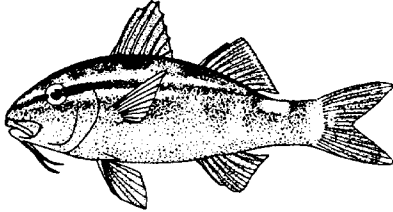


GOATFISH

Goatfish are bottom-feeding carnivores, easily recognized by the pair of barbels under their jaws which are used to locate food. Tucked under the sides of the jaw when not in use, the barbels may not be immediately apparent. Goatfish are common in inshore waters, and are among the most popular food fish in Hawaii.



Kūmū

Parupeneus porphyreus
Whitesaddle goatfish

Description: Juveniles greenish with red fins, body coloration becomes brick red with age; white saddle behind soft dorsal fin; dark stripe running through eye from near snout to below first dorsal fin, darker spot between eye and upper edge of gill cover.

Size: Length up to 20 inches; weight generally up to 5 pounds

Habitat: Various depths throughout reef areas, especially under coral heads

Feeding: Nocturnal; mostly crustaceans

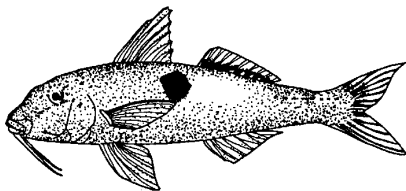
Schooling: Small groups by day, solitary at night

Fishing methods: Spear, trap, net, handline, pole and line

Seasonality: Young kūmū common on inshore reefs throughout spring and summer; adults common year round

Kūmū are extremely prized fish in Hawaii; the flesh is considered a delicacy.

Endemic to Hawaii.



Malu

Parupeneus pleurostigma
Sidespot goatfish

Description: Body light, whitish to pink; black spot on side below rear of first dorsal fin, followed by large oval white area.

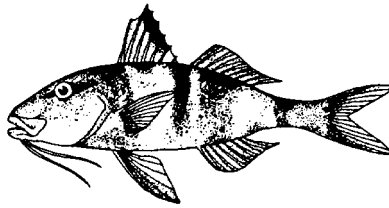
Size: Length up to 16 inches; weight generally up to 2 pounds

Habitat: Sandy patches adjacent to coral, from nearshore to depths of about 120 feet

Feeding: Diurnal; small worms, crustaceans

Schooling: Adults solitary; juveniles small groups

Fishing methods: Handline, spear, trap, net



Moano

Parupeneus multifasciatus
Manybar goatfish

Description: Reddish with shades of yellow and white; black marks behind eye, at base of pectoral fin, and black saddle areas in front of first dorsal fin, between dorsal fins, below soft dorsal fin, and in front of tail; deepness of color varies with light intensity, becoming lighter in bright light.

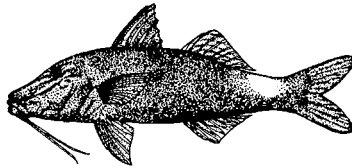
Size: Length up to 14 inches; weight generally up to 1 pound

Habitat: Rocky areas, sandy bottoms near coral heads

Feeding: Diurnal; crustaceans, small fish

Schooling: Solitary or small groups

Fishing methods: Handline, trap, spear, pole and line



Moano kea

Parupeneus cyclostomus
Moana kali, blue goatfish

Description: Bluish-purple, with prominent yellow saddle at base of tail; slender body, long snout and long barbels.

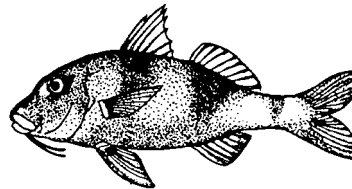
Size: Length up to 2 feet; weight generally up to 5 pounds

Habitat: Rocky or reef areas, from nearshore to depth of about 200 feet

Feeding: Diurnal; small fish, crustaceans

Schooling: Adults small groups; juveniles solitary

Fishing methods: Handline, spear, trap, net, pole and line



Munu

Parupeneus bifasciatus
Doublebar goatfish, Joe Louis

Description: Reddish to yellowish-gray; black triangular saddle under each dorsal fin and near tail.

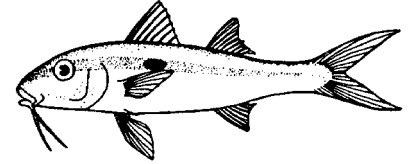
Size: Length up to 16 inches; weight generally up to 3 pounds

Habitat: Rocky areas, especially lava rocks, from nearshore to about 150 feet

Feeding: Diurnal and nocturnal; small fish, crustaceans

Schooling: Solitary or small groups

Fishing methods: Handline, spear, trap, net, pole and line



Weke 'ā, 'oama

Mulloides flavolineatus
White weke, yellowstripe goatfish

Description: Silvery white; yellow band extends from eye to tail when schooling; band becomes less distinct when feeding, and a black spot appears below first dorsal fin; very slender body compared with most other goatfish.

Size: Length up to 18 inches; weight generally up to 2 pounds

Habitat: Sandy bottom areas near coral patches; shallow water (to about 100 feet)

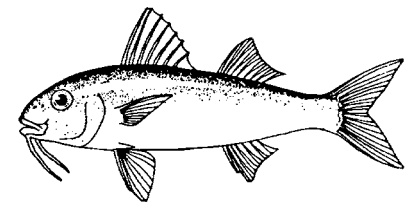
Feeding: Nocturnal and diurnal; crustaceans, worms

Schooling: Schools by day

Fishing methods: 'Oama (juveniles) taken by pole and line; adults by net, trap, pole and line, spear

Seasonality: 'Oama commonly found in shallow sandy areas during late summer; adult weke common year round

'Oama make excellent bait for papio and other predators, and are highly sought by shoreline fishermen.



Weke 'ula, 'oama

Mulloides vanicolensis
Red weke, yellowfin goatfish

Description: Light pink with yellow hues; long yellow band extending from eye to base of tail; fish becomes reddish when dead; inner lining of abdomen is black.

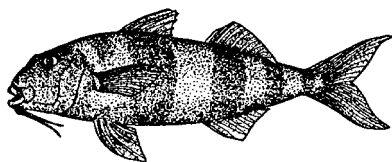
Size: Length up to 16 inches; weight generally up to 2 pounds

Habitat: Reef areas, generally in depths from 20-200 feet

Feeding: Nocturnal; small worms and crustaceans

Schooling: Large schools during the day; solitary or small groups at night when feeding

Fishing methods: Mostly net and trap
Seasonality: Juveniles, known as 'oama, common offshore in late summer; adults common year round



Weke nono

Mulloides pflugeri

Weke 'ula, moelua, Pfluger's goatfish

Description: Red with vertical orange-yellow bands when alive; color changes to uniform red when dead; inner lining of abdominal cavity white; fairly robust compared with most other goatfish.

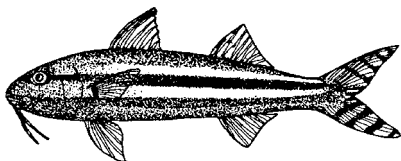
Size: Length up to 24 inches; weight generally up to 8 pounds

Habitat: Sand patches and limestone bottoms, usually 60-300 feet

Feeding: Diurnal; small fish and crustaceans

Schooling: Small groups or large schools

Fishing methods: Handline, trap, spear



Weke pueo

Upeneus spp.

Nightmare weke, bandtail goatfish

Description: Light greenish above, fading to white below; black and white horizontal stripes on tail.

Size: Length up to 12 inches

Habitat: Shallow sandy or muddy bottoms

Feeding: Diurnal; crustaceans and small fish

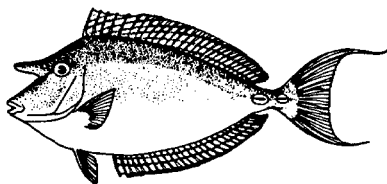
Schooling: Small groups

Fishing methods: Pole and line, net, spear

Weke pueo should be prepared and eaten with care, since the head may cause hallucinations and other symptoms of poisoning if consumed.

SURGEONFISH

Surgeonfish (tang) have blade-like spines on either side of the base of the tail, which are sometimes used defensively by the fish. (Fishermen have suffered cuts on their account, so surgeonfish should always be handled with care.) Surgeonfish are very common in inshore waters, feeding primarily by day, and at night resting on the bottom in a sleep-like state. Because they are mostly plant eaters, having small mouths and specialized teeth, most surgeonfish are difficult to catch with hook and line.



Kala

Naso unicornis

Bluespine unicornfish

Description: Dusky olive, with light blue on the fins and around the caudal spines; horn protruding from front of head about eye level (lengthens with age). A similar species, *Naso brevirostris*, is grayish green with numerous small spots or dark lines on the sides, and a body that is less deep. Kala have two fixed caudal spines on each side.

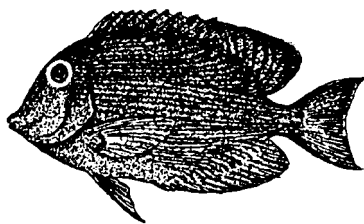
Size: Length up to 2 feet; weight generally up to 8 pounds

Habitat: Inshore reef areas and along rocky shores

Feeding: Diurnal; algae, especially more leafy varieties

Schooling: Schools; large adults sometimes found singly at edge of reef

Fishing methods: Net, spear, pole and line



Kole

Ctenochaetus strigosus

Goldring surgeonfish

Description: Dark brown with about 35 light blue horizontal lines extending into the fins, small blue spots on the head, bright yellow ring around the eye; single retractable caudal spine on each side.

