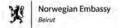


# Eastern Mediterranean fish field guide

Ziad Samaha, Mira Husseini and Michel Bariche







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# **Table of contents**

Abstract Acknowledgements	V VI
Key to the pictograms used in the Eastern Mediterranean ish guide	1
Cow sharks	5
Mackerel sharks	5
Sand tiger	5
Requiem sharks	6
Basking sharks	6
Deepwater catsharks	7
Gulper sharks	7
Sleeper sharks	7
Stingrays	8
Butterfly rays	8
Devilrays	9
Eagle and manta rays	9
Electric rays Angel sharks	9
Chimaeras	10
Guitarfishes	10
Eels	11
Barracudinas	12
Sardines and herrings	12
Anchovies	14
Hakes	14
Goosefishes	15
Mullets	15
Lanternfishes	16
Cardinalfishes	16
Pomfrets	18
Jacks and pompanos	18
Picarels	21
Dolphinfishes	21
Remoras	21
Snake mackerels	22 22
Gobies Grunts	23
Wrasses	23
Tripletails	25 25
Temperate basses	25
Goatfishes	25
Wreckfishes	27
Parrotfishes	27
Damselfishes	28
Bluefishes	28

Drums or croakers	29
Mackerel, tunas	30
Sea basses	32
Porgies	34
Aulopus	40
Barracudas	40
Weeverfishes	41
Triplefin blennies	42
Stargazers	42
Armored gurnards	43
Flying gurnards	43
Citharids	43
Soles	44
Lefteye flounders	44
Scorpionfishes	45
Pipefishes and seahorses	46
Rockfishes	47
Barbeled dragonfishes	47
Triggerfishes	47
Puffers	48
Molas or ocean sunfishes	50
Boarfishes	50
Dories	50
Silversides	51
Lizardfishes	51
Halfbeaks	51
Soldierfishes	52
Dragonets	52
Butterflyfishes	52
Crocodile toothfishes	53
Slimys, slipmouths, or ponyfishes	53
Threadfin breams, whiptail breams	53
Sweepers	54
Bigeyes or catalufas	54
Angelfishes	54
Rabbitfishes	55
Smelt whitings	55
Grunters or tigerperches	56
Flatheads	56
Stonefishes	56
Eeltail catfishes	57
Cornetfishes	57
Porcupinefishes (burrfishes)	57
Filefishes	58
Boxfishes	58
Cutlassfishes	58

#### **Abstract**

This guide covers the most common fish species found in the Eastern Mediterranean, off the Lebanese coast. It presents a selection of 176 species spread across 89 families. The publication offers information summarising natural environments, behaviours, appearances, biology and The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species  $^{\text{TM}}$  conservation status in the Mediterranean region.

#### **Acknowledgements**

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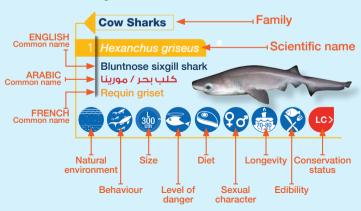
Finally, we would like to acknowledge the generous support of IUCN's framework donors, funders and partners who enable our programmatic work to continue, along with the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Beirut, for their committed contribution to projects that have enabled the production of this field guide.

# **Key to the pictograms used in the Eastern Mediterranean fish field guide**

The Eastern Mediterranean fish field guide is based on an article by Bariche and Fricke (2020), entitled 'The marine ichthyofauna of Lebanon: an annotated checklist, history, biogeography, and conservation status'. The publication enumerates the 367 species that have been recorded in the region.

The present guide covers the most common fish species found in the Eastern Mediterranean, off the Lebanese coast. It presents a selection of 176 species spread across 89 families, out of which 50 are nonindigenous distinguished by a red dot (♠). The guide offers information summarising natural environments, behaviours, appearances, biology and The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ Categories in the Mediterranean region (Bariche, 2012; Bariche & Fricke, 2020; Dray & Rébufat, 2021; Froese & Pauly, 2021; IUCN, 2021).

