

# LIST OF SOME TARGET COASTAL & MARINE FISHES OF CAMEROON





**1. Family Ariidae**

Species : *Arius heudeloti* (Valeznciennes, 1840)

**FAO names :** EN-Smooth mouth sea catfish  
FR-Machoiron banderille

**Common name :** Machoiron

**Size :** 47cm with maximum possible size of 70cm

**Fishing gear :** bottom trawls, bottom set gillnets, surrounding purse seines.

**Habitat :** Coastal marine and brackish waters, estuaries and rivers mouths.



**2. Family Belonidae**

Species : *Tylosurus crocodilus*  
(Peron & LeSueur, 1821)

**FAO names :** EN- Hound needle fish  
FR- Aiguille crocodile

**Local name :** Long mouth

**Size :** Maximum of about 110cm

**Fishing gear :** cast nets, trawling gear, purse seines, set nets, lines

**Habitat :** Pelagic in near shore surface waters



**3. Family Carangidae**

Species : *Caranx hippos* (Linnaeus, 1766)

**FAO names :** EN- Crevalle jack  
FR- Carangue crevalle

**Local name :** Motondoh

**Size :** 22cm, common up to 75cm but can attain a maximum of more than 100cm

**Fishing gear :** surrounding purse seines (not much information), long line and trawlers

**Habitat :** pelagic and demersal characteristics within coastal waters, along sandy beaches ; also brackish waters and rivers, Southwest coast)



**4. Family : Carangidae**

Species : *Caranx lugubris* (Poey, 1860)

**FAO names :** EN- Black jack  
FR- Carangue noire

**Local name :** Bebatah

**Size :** 37cm but can attain a maximum size of 99cm

**Fishing gear :** trawlers, purse seines , lines.

**Habitat :** coastal waters within 25-65m depths and even more. Southwest coast



**5. Family : Carangidae**

Species : *Chloroscombus chrysurus* (Linnaeus, 1776)

**FAO names :** EN-Atlantic bumper  
FR-Sapater

**Size :** 19cm but attains maximum size of 25cm

**Fishing gear :** bottom trawlers, beach seines, set nets.

**Habitat :** coastal waters, estuaries, within lagoons and mangroves with juveniles far offshore.



**6. Family : Carangidae**

Species : *Selene dorsalis* (Gill, 1866)

**FAO names :** EN-African lookdown  
FR : Musso Africain

**Size :** 14cm but attains maximum size of 20cm.

**Fishing gear :** Bottom trawlers, purse seines, set nets, line gear.

**Habitat :** Coastal waters to 60cm depth ; forms schools ; common during the rains.

NODC / CAMEROON Contact : National Oceanographic Data Centre

Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD) – Specialized Research Center for Marine Ecosystems

BP 219 Kribi–South Province, Cameroon, Tel/Fax : 237 – 346 16 46, CTP: 237 – 201 27 20

sponsor by : **IOC/UNESCO - FLANDERS** : "Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa Phase II (ODINAFRICA-II) – Project 513 RAF 2041"

Authors : Dr. Jean Folack, ODINAFRICA National Coordinator, Mr. Charles Emene Gabche , Data Manager , NODC



7. Family : Carangidae  
 Species : Hemicaranx bicolor (Günther, 1860)  
 FAO :EN : Two colour jack  
 Fr : Carangue bicolore  
 Size : 25cm with maximum of 70cm  
 Fishing gear : Bottom trawlers, bottom set nets, long line  
 Habitat : Coastal ecosystems, estuarine waters, demersal



9. Family : Carangidae  
 Species : Alectis alexandrinus (Geoffroy Saint – Hilaire, 1817)  
 FAO : Fr : Cordonnier bossu  
 Size : 45cm with maximum of 90cm  
 Fishing gear : Bottom and pelagic trawlers, long line.  
 Habitat : Adults are demersal within depths of upto 70cm



11. Family Clupeidae  
 Species : *Ethmalosa fimbriata* (Bowdich, 1825)  
 FAO names : EN-Bonga shad  
 FR-Ethmalose d'Afrique  
 Local names : Menyanya  
 Size : 26cm with maximum of 40cm  
 Fishing gear : purse seines, beach seines, surface gillnets.  
 Habitat : coastal marine waters, estuaries, lagoons and even rivers. Southwest coast of Cameroon.