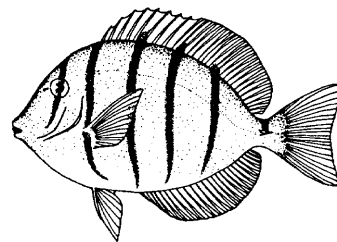
Size: Length up to 7 inches; weight generally up to ½ pound

Habitat: Inshore reef areas, and depths of 150 feet or more

Feeding: Diurnal, small bits of algae and decaying plant material

Schooling: Solitary

Fishing methods: Spear



Manini

Acanthurus triostegus sandvicensis

Convict tang

Description: Silvery, may have yellowish tinge; six black vertical bars, the first passing through the eye and the last near the base of the tail; single small retractable caudal spine on each side.

Size: Length up to 12 inches; weight generally up to ¾ pound

Habitat: Most reef areas, from shore to depths of about 90 feet

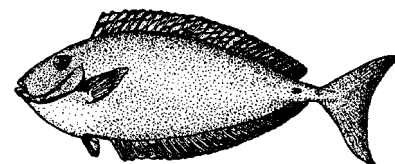
Feeding: Diurnal; mostly fine algae

Schooling: Large schools, but also seen singly or in small schools

Fishing methods: Net, spear

Manini are the most abundant surgeonfish in Hawaii.

Endemic to Hawaii.



'Opelu kala

Naso hexacanthus

Sleek unicornfish

Description: Color varies from dark brown to pale blue, with a dark blue tail fin; two fixed caudal spines on each side.

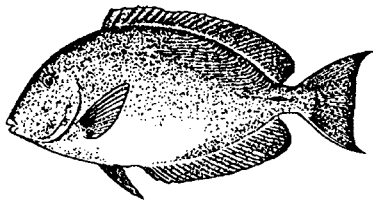
Size: Length up to 2 feet; weight generally up to 3 pounds

Habitat: Deeper waters outside reef; not common in waters less than 30 to 50 feet

Feeding: Diurnal; plankton, including crab larvae and small worms

Schooling: Large schools

Fishing methods: Spear, net, pole and line



Palani

Acanthurus dussumieri
Eyestripe surgeonfish

Description: Yellowish brown with black spots, bright blue tail fin, fine blue lines on body fading towards belly, yellow dorsal and anal fins, yellow band between and behind the eyes; single white retractable caudal spine on each side, surrounded by a patch of black.

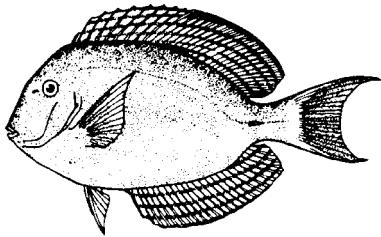
Size: Length up to 18 inches or more; weight generally up to 3 pounds

Habitat: Mostly bays and outer reef areas over sandy patches, usually at depths of at least 10 feet

Feeding: Diurnal; algae and decaying plant material

Schooling: Schools

Fishing methods: Spear, trap



Pualu

Acanthurus spp.
Ringtail surgeonfish, yellowfin surgeonfish

Description: Purplish gray, sometimes with irregular dark stripes along the sides, dorsal and anal fins have horizontal blue bands, yellow spot between eye and top of gill cover; single black retractable caudal spine on each side.

Size: Length up to 20 inches or more; weight generally up to 5 pounds

Habitat: Bays and harbors; also deep outer reefs with sandy patches, usually at depths of 30 feet or more

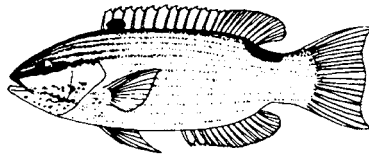
Feeding: Diurnal; mostly algae, but often hooked with animal material as bait

Schooling: Schools

Fishing methods: Spear, net, handline

WRASSES

Wrasses make up the largest family of fishes in Hawaii. Nearly 50 species are known to exist here, but only a few are popular with fishermen. Males and females of the same species frequently have different colorations, and wrasses are known to undergo sex conversions from female to male. Coloration changes as the fish gets older.



'A'awa

Bodianus bilunulatus
Hawaiian hogfish, table boss

Description: Juveniles (up to 4 inches) whitish with reddish brown horizontal lines and large black spot between soft dorsal and anal fins; as fish grows older spot disappears and black saddle forms at rear of dorsal fin; females white with brown horizontal lines in front, shading to yellow near tail; males wine-colored or purplish brown, and black saddle is faint or absent.

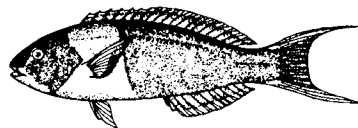
Size: Length up to 2 feet; weight generally up to 4 pounds

Habitat: Common throughout reef area, taken on bottom in shallow water out to depths of about 100 feet or more

Feeding: Diurnal; small fish, crustaceans, molluscs, sea urchins

Schooling: Solitary

Fishing methods: Handline, spear, pole and line



Hinālea lauili

Thalassoma duperrey
Saddle wrasse

Description: Green with vertical purple-red bars, purplish blue head and wide orange saddle surrounding body just behind head; saddle not apparent on juveniles.

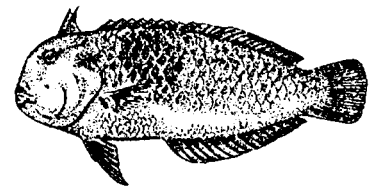
Size: Length up to 1 foot; weight generally up to ½ pound

Habitat: Very abundant along shallow rocky shorelines and reef areas

Feeding: Diurnal; seaweed, crustaceans

Schooling: Solitary or small aggregate

Fishing methods: Pole and line, handline
Generally an incidental catch; food value considered poor, often used as bait.
Endemic to Hawaii



Laenihi

Xyrichtys umbrilatus
Blackside razorfish, nabeta

Description: Blue-green or grayish body with faint vertical crossbands, one dark scale on either side below front of dorsal fin, yellow stripe on anal fin.

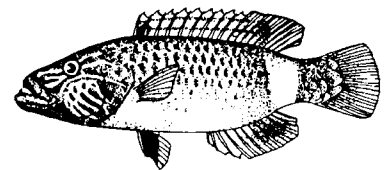
Size: Length up to 15 inches; weight generally up to 2 pounds

Habitat: Sandy areas at depths of 60 to 300 feet, generally within a few hundred yards of the shoreline

Feeding: Diurnal; crustaceans

Schooling: Solitary

Fishing methods: Handline
Considered an excellent food fish.
Endemic to Hawaii.



Po'ou

Oxycheilinus unifasciatus
Ringtail wrasse

Description: Color varies with age; at 10 inches the fish is plain olive green with white saddle near tail; fish 20 inches and over have no white saddle, but show black spots at base of dorsal and anal fins, and have dark pelvic fins.

Size: Length up to 2 feet; weight generally up to 2 pounds

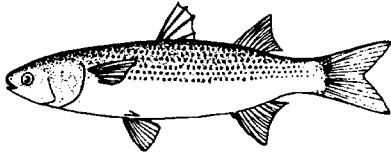
Habitat: Reef and rocky areas at depths of up to 40 or 50 feet

Feeding: Diurnal; fish and crustaceans

Schooling: Solitary

Fishing methods: Handline, spear

MULLET



‘Ama‘ama, pua

Mugil cephalus
Striped mullet

Description: Body silver with grayish-green above changing to white below, reddish tinge around mouth and gills. A similar species, *Chelon engeli* (summer or Australian mullet), is smaller than the amaama, growing to a length of about 8 inches, and has slightly larger scales.

Size: Length up to 2 feet; weight generally up to 5 pounds

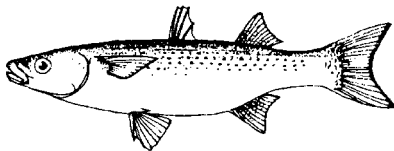
Habitat: Calm waters close to shore, around mouths of streams and inlets, and brackish bays and harbors

Feeding: Diurnal; algae and small plants, especially along bottom.

Schooling: Schools

Fishing methods: Generally taken with nets; difficult to catch with pole and line, but will take a hook baited with thin seaweed or bread

Seasonality: Spawns December through February



Uouoa

Neomyxus leuciscus
Sharpnose mullet

Description: Grayish back, changing to silver on the sides, white belly; yellow spot present at base of pectoral fins; snout more pointed than amaama.

Size: Length up to 16 inches; weight generally up to 1½ pounds

Habitat: Sandy shores, tide pools, rocky surge areas

Feeding: Diurnal; seaweed, some crustaceans

Schooling: Schools

Fishing methods: Net

Seasonality: More common November through March

BARRACUDAS



Kākū

Sphyræna barracuda
Great barracuda

Description: Greyish back turning silvery on sides and belly, with irregular black flecks on sides.

Size: Length up to 6 feet; weight generally up to 70 pounds

Habitat: Various, inshore and offshore; juveniles prefer brackish water areas, bays and stream mouths

Feeding: Diurnal and nocturnal; fish and squid

Schooling: Generally solitary

Fishing methods: Generally caught casting from shore, trolling lures and baits, and handlining from boats. Prominent sharp teeth make a wire leader essential, and the fish should be regarded with caution.