Each page covers 3 to 4 species of the same family. In addition to the scientific name, the common name of each species is given in English, French and colloquial Arabic as listed in Bariche' (2012) field identification guide if available.



#### **Natural environment**

The following icons represent the species' natural environment:



Water column



Sandy or silty bottom



Rocky



Mixed bottom type



Algae or seagrass meadow

#### Behaviour: sociability/proliferation

This refers to the proclivity of a fish to live in groups. We can distinguish three types of fish: those that prefer to live alone or as pairs, those that live in small groups, and those that live in large groups.



Solitary



Small groups



Large groups

# Size

Size is given in centimetres (cm) and is determined by measuring the distance separating the fish's extremities, based on a typical fully grown individual for each species.









#### Level of danger (to humans)

While most fish are considered to be harmless, some species may be dangerous to humans. For example, they can bite or inflict wounds. Some are venomous and can sting and inject toxins, while others are poisonous and hold toxins in their flesh and be potentially deadly. In this guide we distinguish four different categories:



Harmless



Inflicts wounds



Bites



Poisonous/ holds toxins in its flesh

#### Diet

The following icons represents the fish's diet:







Herbivore



Omnivore

#### Sexual character

Most fish species exhibit distinct male and female sexual characteristics (Dioceous). However, there are some species of fish that change sex during their lifetime. Some are female upon sexual maturity, and later become male (Protogynous), while others upon sexual maturity are male and turn female with age (Protandrous). In some cases, there are fish that exhibit both male and female sexual traits (Simultaneous).



Dioceous



Protogynous



Protandrous



Simultaneous

#### Longevity

This feature represents the maximum age recorded for each species in the wild. For some species this information remains unknown.



#### **Edibility**

The Mediterranean Sea is home to many fish of gastronomic interest. The following symbols are used to illustrate the level of local culinary interest in each species.



Regularly consumed



Not consumed



Rarely consumed



In high demand

#### **Conservation status**

Fish of the Eastern Mediterranean are often exploited for human gain. This can have significant impacts on the long-term survival of the species. The following symbols indicate each species' IUCN Red List Categories at the time of publication of this document.



