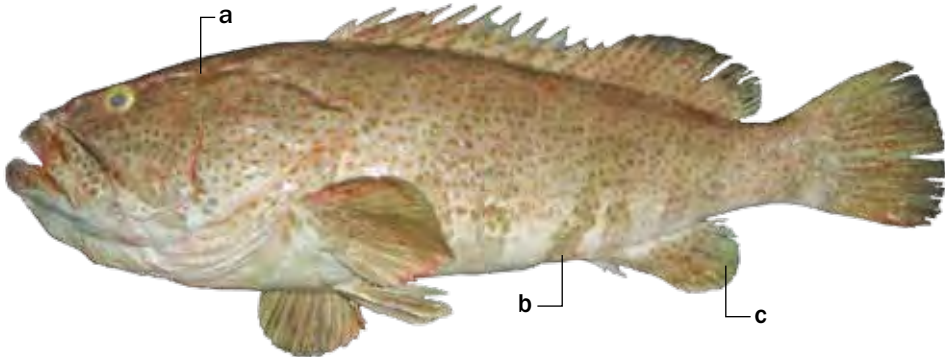
Other Common Names: Brown spotted grouper, honeycomb cod.

Size: Maximum total length is 75 cm.

Distribution: A relatively rare species in Western Australia found only on offshore coral reef systems such as Rowley Shoals and Scott Reef.

Habitat: Inhabits seagrass and rubble seabeds near or adjacent to coral reef waters to depths up to 200 m.

Gold spotted rockcod *Epinephelus coioides*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Contains dusky or orange spots over head and upper body (b) has six indistinct broad cross bands which run across the back of the body (c) fins are variegated in browns and yellows. Frequently misidentified as *Epinephelus malabaricus* and *Epinephelus tauvina*.

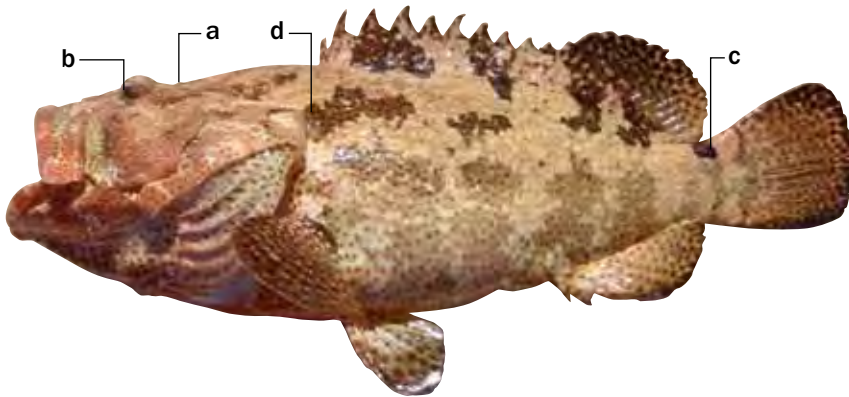
Other Common Names: Goldspotted rockcod, estuary cod, slimy cod.

Size: Maximum total length of 130 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia found from Shark Bay to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Juveniles live in mangroves and estuaries. Mature adults migrate out of mangroves and into near-shore and outer reef systems. Can be found in depths up to 120 m.

Flowerly rockcod *Epinephelus fuscoguttatus*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Contains a distinct hump on the head (b) eye is very small (c) contains a dark black band at the base of the caudal fin (d) body is pale brown with irregular brown blotches (flowers), often gets confused with *Epinephelus polyphekadion*.

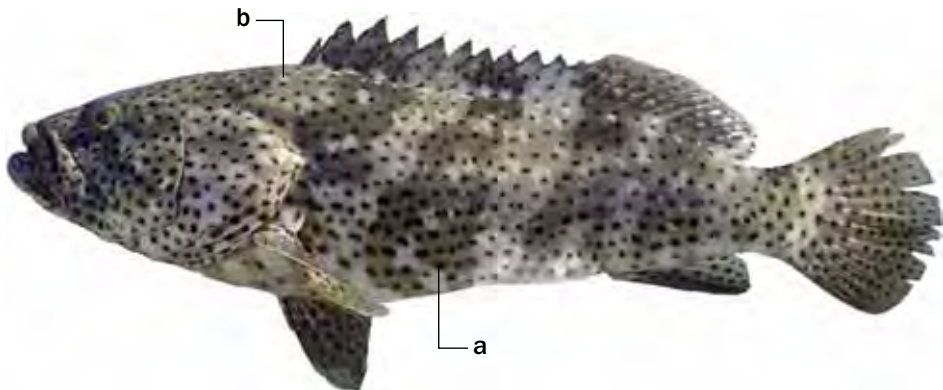
Other Common Names: Flowerly cod.

Size: Maximum total length up to 100 cm.

Distribution: From the Dampier Archipelago northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits coral and rocky reef waters to depths of 60 m.

Blackspotted rockcod *Epinephelus malabaricus*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Contains dark brown or black spots (b) irregular white blotches over body. Often gets confused with *Epinephelus coioides*.

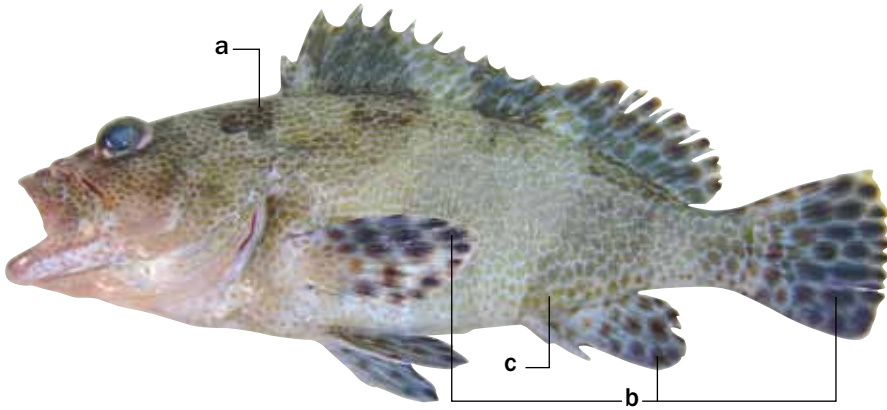
Other Common Names: Estuary cod, slimy cod, malabar cod.

Size: Maximum total length up to 130 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia found from Shark Bay to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Juveniles found in estuaries and among mangroves. Mature adults migrate towards nearshore and outer reef systems to depths up to 120 m.

Netfin grouper *Epinephelus miliaris*



Distinguishing features: (a) Body contains a dense pattern of polygonal brown/yellowish brown spots (b) on the caudal, pectoral and anal fins the spots are much larger and darker than those found on the body (c) often four to five oblique dark bars are visible on the body.

Size: Maximum total length is 50 cm.

Distribution: A relatively rare species in Western Australia. Found near oceanic islands and offshore coral reef systems off north Western Australia.

Habitat: *Epinephelus miliaris* lives in a variety of habitats ranging from seagrass beds, mangrove estuaries to coral reef systems. Found in depths up to 180 m.

Comet grouper *Epinephelus morrhua*



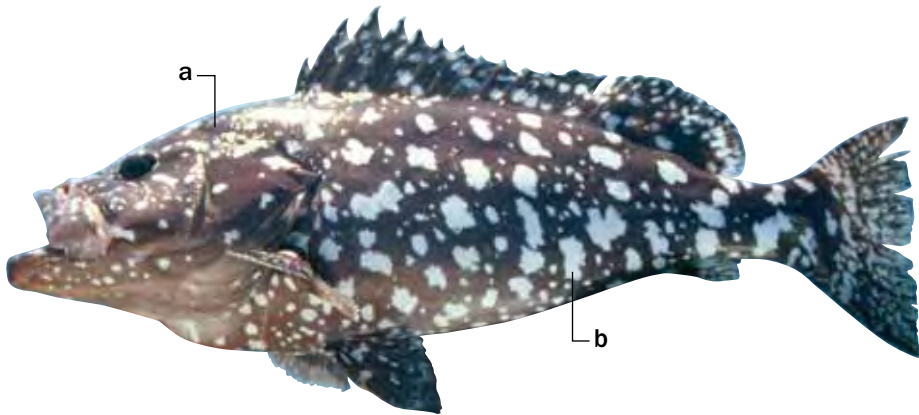
Distinguishing Features: (a) Body is greyish brown, contains singled lined oblique bands running from the snout to the upper body. These lines are curved and run more horizontally than the similar looking radiant rockcod *Epinephelus radiatus* (b) no spots are visible between these bands.

Other Common Names: Comet cod.

Size: Maximum total length up to 90 cm.

Distribution: Shark Bay northwards extending into the Northern Territory. Also found on oceanic islands and outer coral reef systems.

Rankin cod *Epinephelus multinotatus*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Head and body are black-grey (b) contains irregular white blotches over the entire body, these fade with age/size.

Size: Maximum total length up to 100 cm.

Distribution: *Epinephelus multinotatus* is found only in Western Australian waters from the Abrolhos Islands northwards to Cape Leveque.

Habitat: Inhabits coral reefs and deeper offshore waters. Can be found in depths up to 150 m.

Dotdash grouper *Epinephelus poecilonotus*



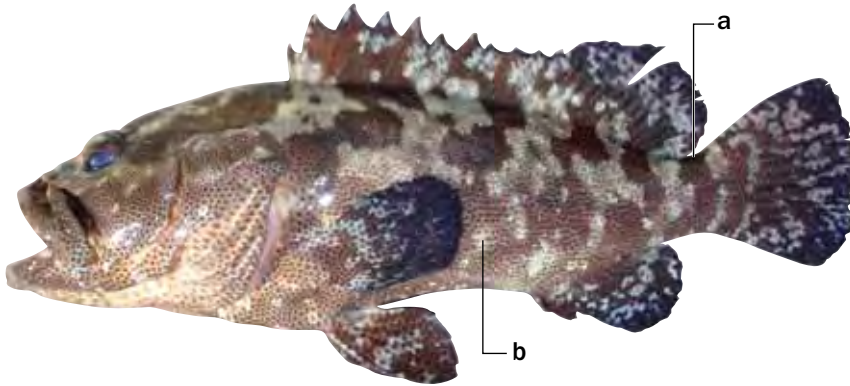
Distinguishing features: (a) In juvenile fish dark spots and bands are clearly visible on the head and body. In adult fish the dark bands fade and the spots become less visible (b) caudal fin contains a light blue margin (c) fins are yellowish/brown.

Size: Maximum total length is 65 cm and weight of 4 kg.

Distribution: *Epinephelus poecilonotus* is a relatively rare species in Western Australia found only in oceanic coral reef systems and outer reef atolls.

Habitat: This is a deep water species generally found in depths ranging from 50 to 350 m.

Camouflage grouper *Epinephelus polyphekadion*



Distinguishing features: (a) Contains a distinct dark blotch on the base of the tail (b) body colour is predominantly brown with white patches exhibits a dense pattern of small dark spots often forming patches. Often gets confused with *Epinephelus fuscoguttatus*, but different head profile and different pattern of blotches on its body.

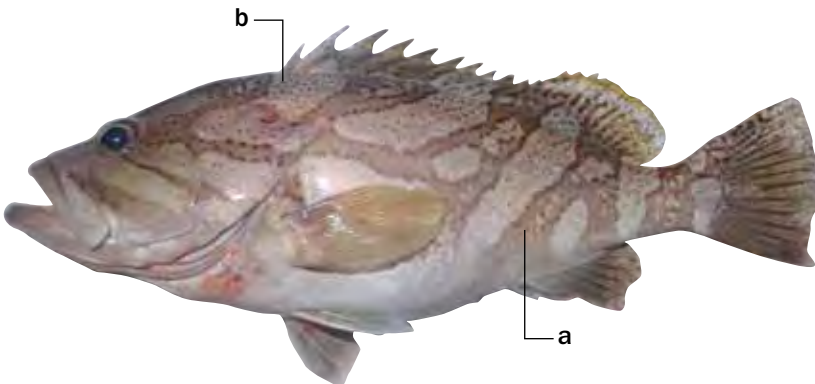
Other Common Names: Camouflage cod.

Size: Maximum size total length up to 90 cm.

Distribution: Exmouth northwards across to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits coral reefs, either in lagoons or on the outer reef. Particularly common in outer coral reef systems and oceanic atolls.

Radiant rockcod *Epinephelus radiatus*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Contains five distinct brownish olive broad radiating bands on the head and body (b) small dark brown spots are visible between these bands. Often gets confused with comet grouper *Epinephelus morrhua*.

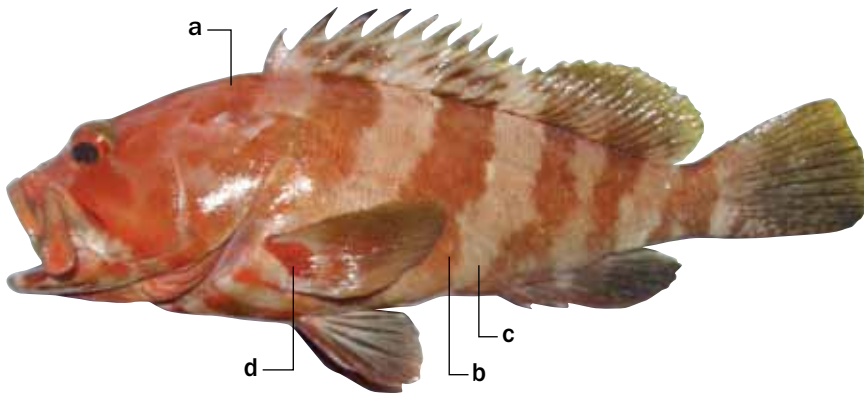
Other Common Names: Radiant cod.

Size: Maximum total length up to 70 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia found from Shark Bay to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits deep coastal waters over seabeds of rubble and coral in depth ranging from 80 to 350 m.

Chinaman rockcod *Epinephelus rivulatus*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Body red to brown (b) contains irregular oblique brown bars on side of body (c) each body scale has a small white dot creating a peppered appearance (d) large reddish blotch on base of the pectoral fin.

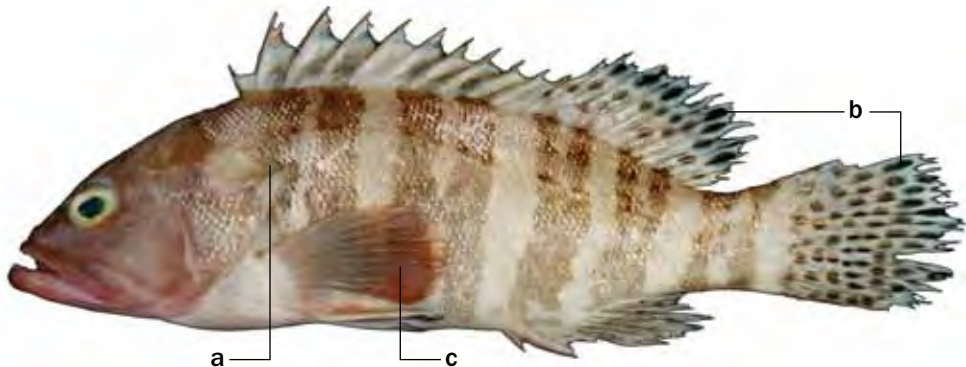
Other Common Names: Chinaman cod, charlie court.

Size: Maximum total length up to 46 cm.

Distribution: Widely distributed in Western Australia found from Rottnest Island northwards to Broome.

Habitat: Occur on rocky bottoms which contain caves, crevices or coral reefs in depths up to 150 m.

Sixbar grouper *Epinephelus sexfasciatus*



Distinguishing features: (a) Body is pale greyish brown contains six distinct dark bars five on the body and one on the nape (b) dark spots are visible on the caudal, soft dorsal and anal fins (c) pectoral fins are greyish or dusky orange, ventral parts of the head can sometimes be pale reddish brown.

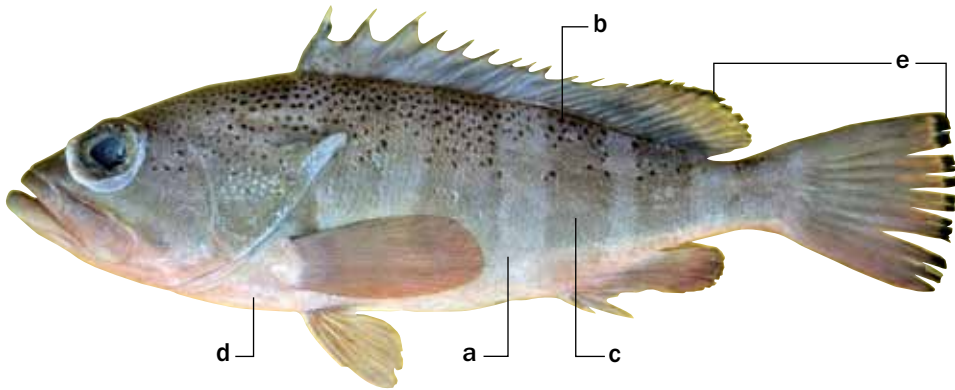
Other common names: Six banded cod.

Size: Maximum total length up to 30 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia found from Exmouth Gulf to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Usually found on sandy or muddy bottoms at depth ranging from 10 to 80 m.

Blackdotted grouper *Epinephelus stictus*



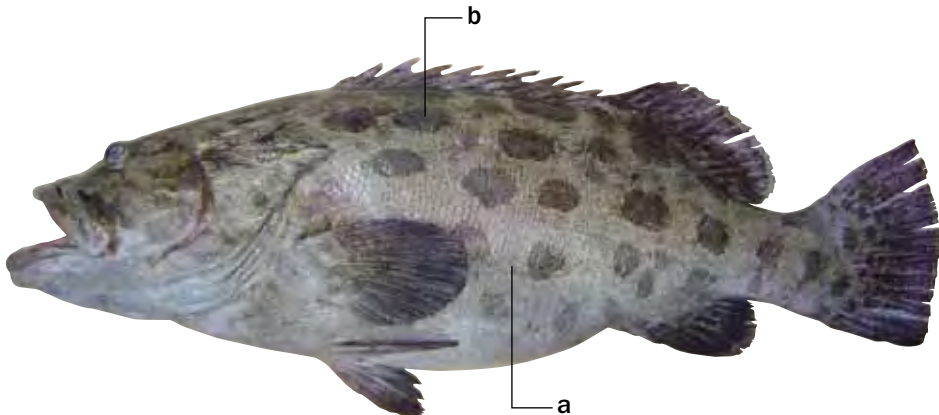
Distinguishing features: (a) Body is light brown on the dorsal surface (b) contains small dark brown/gold spots on the dorsal surface (c) five faint oblique bars present on the body (d) the chest and ventral parts of the head are reddish orange (e) soft dorsal fins and caudal fin have a dark brown margin.

Size: Maximum total length up to 41 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia found from Exmouth Gulf to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: *Epinephelus stictus* is a deep water species found on mud and sand bottoms in depth of 60 to 150 m.

Potato grouper *Epinephelus tukula*



Distinguishing features: (a) Body is pale brownish grey (b) contains large dark blotches, which can be round or oval in shape. These dark blotches are also present on the fins and become smaller towards the posterior edge of the fish. **This species is protected in Western Australia** under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and should be returned to the water upon capture.

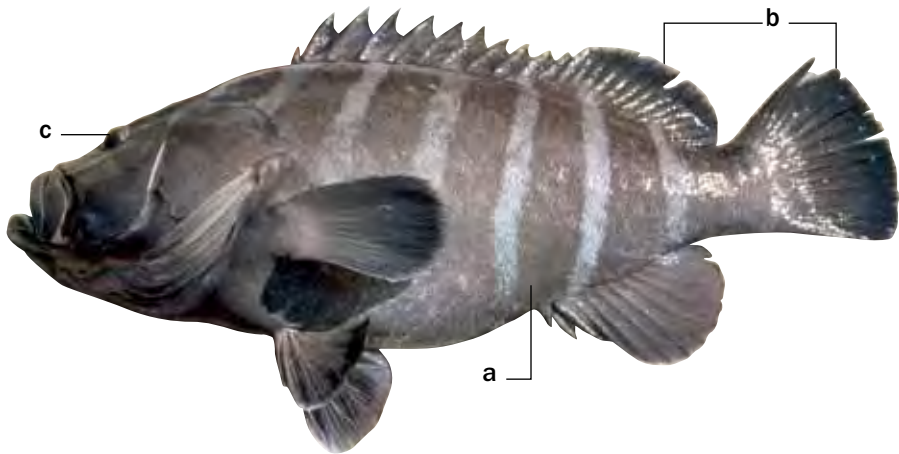
Other Common Names: potato cod.