Kawale‘ā

Sphyræna helleri
Heller's barracuda

Description: Silvery olive above, becoming silvery on sides and belly; sides marked with two horizontal yellowish stripes which disappear after death. Smaller than kaku, with more slender head and larger eyes.

Size: Length up to 2 feet; weight generally up to 4 pounds

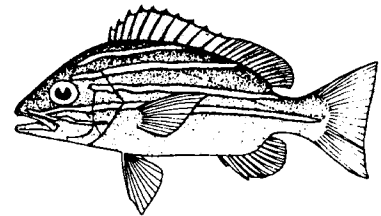
Habitat: Inshore to depths of 50 to 200 feet

Feeding: Nocturnal; small fish

Schooling: Large schools

Fishing methods: Mostly handline

NEARSHORE SNAPPERS



Ta‘ape

Lutjanus kasmira
Bluestripe snapper

Description: Bright lemon yellow with four pale-blue horizontal stripes edged with lavender or deep purple.

Size: Length up to 15 inches; weight generally up to 1½ pounds

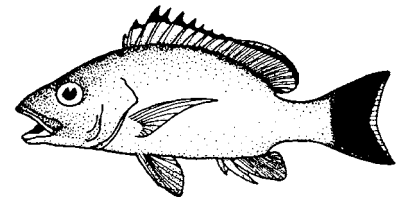
Habitat: Hard bottom areas, generally in waters 40 to over 300 feet deep

Feeding: Primarily nocturnal; shrimp and other crustaceans, squid, and small fish

Schooling: Schools

Fishing methods: Generally taken at night with handlines; some taken in traps or nets; occasionally by pole and line near shore and by spear

Introduced 1958 and 1961 from Marquesas Islands and Society Islands



To‘au

Lutjanus fulvus
Blacktail snapper

Description: Dusky yellow above fading to pale yellow or white below, six or more thin horizontal yellow stripes along side; dorsal fin reddish, tail fin blackish with reddish tinge and white margin; other fins yellow.

Size: Length up to 13 inches; weight generally up to 3 pounds

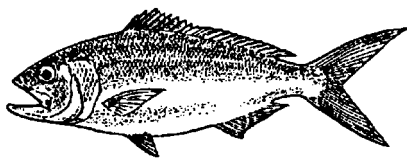
Habitat: Inshore, brackish water and around stream mouths out to waters about 40 or 50 feet in depth

Feeding: Nocturnal; crustaceans, especially crabs, and small fish

Schooling: Solitary or small school

Fishing methods: Handline, pole and line, trap, spear

Introduced 1956 and 1958 from Society Islands



Wahanui

Aphareus furca
Smalltooth jobfish, gurutsu

Description: Uniform steel blue or purplish, with yellow border on anal fin.

Size: Length up to 2 feet; weight generally up to 2 pounds

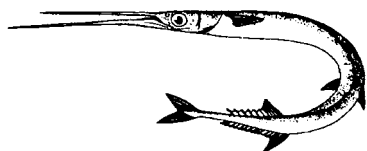
Habitat: Open water, generally just outside or above reef

Feeding: Diurnal; small fish and crustaceans

Schooling: Solitary or small school

Fishing methods: Pole and line, handline, spear

OTHER REEF FISHES



'Aha

Belonidae
Needlefish

Description: Blue green on back, fading to silvery below; jaws long and pointed, with sharp teeth.

Size: Length depends on species, 15 inches to more than 4 feet; weight generally up to 5 pounds

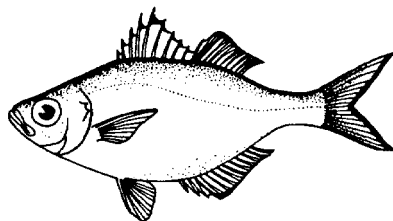
Habitat: Near surface in waters of various depths from nearshore to open ocean

Feeding: Diurnal and nocturnal; small fish near the surface, floating crabs

Schooling: Schools

Fishing methods: Pole and line

Aha can be dangerous at night; they are attracted to lights and have been known to spear people.



Āholehole

Kuhlia sandvicensis
Hawaiian flagtail

Description: Silvery, with blue tones on back, fins often dusky tipped.

Size: Length up to 12 inches; weight generally up to 1 pound

Habitat: Inshore areas, including streams, bays and along shoreline; generally found at depths less than 20 feet; juveniles live in tide pools or schools close to shore

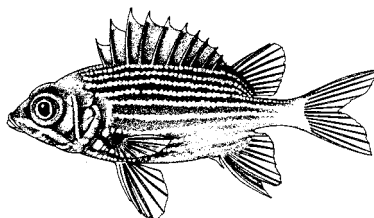
Feeding: Mostly nocturnal; primarily crustaceans

Schooling: Schools

Fishing methods: Pole and line, cast nets, spear

Seasonality: More taken during fall and winter

Endemic to Hawaii



'Ala'ihī

Sargocentron and *Neoniphon* spp.
Squirrelfish

Description: Bright red, fading to lighter below in some species; sides marked with six or more light horizontal lines; most species take on prominent nocturnal coloration, generally white spots or vertical bands.

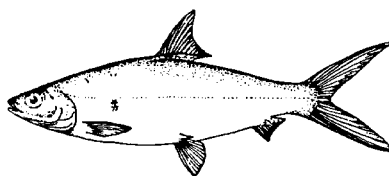
Size: Length up to 12 inches or more, depending on species; weight up to 5 pounds for largest species

Habitat: Inshore reef areas, congregating in crevices and caves by day and foraging over the reef at night

Feeding: Nocturnal; crustaceans

Schooling: Solitary or grouped, depending on species

Fishing methods: Spear, handline, pole and line, trap



Awa

Chanos chanos
Milkfish

Description: Grayish green above, fading to silvery below.

Size: Length up to 3 feet or more; most caught are around 18 to 24 inches; weight generally up to 40 pounds

Habitat: Near surface in inshore areas, including brackish-water areas, bays and inlets

Feeding: Diurnal; algae

Schooling: Schools

Fishing methods: Pole and line, net

Seasonality: Generally more taken in summer months



Awa'aua

Elops hawaiiensis
Hawaiian tenpounder

Description: Bright silvery, with blue-green hue on the dorsal area.

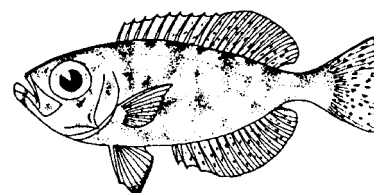
Size: Length up to 3 feet or more; weight generally up to 12 pounds

Habitat: Inshore areas, including bays and harbors, and along sandy shorelines

Feeding: Diurnal and nocturnal; small fish and crustaceans

Schooling: Singly or in small schools

Fishing methods: Pole and line, net



Āweoweo

Priacanthidae
Bigeye, glassseye

Description: Variable coloration, from deep red to silvery, or mottled silvery pink and red; fins often speckled with black; some species plain red by day.

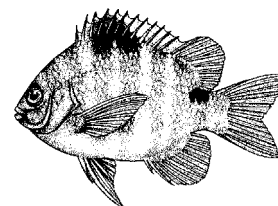
Size: Length depends on species, up to 20 inches; weight generally up to 3 pounds

Habitat: Shallow reefs out to deep boulder areas

Feeding: Nocturnal; small fish and invertebrates

Schooling: Solitary or schools

Fishing methods: Pole and line, handline, spear, net



Kūpīpī

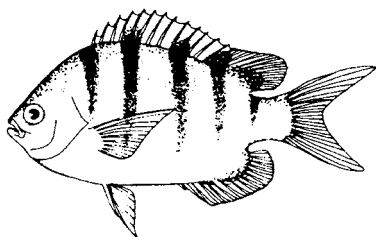
Abudefduf sordidus
Blackspot sergeant

Description: Grayish brown above fading to silvery below; sides marked with seven dark vertical bands; dark spot on upper side of caudal peduncle and at base of dorsal fin.