Critically Endangered



Endangered



Vulnerable



Near Threatened



Least Concern



Data Deficient



Not Evaluated



#### **Common fish species**

# Cow sharks

Hexanchus griseus

Bluntnose sixgill shark کلب بحر / مورینا Requin griset























#### **Mackerel sharks**

## Isurus oxyrinchus 2

Shortfin mako کلب بحر Taupe bleue



© Andy Murch



















# Sand tiger

3 Odontaspis ferox

Smalltooth sand tiger کلب بحر / قرش Requin féroce

























# Requiem sharks

4 Carcharhinus plumbeus

> Sandbar shark کلب بحر / قرش Requin gris





















5 Carcharhinus limbatus

> **Blacktip Shark** کلب بحر / قرش Requin bordé























# **Basking sharks**

Cetorhinus 6 maximus

Basking shark قرش Requin pèlerin





















# **Deepwater catsharks**

© Andy Murch









کلت بحر/ حلد نمر Chien espagnol









# **Gulper sharks**

8 Centrophorus granulosus

Gulper shark أويس / واوي Squale-chagrin commun





















# Sleeper sharks

Sauk Ohieia / Alamy Stock Photo

Dalatias licha 9

Kitefin shark کلب بحر/واوی Squale liche





















# **Stingrays**

#### Dasyatis pastinaca

Common stingray ىقرة





















© Ziad Samaha

#### Pteroplatytrygon violacea

Pelagic stingray ىقرة

Pastenague violette





















# **Butterfly rays**

Gymnura altavela 12

Spiny butterfly ray وطواط/ىقرة/وطوَيْطة Raie-papillon épineuse



© Ali Zogheib



















Mobula mobular 13

**Devilrays** 

Mediterranean devil ray شيطان/وطواط Diable de mer méditerranéen



















# **Eagle and manta rays**

14 Aetomylaeus bovinus

**Bull ray** وطواط/بقرة Aigle vachette





















© Esperanza Guerra



# **Electric rays**

Torpedo marmorata

Marbled electric ray كهرباء/تئلابه/رعّاد Torpille marbrée

















# Angel sharks

### 16 Squatina aculeata

Sawback angelshark حردون Ange de mer épineux











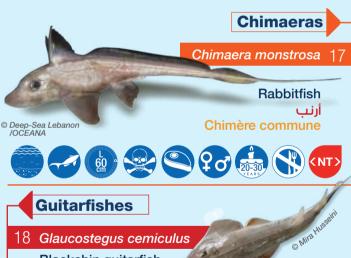












# **Guitarfishes**

18 Glaucostegus cemiculus

Blackchin guitarfish

صر

Poisson-quitare fouisseur





















# **Moray eels**

# Gymnothorax unicolor

**Brown moray** زرنياية سوداء Murène brune























#### Muraena helena 20

Mediterranean moray زرمباية

Murène de Méditerranée





















#### Enchelycore anatina

Fangtooth moray زرميانة صفرة Murène des îles



















# Conger eels

Ariosoma balearicum

Bandtooth conger حىة

Congre des Baléares





















@ Michel Bariche

# **Barracudinas**

Sudis hyalina 23

Transparent barracudina

oilil

**Brochet impérial** 

















© Ziad Samaha



# **Sardines and herrings**

24 Sardina pilchardus

European pilchard سردين

Sardine commune





















# Sardinella aurita 25 Round sardinella رىنغا **Allache** © Dreamstime M ? ? ? ? ? ... Dussumieria elopsoides Slender rainbow sardine