Size: *Epinephelus tukula* is one of the largest grouper species known and can reach up to 200 cm total length.

Distribution: In Western Australia found from Exmouth Gulf to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits coral reef systems, lives near caves or crevices. Depth range is from 10 to 150 m.

Eightbar grouper *Hyporthodus octofasciatus*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Contains eight distinct brown to black cross bands over the body (b) dorsal, anal and pelvic fins are blackish brown (c) contains a faint brown band from the eye to the operculum.

Other Common Names: Eight-bar cod, grey-banded cod.

Size: Maximum size total length up to 100 cm.

Distribution: This species has a wide distribution in Western Australia ranging from near the South Australia border to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: *Hyporthodus octofasciatus* is a deep water species which lives in depths ranging from 100 to 300 m.

Passionfruit coral trout *Plectropomus areolatus*



Distinguishing features: (a) Contains blue spots with dark margins over entire body including the ventral surface (b) caudal fin is truncate (c) dorsal, anal and caudal fins contain a white margin.

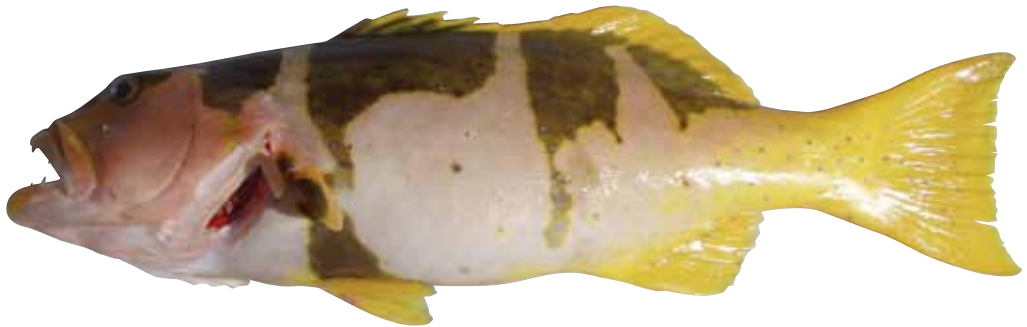
Other Common Names: Squaretailed coral trout.

Size: Maximum total length is 70 cm.

Distribution: Limited distribution in Western Australia; can be found on outer coral reef systems and coral atolls off north Western Australia such as Rowley Shoals and Scott Reef.

Habitat: *Plectropomus areolatus* inhabits coral reef waters in lagoons and on the outer reef slopes at depths ranging 2 to 30 m.

Bluespotted coral trout *Plectropomus laevis*



Distinguishing features: There are two variations in colour in this species. One form is light yellow whitish in colour and contains five black or brown blotches or vertical bars on the upper surface. Dark edged blue spots are visible on the pectoral fins and posterior end of the fish. The darker form can be red, olive or even black, contains dark edged blue spots on the upper surface of the fish and on the pectoral fin. Caudal fin is slightly lunate in shape.

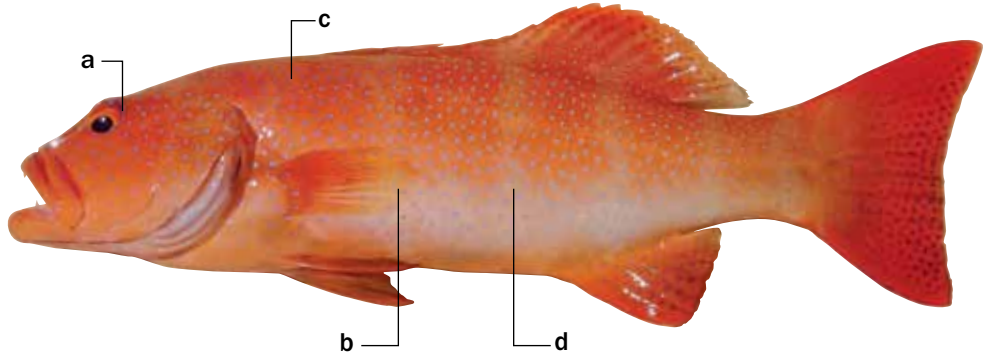
Other Common Names: Footballer coral trout, chinese footballer cod.

Size: *Plectropomus laevis* is one of the largest species in the *Plectropomus* genus. Maximum total length is 125 cm and a weight of 18 kg.

Distribution: Found only in Western Australia on the outer coral reef atolls such as Rowley Shoals and Scott Reef.

Habitat: Inhabits coral reef systems of depths of up to 90 m.

Common coral trout *Plectropomus leopardus*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Contains a distinct blue ring around the eye (b) translucent pectoral fin (c) distinct small blue spots over head and body, except under the belly and thorax (d) body colour can vary from bright red to dark reddish brown, often gets misidentified as bar-cheeked coral trout *Plectropomus maculatus*.

Other Common Names: Leopard coral trout.

Size: Maximum total length up to 70 cm.

Distribution: Limited distribution in Western Australia, mainly found on offshore reef systems and coral atolls such as Abrolhos Islands and Scott Reef.

Habitat: Occurs on coral reef systems at depths ranging up to 100 m.

Barcheeked coral trout *Plectropomus maculatus*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Contains blue spots, some of which are horizontally elongate on head and operculum. Often misidentified as *Plectropomus leopardus*, however the blue spots found on this species are elongated, and the pectoral fin is not translucent.

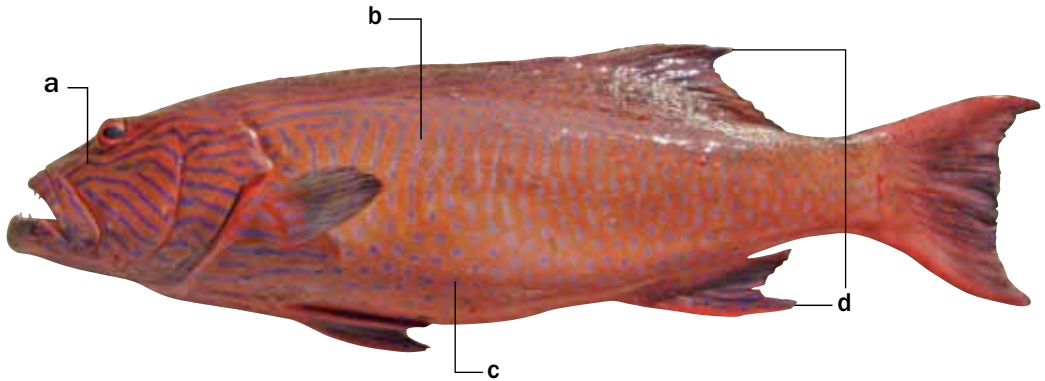
Other common names: coral trout.

Size: Maximum total length up to 90 cm and weight of 25 kg.

Distribution: *Plectropomus maculatus* is the most widely distributed of the group and can be found along the continental shelf from Geraldton northwards across to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits coral reef systems in depth range up to 100 m.

Vermicular cod *Plectropomus oligacanthus*



Distinguishing features: (a) Head contains bright blue or purple lines (b) the middle part of the fish contains short bars (c) posterior end of the fish contains blue or purple spots (d) the soft dorsal and anal fins are relatively tall and high.

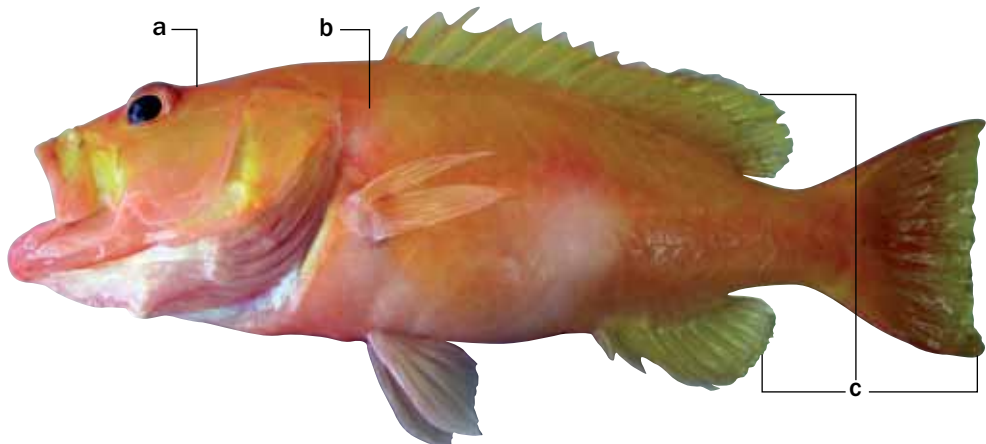
Other Common Names: Highfin coral trout.

Size: Maximum total length up to 60 cm.

Distribution: *Plectropomus oligacanthus* is a relatively rare species in north Western Australia only present at Scott Reef and Seringapatam Reef.

Habitat: Inhabits isolated offshore coral reef systems in depths up to 50 m.

Golden grouper *Saloptia powelli*



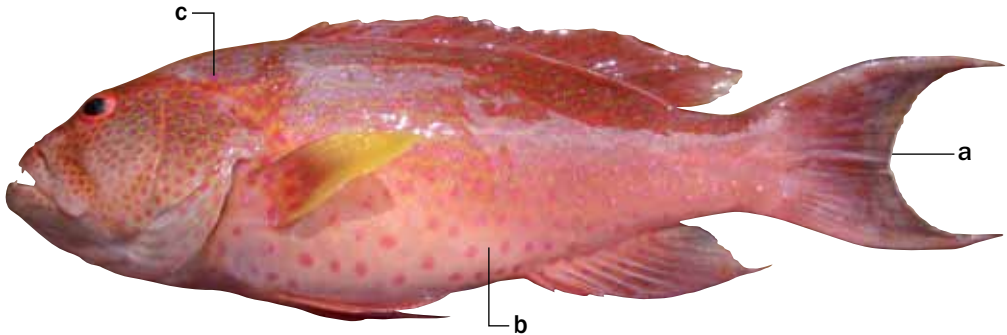
Distinguishing features: (a) Top of the head is red (b) body is bright yellow to orange becoming white or pink ventrally (c) caudal, dorsal and anal fins are yellow with white margin. This species is closely related to the shallow water coral trout genus *Plectropomus*.

Size: Maximum total length up to 47 cm.

Distribution: A very rare species only found on offshore coral reef systems off the north west of Western Australia.

Habitat: *Saloptia powelli* is a deep water species found on coral or rocky reefs in depths ranging from 140 to 350 m.

White edge coronation trout *Variola albimarginata*



Distinguishing features: (a) Contains a distinctive lunar caudal fin with a narrow white margin (b) body is deep red orange (c) contains a network of red spots and yellow lines on the head and body.

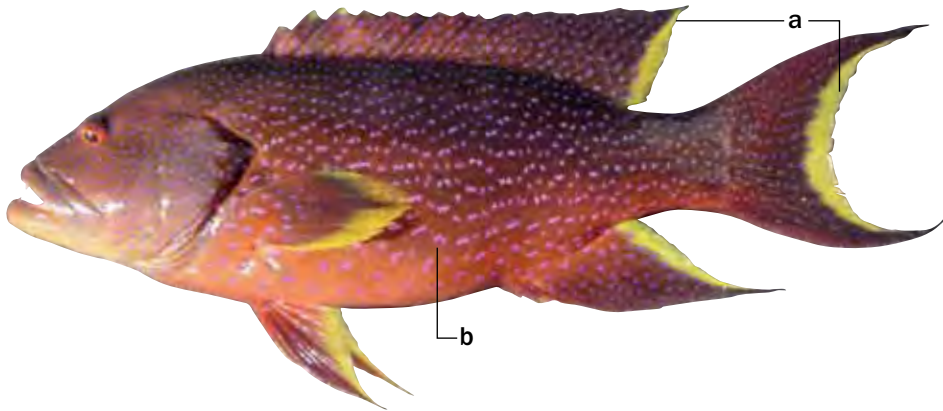
Other Common Names: White edged lyretail trout, coronation trout.

Size: Maximum total length up to 60 cm and weight of 3 kg.

Distribution: *Variola albimarginata* is a relatively rare species found offshore coral reefs from Shark Bay across the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Occurs mainly on coral reef or rocky substrate bottom in depths ranging up to 200 m.

Yellow edge coronation trout *Variola louti*



Distinguishing features: (a) Often gets misidentified as *Variola albimarginata* but the caudal fin, pelvic, pectoral fin and the posterior end of the soft dorsal and anal fins have a yellow margin (b) body is orange-red yellow with many small yellow spots

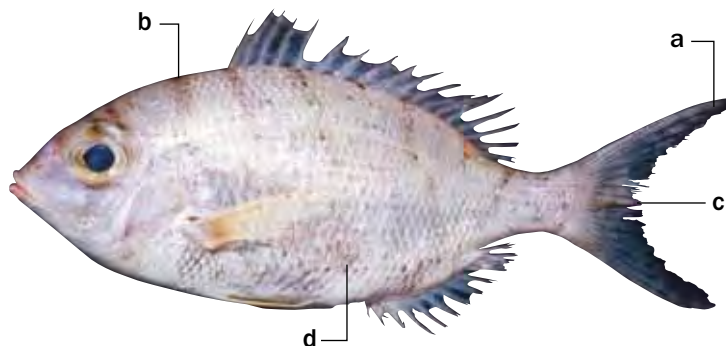
Other common names: Coronation trout, lunartail trout.

Size: Maximum total length is 81 cm and weight of 5.5 kg.

Distribution: *Variola louti* can be found from the Abrolhos Islands north to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits shallow and deep offshore coral reefs and rocky seabeds in depths up to 100 m.

Swallowtail seabream *Gymnocranius elongatus*



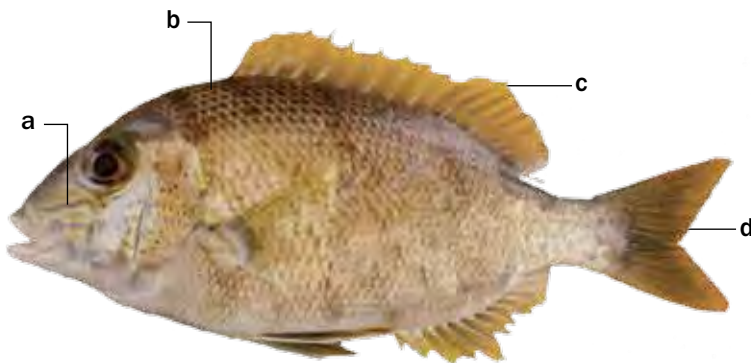
Distinguishing features: (a) Can be distinguished by a deeply forked caudal fin (b) exhibits faint indistinct dark bars, which run laterally along the body (c) caudal fin is orange-yellow and contains a thin red margin (d) body colour is silver sometimes with scattered dark brown spots or blotches on the side of the fish.

Size: Maximum total length is 35 cm.

Distribution: Can be found in coastal and offshore waters from Shark Bay to Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits sandy bottoms and trawling grounds usually at depths between 50 to 100 m.

Robinson's seabream *Gymnocranius grandoculis*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Distinct undulating blue lines and spots on snout, cheek and operculum (b) body is generally golden brown yellow (c) fins are orange-yellow (d) caudal fins contain an orange margin.

Other common names: Robinson's bream, Robinson's perch.

Size: Maximum total length up to 80 cm most common to 50 cm total length.

Distribution: Widely distributed in Western Australia from Rottnest Island to Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits offshore rocky bottoms and trawling grounds usually at depths between 50 to 140 m.

Yellowtail emperor *Lethrinus atkinsoni*



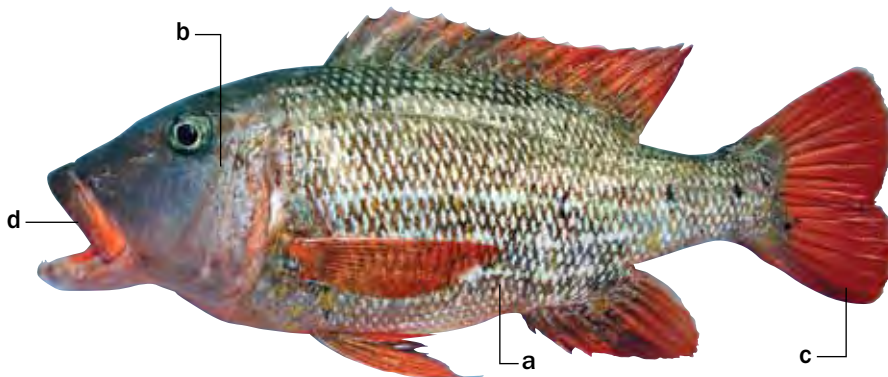
Distinguishing features: (a) The base of the caudal fin is yellowish orange (b) sometimes an indistinct orange/yellow band can extend laterally along the side of body (c) the caudal fin is yellow with a red margin (d) the top lip is red (e) contains a relatively steep forehead profile.

Size: Maximum total length up to 50 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia found from the Abrolhos Islands northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits coral reefs, outer reef slopes, sandy areas in lagoons and on seagrass beds in depths up to 50 m.

Orangespotted emperor *Lethrinus erythracanthus*



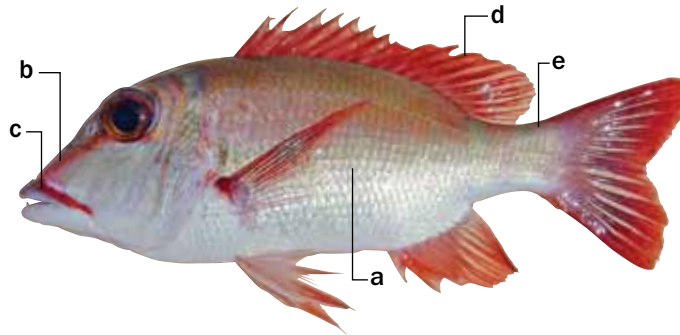
Distinguishing Features: (a) Body is deep, body colour is brown, dark grey, with indistinct scattered small dark and light stripes (b) small orange spots are visible on the body and the head (c) pectoral, anal, dorsal and caudal fins are bright orange (d) contain thick fleshy lips which are bright orange or red.

Size: Maximum total length up to 80 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia found on offshore atoll reef systems such as Rowley Shoals.

Habitat: Inhabits deep lagoons and channels of coral reef systems and outer reef slopes in depths up to 120 m.

Longfin emperor *Lethrinus erythropterus*



Distinguishing features: (a) The colour is bright red rusty in the upper part of body above lateral line becoming whiter towards the ventral surface (b) broad red bar or line radiates from the eye to tip of the snout (c) upper lip and base of the pectoral fin is red (d) fins are reddish orange (e) two or three light bars near base of caudal fin.

Size: Maximum total length up to 50 cm.

Distribution: *Lethrinus erythropterus* is found only on offshore coral reef systems off the north west of Western Australia.

Habitat: A relatively shallow water species, inhabits coral reefs and sandy bottom areas up to depths 25 m.

Grass emperor *Lethrinus laticaudis*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Contains distinct blue lines which radiate from the eye do not extend to cheek (b) body is often brown or black with irregular dark blotches, which can often form indistinct bands across the body (c) contains small blue spots on cheek.

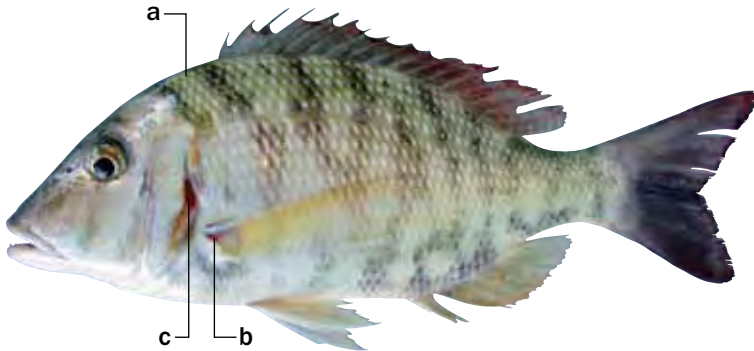
Other Common Names: Black snapper, blue-lined emperor, grass snapper.

Size: Maximum total length up to 80 cm and a weight of 6 kg.

Distribution: *Lethrinus laticaudis* is widely distributed in Western Australia from Shark Bay to the Northern Territory.

Habitat: Juveniles live around seagrass beds, estuaries and mangroves, whilst adults are found mostly on nearshore rocky or coral reefs.