Size: Length up to 9 inches; weight generally up to 1 pound

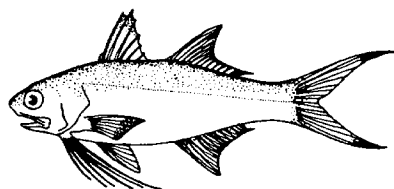
Habitat: Inshore reef and boulder areas; shallow rock crevices; juveniles common in tide pools

Feeding: Diurnal; algae, small crustaceans and other invertebrates
Schooling: Solitary or small schools
Fishing methods: Pole and line, spear



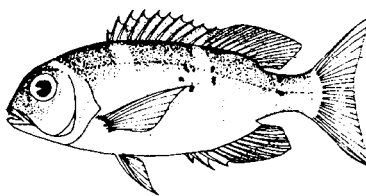
Mamo
Abudefduf abdominalis
 Hawaiian sergeant

Description: Pale brassy or green with four or five black vertical bars; belly white with yellow tinge near anal fin.
Size: Length up to 9 inches; weight generally up to ¾ pound
Habitat: Shallow water reefs, harbors and bays, from nearshore to edge of reef
Feeding: Diurnal; small crustaceans, plankton
Schooling: Loose aggregates
Fishing methods: Pole and line, spear
 Endemic to Hawaii



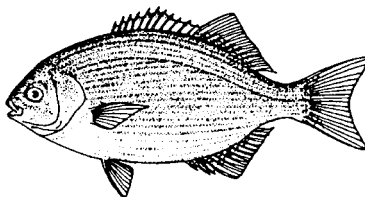
Moi
Polydactylus sexfilis
 Six-fingered threadfin

Description: Dusky above, silvery on sides and belly, with numerous narrow wavy horizontal lines along sides; fins black-tipped; characterized by presence of six long filaments extending from base of each pectoral fin, and overhanging snout.
Size: Length up to 24 inches; weight generally up to 6 pounds
Habitat: Generally found in sandy holes along rocky shorelines, or along sandy beaches in surge areas
Feeding: Diurnal and nocturnal; primarily crustaceans
Schooling: Schools
Fishing methods: Pole and line, net
Seasonality: Spawn during summer months; from about May through August small moi (or moi-li'i) occur in schools along beaches and in sheltered coves



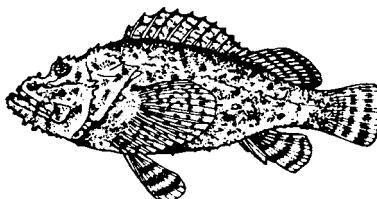
Mu
Monotaxis grandoculis
 Bigeye emperor

Description: Olive gray above fading to silvery below; sides marked with four light vertical bands which fade as fish gets older; inside of mouth red.
Size: Length up to 30 inches; weight generally up to 5 pounds
Habitat: Various reef areas, generally moving into shallower waters during evening
Feeding: Nocturnal; small mollusks and crustaceans
Schooling: Solitary or loose aggregates
Fishing methods: Pole and line, spear



Nenue
Kyphosus spp.
 Enenue, sea chub, rudderfish

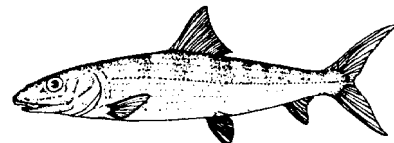
Description: Gray brown with blue reflections above, fading to lighter below; narrow dark bands on sides between scale rows; some fish have irregular yellow blotches on sides, and on rare occasions a fish may be entirely yellow.
Size: Length up to 24 inches; weight generally up to 6 pounds
Habitat: Rough and turbulent waters along rocky coasts
Feeding: Diurnal; mostly algae
Schooling: Schools
Fishing methods: Spear, net, pole and line



Nohu
Scorpaenopsis cacopsis
 Scorpionfish

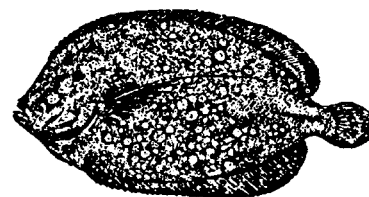
Description: Mottled camouflage coloration, reddish brown with irregular white and yellow hues, fading to lighter below; spines venomous.

Size: Length up to 20 inches or more; weight generally up to 5 pounds
Habitat: Outer edges of reef in water over 20 feet deep
Feeding: Diurnal; small fish and invertebrates
Schooling: Solitary, sedentary
Fishing methods: Spear, pole and line



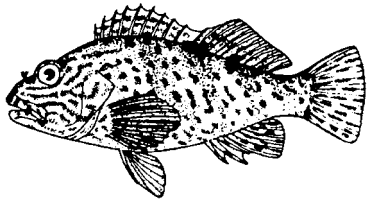
'Ō'īō
Albula spp.
 Bonefish

Description: Bright iridescent silver, with greenish tinge on dorsal area; elongate upper jaw.
Size: Length generally up to about 18 inches; may reach over 40 inches; weight generally up to 16 pounds
Habitat: Sandy bottoms, usually over sand patches or channels in reef areas
Feeding: Generally nocturnal; crustaceans, small fish
Schooling: Schools
Fishing methods: Pole and line, net, handline
Seasonality: More taken December through April



Pāki'i
Bothus spp.
 Flounder

Description: Brownish coloration with irregular mottling, lower surface white or tan; coloration changes to match substrate.
Size: Length up to 16 inches; weight generally up to 4 pounds
Habitat: Sandy patches in shallow water
Feeding: Diurnal; crustaceans and small fish
Schooling: Solitary
Fishing methods: Pole and line, spear



Po'opa'a

Cirrhitis pinnulatus
Stocky hawkfish

Description: Brownish above fading to lighter below, with white mottlings; body and fins have red spots; head bluish white with brownish orange markings.

Size: Length up to 10 inches; weight generally up to 1½ pounds

Habitat: Hides in crevices during the day; at night found in turbulent waters of surge zones, often on large rocks or coral heads

Feeding: Diurnal and nocturnal; small fish and crustaceans

Schooling: Solitary

Fishing methods: Pole and line, spear



Puhi

Gymnothorax spp.
Moray eel

Description: Coloration varies with species; generally brown (darker toward posterior) with numerous round or irregular light spots, depending on species; large fanglike teeth.

Size: Length up to 5 or 6 feet; most under 2 feet; weight occasionally reaches 70 pounds

Habitat: Crevices and holes in rocky or reef areas; rarely exposed, except for head

Feeding: Diurnal and nocturnal; fish and crustaceans

Schooling: Solitary

Fishing methods: Spear, pole and line, trap



Puhi ūhā

Conger cinereus
White eel, mustache conger, tohe

Description: Grayish brown on dorsal surface, fading to lighter below, alternating light and dark bars on body when feeding; well-developed pectoral fins are present.

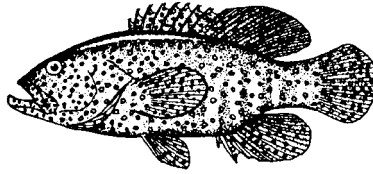
Size: Length up to 5 feet; weight generally up to 25 pounds

Habitat: Crevices and holes in nearshore reef areas by day; moves in open on reef after dark

Feeding: Nocturnal; fish and crustaceans

Schooling: Solitary

Fishing methods: Spear, pole and line, trap



Roi

Cephalopholis argus
Peacock grouper

Description: Purple brown with light blue spots; pale vertical bars present towards tail region, fins edged with yellow.

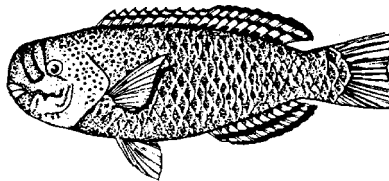
Size: Length up to 20 inches; weight generally up to 5 pounds

Habitat: Reefs and rocky areas at depths of about 10 to 40 fathoms, generally near ledges and crevices

Feeding: Diurnal; fish

Schooling: Solitary

Fishing methods: Spear, trap, handline
Introduced 1956 and 1961 from Society Islands



Uhu

Scaridae
Parrotfish

Description: Coloration varies with species, sex and age; males are generally more gaudy, with colors dominated by blues and greens, females are generally more bland with colors dominated by reddish browns or grays; teeth are fused together and resemble a beak.

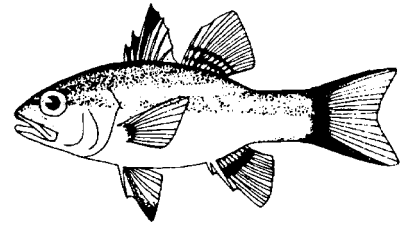
Size: Length up to 2 feet or more; weight generally up to 15 pounds

Habitat: Rocky areas and coral reefs, usually more abundant at outer edge of reef

Feeding: Diurnal; algae, crustaceans

Schooling: Solitary or small groups; juveniles tend to school

Fishing methods: Spear, net



'Upāpalu

Apogon spp.
Cardinalfish

Description: Coloration varies with species; generally light red or brown with iridescent hues; dark horizontal bands present in some species.

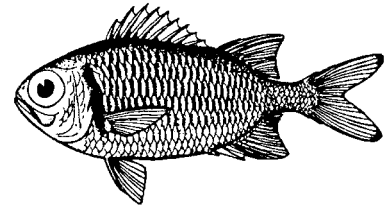
Size: Length up to about 7 inches, depending on species; weight generally up to ¼ pound

Habitat: Nearshore caves and crevices

Feeding: Nocturnal; small crustaceans

Schooling: Solitary when feeding

Fishing methods: Pole and line



'Ūū

Myripristis spp.
Soldierfish, menpachi

Description: Bright red by day, lower sides become silvery at night.

Size: Length up to 14 inches; weight generally up to 1 pound

Habitat: Inshore reef areas, congregating in caves and crevices during the day

Feeding: Nocturnal; plankton, crustaceans

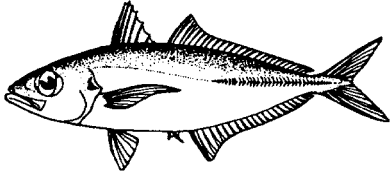
Schooling: Schools

Fishing methods: Spear, handline, net, trap

Seasonality: Spawns late spring to mid-summer; generally more taken in late summer and early fall

CARANGIDS

(Jacks and their allies)



Akule, halalū

Selar crumenophthalmus
Bigeye scad, aji

Description: Silvery blue above fading to silvery white below, yellow tail fin; very large eyes.