## Herklotsichthys punctatus



Spotback herring سردىن أصفر Hareng tacheté

















#### Anchovies

#### 29 Engraulis encrasicolus

European anchovy أبو حنك / لاتشو **Anchois** 

















© Depositphotos





# **Merluccid hakes**

Merluccius merluccius 30

**EUROPEAN HAKE** مرلان

**MERLU EUROPÉEN** 

















© Michel Bariche





31 Phycis blennoides

> Greater forkbeard خرانة غمق Phycis de fond





















## Goosefishes

Lophius budegassa 32

Black-bellied anglerfish بالوعة / انتين Baudroie rousse



















#### Mullets

33 Chelon labrosus

> Thicklip grey mullet بوری شیلان Mulet lipapu



















Depositohotos

Michel Bariche

#### Chelon auratus

Golden grey mullet بوری دھیان Mulet doré



















Mugil cephalus 35

Flathead mullet لىتاىة/لىت/كتان Mulet à grosse tête























## **Lanternfishes**

Myctophum punctatum 36 Spotted lanternfish

بذرة غمق Lanterne ponctuée

















# Cardinalfishes

Apogon imberbis

Cardinal fish سمكة دم Apogon commun













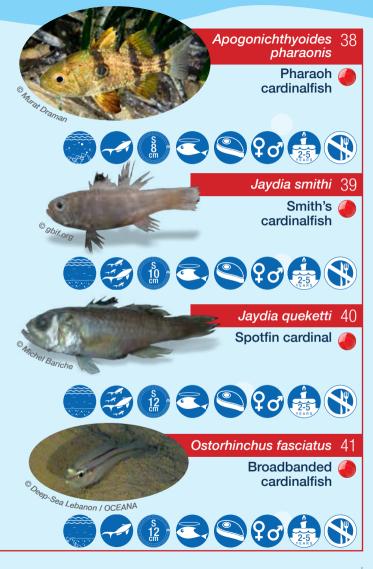














#### Cheilodipterus 42 novemstriatus

Indian ocean twospot cardinalfish





















# **Pomfrets**

43 Brama brama

Atlantic pomfret عفرىت غمق

Grande castagnole





















44 Alectis alexandrina

African threadfish حمل

Cordonnier bossu



















San Samaha





#### 45 Caranx crysos

Blue runner تراخون Carangue coubali





















Lichia amia 46

> Leerfish عريان Liche





















Naucrates ductor 47

**Pilotfish** ريان Poisson pilote





















Pseudocaranx dentex 48

White trevally تراخون Carangue dentue





















Seriola dumerili 49

Greater amberjack حرو أنتباس/زرزور Sériole couronnée



















#### Trachurus mediterraneus 50



Mediterranean horse mackerel

عصيفر

Chinchard à queue jaune





















Trachinotus ovatus 51

**Pompano** عتعوت

**Palomine** 



















# **Picarels** Shurterstock

Spicara smaris

**Picarel** زمرىدة بيضاء/ام نقطة مبرومة/ام عبا مبرومة



















# **Dolphinfishes**

53 Coryphaena hippurus

Common dolphinfish لمبوكة/بودريس/حرباية

Coryphène commune











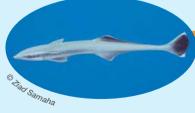












# Remoras

Echeneis naucrates 54

Live sharksucker قملة

Rémora commun



















#### Snake Mackerels

55 Ruvettus pretiosus

Oilfish مبرد غمق Rouvet























# **Gobies**

Gobius cobitis 56

Giant goby

دقّور/رعوش/كابوس

Gobie noir



















# Oxyurichthys petersii 57

Peters's goby Michel Bariche دقّور/أرعوش/كابوس Gobie à tête de grenouille















### Grunts



**Bastard** grunt قسطارَة/قرىق Grondeur métis





















Pomadasys stridens 59

Striped piggy 4























#### Coris julis

Mediterranean rainbow wrasse دىك عرىس/عرنسة





















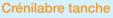


@ Ali Zogheib



#### Symphodus tinca

**East Atlantic** peacock wrasse شفاف

























#### Thalassoma pavo

Ornate wrasse عرنسة Girelle paon























Xyrichtys novacula

Pearly razorfish فارة/حردون Rason





















#### Pteragogus trispilus

**Threespot** wrasse



















# **Tripletails**

#### 65 Lobotes surinamensis

Atlantic tripletail شىر





© Depositphotos



















### **Temperate basses**

Dicentrarchus labrax 66

European seabass ىراق

Loup de mer



















© Michel Bariche

#### Goatfishes

#### Mullus barbatus

Red mullet