Redspot emperor *Lethrinus lentjan*



Distinguishing features: (a) Body is greenish grey particularly on the upper surface becoming lighter towards the belly (b) pink or red spot on base of pectoral fin (c) pink spot along the operculum gill cover.

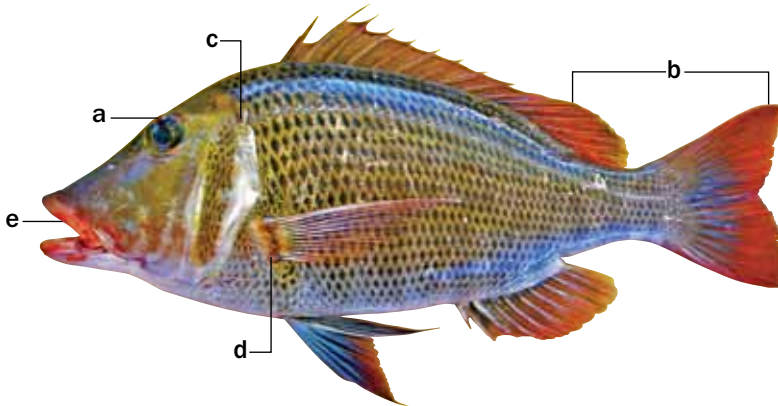
Other Common Names: Pink eared emperor.

Size: Maximum size total length up to 50 cm.

Distribution: Widely distributed across northern Australia from Exmouth Gulf to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Found on sandy bottoms adjacent to coral reefs in depths up to 120 m.

Redthroat emperor *Lethrinus miniatus*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Orange area around eye (b) caudal and dorsal fins are reddish (c) red streak is present on the upper operculum (d) red patch at the base of the pectoral fin (e) has red lips and bright red throat.

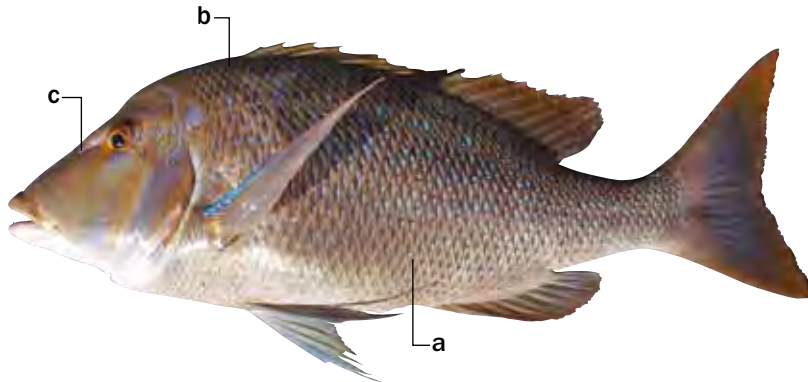
Other common names: Sweetlip emperor.

Size: Maximum total length up to 90 cm.

Distribution: Truncated distribution across northern Australia. In Western Australia, this species occurs from Geraldton to Karratha.

Habitat: Inhabits coral or rocky reef areas can often be found on sandy rubble areas to depths up to 150 m.

Spangled emperor *Lethrinus nebulosus*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Body golden bronze (b) scales on the upper body contain blue spots (c) blue bars or lines radiating from eyes over cheeks and snout.

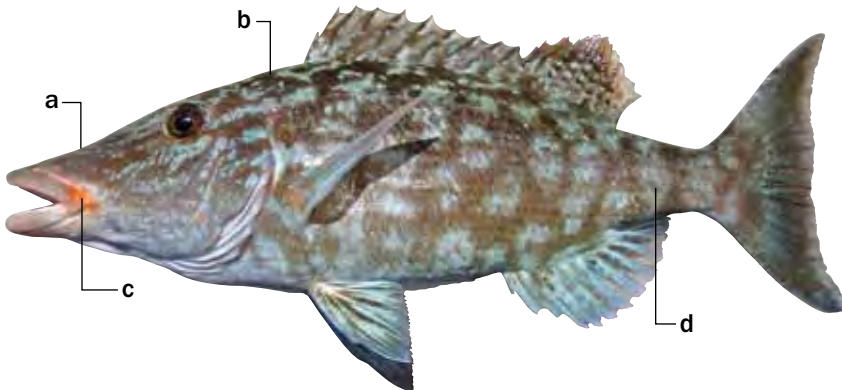
Other Common Names: North west snapper.

Size: Maximum total length to around 90 cm.

Distribution: Widely distributed across northern Western Australia from Rottneest Island northwards to the Northern Territory.

Habitat: Inhabits rocky and coral reef areas to depths up to 120 m.

Longnose emperor *Lethrinus olivaceus*



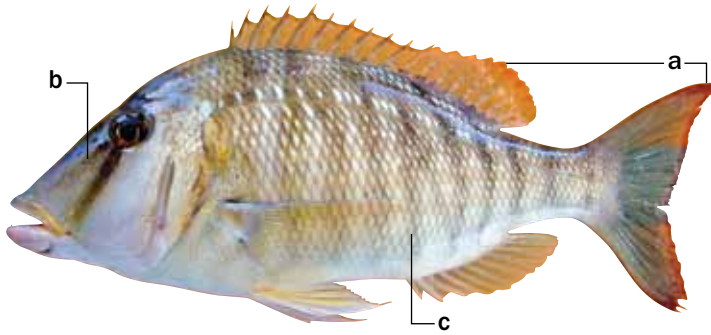
Distinguishing Features: (a) Contains a distinct elongated pointed snout (b) greenish or olive and dark brown blotches are present over entire body (c) upper lip is often red (d) body is slender and relatively elongate.

Size: Maximum total length up to 100 cm, commonly to 70 cm total length.

Distribution: From Shark Bay northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits sandy coastal and coral reef areas occurring to depths of 185 m.

Bluespotted emperor *Lethrinus punctulatus*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Contains red margins on caudal, dorsal and pectoral fins (b) head is brownish yellow and contains blue spots. Blue banding less distinct than other related species *Lethrinus nebulosus* and *Lethrinus laticaudis* (c) often contain a series of nine to ten indistinct dark bars on the side of body.

Other Common names: Small north west snapper, grass emperor.

Size: Maximum total length up to 40 cm.

Distribution: Widely distributed along the northwest coast from the Abrolhos Islands to the Northern Territory.

Habitat: Inhabits coral reefs, sand and rubble areas as well as seagrass beds in depths up to 150 m.

Drab emperor *Lethrinus ravus*



Distinguishing features: Often gets confused with *Lethrinus rubrioperculatus* due to its similar shape, colour and pattern of small spots on the body. Unlike the spot-cheek emperor it lacks a red spot on the upper operculum and the caudal fin is forked and contains dark stripes. Often also confused with *Lethrinus semilineatus*.

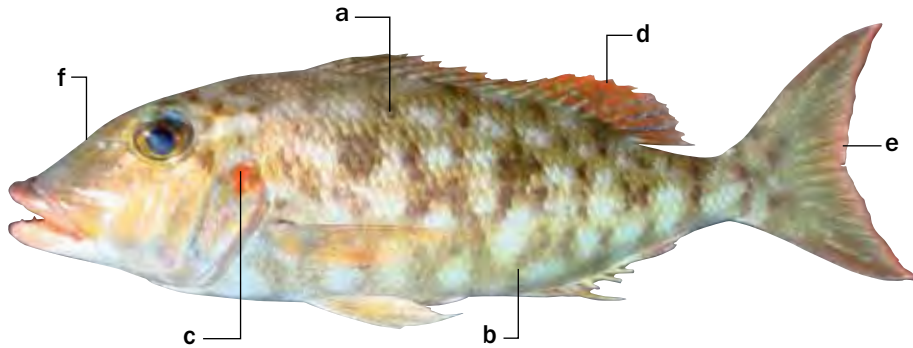
Other common names: Variegated emperor, bull nose snapper.

Size: Maximum total length up to 30 cm total length.

Distribution: In Western Australia found from Ningaloo Reef northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits sandy weedy areas in and around rocky and coral reefs.

Spotcheek emperor *Lethrinus rubrioperculatus*



Distinguishing features: (a) Body is slender and elongated and contains small irregular dark blotches (b) body is olive greyish brown (c) red spot is visible on the upper operculum (gill cover), some fish have red lips (d) fins are reddish pink (e) caudal fin is lunate (f) contains a steep head profile.

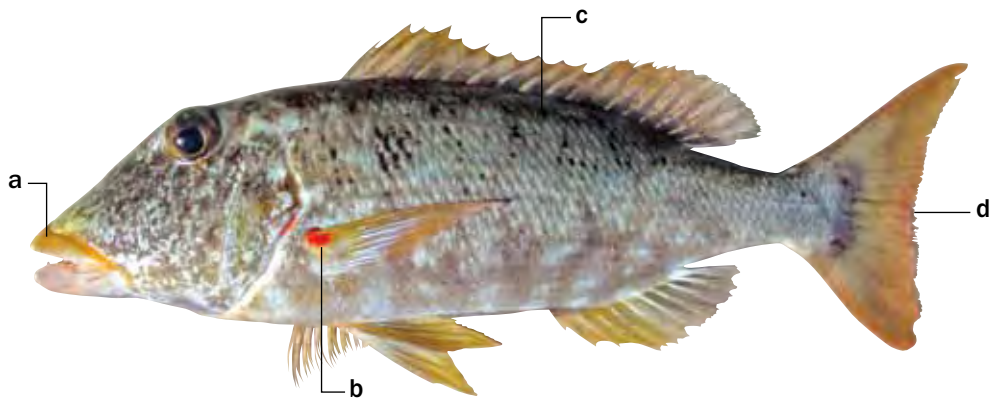
Other Common Names: Spot cheek bream.

Size: Maximum size total length recorded 50 cm, commonly caught 30 cm total length.

Distribution: From Exmouth Gulf across north west Australia to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits coral reefs and sandy rubble areas on outer reef slopes. Usually found in depths up to 160 m.

Yellowlip emperor *Lethrinus xanthochilus*



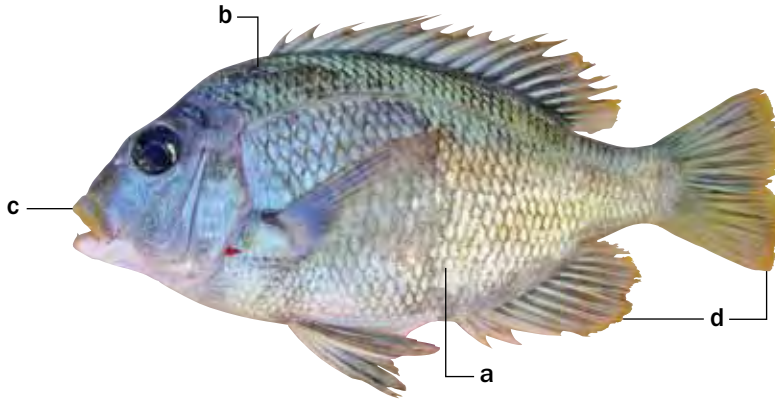
Distinguishing features: (a) Lips of fish are yellow with the upper lip more pronounced (b) there is a red spot and the upper base of the pectoral fin (c) body is elongate yellowish grey with irregular dark blotches on the body (d) dorsal and caudal fins are reddish brown.

Size: Maximum size up to 60 cm total length.

Distribution: This species occurs on isolated offshore coral atolls reefs off north Western Australia i.e. Rowley Shoals and Scott Reef.

Habitat: Inhabits sand and rubble areas of coral reef systems, deep channels and lagoons.

Mozambique seabream *Wattsia mossambica*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Body is relatively deep in shape, (b) the body has indistinct dark blotches or bars (c) upper lip is yellow, (d) the margins of caudal, anal and dorsal fins are yellow.

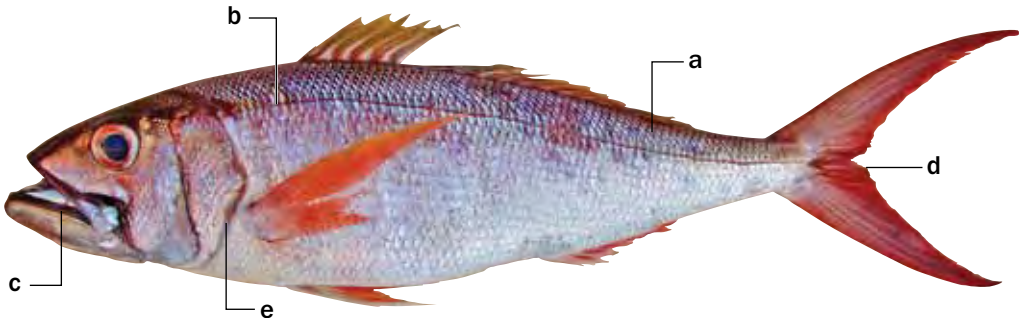
Other common names: Mozambique bream.

Size: Maximum total length up to 55 cm. Commonly caught around 30 cm total length.

Distribution: From Shark Bay northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: A deepwater species which lives on the outer edge of the continental shelf in depths between 50 to 180 m.

Rusty jobfish *Aphareus rutilans*



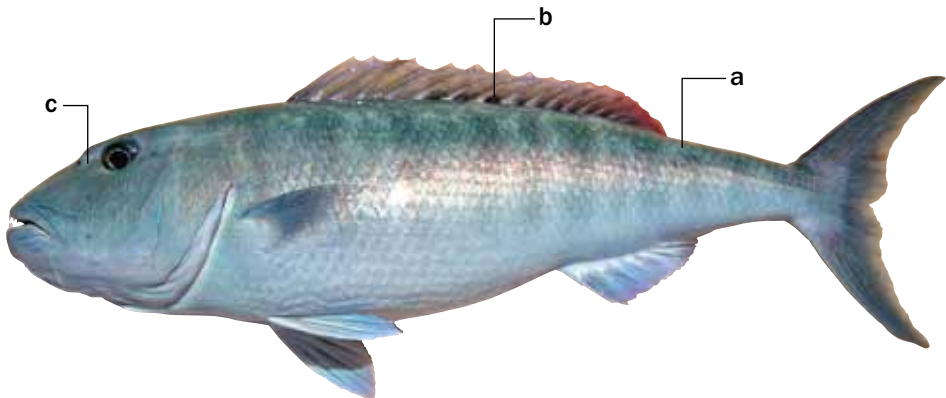
Distinguishing features: (a) Body is elongated in shape (b) body colour is deep red or rusty particularly above the lateral line becoming silvery towards the ventral surface (c) lower jaw extends out further than the upper jaw (d) caudal fin is deeply forked upper lobe of the tail is longer than the bottom lobe (e) gill plates have a silver colouration.

Size: Maximum total length 150 cm.

Distribution: From Ningaloo Reef northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: A deepwater species which inhabits offshore reefs and rocky bottoms to at least 100 m depth.

Green jobfish *Aprion virescens*



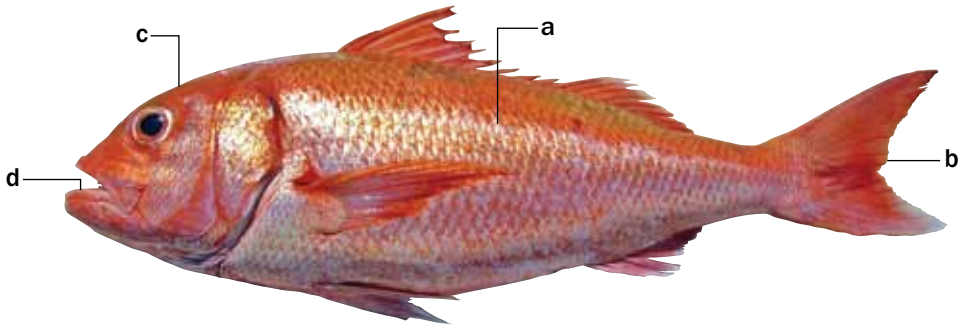
Distinguishing features: (a) Body is elongated, colour is greenish – blue above the lateral line becoming white or pale near the belly (b) dark spots are visible on the base of the dorsal fin (c) deep groove in front of eye.

Size: Maximum total length to 110 cm and 15 kg.

Distribution: In Western Australia found from Ningaloo Reef northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits both coastal and offshore waters, usually near rocky or coral reefs to depths of 100 m.

Ruby snapper *Etelis carbunculus*



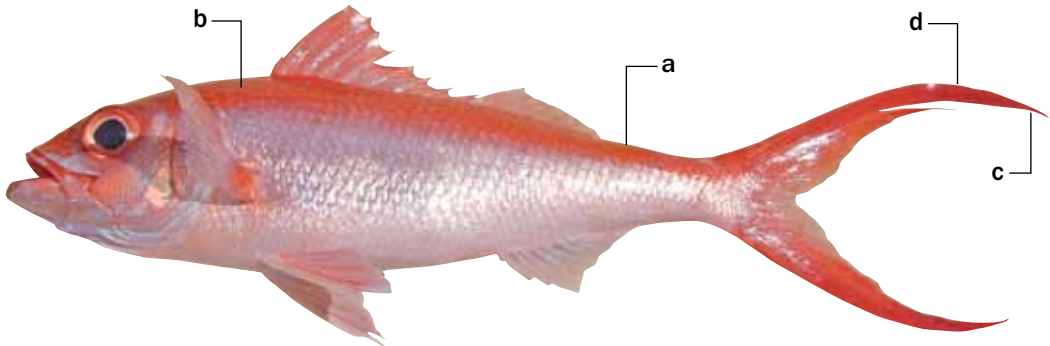
Distinguishing Features: (a) Body is relatively robust and deep, bright reddish pink becoming white on the lower sides and belly (b) caudal fin is deeply forked the lobes are relatively short compared to other species in the *Etelis* genus (c) head is small, eyes are large (d) distinct canine teeth.

Size: Maximum total length up to 130 cm.

Distribution: From Perth northwards across north Western Australia to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: A deep water species which inhabits deep seabeds of the continental shelf. Usually found between depths of 90 to 300 m.

Flame snapper *Etelis coruscans*



Distinguishing features: (a) body is slender and elongate, small head with big eye (b) body colour deep red on the upper body above the lateral line, becoming silvery pink towards the belly (c) the tips of the caudal fins are elongated to form filaments (d) the upper caudal lobe is more elongated than the lower lobe. Similar in appearance to *Etelis radiosus* and *Etelis carbunculus*, distinguished by elongated caudal fin.

Size: Maximum total length is up to 150 cm.

Distribution: From Perth northwards across north Western Australia to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits deep continental shelf waters in depths ranging from 90 to 300 m.

Pale ruby snapper *Etelis radiosus*



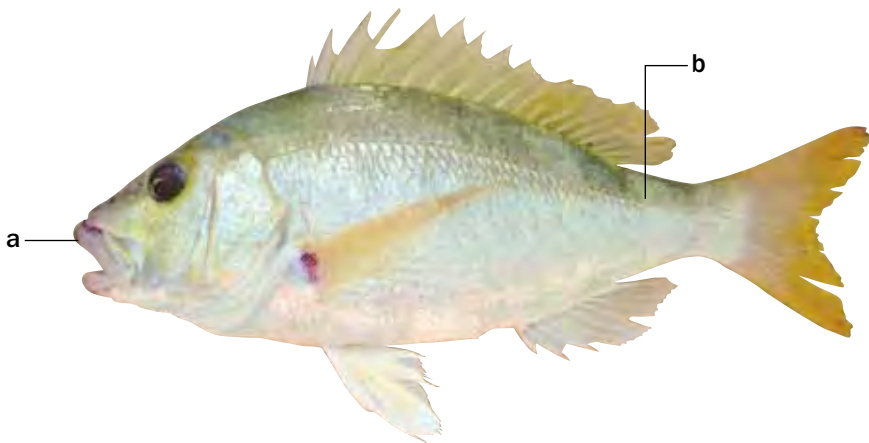
Distinguishing features: (a) Body is long and slender, pinkish red above lateral line, becoming lighter towards the ventral surface (b) head profile is less bluntly rounded than *Etelis carbunculus*. Often gets misidentified as *Etelis carbunculus* distinguished by lighter colour and more deeply forked caudal fin.

Size: Maximum total length up to 80 cm.

Distribution: From Ningaloo Reef northwards across northern Australia to Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits deep continental shelf waters in depths ranging from 90 to 360 m.

Tang's snapper *Lipocheilus carnolabrum*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Contains a distinct thick fleshy protrusion at the front of the upper lip, (b) body is golden brown particularly above the lateral line, the ventral part of the body is more silvery.