Size: Length up to 15 inches; weight generally up to 2 pounds

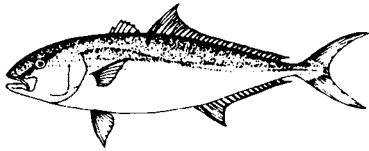
Habitat: Mid- or surface waters along coast, or shallow banks near shore

Feeding: Nocturnal; small crustaceans

Schooling: Large schools

Fishing methods: Halalū (juveniles up to about 5 inches) taken with light tackle; akule are generally taken handlining at night, or by day with net or pole and line

Seasonality: Spawn from about March through October, at which time they form large schools in shallow water; halalū common about July to December
An excellent food fish.



Kahala

Seriola dumerili
Greater amberjack

Description: Light metallic brown with purplish tinge; light yellow horizontal band extends from head to base of tail, fades after fish is caught; dark diagonal streak through eye.

Size: Length up to 6 feet; weight generally up to 120 pounds

Habitat: Deeper coastal waters, typically 60 to 600 feet or more; lives near bottom; young often found around floating objects at sea

Feeding: Diurnal and nocturnal; fish and squid

Schooling: Solitary or small school

Fishing methods: Caught mostly by fishing over deep-sea ledges or drop offs; usually taken handlining offshore, but often come close enough to shore to be caught with baitcasting gear; occasionally by spear or trap



Kamanu

Elagatis bipinnulatus
Rainbow runner

Description: Dark blue above followed in succession down side by light blue stripe, yellow stripe, another light blue stripe; yellow silver below, yellow fins.

Size: Length up to 4 feet; weight generally up to 10 pounds

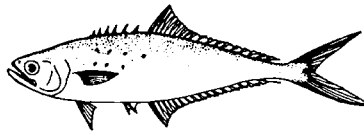
Habitat: Open water, usually near surface; may be found with other fish around floating objects

Feeding: Diurnal; fish and squid

Schooling: Solitary or small school

Fishing methods: Trolling with small lures or baits, by handline, or from shore with baitcasting gear

Considered an excellent food fish.



Lai

Scomberoides lysan
Leatherback

Description: Slate blue above, fading to silvery below; fins may have yellowish tinge; leathery skin with small needle-like scales.

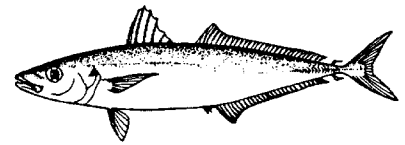
Size: Length up to 2 feet; weight generally up to 2 pounds

Habitat: Inshore coastal waters, sheltered bays and harbors, brackish water areas near mouths of streams

Feeding: Diurnal; smaller schooling fishes, especially mullet and nehu, crustaceans

Schooling: Schools near the surface

Fishing methods: Often caught by shore anglers casting bait or lures for young jacks; also by net; should be handled carefully because of sharp anal spines
Not widely sought after for food; skin is valued for making trolling lures.



Ōpelu

Decapterus macarellus
Mackerel scad

Description: Bluish or greenish yellow above fading to silvery white below, dark spot on upper part of gill cover.

Size: Length up to 20 inches; weight generally up to 2 pounds

Habitat: Near coast in surface and mid-water; juveniles school far out at sea

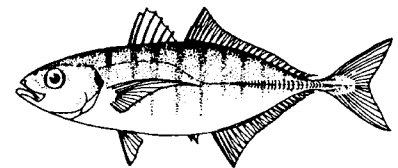
Feeding: Diurnal and nocturnal; plankton, especially small crustaceans

Schooling: Schools

Fishing methods: Caught by handline at night, and with special lift nets during the day

Seasonality: Spawns from about March to the middle of August; juveniles enter coastal areas in late fall and winter

Considered an excellent food fish; also popular as bait and live chum for large tuna, marlin, and other predators.



Omaka

Atule mate
Yellowtail scad

Description: Silvery body with greenish yellow tinge, marked with 9 or 10 darker vertical bars; yellow tail, black spot behind eye on edge of gill cover.

Size: Length up to one foot; weight generally up to ¼ pound

Habitat: Protected bays and estuaries; juveniles very abundant in fall around floating objects, especially jellyfish; not found in open sea

Feeding: Diurnal; plankton, mostly small fish and crustaceans

Schooling: Schools

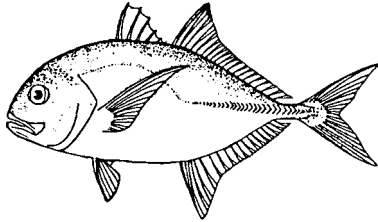
Fishing methods: Mostly taken with light tackle from shore and piers; occasionally taken with net

Seasonality: More common March to October

Considered an excellent food fish.

ULUA

Like other carangids, ulua are fast-swimming predators, feeding on a variety of fish and crustaceans. Juveniles, known collectively as pāpio, tend to live close to shore for protection, then move toward deeper waters as they get older. Ulua are extremely popular gamefish, and the flesh is very good to eat.



Ulua aukea

Caranx ignobilis

White ulua, giant trevally

Description: Pale olive above with greenish tinge around head, white sides, yellow anal fin; color varies to darker shades, depending on fish's temperament and time of day; breast nearly scaleless except for patch of about 10 scales in middle.

Size: Length over 5 feet; weight generally up to 120 pounds

Habitat: Papio caught near shore, adult fish found over nearshore reefs; often hiding in caves during the day

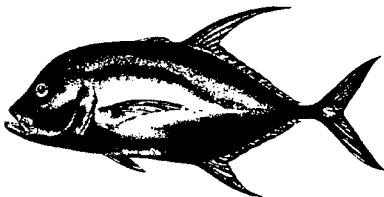
Feeding: Nocturnal, but occasionally caught by day; fish, octopus, crustaceans

Schooling: School; when large (over 30 pounds) generally solitary or in pairs

Fishing methods: Casting from rocky shores and ledges; handline, trap, spear

Seasonality: Young common in summer, adults common year round

An excellent food fish, the white ulua is widely considered to be the ultimate shoreline gamefish.



Ulua lā'uli

Caranx lugubris

Black trevally

Description: Dark brown, with almost black head; may tend toward a creamy or dusky shade; breast completely scaled, scutes distinct; definite notch above snout in profile.

Size: Length over 3 feet

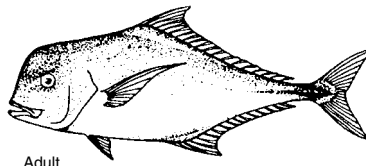
Habitat: Outer reef channels

Feeding: Nocturnal; fish and crustaceans

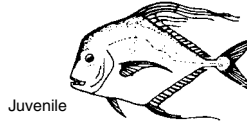
Schooling: Form large schools when feeding

Fishing methods: Casting from rocky shores and ledges

Seasonality: Uncommon year round in main Hawaiian Islands



Adult



Juvenile

Ulua kihikihi

Alectis ciliaris

Threadfin jack, kagami ulua

Description: Adults dusky white, often darker along dorsal area, with bluish, greenish, and yellowish hues; juveniles silvery blue above and bright silver below, with a diamond shaped body and long trailing filaments extending from dorsal and anal fins; as fish gets older body becomes more elongate, and filaments begin to disappear.

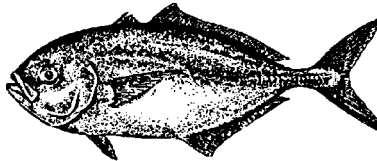
Size: Length up to 40 inches; weight generally up to 40 pounds

Habitat: Juveniles often found in harbors and other sheltered waters, upon reaching maturity move to deeper and more open water, often taken from depths of 60 to 200 feet

Feeding: Diurnal; mostly crustaceans

Schooling: Solitary or small school

Fishing methods: Handline



Ulua

Uraspis helvola

Cottonmouth jack, dobe ulua

Description: Dark dusky color, easily identified by looking inside mouth; tongue and roof of mouth are white, back of mouth and throat and gill areas are bluish black.

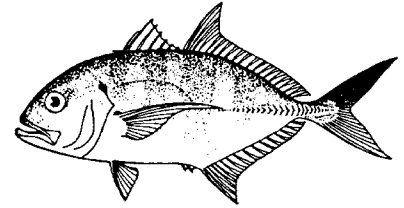
Size: Length up to 20 inches; weight generally up to 3 pounds

Habitat: Dropoff areas, generally 100 to 200 feet

Feeding: Nocturnal; small fish and crustaceans

Schooling: Schools

Fishing methods: Handline



Pake ulua

Caranx sexfasciatus

Bigeye trevally, menpachi ulua, sasa

Description: Dark blue-green to gold above, yellow-green to silver below, upper lobe of tail fin dark with black tip; juveniles have four to seven dark vertical bands.

Size: Length usually under 3 feet; weight generally up to 15 pounds

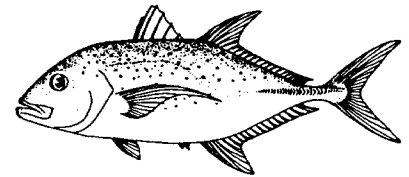
Habitat: Young fish found in brackish water areas out to deeper coastal waters; adult fish live along rocky shores in turbulent water over reefs

Feeding: Nocturnal; fish and crustaceans

Schooling: Solitary

Fishing methods: Handline; juveniles taken with pole and line

Seasonality: More abundant spring to mid-summer



Ōmilu

Caranx melampygus

Bluefin trevally, hoshi ulua

Description: Juveniles silvery blue above fading to silver below, with yellow pectoral fins; as fish ages bluish-black spots begin to appear all over, and body changes to neon blue; fins, especially first dorsal, also blue; breast completely scaled.