8. Family : Carangidae  
 Species : Trichinotus teraia (Cuvier, 1832)  
 FAO Names : EN : Terai Pompano  
 Fr : Pompaneau né-bé  
 Size : Maximum of 68cm  
 Fishing gear : Bottom trawlers, pelagic gill nets, seine nets  
 Habitat : Coastal ecosystems mostly within estuaries and some times in rivers.



10. Family : Carangidae  
 Species : Trachurus trecae  
 FAO names : EN-Cunene horse mackerel  
 Fr- Chinchard cunène  
 Size : 14-16cm with maximum of 35cm  
 Fishing gear : bottom and pelagic trawlers, Encircling gill nets.  
 Habitat : Pelagic ecosystems with depths between 20 – 100cm



12. Family : Clupeidae  
 Species : Ilisha africana (Bloch, 1795)  
 FAO names : EN – West African Ilisha  
 FR- Alose rasoir  
 Size : 12cm with maximum of 21 cm  
 Fishing gear : Trawlers, beach seine nets, encircling gill nets.  
 Habitat : Coastal waters / ecosystems including estuaries, sometimes benthic.



**13. Family : Clupeidae**

Species : *Sardinella maderensis* (Lowe, 1839)

FAO names : EN-Madeiran sardinella  
FR-Grande allache

Local names : Strong kanda

Size : 23cm with maximum of 30cm

Fishing gear : purse seines, beach seines, cast nets, midwater trawls

Habitat : warm coastal waters from the surface to 50m depth, sometimes in estuaries and lagoons. Southwest coast of Cameroon



**14. Family : Cynoglossidae**

Species: *Cynoglossus monodi* (Chabanaud, 1949)

FAO names : EN-Guinean tonguesole  
FR-Sole-langue de Guinée

Local name : Sole

Size : 23cm with maximum size of 40cm

Fishing gear: Bottom trawls, beach seines, bottom set nets

Habitat: sandy and muddy bottoms from 10- 25m depth



**15. Family : Cynoglossidae**

Species: *Cynoglossus senegalensis* (Kaup 1858)

Local name : Sole

FAO names : EN- Senegalese tonguesole  
FR-Sole-langue de sénégalaise

Size : 25cm with maximum size of 40cm

Fishing gear : bottom trawls, beach seines, bottom set nets

Habitat : sandy and muddy bottoms from 10-110m depth



**16. Family: Dasyatidae**

Species: *Dasyatis margarita* (Gunther, 1870)

FAO names : EN-Daisy stingray  
FR-Pastenague marguerite

Local name : Coverpot

Size : Maximum size of 200cm

Fishing gear : Bottom trawls, hook-and-line, bottom set long line

Habitat : Shallow coastal waters to 60cm depth, enters estuaries and lagoons ; Southwest coastal)



**17. Family: Drepanidae**

Species: *Drepane africana* (Osori, 1892)

FAO names : EN-African sicklefish  
FR-Forgeron ailé

Size : 16.5cm but attains maximum size of 40cm

Fishing gear : bottom trawlers, beach seines, purse seines

Habitat : sandy and muddy bottoms from 20-50m depths



**18. Family: Ephippidae**

Species : *Chaetodipterus goreensis* (Cuvier, 1831)

FAO names : EN-African spade fish  
FR-Chèvre de mer

Size : 21cm

Fishing gear : seines, trawls, set nets

Habitat : sandy and muddy bottoms of Estuaries

NODC / CAMEROON Contact : National Oceanographic Data Centre

Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD) – Specialized Research Center for Marine Ecosystems

BP 219 Kribi–South Province, Cameroon, Tel/Fax : 237 – 346 16 46, CTP: 237 – 201 27 20

sponsor by : **IOC/UNESCO - FLANDERS** : “Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa Phase II (ODINAFRICA-II) – Project 513 RAF 2041”

Authors : Dr. Jean Folack, ODINAFRICA National Coordinator, Mr. Charles Emene Gabche , Data Manager , NODC