Size: Maximum total length up to 60 cm.

Distribution: From Shark Bay northwards across northern Australia to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: A deep water species which is found on rocky or rubble seabeds in depths between 90 to 300 m.

Mangrove jack *Lutjanus argentimaculatus*

(a) Juvenile



(b) Adult



(a) Juvenile fish are generally greenish, brown on the dorsal surface, deep red below the lateral line **(b)** Adult fish once they leave the mangrove systems become more reddish.

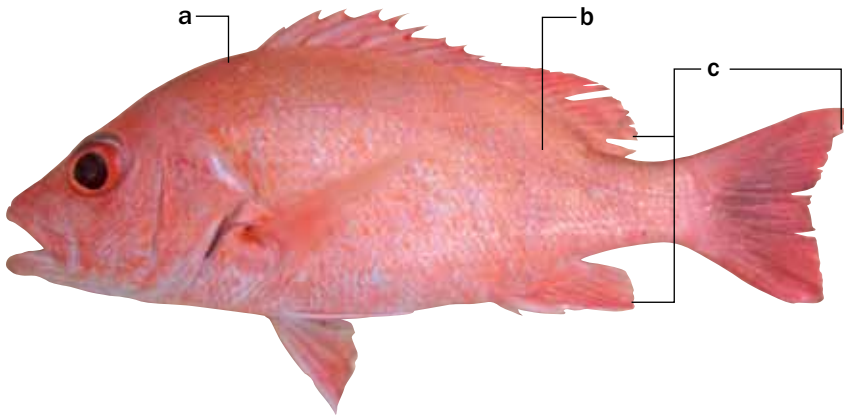
Distinguishing Features: Body colour changes over their life cycle. Often gets confused with *Lutjanus johnii* which can be distinguished by a dark mark on the back of the dorsal surface.

Size: Maximum total length recorded is 120 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia found from Geraldton north to the Northern Territory. Occasionally found south of Geraldton.

Habitat: Mangrove jacks spend their juvenile phase in inshore environments such as mangrove creeks, estuaries and nearshore reefs. At approximately five years of age fish migrate offshore to deepwater reefs (depths up to 150 m) and join the adult breeding stock.

Indonesian snapper *Lutjanus bitaeniatus*



Distinguishing features: (a) Body is relatively deep, short and robust (b) upper part of body is deep red becoming pinkish white towards the lower sides of body and belly (c) anterior ends of dorsal, pectoral and anal fins with white tips or margins.

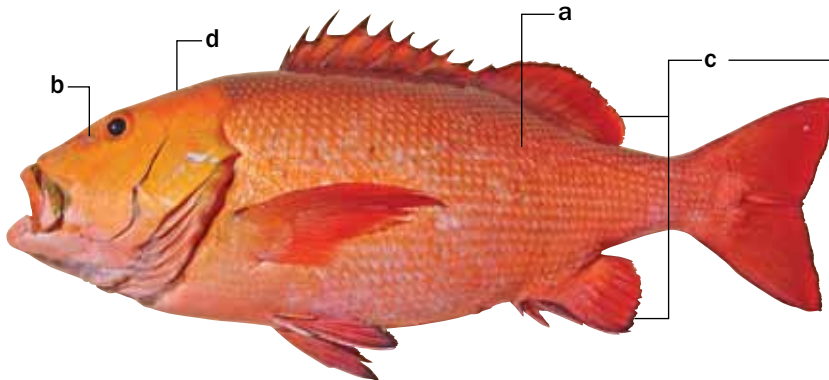
Other Common Names: Indonesian perch.

Size: *Lutjanus bitaeniatus* is a relatively small species, maximum total length to 30 cm.

Distribution: From Broome northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits reef and rubble seabeds, usually found in depths up to 100 m.

Red bass *Lutjanus bohar*



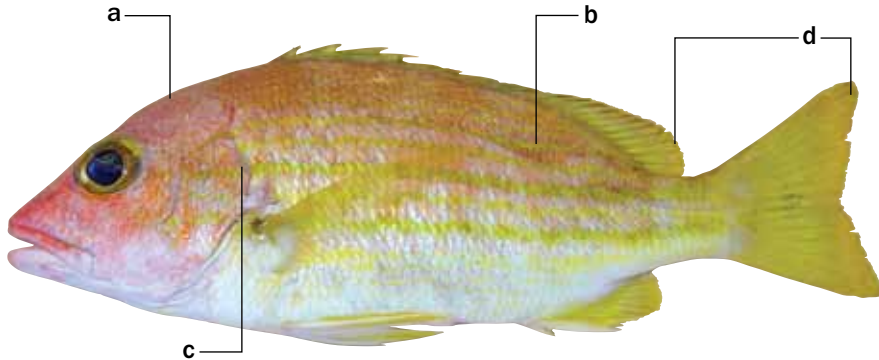
Distinguishing features: (a) Body is deep red brownish above the lateral line becoming lighter red towards the ventral surface. (b) a deep pit or groove runs from the eye to the snout (c) dorsal, caudal and anal fins blackish on the posterior ends, pectoral fin deep red (d) head profile smoothly rounded.

Size: Maximum total length up to 75 cm.

Distribution: Widely distributed in Western Australia from Ningaloo Reef to the Northern Territory.

Habitat: Inhabits coral and rocky reefs, depth up to 150 m.

Moluccan snapper *Lutjanus bouton*



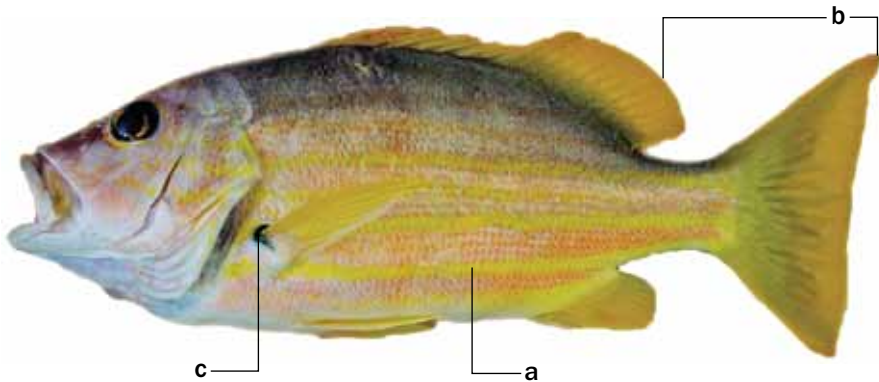
Distinguishing features: (a) Head and body pinkish becoming whiter towards the belly. (b) contains 10 to 12 yellowish orange stripes on the body (c) contains a deep notch on rear margin of cheek (d) fins are bright yellow. Often gets confused with *Lutjanus carponotatus*.

Size: Maximum total length up to 30 cm.

Distribution: A relatively rare species in Western Australia, found mainly in outer offshore coral reef systems such as Rowley Shoals and Scott Reef.

Habitat: Inhabits coral reefs in depths up to 100 m.

Stripey snapper *Lutjanus carponotatus*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Body is predominantly yellow with a series of eight to nine yellow, golden brown stripes on the side of the fish (b) caudal and dorsal fins are yellowish (c) black spot is present at the base of the pectoral fin.

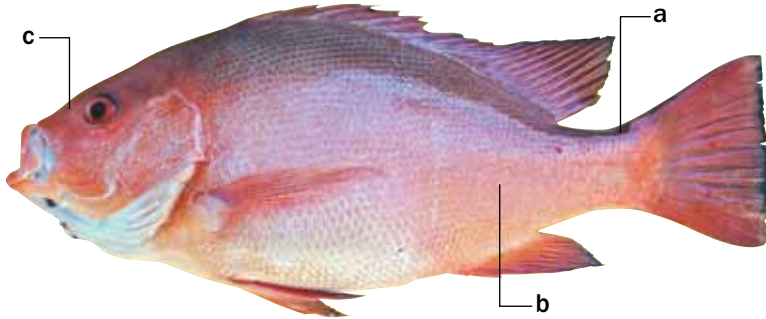
Other Common Names: Spanish flag, flagfish.

Synonyms: Size: Maximum total length up to 40 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia found from Shark Bay northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Lives in a variety of habitats from estuaries and near-shore coral reef waters in depths up to 80 m.

Crimson snapper *Lutjanus erythropterus*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Contains a large black spot at the dorsal side base of the caudal fin (b) pink/ red over entire body (c) head and mouth are relatively small. Often gets misidentified as *Lutjanus malabaricus* but has a different head profile and much smaller jaw than this species.

Other Common Names: Crimson seaperch, red snapper.

Size: Maximum total length is 60 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia found from Shark Bay to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits deep rocky and coral reef waters and trawling ground in depths up to 140 m.

Paddletail *Lutjanus gibbus*



Distinguishing features: (a) The upper lobe of the caudal fin is paddle shaped in appearance (b) body is red with yellow on the upper lip and on the base of the pectoral fin and on the operculum (c) the soft dorsal, anal and caudal fin contains a white margin.

Size: This species grows to a maximum length of 50 cm.

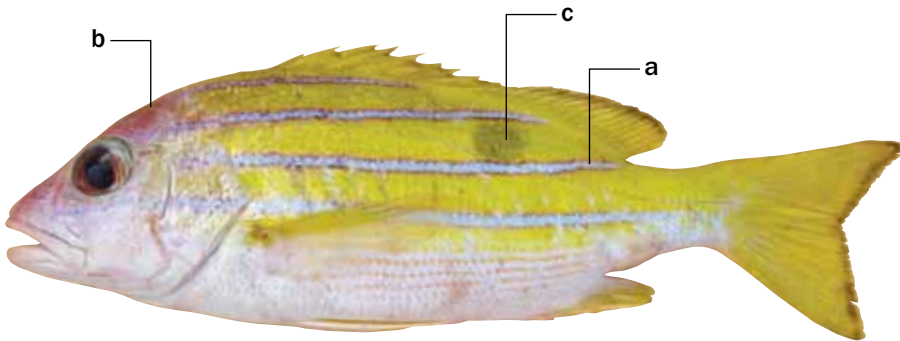
Distribution: In Western Australia this species is restricted to the offshore atoll reef systems such as Scott Reef and Rowley Shoals.

Habitat: Inhabits coral reef systems in depths usually between 3 to 50 m.

Bluestriped snapper *Lutjanus kasmira*



Juvenile



Adult

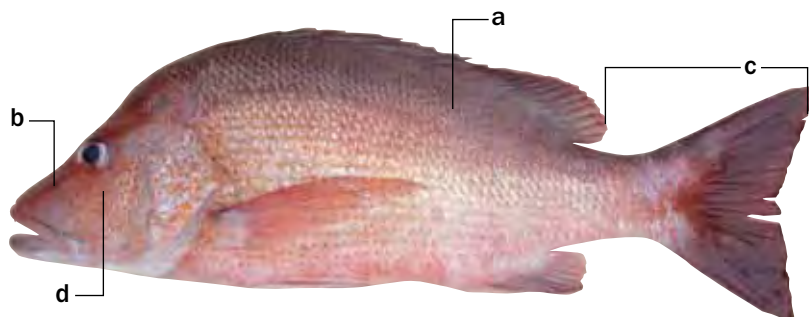
Distinguishing features: (a) Often gets misidentified as *Lutjanus quinquelineatus* but unlike this species it only has four blue stripes (b) the head is reddish pink and the ventral surface of the body is whiter (c) contains a black spot at the posterior end of the soft dorsal fin.

Size: Maximum total length of 35 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia this species is found from Shark Bay northwards and is more common on offshore atoll reef systems.

Habitat: Inhabits lagoons, atoll reefs and deep reefs along the continental shelf in depths of 150 m.

Darktail snapper *Lutjanus lemniscatus*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Body is dark red or deep maroon on the upper part of the body above the lateral line, becoming whiter towards the ventral surface (b) contains a distinctive head profile which is steeply sloped and the snout is long and slightly concave (c) the dorsal, caudal fins are red with a distinct white margin (d) orange spots/ lines are visible on the head. Often misidentified with mangrove jack *Lutjanus argentimaculatus*.

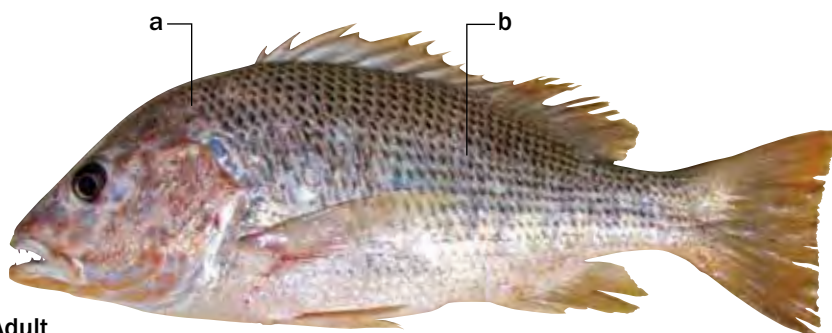
Other Common Names: Maroon seaperch, dark-tailed seaperch.

Size: Maximum total length up to 65 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia found from Shark Bay to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits reefs and deep offshore reef systems to a depth of 120 m.

Golden snapper *Lutjanus johnii*



Distinguishing features: (a) Body colour is variable, adult fish caught in open water generally have pinkish silvery colouration, fish caught in estuaries and mangroves are golden brown sometimes metallic yellow (b) black spot is visible on the base of the soft dorsal fin, and is more prominent in juvenile fish. Often gets misidentified as *Lutjanus russelli* or *Lutjanus argentimaculatus*.

Other Common Names: Fingermark seaperch.

Size: Maximum total length up to 70 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia found from Karratha northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Juvenile fish live in mangroves estuaries and tidal rivers. Mature adults migrate out of the mangrove systems and into near-shore or offshore rocky or coral reefs in depths up to 80 m.

Saddletail snapper *Lutjanus malabaricus*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Head and mouth is much larger than *Lutjanus erythropterus* (b) head profile is straight or very slightly concave (c) contains a dark black band at the base of the caudal fin.

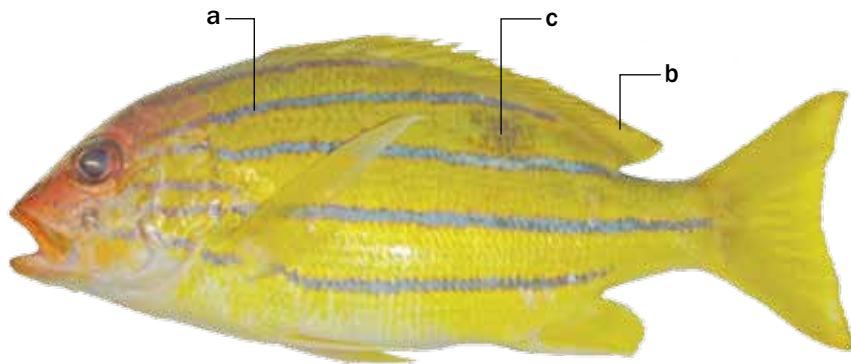
Other Common Names: Scarlet perch, saddle tailed seaperch, malabar snapper.

Size: Maximum total length up to 100 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia found from Shark Bay to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits coral reefs and deep offshore reef systems, usually found in depths ranging up to 140 m.

Fiveline snapper *Lutjanus quinquelineatus*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Contains five distinct blue lines, which run longitudinal from the head to the caudal fin (b) body and fins are bright yellow (c) black spot is generally visible above the lateral line and below the anterior end of the dorsal fin.

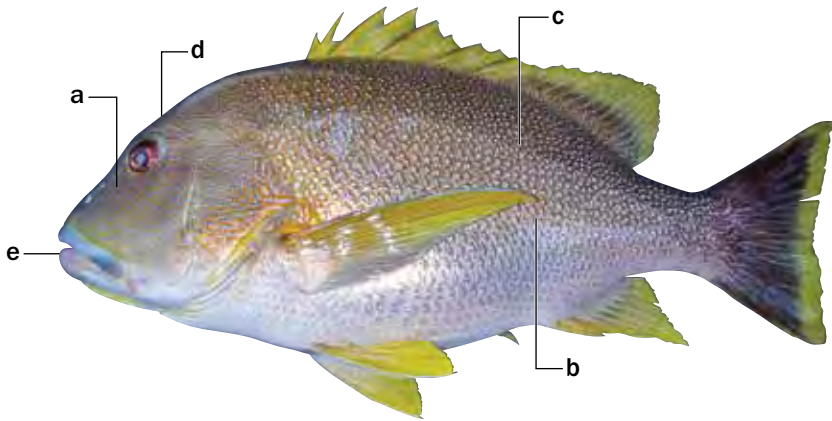
Other Common Names: Five lined seaperch.

Size: Maximum total length up to 38 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia found from Shark Bay to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits deep reefs along the continental shelf to 100 m.

Maori snapper *Lutjanus rivulatus*



Distinguishing features: (a) Head contains numerous undulating blue lines (b) body is yellowish brown (c) body scales contain grey blue spots (d) head profile is steep (e) contains a thick fleshy blubbery lips.

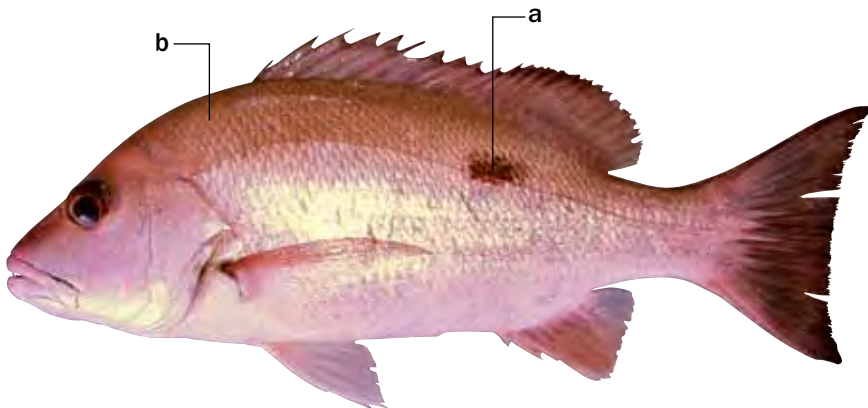
Other Common Names: Maori seaperch.

Size: Maximum total length up to 70 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia found from Ningaloo Reef northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Occurs in a variety of habitats from atoll reef lagoons and near-shore reefs to deep offshore waters in depths up to 100 m.

Moses snapper *Lutjanus russelli*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Contains a distinct black spot on the back of the body generally above the lateral line (b) body is pinkish red, often gets confused with *Lutjanus johni*.

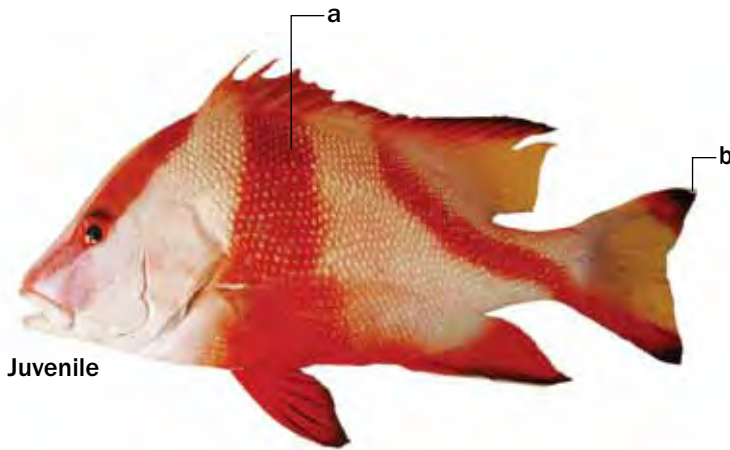
Other Common Names: Moses perch, fingermark bream.

Size: Maximum total length up to 45 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia, a widely distributed species from Shark Bay northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits coastal and offshore rocky reef terrain in depths up to 130 m.

