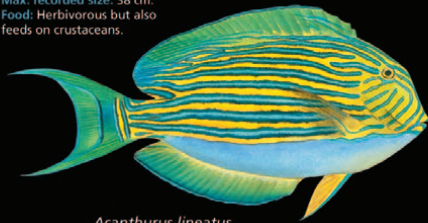


NISI IKA KAINA MASANI O TUVALU

Some popular food fish of Tuvalu (1)

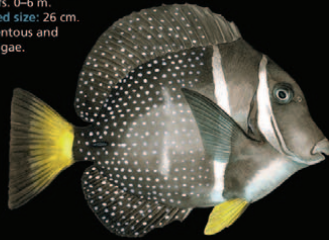
Habitat: Common in surge zones of exposed seaward reefs, 0–15 m.
Max. recorded size: 38 cm.
Food: Herbivorous but also feeds on crustaceans.



Acanthurus lineatus

Ponelolo (Ffuti, Nmaga, Nmea, NTO, Nui, Nlae, VTP)
Pone matagi (Ntau) • Lined surgeonfish

Habitat: Surge zone of clear seaward reefs, 0–6 m.
Max. recorded size: 26 cm.
Food: Filamentous and calcareous algae.



Acanthurus guttatus

Maono (Nmaga, Nmea, NTO, Nui, VTP) Api (Ffuti, Ntau, Nlae)
Whitespotted surgeonfish

Habitat: Lagoon and seaward reefs with hard substrate, 0–90 m.
Max. recorded size: 27 cm.
Food: Filamentous algae.



Acanthurus triostegus

Manini (Ffuti, Nmaga, Nmea, NTO, Ntau, Nlae, VTP)
Koinava (Nui) • Convict surgeonfish

Habitat: Almost every available reef habitat, 3–50 m.
Max. recorded size: 40 cm.
Food: Benthic algae.



Chlorurus sordidus

Laea (Ffuti, Nmaga, NTO, Nui, Nlae, VTP) Kaamutu (Nmea)
Unauna laea (Ntau) • Tomato hind

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



Liza vaigiensis

Kafakafa (Ffuti, Nmaga, Nmea, NTO, Ntau, Nlae, VTP) Baibue (Nui)
Squaretail mullet

Habitat: Hides in caves, channels and margins to outer reef slopes, 1–50 m.
Max. recorded size: 30 cm.
Food: Mainly plankton such as crab larvae.



Myripristis berndti

Malau puku (Ffuti, Nmaga, Nmea, NTO, Ntau, Nlae, VTP)
Te mon (Nui) • Blotcheye soldierfish

Habitat: From reef flats to lagoon and seaward reefs, 1–120 m.
Max. recorded size: 51 cm.
Food: Crabs, shrimps and small fish. Nocturnal feeder.



Sargocentron spiniferum

Taa malau (Ffuti, Nmaga, Nmea, NTO, Nui, Nlae, VTP) Taa (Ntau)
Sabre squirrelfish

Habitat: Lagoon and seaward reefs, 1–15 m.
Max. recorded size: 35 cm.
Food: Algae and associated material scraped from rocks or dead corals.



Scarus oviceps

Ulaifi (Ffuti, Nmaga, NTO, Ntau, Nlae, VTP) Alomea (Nmea)
Te inai (Nui) • Darkcapped parrotfish

Habitat: Coastal waters, over sandy or muddy areas of lagoons, reef flats and tide pools, 0–20 m.
Max. recorded size: 60 cm.
Food: Omnivorous.



Crenimugil crenilabris

Kanase (Ffuti, Nmea, NTO, Nlae, VTP) Fua kanase (Nmaga, Ntau) Te aua (Nui)
Fringelip mullet

Habitat: Coral reefs, in shallow lagoons and on outer reef slopes. Juveniles in seagrass beds around patch reefs, 3–265 m.
Max. recorded size: 40 cm.
Food: Fish, shrimps, crabs, stomatopods, cephalopods, planktonic crustaceans and a variety of algae.



Lutjanus kasmira

Savane (Ffuti, Nmaga, NTO, Ntau, Nlae, VTP) Maatohi (Nmea)
Riinimatang (Nui) • Common bluestripe snapper

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



Siganus argenteus

Maiava (Ffuti, Ntau, Nlae, VTP) Paua (Nmea) Baua (Nui)
Streamlined spinefoot



Kyphosus cinerascens

Nanue (Ffuti, Nmaga, Nmea, NTO, Ntau, Nlae, VTP) Inonikai (Nui)
Blue sea chub

Habitat: Reef associated, 0–180 m.
Max. recorded size: 112 cm.
Food: Fish, shrimp, crab, cephalopods and zooplankton.



Aprion virescens

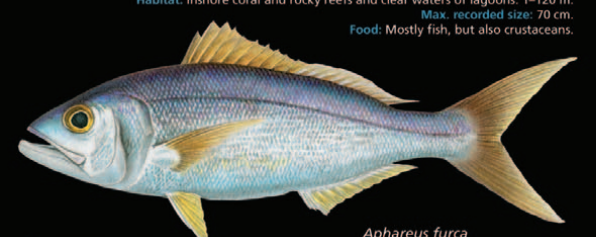
Utu (Ffuti, Nmaga, Nmea, NTO, Nui, Ntau, Nlae, VTP) • Green jobfish



Lutjanus gibbus

Taea (Ffuti, Nmaga, Nmea, NTO, Ntau, Nlae, VTP) Ika ni bong (Nui)
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.