سلطان ابراهیم زهری/سلطان ابراهیم وحلی Rouget de vase





















# Mullus surmuletus

Striped red mullet سلطان الراهيم صخرى Rouget de roche

























Red Sea goatfish سلطان خليجي Rouget-barbet barberin



















Por's goatfish







Michel Bariche

















Goldband goatfish سلطان ابراهیم رملی



















# Wreckfishes

Polyprion americanus

Wreckfish شوبارة/ضبع/معزاية Cernier commun























#### **Parrotfishes**

Sparisoma cretense

**Parrotfish** زلىق Perroquet vieillard

























Blue-barred parrotfish زليق أزرق





Shutterstock

















# **Damselfishes**

#### 75 Chromis chromis Damselfish عفرىت/بو مقص/قرد Castagnole





















## 76 Abudefduf vaigiensis



Indo-Pacific sergeant Sergent-major

de Mer Rouge



















# **Bluefishes**





### **Drums or croakers**

### Argyrosomus regius

Meagre مسقار Maigre commun





















#### Sciaena umbra 79

Brown meagre سنسة/شأىمس Corb commun





















### Umbrina cirrosa 80

Shi drum كربال/جروشة Ombrine côtière



















# Mackerel, tunas

#### 81 Auxis rochei

Bullet tuna للموط/بالاموط/بلاميدا ميرومة **Bonitou** 

















© Depositphotos

© Shutterstock



# 82 Euthynnus alletteratus Little tunny

بالامتدا

















Shutterstock

### 83 Katsuwonus pelamis

Skipjack tuna واوي/بلميدا غزال Bonite à ventre ravé



















### 84 Sarda sarda

Atlantic bonito تلميدا غزال Bonite à dos rayé













© OCEANA / Carlos Minguell









### Scomber colias

Mediterranean chub mackerel سكميري

Maquereau espagnol atlantique





© Depositphotos





















Thunnus thynnus 86

Northern bluefin tuna طون/بلو فن

Thon rouge de l'Atlantique























Thunnus alalunga

**Albacore** الباكور Germon























Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel أبو سن/غزال Thazard ravé

















indo-pacifique



### Sea basses

#### 89 Anthias anthias

Swallowtail seaperch



#### Barbier hirondelle



















# 90 Epinephelus marginatus

**Dusky grouper** حفش

Mérou noir





















# 91 Hyporthodus haifensis

Haifa grouper ضبوعة/ضبع Mérou d'Haifa



















# 92 Epinephelus caninus

Dogtooth grouper ضىع/لقز Mérou gris





























# Epinephelus costae 93

Goldblotch grouper زىير

Mérou badèche























Epinephelus aeneus

White grouper لقز رملی Mérou blanc























Mycteroperca rubra

Mottled grouper أريدية/لقز صخرى Mérou royal























96 Serranus cabrilla

> Comber خنوس



























# Serranus scriba 97

Painted comber أبو نوح Serran écriture



















# **Porgies**

#### 98 Boops boops

**Bogue** غنص





















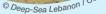


#### 99 Dentex macrophthalmus

Large-eye dentex بحلق

Denté à gros yeux























### Dentex dentex 100

Common dentex بصاص Denté commun



















### Dentex gibbosus 101

Pink dentex جربيدى أبو ريشه Gros denté rose

























# Dentex maroccanus 102

Morocco dentex جربيدي





















# Diplodus puntazzo 103

Sharpsnout seabream عصفور Sar à museau pointu



















# 104 Diplodus annularis

Annular seabream سقىلىنى Sparaillon commun





















### 105 Diplodus levantinus

LevantiNe seabream سرغوس Sar du Levant



















### 106 Diplodus cervinus

Zebra seabream

حداد

Sar à grosses lèvres



















### 107 Lithognathus mormyrus

Striped seabream مرمور Marbré