19. Family : Lutjanidae  
 Species : *Lutjanus endecacanthus* (Bleeker, 1863)  
 FAO names : EN – Guinea Snapper  
 Fr - Vivaneau de Guinée  
 Size : Maximum size of 20cm  
 Fishing gear : Long lines, bottom set gill nets  
 Habitat : Rocky bottoms with coral reefs, sometimes in rivers



21. Family : Lutjanidae  
 Species : *Lutjanus agennes*  
 FAO Names EN : African red snapper  
 Fr : Vivaneau brun (Afrique)  
 Size : 34 cm with maximum 90cm  
 Fishing gear : Long line, hook and line, bottom set gill nets  
 Habitat : Rocky bottom ecosystems and sometimes in estuaries



- 23 Family : Lutjanidae  
 Species: *Lutjanus goreensis* (Valenciennes, 1830)  
 FAO Names : En – Gorean Snapper  
 Fr - Vivaneau de Gorée  
 Size : 60 cm with maximum of 80cm  
 Fishing gear : Long line hook fishing, bottom set gill nets, bottom trawlers.  
 Habitat : Hard and rocky bottom ecosystems for adults with juveniles within the estuaries.



20. Family : Lutjanidae  
 Species : *Apsilus fuscus* (Valenciennes, 1830)  
 FAO Names EN :- African fork-tale snapper  
 Fr : Vivaneau pourche d'Afrique  
 Size : 18cm with maximum of 50cm  
 Fishing gear : Bottom trawlers, long line and set gill nets.  
 Habitat: Rocky bottoms with coral reefs between 15-100 m.



22. Family : Lutjanidae  
 Species : *Lutjanus dentatus* (Duméril, 1860)  
 FAO names : EN-African brown snapper  
 Fr- Vivaneau brun (Afrique)  
 Size : 75cm with maximum of 90cm  
 Fishing gear : Long line hook fishing  
 Bottom trawlers, set bottom gill nets  
 Habitat : Rocky bottom ecosystems with corals and sometimes in estuaries.



24. Family: *Mugilidae*  
 Species : *Liza falcipinnis* (Valenciennes, 1836)  
 FAO names : EN –Sicklefin mullet  
 FR-Mulet à grande nageoires  
 Size : Maximum of 38cm  
 Fishing gear : bottom trawls, beach seines,  
 Habitat : coastal marine and brackish waters



25. Family : Mugilidae  
 Species : *Mugil cephalus* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
 FAO Names : EN - Flat head grey mullet  
                   Fr – Mulet cabot  
 Size : 50cm with maximum of 120cm  
 Fishing gear : Bottom trawlers, beach seine nets,  
                   long line  
 Habitat : Coastal waters / estuaries .



27. Family Polynemidae  
 Species : *Galeodes decadactylus* (Bloch, 1795)  
 Local name : Capitaine  
 FAO names : EN-Lesser African threadfin  
                   FR- petit capitaine  
 Size : 38cm with a maximum of 45cm  
 Fishing gear : Bottom trawls, beach seines, gillnets  
 Habitat : Sandy and muddy bottoms in shallow  
                   coastal waters ; also in estuaries.



29.. Family Psettodidae  
 Species : *Psettodes belcheri* Bennett, 1831  
 FAO names : EN-Spottail spiny turbot  
                   FR-Turbot épineux tacheté  
 Size : 38cm with a maximum size of 50cm  
 Fishing gear : bottom trawlers, beach seines  
 Habitat : sandy and rocky bottoms up to 150m  
                   depths ; also in estuaries



26. Family: Ophichthidae  
 Species: *Mystriophis cf. rostellatus* (Richardson,  
 1844)  
 FAO names : EN-African spoon-nose eel  
                   FR-Serpenton gris  
 Size : 68cm but attains a maximum size of 140cm  
 Fishing gear : bottom trawlers, hook and lines  
 Habitat : lagoons and coastal waters up to 40m  
                   depth



28. Family : Polynemidae  
 Species : *Pentanemus quinquarius* (Linnaeus,  
 1758)  
 FAO names : EN-Royal threadfin  
                   FR-Capitaine royal  
 Size : 20cm with a maximum size of 35cm  
 Fishing gear : bottom trawlers, beachseines  
 Habitat : sandy and muddy bottoms up to 50m depth