Red emperor *Lutjanus sebae*



Juvenile



Adult

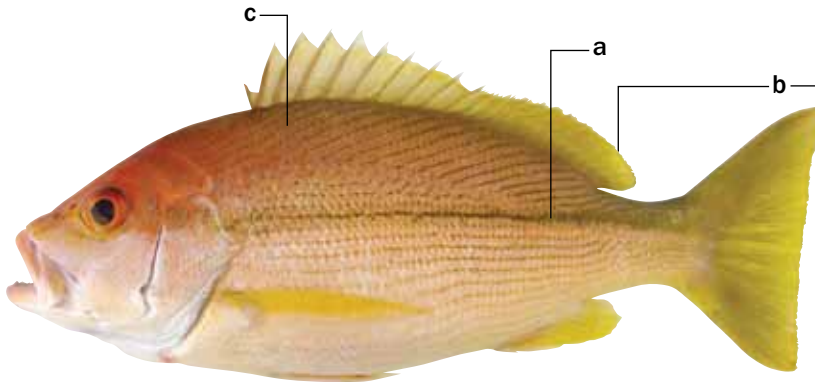
Distinguishing features: (a) Juvenile and young adults contain broad dark red bands. These bands fade with age and the fish becomes pink/red all over its body (b) the dorsal, anal and top of the caudal fin all contain a fine white posterior margin.

Size: Maximum total length up to 100 cm.

Distribution: Widely distributed across Western Australia and can be found as far south as Rottnest Island to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits rocky or coral reefs and rubble seabeds. Usually found in depths ranging from 10 to 140 m.

Brownstripe snapper *Lutjanus vitta*



Distinguishing features: (a) Contains a distinct olive or brown band that runs longitudinal from the eye to the caudal fin, (b) fins are yellow to orange, anterior dorsal and anal fin have white margins, (c) thin brown stripes are oblique above lateral line and are horizontal below the line.

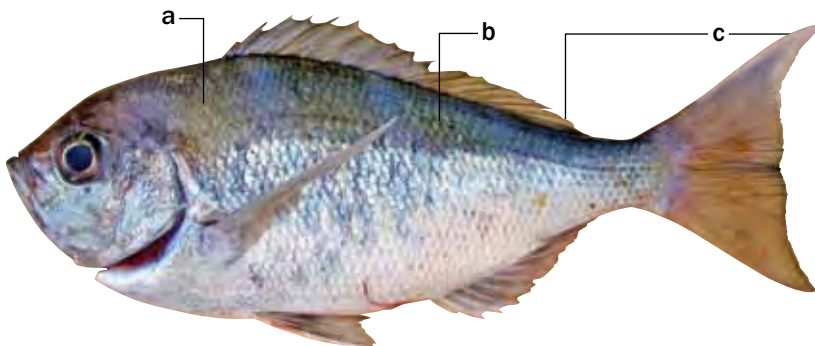
Other Common Names: Striped seaperch, flagfish, spanish flag.

Size: Maximum total length up to 40 cm.

Distribution: From Shark Bay northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Occurs in a variety of habitats, from coral and rocky reef systems to areas of flat bottom with sessile invertebrates or sponges. Usually found in depths up to 130 m.

Saddleback snapper *Paracaesio kusakarii*



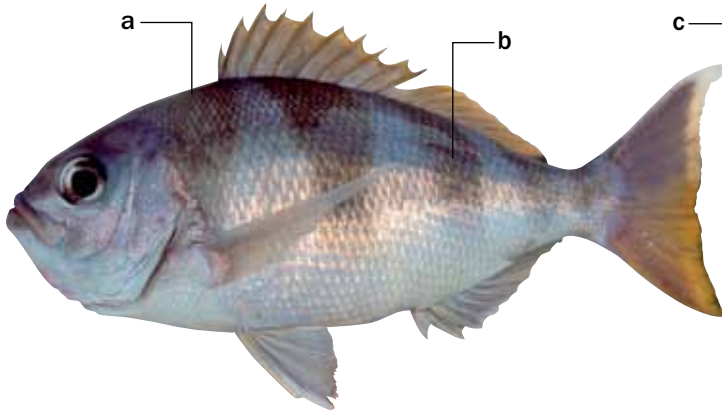
Distinguishing features: (a) Body is deep brown above the lateral line becoming whiter towards the ventral surface (b) four dark broad vertical bars or blotches can be found on the upper surface of the body (c) fins are greyish white sometimes becoming slightly yellowish.

Size: Maximum total length up to 60 cm.

Distribution: A relatively rare species in Western Australia found from Broome northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits coral and rocky reefs or rubble seabeds in depths between 100 to 200 m.

Cocoa snapper *Paracaesio stonei*



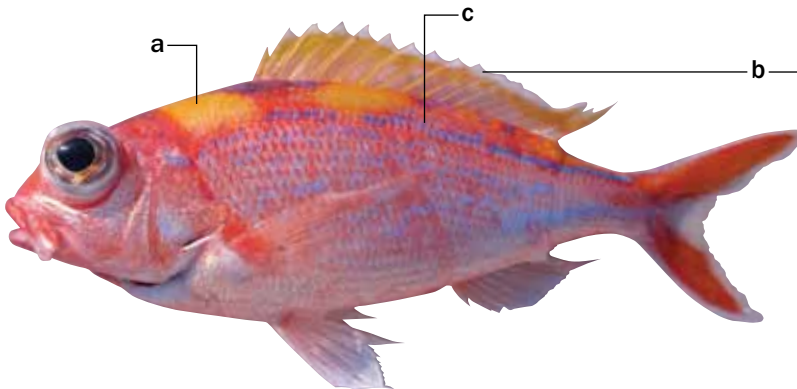
Distinguishing features: (a) Body is moderately deep light brown above the lateral line becoming white towards the belly (b) there are five distinct brown bars, which run vertical on the body (c) caudal and dorsal fins are greyish white with a yellow margin.

Size: Maximum total length up to 50 cm.

Distribution: An uncommon species in Western Australia found in offshore oceanic coral reefs and atolls such as Rowley Shoals and Scott Reef.

Habitat: Deep water species found in depths up to 250 m.

Ornate snapper *Pristipomoides argyrogrammicus*



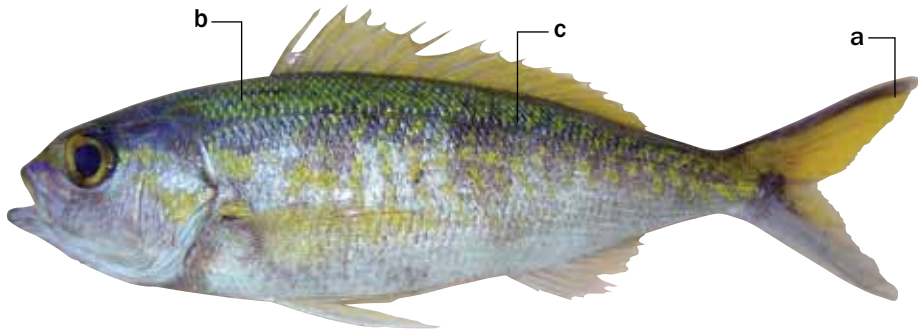
Distinguishing features: (a) Head is red, body orange- yellow above the lateral line becoming lighter towards the belly (b) caudal and dorsal fins are yellow with a light blue margin (c) bright blue spots and lines are visible on the body.

Size: Maximum total length of 40 cm.

Distribution: A very rare species in Western Australia found only in deep offshore waters from Broome to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits deep offshore rocky and coral reef bottoms in depths between 70 to 300 m.

Goldflag snapper *Pristipomoides auricilla*



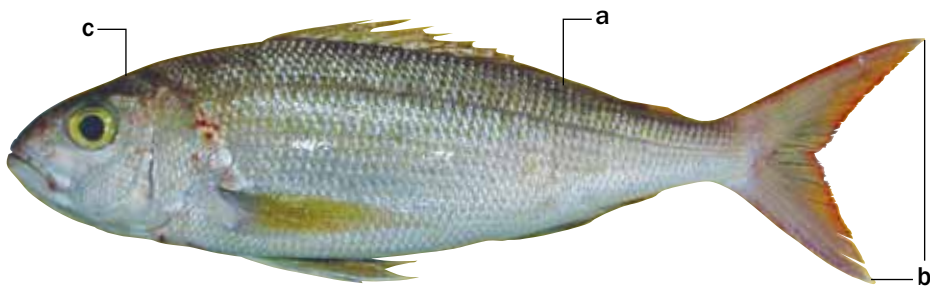
Distinguishing features: (a) Upper lobe of dorsal fin is yellow (b) narrow yellow bars or spots found on body (c) body is elongate the upper body above lateral line is violet purple or brownish violet.

Size: Maximum size up to 45 cm, most common to 25 cm.

Distribution: A relatively rare species in Western Australia found only in deep offshore waters and outer coral reef atolls such as Scott Reef and Rowley Shoals.

Habitat: A deepwater species which inhabits rocky substrates between 90 to 360 m.

Rosy snapper *Pristipomoides filamentosus*



Distinguishing features: (a) Body is elongated and robust deep reddish brown more pronounced above the lateral line, (b) dorsal and caudal fins are light blue or lavender in colour with reddish-orange margins, white tips on the upper and lower lobes (c) head profile is more rounded than similar looking species *Pristipomoides typus*.

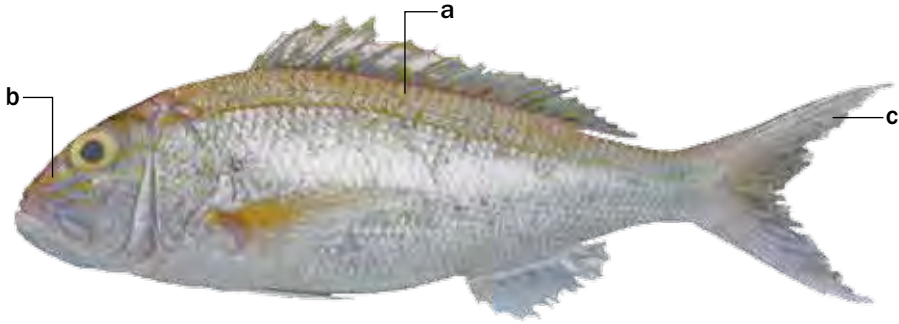
Other Common Names: Rosy jobfish, crimson jobfish.

Size: Maximum total length up to 80 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia found from Shark Bay northwards to Northern Territory.

Habitat: Inhabits rocky or coral reefs on the outer continental shelf in water depths between 90 to 360 m.

Goldband snapper *Pristipomoides multidentis*



Distinguishing features: (a) Body colour is yellowish to rosy particularly above the lateral line, (b) contains two to three distinct yellow or gold bands with blue margins over snout below the eye (c) caudal fin is pale yellow-pink.

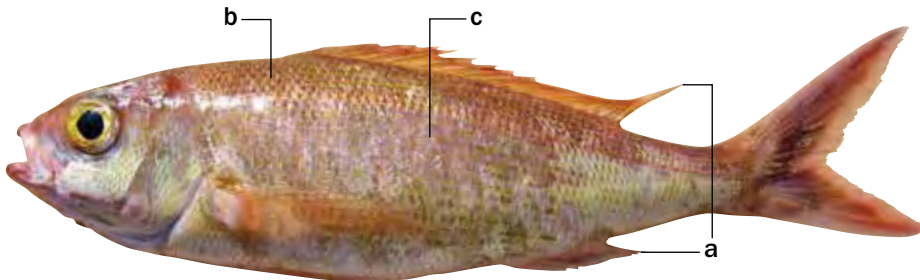
Other Common Names: Goldband jobfish, king snapper.

Size: Maximum total length up to 100 cm.

Distribution: From the Arolhos Islands northwards towards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits deep coastal waters over rocky or rubble bottoms on the edge of the continental shelf in water depths ranging from 40 to 200 m.

Lavender snapper *Pristipomoides sieboldii*



Distinguishing features: (a) Base of dorsal and anal fins contain elongated filaments (b) body is rosy red above lateral line becoming silvery towards the ventral surface (c) small lavender spots are visible on the body.

Size: Maximum total length up to 60 cm.

Distribution: A very rare species in Western Australia only found in deep offshore waters and atolls such as Rowley Shoals and Scott Reef.

Habitat: A deep water species found in depths between 150 to 360 m over rocky bottoms.

Sharptooth snapper *Pristipomoides typus*



Distinguishing features: (a) Overall colour is rosy pink to reddish with pale underbelly, (b) contains reticulated fine diffuse yellow to goldbands on head and snout. This species is often misidentified as *Pristipomoides multidens*.

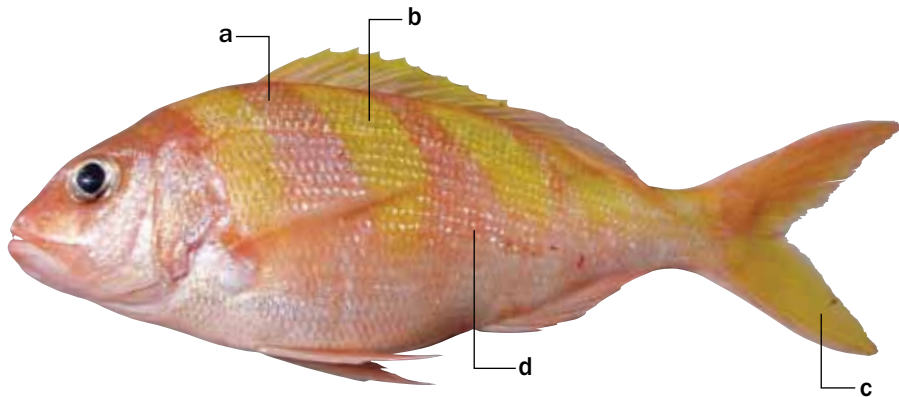
Other Common Names: Sharptooth jobfish.

Size: Maximum total length up to 80 cm.

Distribution: From Shark Bay northwards across to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits deep coastal waters over rocky and rubble bottoms in depths ranging from 40 to 150 m.

Oblique-banded snapper *Pristipomoides zonatus*



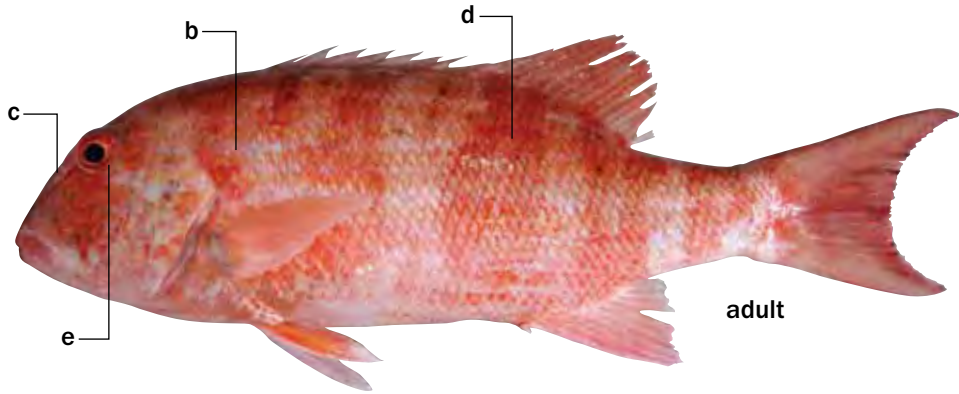
Distinguishing features: (a) Overall body red pinkish (b) contains four distinctive oblique yellow bands on the body (c) dorsal and lower lobe of caudal fin are yellow (d) body is deep and less elongate than other *Pristipomoides* species.

Size: Maximum total length up to 50cm.

Distribution: A relatively rare species in Western Australia found in outer offshore coral reef systems such as Scott Reef and the Rowley Shoals.

Habitat: Inhabits deep rocky bottoms and steep reef slopes in depths ranging between 70 to 350 m.

Chinaman fish *Symphorus nematophorus*



Distinguishing features: (a) Juveniles contain elongated filaments at the end of the soft dorsal fins (b) contains blue lines that run longitudinally along the body. These features are less evident in adults (c) contains a distinct steep head profile (d) body colour can vary between different regions sometimes yellowish brown and often reddish, sometimes faint vertical banding is evident (e) contains a groove behind the eye.

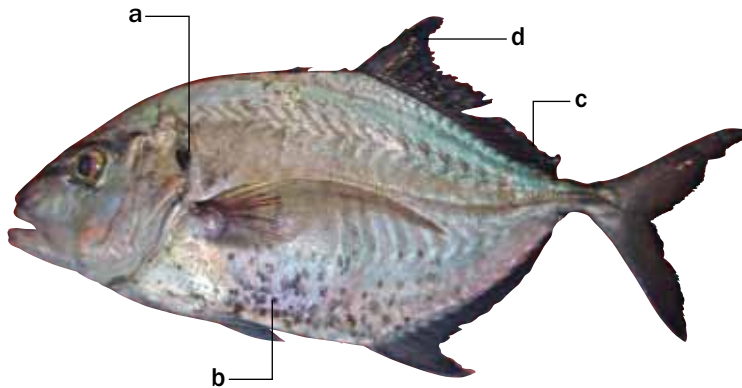
Other Common Names: Mandarin bream.

Size: Maximum total length up to 100 cm. Larger individual fish are suspected of causing ciguatera poisoning in isolated cases in Queensland.

Distribution: From Shark Bay northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits inshore soft coral and rubble areas as well as offshore reef waters in depths up to 120 m.

Onion trevally *Carangoides caeruleopinnatus*



Distinguishing features: (a) Contains a black spot on the upper operculum (b) body is deep and short contains few to many small black spots on the ventral surface (c) soft dorsal and anal fins are blueish grey with elongated filaments (d) hard dorsal fin very short.

Size: Maximum total length up to 50 cm.

Distribution: From Shark Bay northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits deep coastal reef waters in depth up to 100 m.

Longnose trevally *Carangoides chrysophrys*



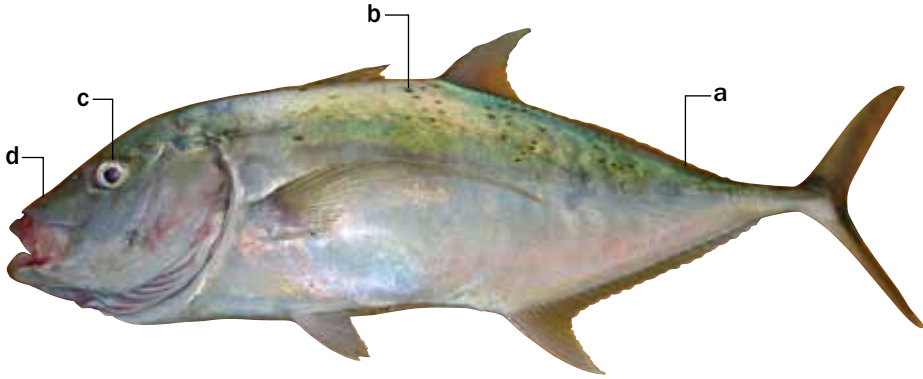
Distinguishing features: (a) Contains a gently sloping head profile except between the snout and the mouth where there is vertical slope (b) contains a black spot on the upper operculum.

Size: Maximum total length up to 75 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia from Shark Bay northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits coastal and open water reefs.

Goldspotted trevally *Carangoides fulvoguttatus*



Distinguishing features: (a) Body is relatively elongate in shape (b) contains both yellow and brown spots on the side of body (c) eye is located high above the mouth (d) the snout is tapered. Often misidentified as the bludger trevally *Carangoides gymnothethus*.

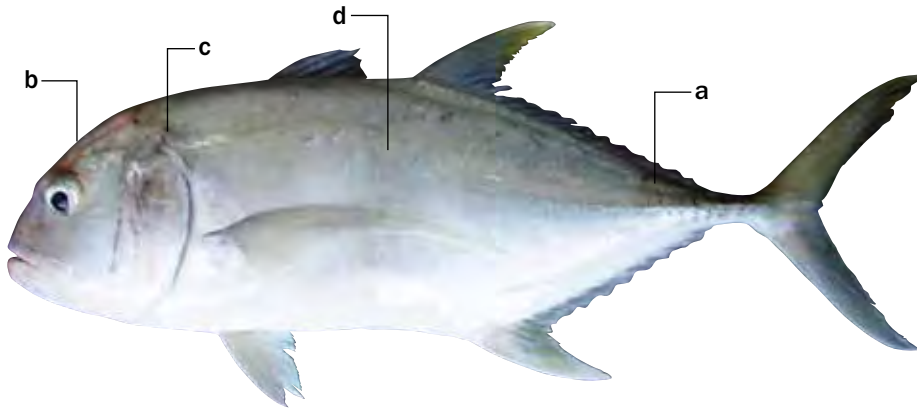
Other Common Names: Turrum.

Size: Maximum total length up to 130 cm.

Distribution: Widely distributed across Western Australia from Cape Leeuwin to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits coastal and rocky reef bottoms in depths up to 100 m.