# Oblada melanura 108 Saddled seabream

منوري **Oblade** 



















# Pagellus erythrinus 109

Common pandora جربيدي

Pageot commun

























# Pagellus acarne 110

Axillary seabream ذکر جربیدی Pageot acarne





















# Pagellus bogaraveo 111

Blackspot seabream بحلق أبو نقطة Dorade rose





















# 112 Pagrus auriga

Red-banded seabream ذکر فرفورة/دوبلتّة Pagre ravé





















### 113 Pagrus pagrus

Common seabream جربيدي مكحل Pagre rouge





















### 114 Pagrus caeruleostictus

Bluespotted seabream فرفورة Pagre à points bleus



















### 115 Sarpa salpa

Salema صلين Saupe





















### Sparus aurata 116

Gilthead seabream أحاج























### Spondyliosoma 117 cantharus

Black seabream سمكة الرىس Dorade grise





















# Diplodus vulgaris 118

Common two-banded seabream أسبور أبيض















# Aulopus

### 119 Aulopus filamentosus

Royal flagfin شكارمو بوريشة Limbert royal





















## **Barracudas**



Sphyraena 120 viridensis

© Depositphotos

Yellowmouth barracuda سفرنة

Bécune bouche jaune



















# Sphyraena chrysotaenia 121

Yellowstripe barracuda



Bécune obtuse





















### Weeverfishes

# 122 Echiichthys vipera

Lesser weever درئنة Petite vive























#### 123 Trachinus araneus

Spotted weever درئنة بيضة Vive araignée





















### 124 Trachinus draco

Greater weever درئنة سوداء Grande vive

























# **Armored gurnards**

### Peristedion cataphractum 128

African armoured searobin **Malarmat** 















# Flying gurnards

### 129 Dactylopterus volitans

Flying gurnard دجاجة **Grondin volant** 



















© Ziad Samaha

# **Citharids**

# Citharus linguatula 130

Atlantic spotted flounder سمكة موسى























## Soles

### 131 Pegusa sp.

Sole سمكة موسى Sole



















© Ziad Samaha



### 132 Pegusa lascaris

Sand sole سمكة موسى Sole-pole





















# **Lefteye Flounders**

Bothus podas 133

Wide-eyed flounder سمكة موسى Rombou podas





















# **Scorpionfishes**

### 134 Scorpaena maderensis

Madeira rockfish مخر Rascasse de Madère















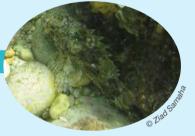






# 135 Scorpaena porcus

Black scorpionfish ام شویك Rascasse brune

















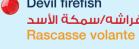




### 136 Pterois miles



**Devil firefish** فراشه/سمكة الأسد



















# Pipefishes and seahorses

# 137 Hippocampus guttulatus

Longsnouted seahorse فرس البحر Hippocampe à long bec



















# 138 Syngnathus abaster Blackstripe pipefish

Syngnathe de lagune



















### 139 Hippocampus fuscus

Sea pony فرس البحر





















# Rockfishes

140 Helicolenus dactylopterus

Blackbelly rosefish شتروب Sébaste chèvre























# **Barbeled dragonfishes**



Chauliodus sloani 141 Sloane's viperfish

Vipère de mer



















# **Triggerfishes**

Balistes capriscus 142 Grey triggerfish مبرد/خنزبر Baliste cabri



















# **Puffers**

### 143 Lagocephalus lagocephalus





















© Michel Bariche

### 144 Lagocephalus suezensis



Suez pufferfish منفخ/أرنب Tétraodon-lièvre de Suez

















# 145 Lagocephalus sceleratus



















© Ziad Samaha





### Lagocephalus quentheri 146

Diamondback puffer منفخ/ أرنب Tétraodon-lièvre doré

















### Sphoeroides pachygaster 147



Blunthead puffer منفخ/ أرنب Tétrodon à tête carrée



