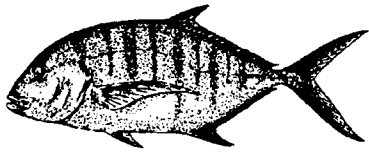
Size: Length up to 3 feet; weight generally up to 20 pounds

Habitat: Juveniles found in shallow bays and estuaries; medium sized fish (6 to 20 inches) taken over reefs; adults often move in close to shore by following channels in coral reefs, swimming over the reef by day

Feeding: Mostly diurnal; small fish

Schooling: Solitary or small groups

Fishing methods: Usually taken with surfcasting gear; trolling, spear, net, handline, trap; juveniles taken with pole and line



Ulua pa'opa'o

Gnathanodon speciosus
Golden trevally

Description: Creamy yellow with silvery and bluish hues, marked by series of 8 to 12 darker greenish vertical bands; jaws of adults contain no teeth.

Size: Length up to 3 feet; weight generally up to 10 pounds

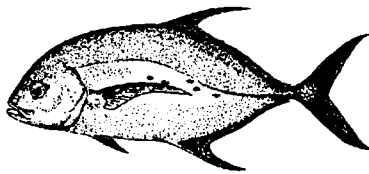
Habitat: Generally found in sandy channels and bars close to shore

Feeding: Uncertain; fish and crustaceans

Schooling: Small schools

Fishing methods: Pole and line, net

Seasonality: Uncommon year round



Ulua

Carangoides orthogrammus
Yellowspot trevally, island jack, papa

Description: Silvery blue above fading to silvery white below, bluish and golden hues on fins; sides marked with a few lemon-colored round spots, which tend to fade as fish gets older.

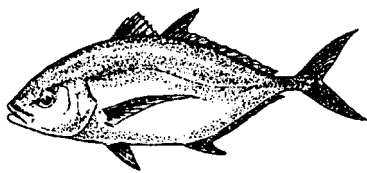
Size: Length up to 2 feet; weight generally up to 5 pounds

Habitat: Near shore

Feeding: Diurnal; small fish and crustaceans

Schooling: Solitary or small groups

Fishing methods: Trolling, spear, pole and line



Butaguchi

Pseudocaranx dentex
Buta ulua, thicklipped jack

Description: Dark silver above fading to light silver below, dark spot at upper edge of gill cover; juveniles have yellow horizontal streak extending through eye and along side of body to base of tail; thick fleshy lips, pointed snout, and concave depression in front of eyes.

Size: Length up to 4 feet; weight generally up to 40 pounds

Habitat: Bays and coastal waters

Feeding: Diurnal and nocturnal; fish, crustaceans and octopus

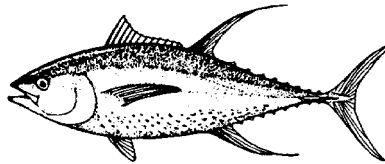
Schooling: Schools

Fishing methods: Handline

SCOMBRIDS

(Tunas and their allies)

Scombrids are carnivorous fishes that feed on squids, crustaceans and other small fishes. They have well-contoured torpedo-shaped bodies, the most perfect shape for high-speed swimming. The anterior dorsal fin can be completely tucked into a groove on the back. Scombrids often live in large schools, and many species are known to migrate over long distances.



'Ahi

Thunnus albacares
Yellowfin tuna

Description: Blackish blue above fading to white below; faint yellow stripe extends from eye to tail, soft dorsal and anal fins and finlets bright yellow; dorsal and anal fins lengthen with age.

Size: Weight up to 300 pounds

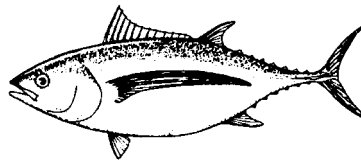
Habitat: Open water, generally found over deepwater banks and submarine ledge areas at depths to 1000 fathoms; young fish often travel near the surface

Feeding: Diurnal and nocturnal; fish, squid and crustaceans

Schooling: Schools

Fishing methods: Longline, pole and line, trolling, handline

Seasonality: Adults more abundant late spring through early fall; juveniles abundant fall and winter



'Ahi palaha

Thunnus alalunga
Albacore, tombo

Description: Blackish blue above fading to silvery below; long pectoral fins which extend beyond the soft dorsal and anal fins.

Size: Weight up to 80 pounds or more, but few exceed 40 pounds

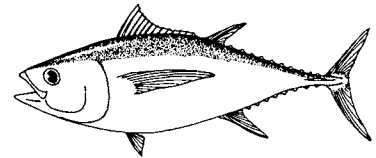
Habitat: Open water, generally staying below 60 fathoms during the day, then moves close to surface by night

Feeding: Diurnal and nocturnal; fish, squid and crustaceans

Schooling: Schools

Fishing methods: Longline, handline

Seasonality: More abundant during summer months



'Ahi po'o nui

Thunnus obesus
Bigeye tuna

Description: Blackish blue above fading to silvery below, yellowish finlets; closely resembles ahi, but has larger eyes.

Size: Weight generally up to 150 pounds, but some have been known to reach 300 pounds

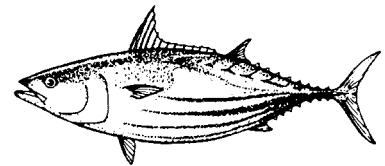
Habitat: Open water, generally staying below 60 to 70 fathoms by day, then moving closer to surface by night

Feeding: Diurnal and nocturnal; fish, squid and crustaceans

Schooling: Schools

Fishing methods: Handline, longline

Seasonality: More abundant late fall through late spring



Aku

Katsuwonus pelamis
Skipjack tuna

Description: Dark metallic blue above, light dusky blue below, with four or five dark purplish longitudinal stripes on side of belly.

Size: Weight averages about 18 to 22 pounds during the summer, 5 to 12 pounds during the rest of the year

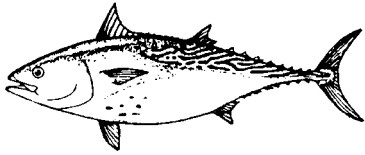
Habitat: Generally found in waters 100 fathoms and deeper

Feeding: Diurnal; fish, squid and crustaceans

Schooling: Schools

Fishing methods: Pole and line (aku boat type), trolling

Seasonality: Taken year round, but most common during spring and summer



Kawakawa

Euthynnus affinis
Wavyback skipjack

Description: Dark blue or bluegreen above fading to silver below; about 12 dark wavy marks on dorsal area.

Size: Weight up to about 20 pounds, but most are around 4 or 5 pounds

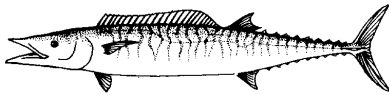
Habitat: Open water, but somewhat close to shoreline, generally in depths less than 100 fathoms; often found over dropoffs, or in association with aku; young may enter bays and harbors

Feeding: Diurnal and nocturnal; small fish, squid and crustaceans

Schooling: Schools

Fishing methods: Trolling, pole and line

Seasonality: Present throughout year, but most abundant during summer when the fish come fairly close to shore in large schools



Ono

Acanthocybium solanderi
Wahoo

Description: Dark blue above fading to silver below, with about 30 purplish-gray vertical bars on sides that flash bright blue when the fish is fighting a hook.

Size: Weight up to 100 pounds, average 30 to 40 pounds

Habitat: Roams the surface waters of the open sea, usually over deep-sea ledges; often found near floating logs and other objects

Feeding: Diurnal; fish, squid and crustaceans

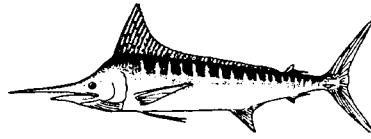
Schooling: Solitary or small schools

Fishing methods: Trolling, longline

Seasonality: More abundant late spring through fall

BILLFISH

Billfish are carnivorous fishes of the open ocean, feeding on squid and relatively large fishes. They are characterized by the presence of a spear, or bill, which is actually an extension of the upper jaw. The bill helps streamline the fish, and is often used to slash at schools of prey; the billfish then feeds on the wounded fish.



A'u

Tetrapterus audax
Striped marlin, nairagi

Description: Royal blue above fading to silvery below, with lavender or pale blue vertical stripes on sides; dorsal and anal fins cobalt blue; high pointed dorsal fin.

Size: Weight up to 150 pounds or more; most average about 25 to 100 pounds

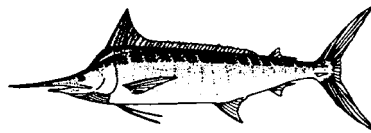
Habitat: Pelagic

Feeding: Diurnal; fish and squid

Schooling: Solitary or small schools

Fishing methods: Trolling, longline

Seasonality: Taken mostly in spring and fall



A'u

Makaira nigricans
Pacific blue marlin, kajiki

Description: Cobalt blue above fading to silvery below, with pale blue vertical stripes on sides and blue patches on dorsal area and tail.