Tille trevally *Caranx tille*



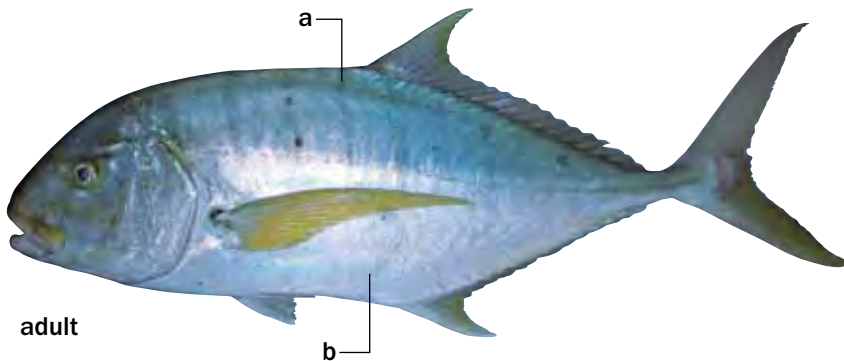
Distinguishing features: (a) Body is relatively elongate (b) contains a very steep head profile (c) black spot is visible of the upper part of the operculum (d) body is deep blue greenish in colour.

Size: Maximum total length up to 80 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia found from Exmouth Gulf northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: A pelagic species, which inhabits coastal inshore waters near rocky or coral reefs up to depths of 130 m.

Golden trevally *Gnathanodon speciosus*



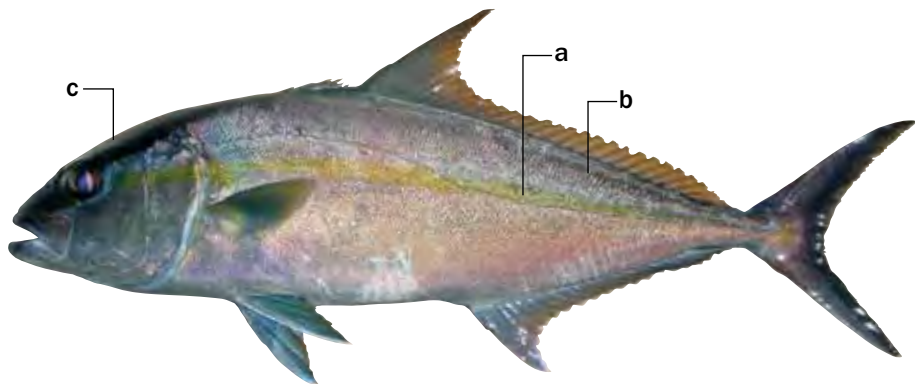
Distinguishing Features: (a) Juvenile fish colour is bright yellow/golden over entire body with distinct dark bars (b) in adult fish the yellow/golden colour fades and is generally only evident under the belly of the fish. The dark bars are also less distinct.

Size: Maximum total length up to 120 cm.

Distribution: A widely distributed species in Western Australia found from Rottneest Island northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits a variety of habitats from deep offshore waters to inshore rocky reefs and sandy seabeds.

Amberjack *Seriola dumerili*



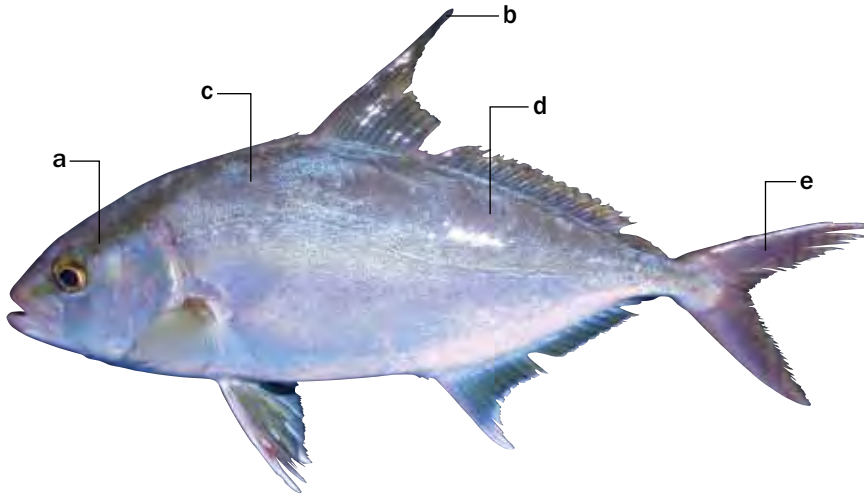
Distinguishing features: (a) Contains a distinct yellow band which runs mid lateral from the caudal fin to the eye (b) body colour above lateral line blueish grey to bronze, below line is silver/white (c) dark bar is sometimes visible running from the nape through the eye to the upper jaw.

Size: Maximum total length up to 130 cm.

Distribution: Widely distributed across Western Australia from Albany northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits coastal and offshore waters generally near reef areas in depths up to 360 m.

Highfin amberjack *Seriola rivoliana*



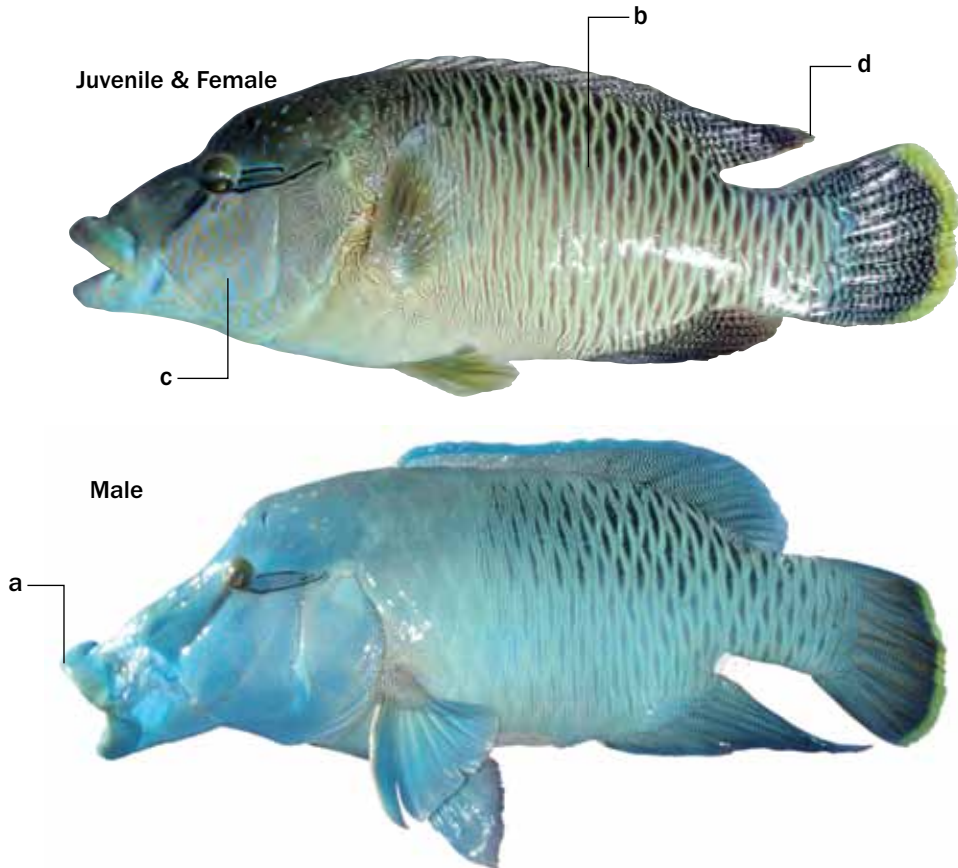
Distinguishing features: (a) A dark bar runs through eye from the anterior end of the dorsal fin to the mouth (b) soft dorsal fin is high and elongated (c) body is much deeper than similar related species *Seriola dumerili* (d) body colour olive to bluish green above the lateral line becoming silvery towards the belly (e) fins are dark dusky to white.

Size: Maximum total length up to 70 cm.

Distribution: Widely distributed across Western Australia from Exmouth Gulf to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits oceanic waters usually well offshore, occasionally found in inshore waters.

Humphead Maori wrasse *Cheilinus undulatus*



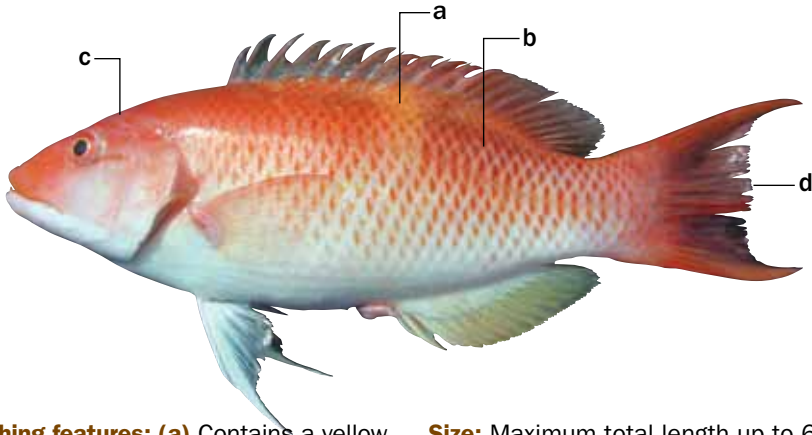
Distinguishing features: (a) Contains thick fleshy lips and a distinct hump on the forehead (b) body is deep and robust (c) the head and chest region contain a maze of diffuse reticulated lines (d) on the body scales dark bars are present which form a distinct woven pattern. In the juvenile phase of this species fish contain two dark lines, which radiate from the eye and a yellow margin on the caudal fin. This species is the largest of the Labridae family. **It is protected in Western Australia** under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and should be returned to the water upon capture.

Size: Maximum total length up to 230 cm.

Distribution: From Exmouth northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits coral reef waters, lagoon reefs and deep outer reef slopes to depths up to 100 m. Often found in coral caves or ledges.

Goldspot pigfish *Bodianus perditio*



Distinguishing features: (a) Contains a yellow patch on the middle of the body which runs down to the lateral line (b) there is a black area behind this yellow patch (c) head and body is a coppery red colour pale ventrally (d) truncate caudal fin.

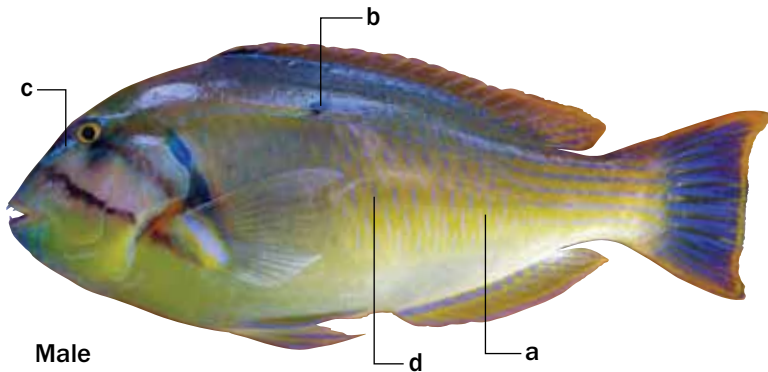
Other Common Name: Foxfish, Hogfish.

Size: Maximum total length up to 65 cm.

Distribution: From the Abrolhos Islands northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits offshore and coral reef areas, can often be found over sand or rubble bottoms in deeper water up to 100 m.

Bluespotted tuskfish *Choerodon cauteroma*



Distinguishing features: (a) Body colour is yellow in females, greenish yellow in males (b) contains a dark streak below the middle of the dorsal spine and at the front of the dorsal fin (c) contains several blue lines which radiate from eye along the snout across to the operculum and down to the pectoral fin (d) body scales contains a blue or purple bar.

Size: Maximum total length up to 40 cm.

Distribution: Mainly found in north Western Australia from Shark Bay northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits sand and weed seabeds adjacent to coral reefs.

Blue tuskfish *Choerodon cyanodus*



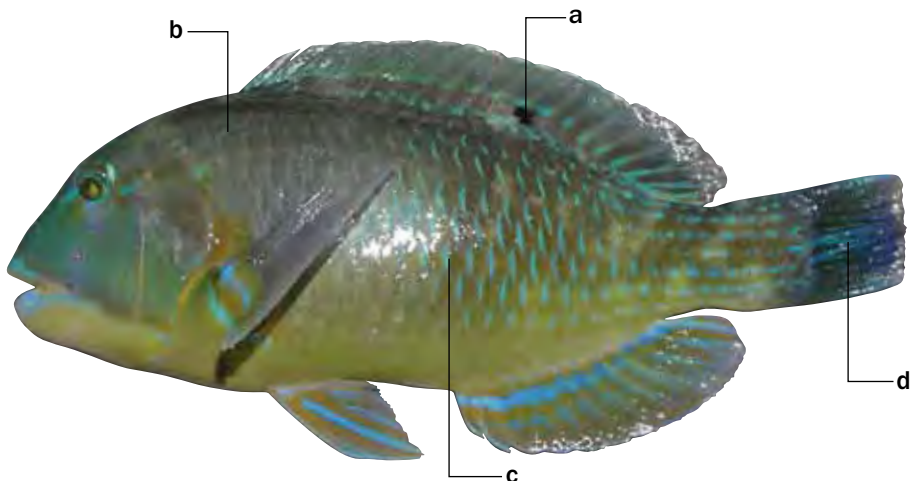
Distinguishing features: (a) Contains a distinctive white spot below the dorsal fin towards the posterior end of the fish (b) the caudal fin contains thin blue lines and the posterior tips are light blue (c) head is dark greenish brown (d) throat is white and contains blue lines on the lips.

Size: Maximum total length up to 70 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia found from Shark Bay northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits a variety of habitats from sand and rubble seabeds to shallow coral reef flats and deeper outer reef slopes.

Blackspot tuskfish *Choerodon schoenleinii*



Distinguishing features: (a) Black spot is visible on the base of the middle of the dorsal fin (b) body is dark green to blue (c) blue spots are visible on each scale on the body towards the posterior end of the fish (d) horizontal blue lines are present on caudal fin.

Size: Maximum total length up to 80 cm.

Distribution: From Ningaloo Reef northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits sandy weed areas near coral and rocky reefs in depths up to 60 m.

Eyebrow tuskfish *Choerodon zamboangae*



Distinguishing features: **(a)** Contains dark red wedge shaped or stripe which runs from the exterior end of the dorsal fin to the upper pectoral fin base; at the bottom of this wedge there is a yellow stripe **(b)** contains purple lines around the eye and on bottom of chin **(c)** dorsal, anal and ventral fins with purple margins.

Size: Maximum total length up to 45 cm.

Distribution: From Broome northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits flat and sandy reef areas in depths up to 150 m.

Bluebarred parrotfish *Scarus ghobban*



Male



Female

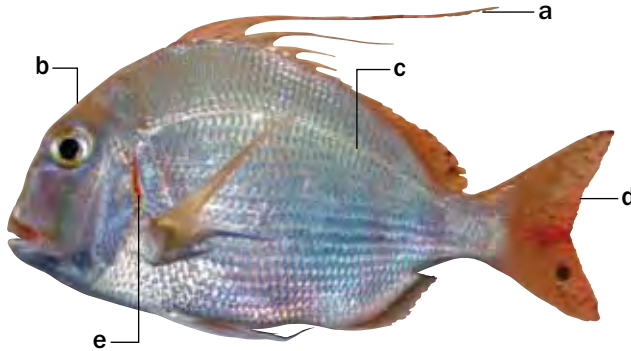
Distinguishing features: There are two distinct colour variations between sexes in this species. In the male form the body colour is pale fawn to yellow orange with bright turquoise blue scale margins. The edge of the anal and dorsal fin all have turquoise blue margins. The caudal fin is orange with a turquoise blue margin. There are also three distinct turquoise bars radiating from behind the eye. In the female form the body is yellow to orange and has blue spots forming bars on the side of the body. The caudal, anal and dorsal fin all have blue margins.

Size: Maximum total length up to 90 cm.

Distribution: Found from south of Shark Bay in Western Australia to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits coral reef lagoon areas, weedy seabeds and inner and outer reef edges with depth ranges up to 100 m.

Frypan bream *Argyrops spinifer*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Contains elongated filamentous dorsal spines (b) angular steep forehead profile (c) head and body are silvery deep pink (d) dorsal and caudal fins are pink to orange with red margins (e) red line on the upper operculum.

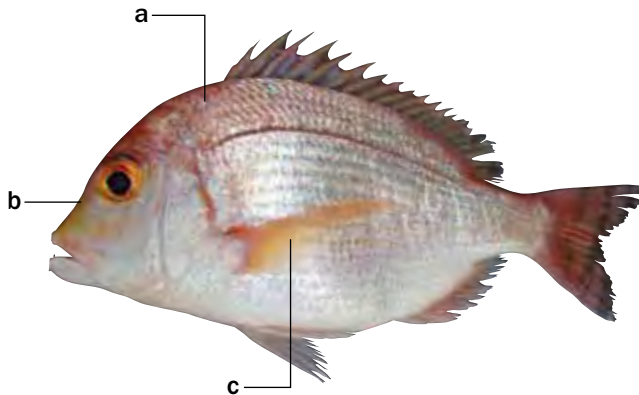
Other Common Names: Frypan snapper, long-spinned snapper, pan snapper.

Size: Maximum total length up to 70 cm.

Distribution: From Shark Bay northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Found in rocky, rubble and coral reef areas in depths up to 150 m.

Yellowback bream *Dentex tumifrons*



Distinguishing features: (a) Body is orange to red above the lateral line becoming silver towards the ventral surface (b) nape is golden (c) dorsal and caudal fins are orange-yellow.

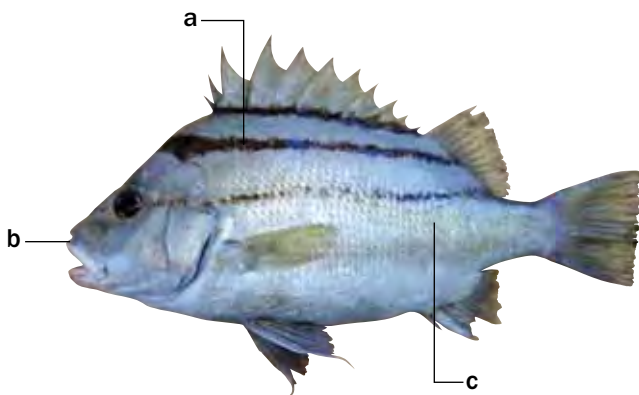
Other Common Names: Deep sea snapper, lenko's snapper.

Size: Maximum total length up to 35 cm.

Distribution: Found from North West Cape in Western Australia to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits muddy and sandy bottoms. Often found in trawling grounds in depths ranging from 50 to 250 m.

Lined javelinfish *Hapalogenys kishinouyei*



Distinguishing features: (a) Contains four to five distinct brown dusky lines on the dorsal surface which run longitudinally along the body (b) contains thick fleshy lips and snout (c) body is grey becoming silver towards the ventral surface.

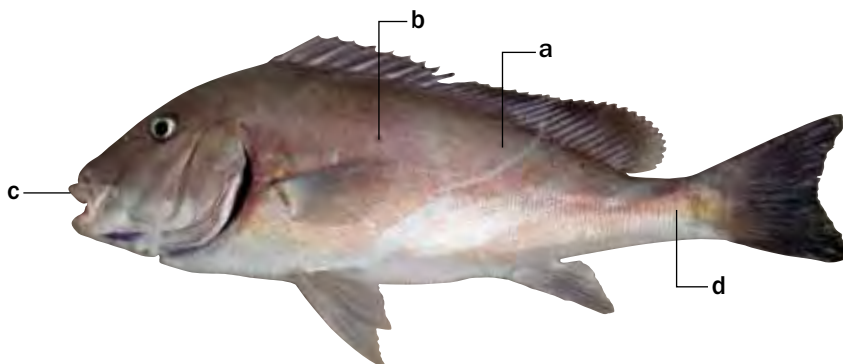
Other Common Names: Javelinfish.

Size: A relatively small species with a maximum size up to 30 cm.

Distribution: From Broome northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits muddy or sandy bottom areas near coastal estuaries, rivers or streams. Also in trawl catches to at least 100 m.

Painted sweetlip *Diagramma labiosum*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Body is silvery grey, contains scattered dark dots or blotches, (b) black dots are present on the posterior dorsal fin and the caudal fin (c) has thick fleshy lips (d) relatively slender tail base.