Aphareus furca

Palusega (Ffuti, Ntau, Nui, Nlae, VTP) Kootua (Nmea) Taelepe (Nmaga)
Takuoga (NTO) • Smalltoothed jobfish



Lethrinus olivaceus

Filoa (Ffuti, Nmea, NTO) Kapatiko (Ntau, Nlae, VTP) Rou (Nui) • Longface emperor

Habitat: Lagoon pinnacles, channels, and outer reef slopes, in coral-rich areas with clear waters, 1–60 m.
Max. recorded size: 120 cm.
Food: Fish, crabs, and cephalopods.



Epinephelus fuscoguttatus

Faapuku (Ffuti, Nlae, VTP) Palati (Nmea) Munua (Ntau)
Gatala (NTO, Nui) • Brown marbled grouper

Habitat: Channels, moats, lagoon and seaward reefs with strong surge, 1–180 m.
Max. recorded size: 70 cm.
Food: Mainly leafy brown algae. Mostly diurnal feeder.



Naso unicornis

Ume (Ffuti, Nmaga, Nmea, NTO, Nui, Nlae, VTP) Tupotupo (Ntau)
Bluespine unicornfish



Lethrinus obsoletus

Tanutanu (Ffuti, Nmaga, Nmea, Ntau, Nlae, VTP) Okaoka (Nui)
Orange-striped emperor

Habitat: Seagrass beds, sand and rubble areas of lagoons and reefs, 0–30 m.
Max. recorded size: 60 cm.
Food: Molluscs, crustaceans, and echinoderms.

Habitat: Isolated coral heads of lagoon and seaward reefs, 2–100 m.
Max. recorded size: 60 cm.
Food: Fish, crustaceans, and sometimes octopus.



Gerres oyena

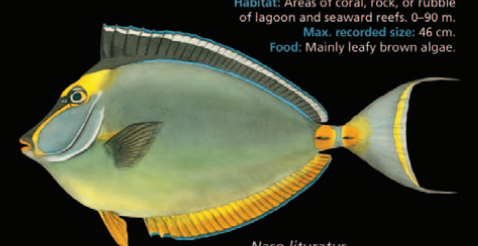
Matu (Ffuti, Nmea, Ntau, Nlae, VTP) Te ninimai (Nui)
Silver biddy



Habitat: Usually in clear-water areas at depths below 15 m, and prefers islands and offshore reefs, 3–250 m.
Max. recorded size: 83 cm.
Food: Fish, crab, shrimp and stomatopods.

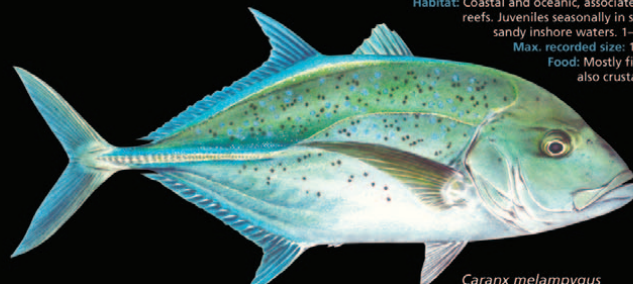
Epinephelus merra

Gatala (Nmaga, Nmea, NTO, Nlae, VTP) Gatalaliki (Ffuti)
Tama gatala (Ntau) Kuau (Nui) • Honeycomb grouper



Naso lituratus

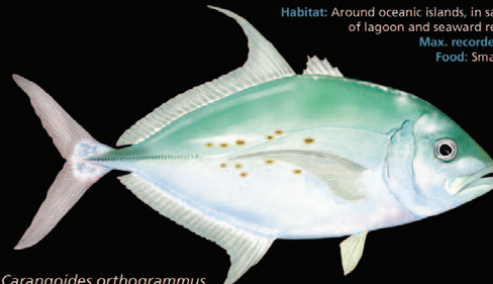
Manini lakau (Ffuti, Nmea, Nui, Nlae) Umalei (Nmaga, NTO, Ntau, VTP)
Orangespine unicornfish



Habitat: Coastal and oceanic, associated with reefs. Juveniles seasonally in shallow sandy inshore waters, 1–190 m.
Max. recorded size: 117 cm.
Food: Mostly fish, but also crustaceans.

Caranx melampygus

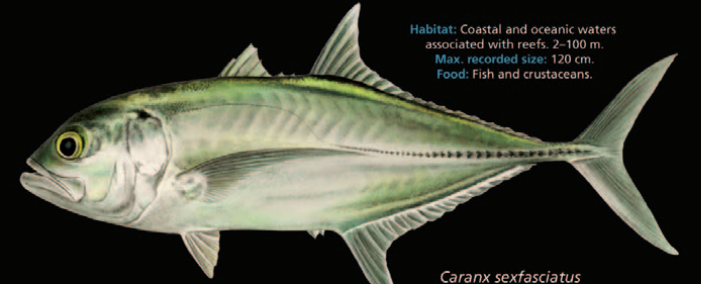
Ulua (Ffuti, Nmaga, Nmea, Nui, VTP) Fua ika (NTO) Aseu (Ntau, Nlae)
Bluefin trevally



Carangoides orthogrammus

Filu (Ntau, VTP) Pula (Ffuti) Fuaika (Nmea) Kautea (Nui) Pakeva (Nlae)
Island trevally

Habitat: Around oceanic islands, in sandy channels of lagoon and seaward reefs, 3–170 m.
Max. recorded size: 75 cm.
Food: Small crustaceans in the sand.



Habitat: Coastal and oceanic waters associated with reefs, 2–100 m.
Max. recorded size: 120 cm.
Food: Fish and crustaceans.

Caranx sexfasciatus

Teu (Ffuti, Nmaga, Nmea, Nlae, NTO) Kata (Ntau, VTP) Ulua (Nui) • Bigeye trevally



Produced by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Marine Resources Division, Information Section, in collaboration with the Fisheries Department of Tuvalu.

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