Size: Weight averages about 300 to 400 pounds, but some exceeding 1400 pounds have been taken

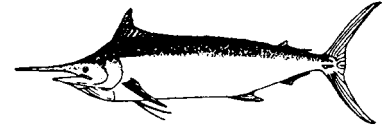
Habitat: Generally taken over bank areas where baitfish are abundant, and over off-shore ledges where bottom drops off from 100 to 1000 fathoms or more

Feeding: Diurnal; mainly aku and other tunas

Schooling: Solitary

Fishing methods: Trolling, longline

Seasonality: Most abundant during summer



A'u

Makaira indica
Black marlin, hida

Description: Variable coloration; most are dark slate blue above fading to silvery below; may have pale blue stripes or blue patches on sides that fade quickly after death; pectoral fins don't fold against body.

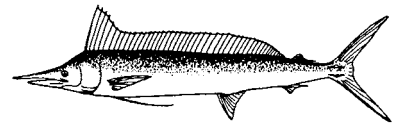
Size: Most average about 200 pounds, but have been known to reach 1800 pounds

Habitat: Pelagic

Feeding: Diurnal; fish and squid

Schooling: Solitary

Fishing methods: Trolling, longline



A'u

Tetrapterus angustirostris
Shortbill spearfish, hebi

Description: Deep metallic blue above fading to silvery and white below; no significant markings; upper jaw extends on a short distance beyond the lower jaw.

Size: Average weight about 20 to 40 pounds, rarely exceeds 100 pounds

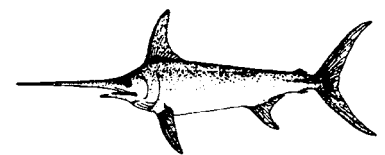
Habitat: Pelagic

Feeding: Diurnal; squid and small fish

Schooling: Solitary or small schools

Fishing methods: Trolling, longline

Seasonality: Most abundant during winter and early spring



A'u ku

Xiphias gladius
Broadbill swordfish, shutome

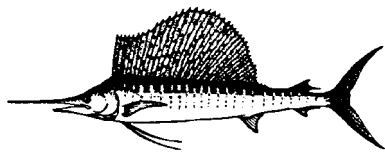
Description: Coloration varies from metallic purplish to blackish brown, but generally dark brown, with silvery iridescence below; pelvic fins are absent, dorsal fin not retractable.

Size: Average weight about 200 to 300 pounds; large fish may exceed 1000 pounds

Habitat: Pelagic

Feeding: Nocturnal; fish and squid

Schooling: Solitary or in pairs
Fishing methods: Longline, handline



A'u lepe

Istiophorus platypterus
Sailfish

Description: Body coloration dark steely blue above fading to silvery white below, with pale purple vertical bars on sides; sail cobalt blue to purple with numerous small blue spots.

Size: Average weight about 30 to 50 pounds

Habitat: Generally near submerged shoals fairly close to shore

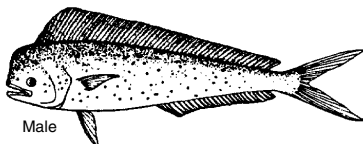
Feeding: Diurnal; small fish and squid

Schooling: Usually solitary; may occur in small schools

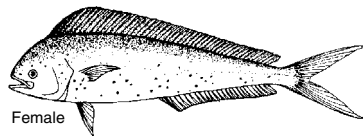
Fishing methods: Trolling, longline

Seasonality: Uncommon year round

DOLPHINFISH



Male



Female

Mahimahi

Coryphaena hippurus
Dorado

Description: Brilliant green and yellow dotted with phosphorescent blue, with purplish blue dorsal fin; colors change rapidly when fighting and just before death. Males have an almost vertical head profile, females are more sloping.

Size: Average weight 20 to 30 pounds; occasionally 70 pounds

Habitat: Open ocean, often seen close to surface near schools of flyingfish, or around floating objects

Feeding: Diurnal and nocturnal; squid and small fish, especially flyingfish

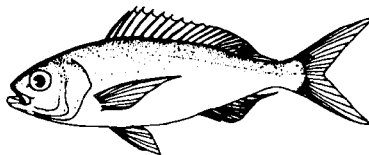
Schooling: School

Fishing methods: Trolling, handline, longline

Seasonality: Small fish (up to 5 pounds) common in summer, large fish (30 to 40 pounds) more plentiful in late winter and early spring

DEEPWATER SNAPPERS

Snappers are voracious carnivores, and the species described here are generally found in the deeper waters of Hawaii, up to 150 fathoms (900 ft), as opposed to the nearshore species described earlier. Most deepwater snappers are a uniform bright color, usually with red or yellow hues. A few species have color patterns.



Kalekale

Pristipomoides sieboldii
Kalikali, von Siebold's snapper

Description: Light lavender above fading to lighter below; scales above lateral line have pale-blue spots in center which form lengthwise lines; margin of dorsal fin orange with light lavender; tail fin dark lavender with light margin.

Size: Length up to 2 feet; weight generally up to 4 pounds

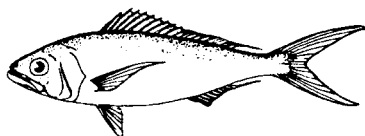
Habitat: Deep waters, usually 80 to 120 fathoms

Feeding: Diurnal and nocturnal; fish, squid and crustaceans

Schooling: School

Fishing methods: Handline

Seasonality: Most caught during late fall and winter



Lehe

Aphareus rutilans
Lehi, ironjaw snapper

Description: Brick red above fading to silvery below; dorsal fin has yellow spot on margins and yellow border; tail has yellowish hues.

Size: Length up to 3 feet or more; weight generally up to 25 pounds

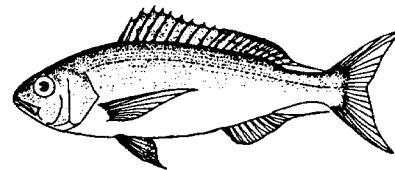
Habitat: Deep waters, usually around 100 fathoms

Feeding: Diurnal and nocturnal; fish, squid and crustaceans

Schooling: School

Fishing methods: Handline

Seasonality: Most caught during late fall and winter



'Opakapaka

Pristipomoides filamentosus
Pink snapper

Description: Light violet brown above fading to dusky white below; pectoral fins yellowish.

Size: Length up to 3 feet; weight generally up to 18 pounds

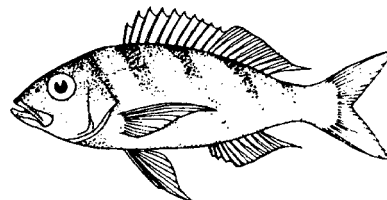
Habitat: Deep waters, usually 40 to 100 fathoms; most abundant over rocky bottom dropoffs

Feeding: Diurnal and nocturnal; fish, squid and sea cucumbers

Schooling: School

Fishing methods: Handline

Seasonality: Most caught during winter months



Ukikiki

Pristipomoides zonatus
Brigham's snapper, gindai

Description: Pinkish red with four wide vertical yellow bands; dorsal, pectoral and caudal fins yellow.

Size: Length up to 20 inches or more; weight generally up to 4 pounds

Habitat: Deep water, usually 60 to 100 fathoms

Feeding: Diurnal; fish, squid and crustaceans

Schooling: Solitary or small schools

Fishing methods: Handline



Uku

Aprion virescens
Gray snapper

Description: Uniform grayish blue, with dorsal area more bluish than below; dark blue towards head; three dark spots near base of dorsal fin.

Size: Length up to 3 feet or more; average weight about 4 to 8 pounds

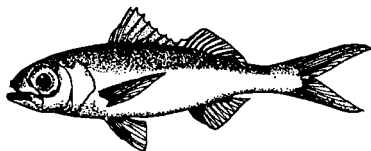
Habitat: Relatively shallow water compared with other snappers, usually less than 60 fathoms; rocky bottom areas outside of reef, deep rocky areas near shore

Feeding: Generally nocturnal; fish, squid and crustaceans

Schooling: Solitary or small groups; large aggregates when spawning

Fishing methods: Handline, spear

Seasonality: Most caught during late spring and early summer when spawning



'Ula'ula

Etelis carbunculus

'Ehu, red snapper

Description: Red above fading to silvery pink below; interior of mouth is pink.

Size: Weight generally up to 9 pounds

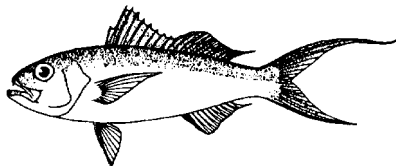
Habitat: Deep waters, usually 100 to 150 fathoms

Feeding: Generally diurnal; fish, squid and crustaceans

Schooling: Aggregates

Fishing methods: Handline

Seasonality: Most caught during winter



'Ula'ula koa'e

Etelis coruscans

Longtail red snapper, onaga

Description: Red above fading to silvery pink below; dorsal and tail fins red; inside of mouth red; caudal fin lobes are elongate, upper lobe longer than lower.

Size: Weight generally up to 35 pounds

Habitat: Taken over offshore dropoffs, usually in water 100 to 150 fathoms

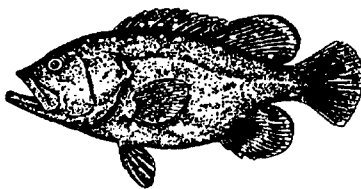
Feeding: Generally diurnal; fish, squid and crustaceans

Schooling: School

Fishing methods: Handline

Seasonality: Most caught during winter

GROUPERS



Hapu'u

Epinephelus quernus

Seale's grouper

Description: Dark purplish brown with small white spots; spots become less distinct as fish grows larger.