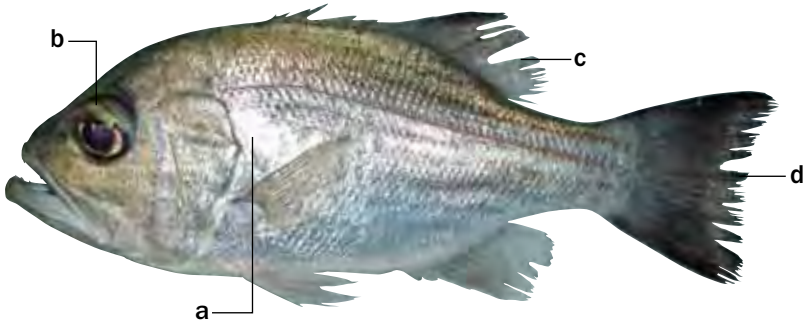
Other Common Names: Sand snapper.

Size: Maximum total length up to 90 cm.

Distribution: Widely distributed across Western Australia from Jurien Bay to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits shallow lagoons and estuaries as well as coastal coral and rocky reef up to depth of 100 m.

Northern pearl perch *Glaucosoma buergeri*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Body is silvery in appearance, (b) contains a large eye, (c) dorsal spines are largely posterior, (d) caudal fin slightly truncate. Juvenile and young adults have 10 longitudinal thin dark bands along the body. These bands become less pronounced with the age of the fish. Closely related to the Western Australian dhufish *Glaucosoma hebraicum*. Often misidentified as this species.

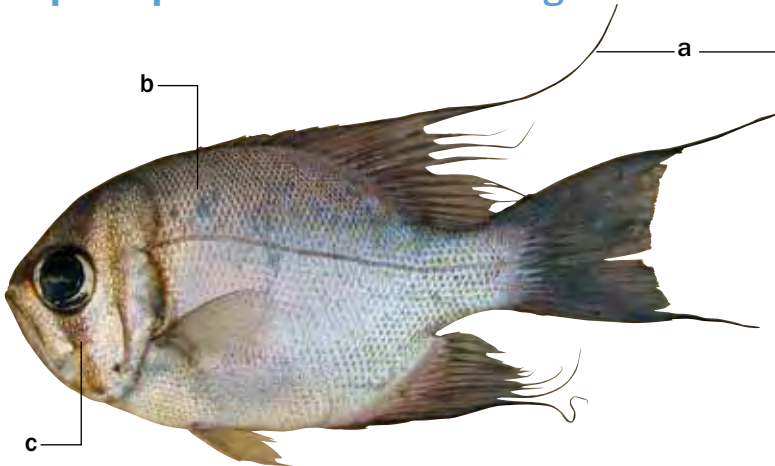
Other Common Names: Pearl perch.

Size: Maximum total length up to 60 cm.

Distribution: Found in Western Australia from Shark Bay to Cape Talbot north of Broome.

Habitat: Inhabits coral and rocky reef seabeds in depths up to 100 m.

Threadfin pearl perch *Glaucosoma magnificentum*



Distinguishing features: (a) Similar in appearance to *Glaucosoma buergeri*, distinguished by elongated dorsal, caudal and anal fin filaments (b) body is silvery grey in appearance becoming whiter towards the ventral surface (c) contains three dark brown vertical bars on the head.

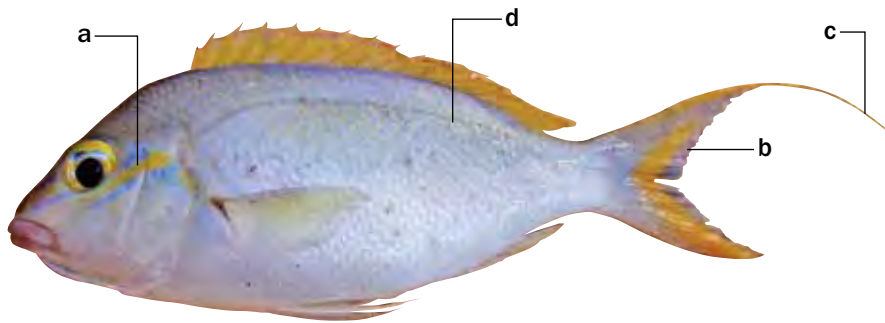
Other Common Name: Pearl perch.

Size: A relatively small species. Maximum total length up to 35 cm.

Distribution: From Exmouth Gulf northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits coral, rubble and rocky reef bottom on the continental shelf in depths up to 100 m.

Monocle bream *Scolopsis monogramma*



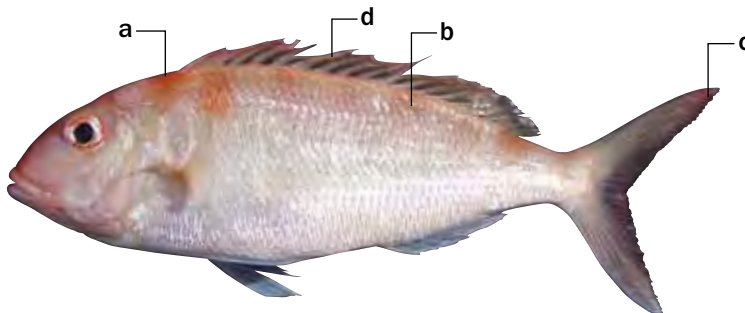
Distinguishing features: (a) Contains three blue stripes on the head which are often interspaced between yellow or orange stripes (b) caudal fin is yellow with a blue edge (c) the upper lobe of the caudal fin contains an elongated filament (d) body colour is greyish above the lateral line becoming whiter towards the ventral surface.

Size: A relatively small species. Maximum total length up to 30 cm.

Distribution: From Exmouth Gulf northwards across the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits sandy areas near or in the vicinity of coral reefs in depths up to 50 m.

Rosy threadfin bream *Nemipterus furcosus*



Distinguishing features: (a) Body colour is reddish pink above the lateral line becoming silvery towards the ventral surface (b) contains a series of faint brownish blotches on the back of the body (c) the caudal fin is pale pink rosy (d) dorsal fin contains a thin fine yellow margin.

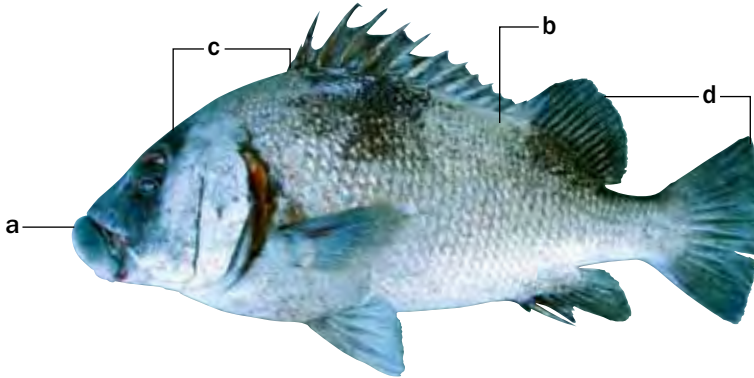
Other Common Names: Threadfin bream.

Size: A relatively small species with a maximum total length up to 30 cm.

Distribution: From Exmouth Gulf northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits sandy and muddy seabeds in sheltered estuaries and bays. Often found in trawling ground in depths up to 110 m.

Brown sweetlips *Plectorhinchus gibbosus*



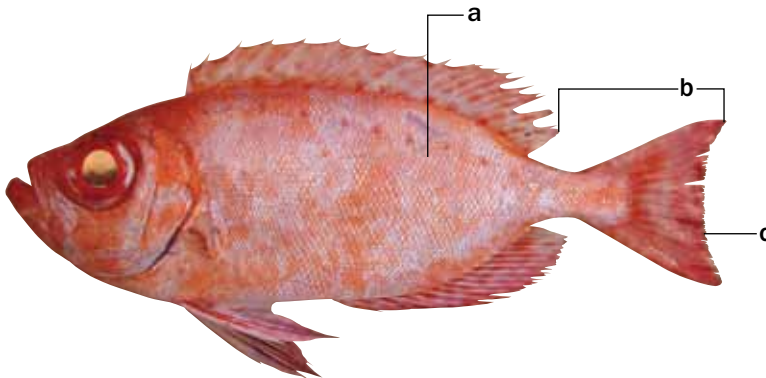
Distinguished features: (a) Has thick fleshy blubbery lips (b) body is grey to dark brown (c) black patches are evident near the eye and below the posterior and anterior end of the dorsal fin (d) fins are brown to charcoal and the margins of the soft dorsal and anal fins often contain a white margin.

Size: Maximum total length up to 60 cm.

Distribution: From Shark Bay northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits coastal reefs and sandy seabeds, estuaries and rivers in depths ranging from 2 to 20 m.

Lunartail bigeye *Priacanthus hamrur*



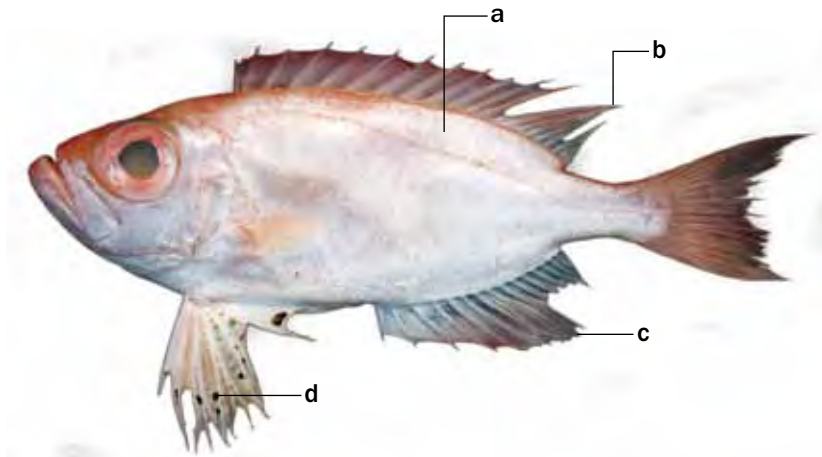
Distinguishing features: (a) Head and body are predominantly red (b) soft dorsal, anal and caudal fins have a dark black margin. Unlike other *Priacanthus* species lacks spots on fins (c) caudal fin is lunate in shape.

Size: Maximum total length up to 45 cm.

Distribution: An uncommon species in Western Australia, found from the Abrolhos Islands northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Found in outer reef slopes and coralline reefs in depths up to 250 m.

Purplespotted bigeye *Priacanthus tayenus*



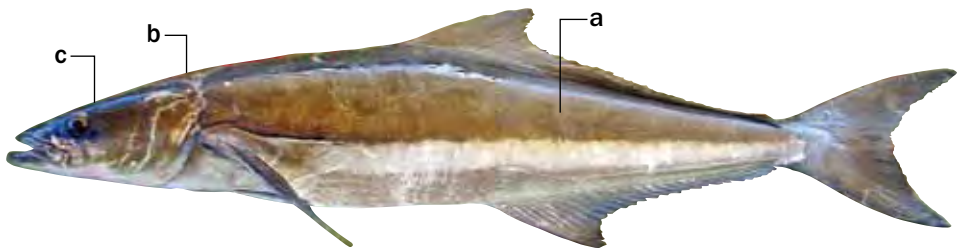
Distinguishing features: (a) Body is silvery red (b) have elongated filaments on the tips of the caudal and soft dorsal fin (c) anal and soft dorsal fins are tall (d) numerous brown or black spots are visible on the pelvic fins.

Size: Maximum total length up to 40 cm.

Distribution: From Exmouth Gulf northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits coral and rocky bottoms, outer reef slopes in depths up to 200 m.

Cobia *Rachycentron canadum*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Contains a characteristic black stripe which runs laterally over the body from the caudal fin to the head, this is flanked by greyish white stripes (b) contains a series of very small dorsal spines (c) head is broad and flattened.

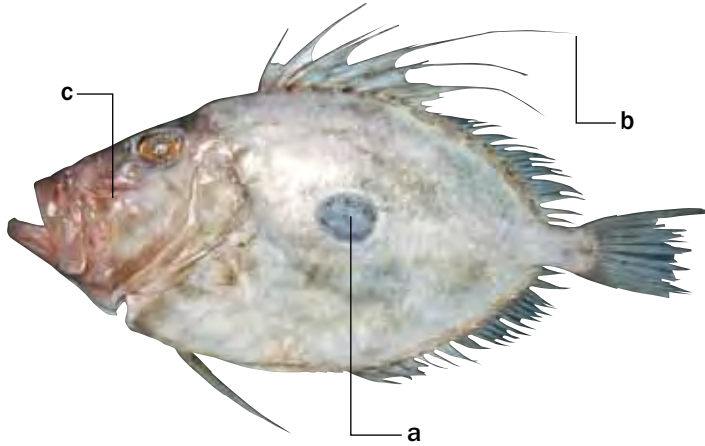
Other Common Names: Black kingfish, kingfish.

Size: Maximum total length up to 200 cm.

Distribution: Widely distributed in Western Australia from Cape Leeuwin northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Lives in a variety of habitats from coastal muddy, sand or rubble areas, to offshore coral or rocky reefs. Pelagic species.

John dory *Zeus faber*



Distinguishing features: (a) Contains a prominent dark spot with a white ring in the middle of the body (b) long filamentous spines on the dorsal fin (c) head is brown or bronze, body is silvery white.

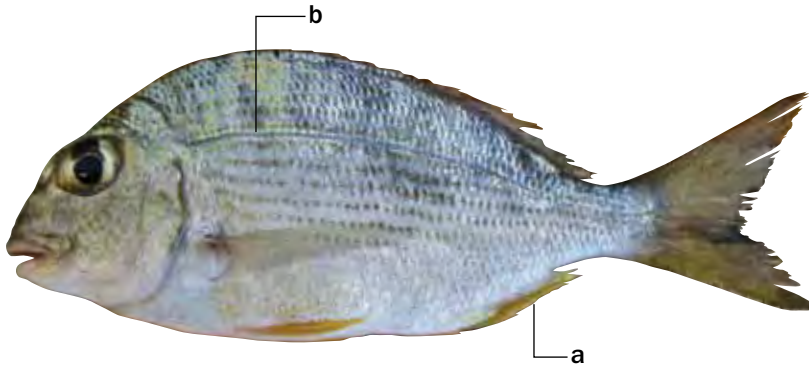
Size: Maximum total length up to 75 cm.

Distribution: Found in both temperate and tropical climates. Widely distributed in

Western Australia from Broome south to South Australian border.

Habitat: Lives in a variety of habitats from estuaries and bays to deeper offshore waters to depths of 400 m. Often found in trawling ground on the continental shelf.

Western yellowfin bream *Acanthopagrus latus*



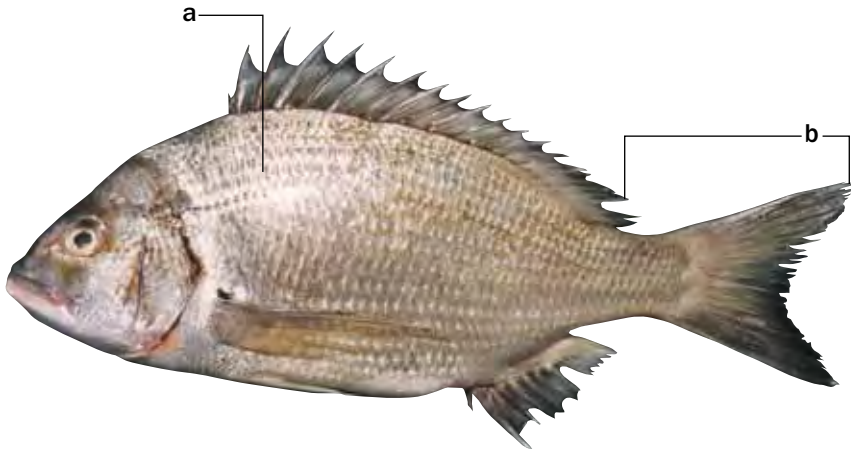
Distinguishing features: (a) Often gets misidentified as *Acanthopagrus palmaris* but can be distinguished by its yellow fins. All of the fins are yellow (b) body is silver in appearance becoming whiter towards the ventral surface.

Size: Maximum total length up to 50 cm.

Distribution: From Shark Bay northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: A nearshore species, which predominantly lives in shallow water estuaries and rivers, but can be found in coastal reef waters up to 50 m in depth.

Northwest black bream *Acanthopagrus palmaris*



Distinguishing features: (a) Body colour is dark black or brown becoming silvery towards the ventral surface (b) fins unlike *Acanthopagrus latus* are grey or black. Some adult fish develop a hump on the forehead.

Other Common Names: Pikey bream.

Size: Maximum total length up to 40 cm.

Distribution: From Shark Bay northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits coastal reef areas often entering into estuaries and bays.

Silver cobbler *Arius midgleyi*



Distinguishing features: (a) Head profile contains a distinctive blunt snout, shovel like in appearance (b) contains a distinct forked caudal fin. Often gets misidentified as the bottlenose catfish *Arius graeffei* but can be distinguished by the different head shape.

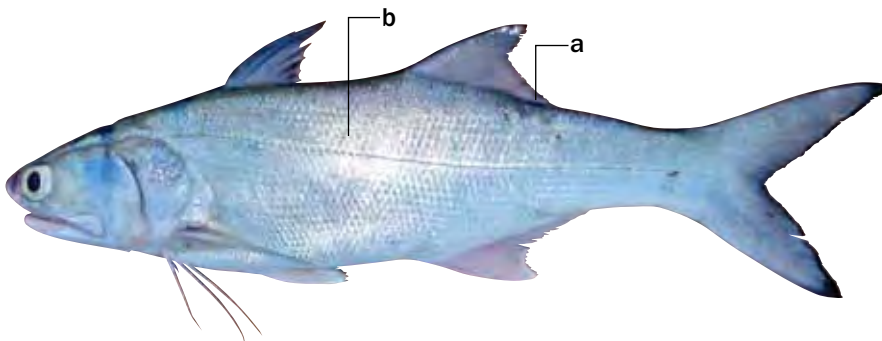
Other Common Names: Catfish.

Size: Maximum total length up to 150 cm.

Distribution: From Broome northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits coastal streams, rivers and estuaries and can also be found in inland lakes and reservoirs.

Blue threadfin *Eleutheronema tetradactylum*



Distinguishing features: (a) Base of caudal fin yellow, other parts are blackish (b) body is dark blue becoming lighter on the ventral surface.

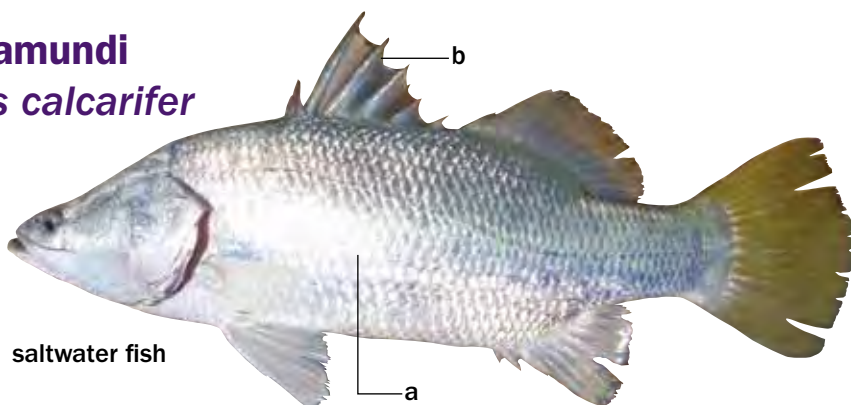
Other common names: Blue threadfin salmon, blue nosed salmon, blue salmon.

Size: Maximum total length up to 80 cm.

Distribution: Exmouth Gulf northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Mainly found in sandy or muddy bottoms in rivers, estuaries and streams. A nearshore species, which generally lives in shallow water areas in depths up to 20 m.

Barramundi *Lates calcarifer*



saltwater fish

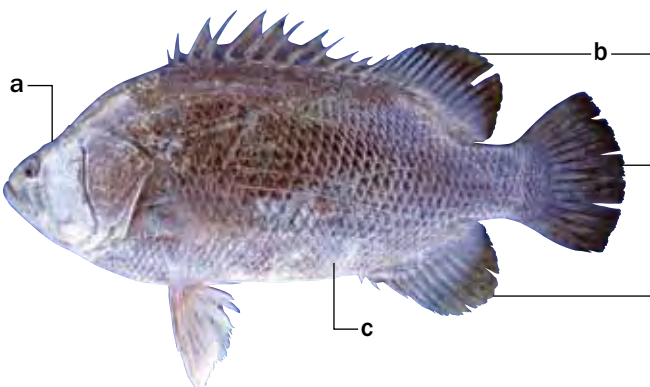
Distinguishing features: (a) Body is robust and deep (b) body colour varies depending on region. In freshwater estuaries and lakes body colour is greenish blue above the lateral line becoming white towards the ventral surface. Fins are dark brown black. In saltwater environments the fish have yellow fins and the body colour is silvery in appearance (c) contains a distinct concave head profile (hump on the head).

