

TETAU IKA TAI ROTO O TE KUKI AIRANI

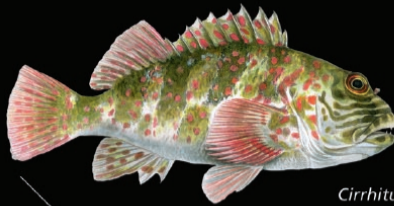
Some inshore fish species of the Cook Islands (1)



Habitat: Clear lagoon and seaward coral reefs. 15–60 m.
Max. recorded size: 15 cm.
Food: Algae.

Centropyge loricata

Katoti • Flame angelfish



Habitat: Reef fronts and rocky shorelines exposed to moderate to strong surge. 0–3 m.
Max. recorded size: 30 cm.
Food: Primarily crabs, and other crustaceans, small fish, sea urchins or brittle stars.

Cirrhites pinnulatus

Pātuki toka • Stocky hawkfish



Habitat: Surge-swept reef fronts and submarine terraces. 1–10 m.
Max. recorded size: 9 cm.
Food: Mostly crustaceans.

Neocirrhites armatus

Red hawk • Flame hawkfish



Habitat: Rich coral reefs to weedy and rubble covered areas. 1–35 m.
Max. recorded size: 23 cm.
Food: Tears pieces from polychaetes, sea anemones, coral polyps and algae.

Chaetodon auriga

Taputapu • Threadfin butterflyfish



Habitat: Seagrass beds and sandy areas of lagoons and outer reef slopes. 1–30 m.
Max. recorded size: 50 cm.
Food: Crustaceans, molluscs, and fish.

Zanclus cornutus

Taputapu reva; Tihitihi • Moorish idol

Habitat: Turbid inner lagoons, reef flats, and clear seaward rocky and coral reefs. 3–180 m.
Max. recorded size: 23 cm.
Food: Small encrusting animals.

Habitat: Sand and rubble areas near coral reefs. 1–100 m.
Max. recorded size: 60 cm.
Food: Gastropods, ophiuroids, echinoids and other invertebrates. Mostly feeds at night.

Habitat: Seagrass beds, sand and rubble areas of coral reefs, deep channels and lagoons. 1–150 m, but usually in shallow waters.
Max. recorded size: 70 cm.
Food: Crustaceans, fish and echinoderms.



Lethrinus xanthurus

Īroa • Yellowlip emperor **



Lethrinus atkinsoni

Mū • Pacific yellowtail emperor



Monotaxis grandoculis

Mū • Bigeye bream



Ellochelon vaigiensis

Kā • Squaretail mullet

Habitat: Lagoons, reef flats, commonly along protected sandy shorelines.
Max. recorded size: 63 cm.
Food: Omnivorous.



Chanos chanos

Ava • Milkfish

Habitat: Coastal, commonly enters bays, estuaries and rivers.
Max. recorded size: 180 cm.
Food: Fish and crustaceans.

Habitat: Mud flats of turbid inner reefs and mangroves, and sandy lagoons.
Max. recorded size: 90 cm.
Food: Roots in the substrate to feed on crustaceans and other small invertebrates and fish.



Albulia glossodonta

Kiokio • Roundjaw bonefish

Habitat: Coral reefs, including sheltered lagoons and outer reefs. 4–180 m.
Max. recorded size: 90 cm.
Food: Mostly fish, but also shrimp and other invertebrates.



Lutjanus bohar

Angamea • Two-spot red snapper ***



Lutjanus gibbus

Tangau • Humpback red snapper

Habitat: Coral reefs. Juveniles in seagrass beds and in mixed sand and coral habitats of shallow sheltered reefs. 1–150 m.
Max. recorded size: 50 cm.
Food: Fish and a variety of invertebrates.



Habitat: Lagoon and semi-protected seaward reefs; prefers sheltered areas. 1–75 m.
Max. recorded size: 40 cm.
Food: Fish, shrimp, crab, holothurians and cephalopods. Feeds at night.

Lutjanus fulvus

Tangau • Blacktail snapper ***

Habitat: Shallow coral reefs. 1–50 m.
Max. recorded size: 28 cm.
Food: Filamentous algae first, switching to coarser algae with increasing size.