Size: Length up to 4 feet; weight generally up to 50 pounds

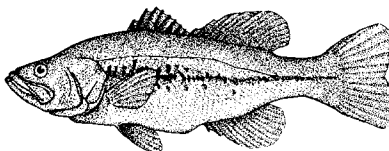
Habitat: Deep water, generally 50 to over 120 fathoms

Feeding: Diurnal; fish and crustaceans

Schooling: Solitary

Fishing methods: Handline

FRESHWATER SPORTFISH (Introduced)



Largemouth Bass

Micropterus salmoides

Description: Coloration varies with location, generally dark green above fading to white below; may have faint horizontal band along sides (more distinct in young fish); jaw extends back beyond posterior margin of eye; dorsal fin deeply notched between spiny and soft portions.

Size: Weight ranges up to 10 pounds in Hawaii; state record 9 lbs 9.4 oz (1992); world record 22 lbs 4 oz (1932, Georgia).

Distribution: In Hawaii found on the islands of Kauai, Oahu and Hawaii.

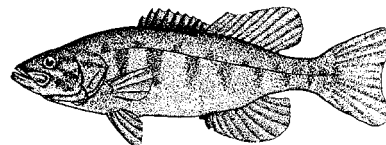
Habitat: Usually found in sluggish waters, occur primarily in reservoirs in Hawaii; prefer submerged logs, weeds or other cover near banks.

Feeding: Young feed on crustaceans, insects and small fishes; adults feed on live fishes, crayfish and frogs.

Life history: In Hawaii spawning season occurs during the winter and spring and is limited to reservoir habitats; male builds a circular nest in 3 to 4 feet of water; male guards the nest and defends eggs and young until they leave.

Fishing methods: Light spinning or bait-casting gear is recommended, with surface or deep running lures, such as plastic worms, crankbaits or spinnerbaits; effective live baits include puntat, tilapia, crayfish and worms.

Introduced to Hawaii in 1896.



Smallmouth Bass

Micropterus dolomieu

Description: Coloration varies with location, generally dark green to olive brown above fading to white below; sides marked with vertical bars and dark mottlings; jaw does not extend back beyond eye; spiny portion of dorsal fin lower than on largemouth bass, and not as deeply notched.

Size: Weight ranges up to 4 pounds in Hawaii; state record 4.98 lbs (2004); world record 11 lbs 15 oz (1955, Kentucky).

Distribution: In Hawaii found on the islands of Kauai and Oahu.

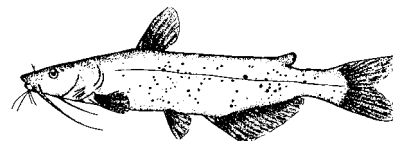
Habitat: Found in cool flowing streams and reservoirs fed by such streams.

Feeding: Young feed on crustaceans, insects and small fishes; adults feed primarily on live fishes and crayfish.

Life history: In Hawaii spawning season occurs during the spring and is limited to stream habitats; male builds a hollow nest in sand and guards the young, viciously attacking any intruder.

Fishing methods: Small spinners or poppers are effective lures; live baits include crayfish or worms.

Introduced to Hawaii in 1953.



Channel Catfish

Ictalurus punctatus

Description: Bluish olive to gray above fading to white below, with dark spots scattered along sides; older males become dark in color and lose spots; long barbels surrounding mouth; deeply forked tail.

Size: Generally under 10 pounds, but have unofficially exceeded 50 pounds in Hawaii; state record 43 lbs 13 oz (1974); world record 58 lbs (1964, South Carolina).

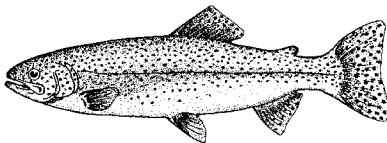
Distribution: In Hawaii found on the islands of Kauai and Oahu.

Habitat: Occur primarily in reservoirs in Hawaii.

Feeding: Feeds primarily on small fish, crustaceans, clams and snails.

Life history: Spawning occurs in late spring; eggs are laid in jelly-like masses in holes and crevices, and guarded by the male; hatching occurs after about a week, and the male continues to guard the young.

Fishing methods: Crankbaits or large spinnerbaits are the most effective lures; a catfish weighing 51 pounds (unofficially) was taken from the Wahiawa Reservoir on a spoon; other baits include tilapia, crayfish, aku belly, liver and various stinkbaits. Introduced to Hawaii in 1958.



Rainbow Trout

Oncorhynchus mykiss

Description: Bluish or olive green above fading to silvery below, with broad pink lateral stripe; back, sides, dorsal and caudal fins marked with small dark spots.

Size: Generally under 3 pounds, but have unofficially reached 8 pounds in Hawaii; state record 5 lbs 10 oz (1991); world record 42 lbs 3 oz (1970, Alaska).

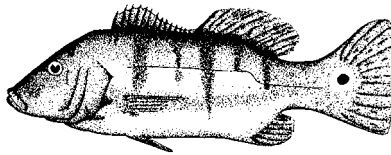
Distribution: In Hawaii found on the islands of Kauai and Hawaii.

Habitat: Prefers cold water streams with moderate flow.

Feeding: Young feed on small insects and crustaceans; adults feed on fish eggs, minnows and other small fish (including other trout).

Life history: Limited spawning occurs in Hawaii because water temperatures are too high; what spawning does occur takes place from about November to February; annual stockings of the Kokee region on Kauai are accomplished with eggs from California, hatched and raised at Sand Island, Oahu.

Fishing methods: Small spinners or flies are effective lures; salmon eggs are used with good success. Introduced to Hawaii in 1920.



Tucunare

Cichla ocellaris

Description: Yellow with a green back and white abdomen; vertical bars along sides; during spawning season yellow color intensifies, and males develop a large hump above the head; prominent black spot on caudal fin.

Size: Weight averages about 2 to 3 pounds; state record 9 lbs 4.2 oz (1990); world record 27 lbs (1994, Brazil)

Distribution: In Hawaii found on the islands of Kauai, Oahu, Maui and Hawaii.

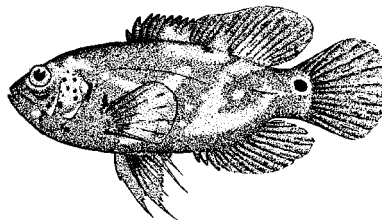
Habitat: Generally found in the larger reservoirs of the state.

Feeding: Feeds exclusively on small fish, especially threadfin shad, mosquito fish, tilapia and bluegill.

Life history: Spawning in Hawaii occurs from about March to September; eggs are laid on rocks or other hard objects and guarded by one or both parents; hatching takes place within four days, and parents guard the young; presence of at least one parent is essential for survival of young, so fishermen are urged not to disturb spawning fish which are often visible near shore.

Fishing methods: Lures include jigs and torpedo-shaped lures that resemble minnows; the only effective live bait is mosquitofish, mollies or tilapia.

Introduced to Hawaii in 1957.



Oscar

Astronotus ocellatus

Description: Brightly colored with irregular red markings on a dark brown body; prominent black spot surrounded by red ring at base of caudal fin.

Size: Weight reaches 3 pounds or more; state record 2 lbs 6 oz (1976).

Distribution: In Hawaii found on the island of Oahu.

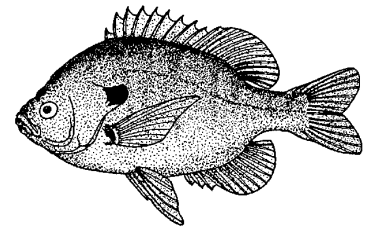
Habitat: Prefers quiet shallow water.

Feeding: Feeds on small fish, crayfish, worms and insect larvae.

Life history: Spawning in Hawaii occurs from about March to September; oscar pairs excavate a circular nest in shallow water, where eggs are deposited; both parents guard the nest.

Fishing methods: Minnow-like lures are effective; live baits include worms, crayfish and mosquitofish.

Introduced to Hawaii in 1951.



Bluegill Sunfish

Lepomis macrochirus

Description: Coloration varies somewhat with sex and age, generally olive green above with blue or purplish sheen along sides; breeding males may have more blue and orange on sides; faint vertical bars along sides; opercular flap is dark blue or black, and prominent dark blotch is present at posterior base of dorsal fin.

Size: Generally 4 to 6 inches in length, may reach 14 inches; state record 8 oz (2000); world record 4 lb 12 oz (1950, Alabama).

Distribution: In Hawaii found on the islands of Kauai, Oahu, Maui and Hawaii.

Habitat: Usually found in lakes, ponds, reservoirs and sluggish streams, occur primarily in reservoirs in Hawaii; prefer deep weed beds.

Feeding: Young feed on crustaceans, insects and worms; adults feed on snails, small crayfish, insects, worms and small minnows; feed mostly in early morning and late afternoon and evening.

Life history: In Hawaii spawning season occurs in winter and spring; male builds a circular nest in sandy areas 3 to 6 feet deep; after fertilizing eggs male chases female away and guards the nest until fry disperse.

Fishing methods: Worms are the most effective live bait; lures include flies and small spinners.

Introduced to Hawaii in 1946.

State records as of Feb 2006;
source Hawaii Fishing News.

Illustrations: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Les Hata / Hawaii Fishing News, Division of Aquatic Resources, Waikiki Aquarium