Size: Maximum total length up to 180 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia found from Exmouth Gulf up to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Juvenile fish live in freshwater lakes, lagoons and upper reaches of river and streams. Adults are found mainly in mangroves or estuaries and sometimes move into freshwater during the warmer summer months. In these environments they are usually found near overhanging vegetation, submerged logs or undercut banks.

Tripletail *Lobotes surinamensis*



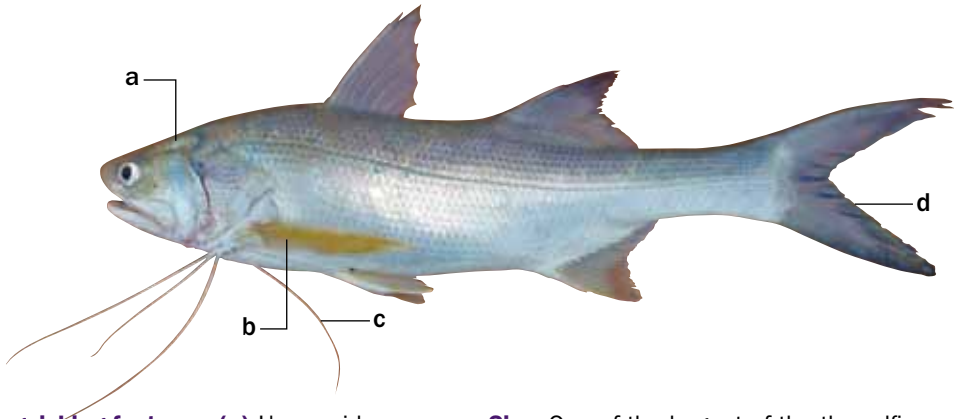
Distinguishing features: (a) Contain a steep, sloping humped forehead profile (b) caudal anal and posterior dorsal fins are all lobed giving the appearance of three fins (hence the common name tripletail) (c) body is deep brown or greenish yellow on the upper surface becoming silvery grey towards the belly.

Size: Maximum total length up to 100 cm.

Distribution: From Broome northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits tidal and muddy mangroves, estuaries and lower reaches of freshwater rivers.

King threadfin *Polydactylus macrochir*



Distinguishing features: (a) Upper sides of the head and belly are golden becoming more silver on the lower surfaces (b) pectoral and pelvic fins are bright yellow (c) pectoral filaments are white or yellowish white (d) caudal fin is grey and contains a black margin.

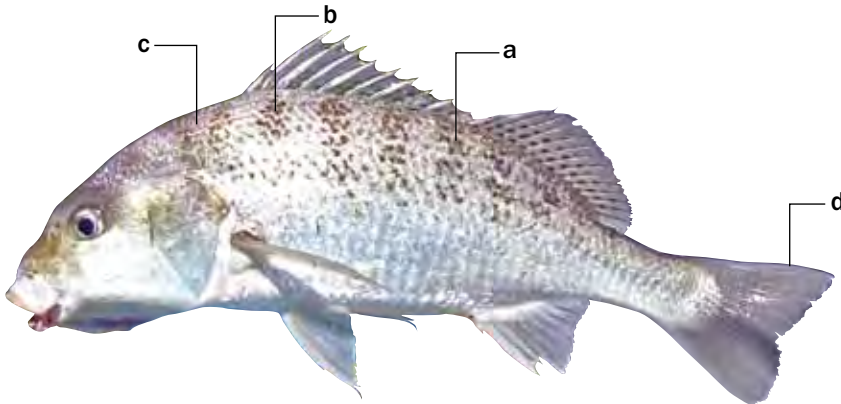
Other Common Names: Giant threadfin salmon, king salmon.

Size: One of the largest of the threadfin species. Maximum total length up to 150 cm.

Distribution: From Exmouth Gulf northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: A nearshore species, which inhabits mangroves, turbid coastal waters and estuaries in depths up to 15 m.

Barred javelin *Pomadasys kaakan*



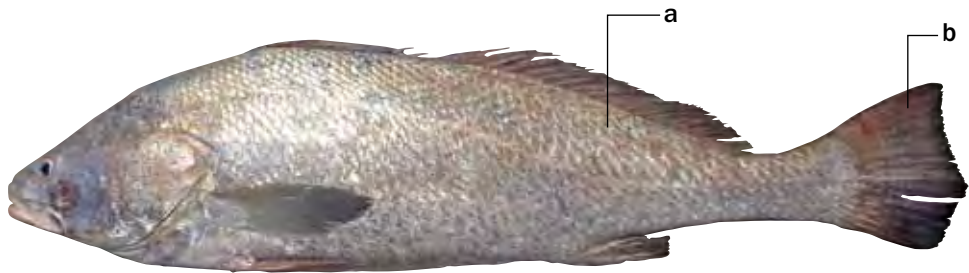
Distinguishing features: (a) Contains black spots along the dorsal fin (b) distinguished by a row of dark spots, which form vertical bars on the upper surface of the body above the lateral line (c) body is olive brown in the upper surface becoming silver towards the ventral surface (d) pectoral, anal and lower lobe of the caudal fin is yellow.

Size: Maximum total length up to 80 cm.

Distribution: Found in tropical waters from Shark Bay in Western Australia north to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits estuaries and inshore waters with muddy to sandy bottoms to water depth up to 75 m.

Black jewfish *Protonibea diacanthus*



Distinguishing features: (a) Body colour is greyish to dark black above the lateral line becoming silvery towards the ventral surface (b) black spots are sometimes visible on the body, dorsal and caudal fin. Often gets confused with the common mullet *Argyrosomus japonicus* but has more pointed caudal tail and lacks a dark spot at the base of the pectoral fin and is generally darker in appearance.

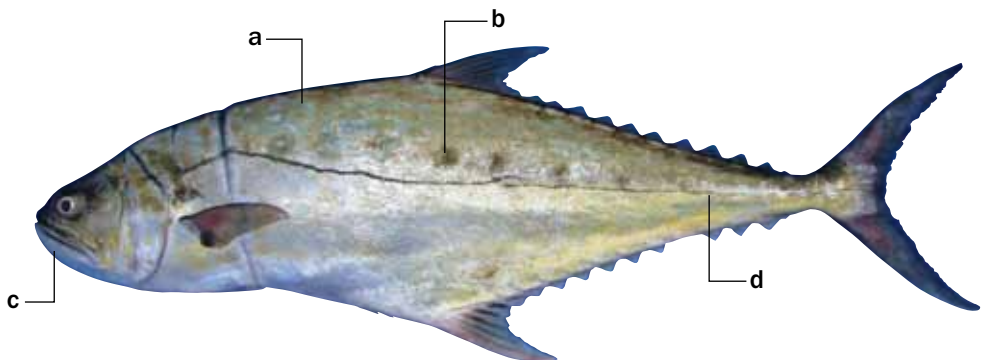
Other Common Names: Northern mullet.

Size: One of the largest of the tropical jewfish. Maximum total length up to 150 cm.

Distribution: Found from Shark Bay northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits tidal rivers, estuaries and coastal bays on muddy or sandy bottoms in depths up to 60 m.

Giant queenfish *Scomberoides commersonianus*



Distinguishing features: (a) Body colour is greenish bronze on the upper surface becoming silver white towards the belly (b) large dark spots are visible on the upper surface of the body above the lateral line (c) the lower jaw extends past the posterior end of the eye (d) body is elongated and compressed.

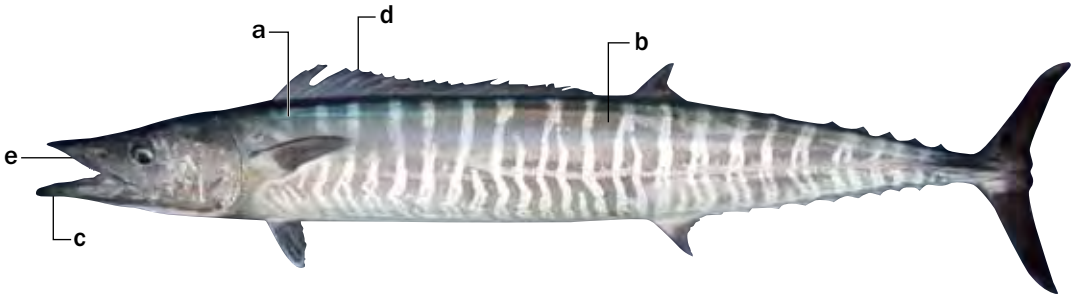
Other Common Names: Queenfish.

Size: Maximum total length up to 120 cm.

Distribution: Found from Shark Bay to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Mainly inhabits coastal reef waters or islands, occasionally found in estuaries.

Wahoo *Acanthocybium solandri*



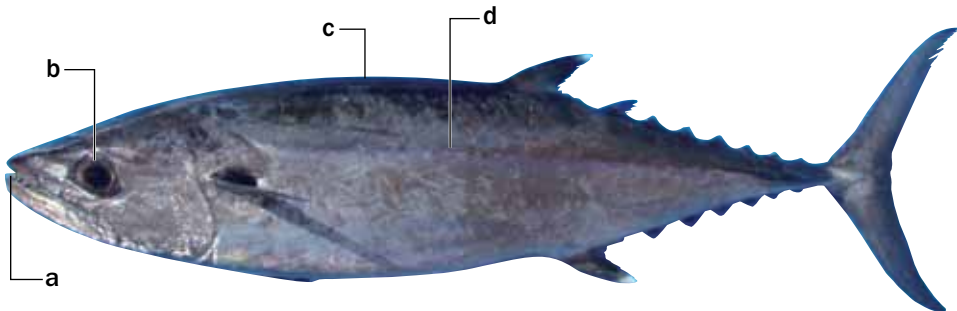
Distinguishing features : (a) Body colour is blueish green above the lateral line becoming silver towards the ventral surface (b) contains between 20 to 30 cobalt blue lines which run longitudinally along the body (c) body and snout are long and elongated (d) first dorsal fin is larger and longer than other mackerel species (e) contains large mouth with triangular compressed teeth.

Size: Maximum total length up to 250 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia found from the Abrolhos Islands northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: An oceanic pelagic species which is generally found in offshore waters or near outer coral reef systems, also found in coastal waters.

Dogtooth tuna *Gymnosarda unicolor*



Distinguishing characteristics: (a) Contains a large mouth with a series of large distinctive conical shaped teeth (b) a large eye (c) body colour is deep blueish black above the lateral line becoming silvery towards the ventral surface (d) lateral line is strongly undulating.

Size: Maximum total length up to 220 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia found in

oceanic coral reef atolls such as Rowley Shoals and Scott Reef.

Habitat: An oceanic species which is mainly found in offshore waters near coral reefs or near outer reef drop offs on the edge of the continental shelf.

Spanish mackerel *Scomberomorus commerson*



Distinguishing features: (a) Contains a series of narrow dark blue or black bars which run vertically along the body. These bars are narrower than those seen on *Acanthocybium solandri* (b) body is narrow, long and elongated (c) body is dark blue above the lateral line becoming silvery towards the ventral surface.

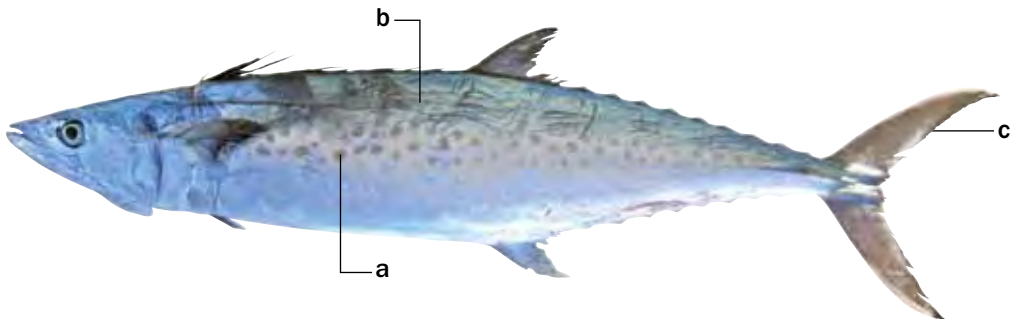
Other common names: Narrow barred mackerel.

Size: Maximum total length up to 240 cm.

Distribution: Widely distributed across Western Australia from Cape Leeuwin northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: A pelagic species, which inhabits coastal waters near islands and rocky headlands and oceanic waters up to 200 m.

Spotted mackerel *Scomberomorus munroi*



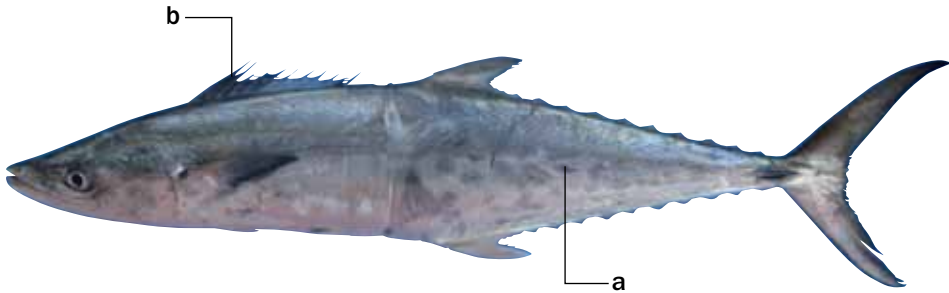
Distinguishing Features: (a) Contains a series of dark blue black round spots on side of the body (b) body is deep blue above lateral line becoming silvery towards the ventral surface (c) anal fins are grey, caudal fins are dark blue to black.

Size: Maximum total length up to 100 cm.

Distribution: Widely distributed across Western Australia from the Abrolhos Islands to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits coastal reefs and headlands as well as offshore waters. Sometimes found in coastal bays and estuaries.

School mackerel *Scomberomorus queenslandicus*



Distinguishing features: (a) Contains large grey brown spots along the side of its body. These spots are equal to the eye diameter of the fish (b) at the front of the first dorsal fin contains black blotch. Often gets misidentified with *Scomberomorus munroi* but can be distinguished by the larger spots on the body.

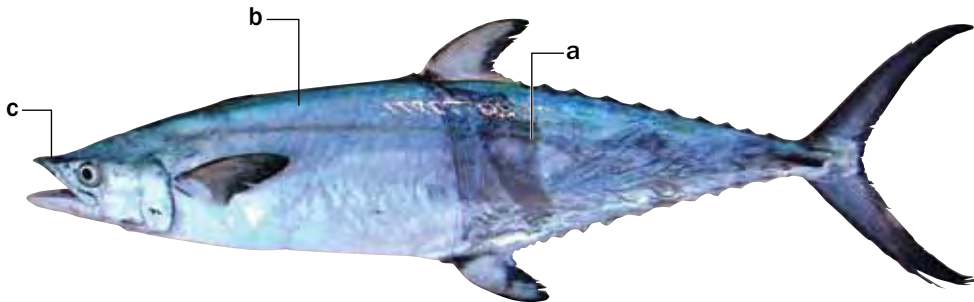
Other Common Names: Queensland school mackerel.

Size: Maximum total length up to 100 cm.

Distribution: From Shark Bay northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits near-shore coastal waters, bays and estuaries.

Grey mackerel *Scomberomorus semifasciatus*



Distinguishing features: (a) Contains a series of broad dark blue or black bars, which run vertically along the body. These bars are more prominent in juveniles and fade with age (b) body is deeper than *Scomberomorus commerson*, greyish green above the lateral line becoming silvery towards the ventral surface (c) contains a pointed snout with a small head and fine teeth first dorsal fin is black at the front whitish at the posterior end of the fin.

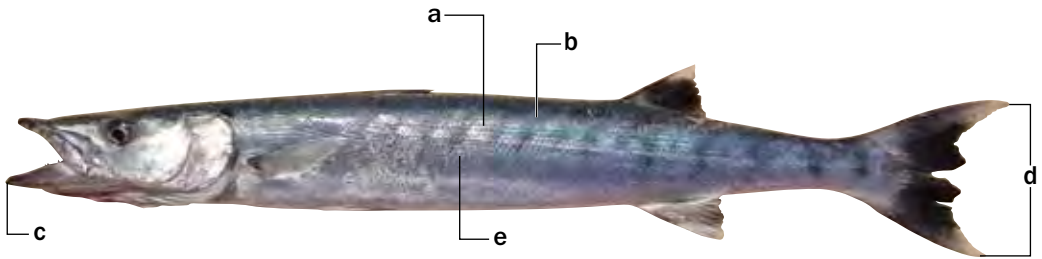
Other Common Name: Broad barred mackerel, broad barred spanish mackerel.

Size: Maximum total length up to 120 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia found from Shark Bay northwards to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits coastal reefs and rocky headlands as well as offshore waters.

Great barracuda *Sphyraena barracuda*



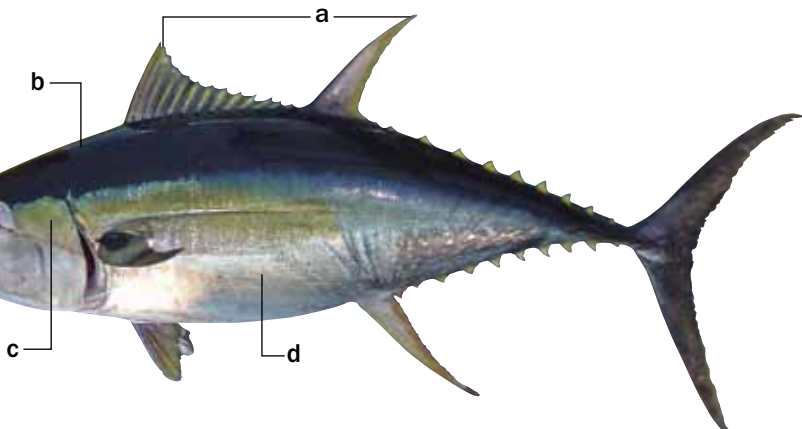
Distinguishing features: (a) Body is long, cylindrical and elongated (b) contains a series of faint oblique dark bars on the upper surface of the body above the lateral line (c) pointed snout lower jaw protrudes out further than the upper jaw (d) caudal fin is truncate black with white tips on the upper and lower lobes (e) body is silvery grey.

Size: Maximum total length up to 200 cm.

Distribution: Widely distributed in Western Australia from Albany to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Lives in a variety of habitats from coastal bays and estuaries to near-shore reefs and offshore waters.

Yellowfin tuna *Thunnus albacares*



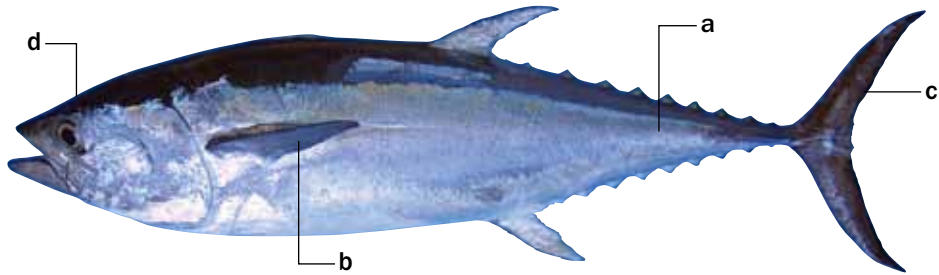
Distinguishing features: (a) Dorsal and anal fins are elongated and are bright yellow. These fins become more elongated with age (b) the upper surface of the body is dark blue (c) the mid lateral surface is yellow (d) the ventral surface is silvery in colour.

Size: One of the largest of the tuna species. Maximum total length up to 210 cm.

Distribution: Widely distributed in Western Australia found in both temperate and tropical waters from the South Australian border to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits deep offshore and oceanic waters. Sometimes found near oceanic islands.

Longtail tuna *Thunnus tonggol*



Distinguishing Features: (a) Contains a relatively slender body with a long tails base (b) pectoral fins are very short (c) dorsal, caudal, anal fins are blackish in colour (d) head is relatively small.

Other Common Names: northern bluefin tuna.

Size: Maximum total length up to 150 cm.

Distribution: In Western Australia found from Geographe Bay to the Northern Territory border.

Habitat: Inhabits both coastal and offshore oceanic waters. Sometimes entering bays and estuaries.

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