Siganus spinus

Maemae • Little spinefoot

Habitat: Sand or rubble patches of exposed reefs. Juveniles often in tide pools. 2–30 m.
Max. recorded size: 120 cm.
Food: Crustaceans, molluscs and sea urchins.



Coris aygula

Aupā • Clown coris (juvenile)

Habitat: Surge zone of outer reef flats, reef margins, and rocky coastlines. 0–10 m.
Max. recorded size: 46 cm.
Food: Small invertebrates (crabs, sea urchins, brittle stars, molluscs), small fish, echinoids, ophiuroids and polychaetes.



Thalassoma purpurum

Karore • Surge wrasse

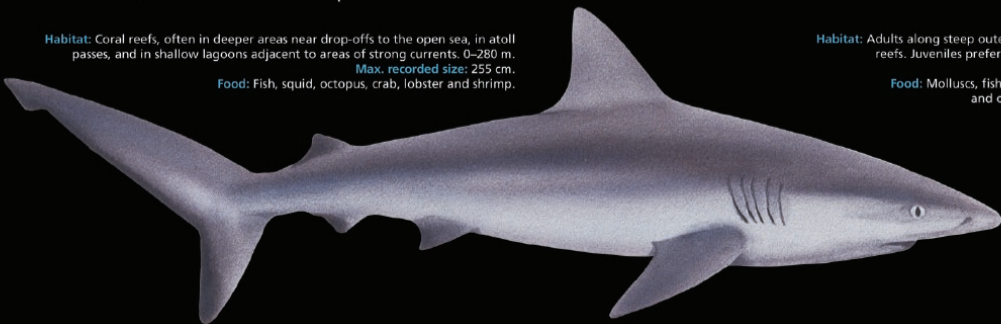
Habitat: Around coral reefs, typically in surge zone at reef edge. 0–40 m.
Max. recorded size: 40 cm.
Food: Algae.



Siganus argenteus

Mōrava • Streamlined spinefoot

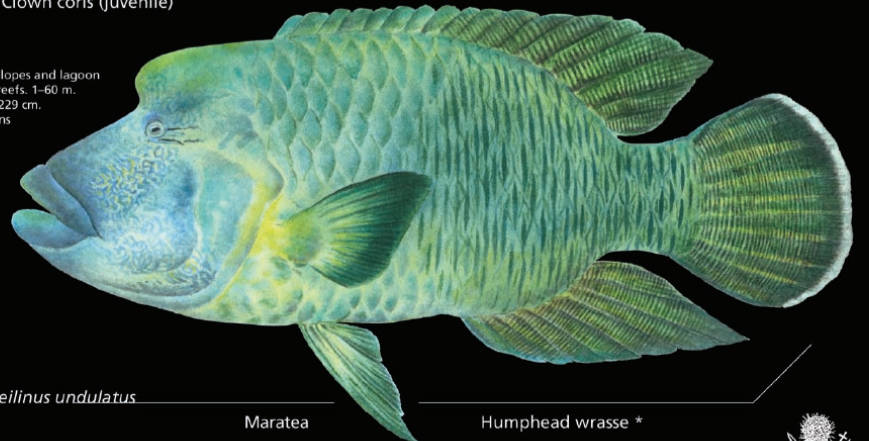
Habitat: Coral reefs, often in deeper areas near drop-offs to the open sea, in atoll passes, and in shallow lagoons adjacent to areas of strong currents. 0–280 m.
Max. recorded size: 255 cm.
Food: Fish, squid, octopus, crab, lobster and shrimp.



Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos

Mangō pāpera • Grey reef shark

Habitat: Adults along steep outer reef slopes, channel slopes and lagoon reefs. Juveniles prefer *Acropora*-rich lagoon reefs. 1–60 m.
Max. recorded size: 229 cm.
Food: Molluscs, fish, sea urchins, crustaceans and other invertebrates.



Cheilinus undulatus

Maratea

Humphead wrasse *

All illustrations by Les Hata, except for *Lethrinus atkinsoni* by Rachel O'Shea. ©SPC 2007. Note: English common names are the ones recommended by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Ciguatera reports: * occasional; ** frequent; *** very frequent.