# Torquigener flavimaculosus 148





















### Tylerius spinosissimus 149

Spiny blaasop منفخ/ أرنب



















# Molas or ocean sunfishes

### 150 Mola mola

Ocean sunfish سمكة الشمسا/مولا Poisson lune





















# **Boarfishes**

Capros aper 151

**Boarfish** نور Sanglier





















# **Dories**

152 Zeus faber

John dory حمل / شیر Saint Pierre





















Depositphotos

### **Silversides**

### Atherinomorus forskalii 153

Red Sea hardyhead







@ Michel Bariche















### Lizardfishes

### Saurida lessepsianus

Lizardfish عرموط/شكورمو Poisson lézard





© Alamy















### **Halfbeaks**

# Hemiramphus far 155

Black-barred halfbeak دتوس



Demi-bec à taches noires



















# Soldierfishes

### 156 Sargocentron rubrum



Redcoat سمكة ناىلون Marignan rouget

















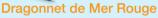


# **Dragonets**

### Callionymus filamentosus 157

Blotchfin dragonet وطواط









Michel Bariche













# **Butterflyfishes**

## 158 Heniochus intermedius





Poisson cocher de Mer Rouge



















# **Crocodile toothfishes** Champsodon 159 nudivittis

© Michel Bariche















# Slimys, slipmouths, or ponyfishes

# 160 Equulites klunzingeri



Klunzinger's ponyfish

Sapsap de Mer Rouge





















# Threadfin breams, whiptail breams

# Nichel Bariche Nemipterus randalli 161

Randall's threadfin bream



















# Sweepers

# 162 Pempheris rhomboidea



Rhomboidal sweeper قمر الليل/سراج الليل



















# **Bigeyes or catalufas**

© Carlos Ninguess

Heteropriacanthus cruentatus 163

Glasseye





















# **Angelfishes**

# 164 Pomacanthus maculosus



Yellowbar angelfish

Poisson-ange géographe

















### **Rabbitfishes**

### Siganus Iuridus 165

**Dusky spinefoot** عقيس أسود/مواسطة/بطريز/ أبو شوكة/تلشفيك/عاقُوص Poisson-lapin à queue tronquée



hutterstock





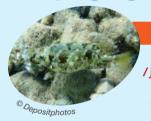












## Siganus rivulatus 166

Marbled spinefoot عقّيس أبيض/مواسطة/بطريز/ أبو شوكة/بَلشفيك/عاقُوص Poisson-lapin à ventre strié

















# **Smelt whitings**

Michel Bariche

Sillago suezensis 167

Suez sillago منّىقة



Pêche-madame argenté







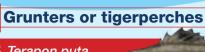












# 168 Terapon puta



Small-scaled terapon

Terapon à queue rayée



















### Platycephalus indicus 169

Bartail flathead Platycéphale indien



© Depositphotos



















### **Stonefishes**

### 170 Synanceia verrucosa





Poisson pierre commun



















### **Eeltail catfishes**

### Plotosus lineatus 171

Striped eel catfish ىسىنە





















### **Cornetfishes**

#### 172 Fistularia commersonii



Bluespotted cornetfish شلمونة

Cornette à taches bleues

















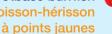
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# **Porcupinefishes (burrfishes)**



# Cyclichthys spilostylus 173

Spotbase burrfish Poisson-hérisson

















# Filefishes

## 174 Stephanolepis diaspros





© Elie Saliba













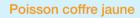




### Ostracion cubicus 175

Yellow boxfish



















# Cutlassfishes

### 176 Trichiurus lepturus

Largehead hairtail

سىف

Poisson-sabre commun























#### References

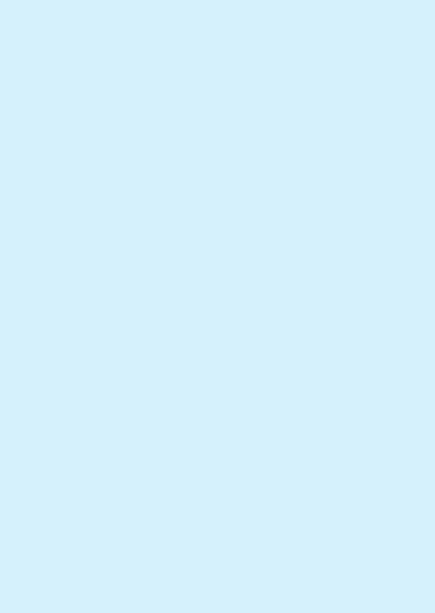
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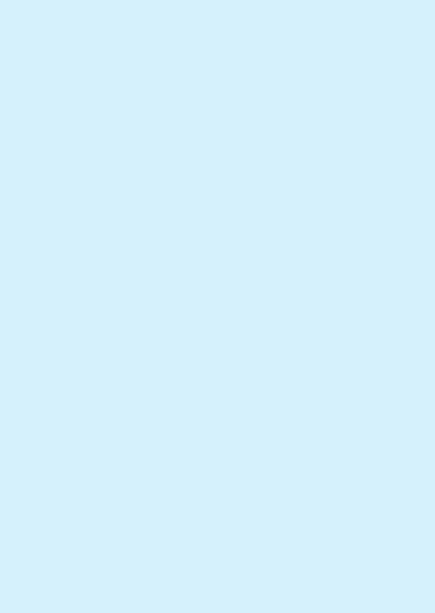
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