30. Family: Sciaenidae  
 Species: *Pseudotolithus elongatus* (Bowdich,  
 1825)  
 FAO names : EN-Bobo croaker  
                   FR- Otolithe bobo  
 Local name : mussobo  
 Size : 37.5cm with maximum size of 45cm  
 Fishing gear : bottom trawlers, set nets, beach  
                   seines, line gear  
 Habitat : brackish waters and estuaries



**31. Family : Sciaenidae**  
**Species :** *Pseudotolithus typus* Bleeker, 1863  
**FAO names :** EN-Longneck croaker  
 FR-Otolithe naka  
**Local name :** Mussobo  
**Size :** 73cm with maximum size of 100m  
**Fishing gear :** Bottom trawlers, bottom gill nets  
**Habitat :** muddy and sandy bottoms to about 150m depth



**33. Family : Sciaenidae**  
**Species :** *Pseudotolithus canariensis* (Valenciennes, 1843)  
**FAO names :** EN-Canary drum  
 FR-Ombrine bronze  
**Local name :** Mussobo  
**Size :** 67cm with maximum size of 63cm  
**Fishing gear :** bottom trawlers, artisanal gear, mainly long lines  
**Habitat :** in shallow waters, sandy or rocky bottoms between 15-75m depths



**35. Family :** Scombridae  
**Species:** *Thunnus obsesus* (lowe, 1839)  
**FAO. Names:** EN: Bigeye tuna  
 FR: Thon Obèse  
**Local Name:** Fuma – fuma  
**Size:** 100cm with maximum of 200cm  
**Fishing gear:** set gillnets, Long lines, purse seines  
**Habitat :** Frequent deeper coastal waters, also common in artisanal fishing gear



**32. Family : Sciaenidae**  
**Species :** *Pseudotolithus senegalensis*  
**FAO names :** EN-Cassava croaker  
 FR- Otolithe sénégalais  
**Local name:** Mussobo  
**Size :** Maximum size of 100cm  
**Fishing gear :** Bottom trawlers fishing around sandy or rocky bottom depths  
**Habitat::** Sandy or rocky bottom depths of less deeper waters

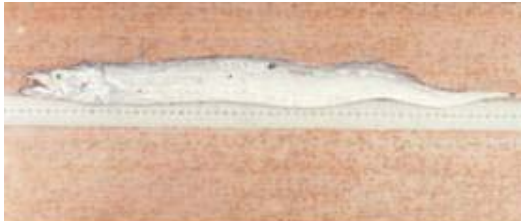


**34. Family: Scombridae**  
**Species:** *Scomberomorus tritor* (Cuvier, 1831)  
**FAO names :** EN :West African spanish mackerel  
 FR : Thazard blanc  
**Local name :** Nyanga fish  
**Size:** 53cm with maximum of 100cm  
**Fishing gear :** purse seines, set gillnets, long lines  
**Habitat :** found in warm waters, sometimes enters estuaries, Southwest coast.



**36. Family: Sphraenidae**  
**Species:** *Sphraena piscatorium*  
**FAO names :** EN- Barracuda  
 FR-Bécune  
**Locale name :** barracuda  
**Size :** 38cm with maximum size of 180cm  
**Fishing gear :** trawlers, set gillnets, seines, beach seines, handlines, hook and line  
**Habitat :** in coastal and offshore waters

NODC / CAMEROON Contact : National Oceanographic Data Centre  
 Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD) – Specialized Research Center for Marine Ecosystems  
 BP 219 Kribi–South Province, Cameroon, Tel/Fax : 237 – 346 16 46, CTP: 237 – 201 27 20  
 sponsor by : **IOC/UNESCO - FLANDERS** : “Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa Phase II (ODINAFRICA-II) – Project 513 RAF 2041”  
 Authors : Dr. Jean Folack, ODINAFRICA National Coordinator, Mr. Charles Emene Gabche , Data Manager , NODC



**37. Family: *Trichiuridae***

Species: *Trichiurus lepturus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**FAO names :** EN- Largehead hairtail  
FR- Poisson sabre commun

**Local name :** snakefish

**Size :** 65cm with maximum of 150cm

**Fishing gear :** bottom trawlers, longlines, gillnets, purse seines, traps, handlines

**Habitat :** benthic-pelagic, but also found on muddy bottoms in coastal waters and estuaries.



**39. Family: *Volutidae***

Species: *Cymbium glans* (Gmelin, 1791)

**FAO names :** EN-Elephants snout volute  
FR- Volute trompe d'éléphant

**Size :** 23cm

**Habitat :** offshore waters, on sand



**41. Family: *Sciaenidae***

Species: *Pteroscion peli* (Bleeker, 1863)

**FAO names :** EN-boe drum  
FR-Courbine pélin

**Size :** 19cm

**Fishing gear :** bottom trawls, bottom set nets, line gear

**Habitat :** coastal waters to about 200m depth, but more common between 30-60m.



**38. Family: *Sphyrnidae***

Species: *Sphyrna couardi* (Cadenat, 1950)

**FAO names :** EN-White fin hammer head  
FR-Requin marteau aile blanche

**Local name :** shark

**Size :** 54cm with maximum of 300cm

**Fishing gear :** no information

**Habitat :** pelagic in coastal waters



**40. Family: *Penaeidae***

Species: *Penaeus cf. kerathurus* (Forsskal, 1775)

**FAO names :** EN-Caramote prawn  
FR- Caramot

**Size :** 24cm

**Fishing gear :** bottom trawls

**Habitat :** coastal waters , on sandy and muddy bottoms



**42. Family: *Portunidae***

Species: *Portunus validus* (Herklots, 1851)

**FAO names :** EN-Smooth swim crab  
FR-Etrille lisse

**Size :** 14 cm (length from head to abdomen)

**Fishing gear :** beach seines, bottom trawls (by-catch)

**Habitat :** from coastline to 50m depth. More common in the warm season.

NODC / CAMEROON Contact : National Oceanographic Data Centre

Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD) – Specialized Research Center for Marine Ecosystems

BP 219 Kribi–South Province, Cameroon, Tel/Fax : 237 – 346 16 46, CTP: 237 – 201 27 20

sponsor by : **IOC/UNESCO - FLANDERS** : "Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa Phase II (ODINAFRICA-II) – Project 513 RAF 2041"

Authors : Dr. Jean Folack, ODINAFRICA National Coordinator, Mr. Charles Emene Gabche , Data Manager , NODC



**43 Family: Palaemonidae**  
 Species: *Macrobrachium sp.*  
**Local name** : Njanga  
**Size** : 11cm  
**Fishing gear** : basket traps  
**Habitat** : fresh and brackish water



**45. Family: Palinuridae**  
 Species: *Panulirus sp.*  
**FAO names** : EN-Spiny lobster  
 FR-Langouste  
**Locale name** : lobster  
**Size** : 22cm  
**Fishing gear** : bottom set nets, bottom trawls  
**Habitat** : Shallow coastal waters from 5-40m depth on rocky and sandy bottoms.



**47. Family : Sepiidae**  
 Species *Sepia elobyana* Adam, 1841  
**FAO names** : EN-Guinean cuttlefish  
 FR- Seiche de Guinée  
**Local name** : Cephalopods  
**Size** : 6cm maximum  
**Fishing gear** : bottom trawlers by-catch, bottom set gill nets  
**Habitat** : coastal marine and brackish waters etc.



**44. Family: Paenidae**  
 Species: *Panaeus sp.*  
**FAO names** : EN-Shrimp  
 FR –Crevette  
**Local name** : Njanga  
**Size** : 14cm  
**Fishing gear** : bottom trawls, in lagoons with artisanal gear : pots, stow-nets etc.  
**Habitat** : coastal marine waters, estuaries and lagoons



**46. Family: Squalidae**  
 Species: *Carcharinus sp.*  
**FAO names** : EN-Shark  
 FR-Requin  
**Local name** : Shark  
**Size** : near 100cm  
**Fishing gear** : long lines, bottom set nets  
**Habitat** : pelagic in warm oceanic waters



**48. Family :** *Sparidae*  
 Species : *Pagrus ariga*, (Valenciennes, 1843)  
 FAO Names: EN : Red banded seabream  
 Fr : Pagre rayé  
 Size : 40-60cm  
 Fishing gear : Long line and bottom set nets  
 Habitat : trawlers coastal rocky bottoms with sand up to 170m depths