

# Fish identification and habitat relationships

Snorkelling in marine reserves is a popular activity because of the great opportunities for close encounters with fish. As fish in these areas are fully protected they are more abundant and less wary of people. Swimmers are therefore able to see many more species than could be seen along parts of the coast where fishing is still allowed.

The DOC pamphlet *The Underwater World* shows 19 different species of fish that are commonly seen in the Cape Rodney – Okakari Point Marine Reserve. Each fish illustration has a caption giving brief habitat or life style details.



Nearly all of these fish are also shown in colour on the large interpretation panel in the covered information kiosk near the entrance to Goat Island Beach. In this display the fish are illustrated in or alongside the habitats in which they are seen most frequently. This allows students to see the relationships between species and habitat.

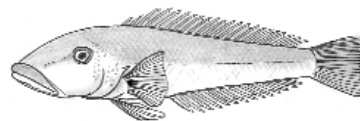
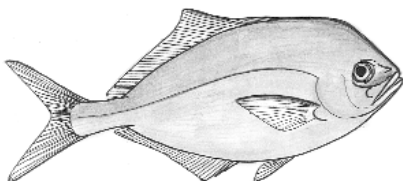
## Fish frenzy

### Pre-visit fish identification exercise

The fish in the fish identification sheet are all seen in Goat Island Bay, Cape Rodney – Okakari Point Marine Reserve.

Some are very common and others are restricted to particular habitats. The illustrations are the same as in the DOC pamphlet *The Underwater World* but some fish are flipped.

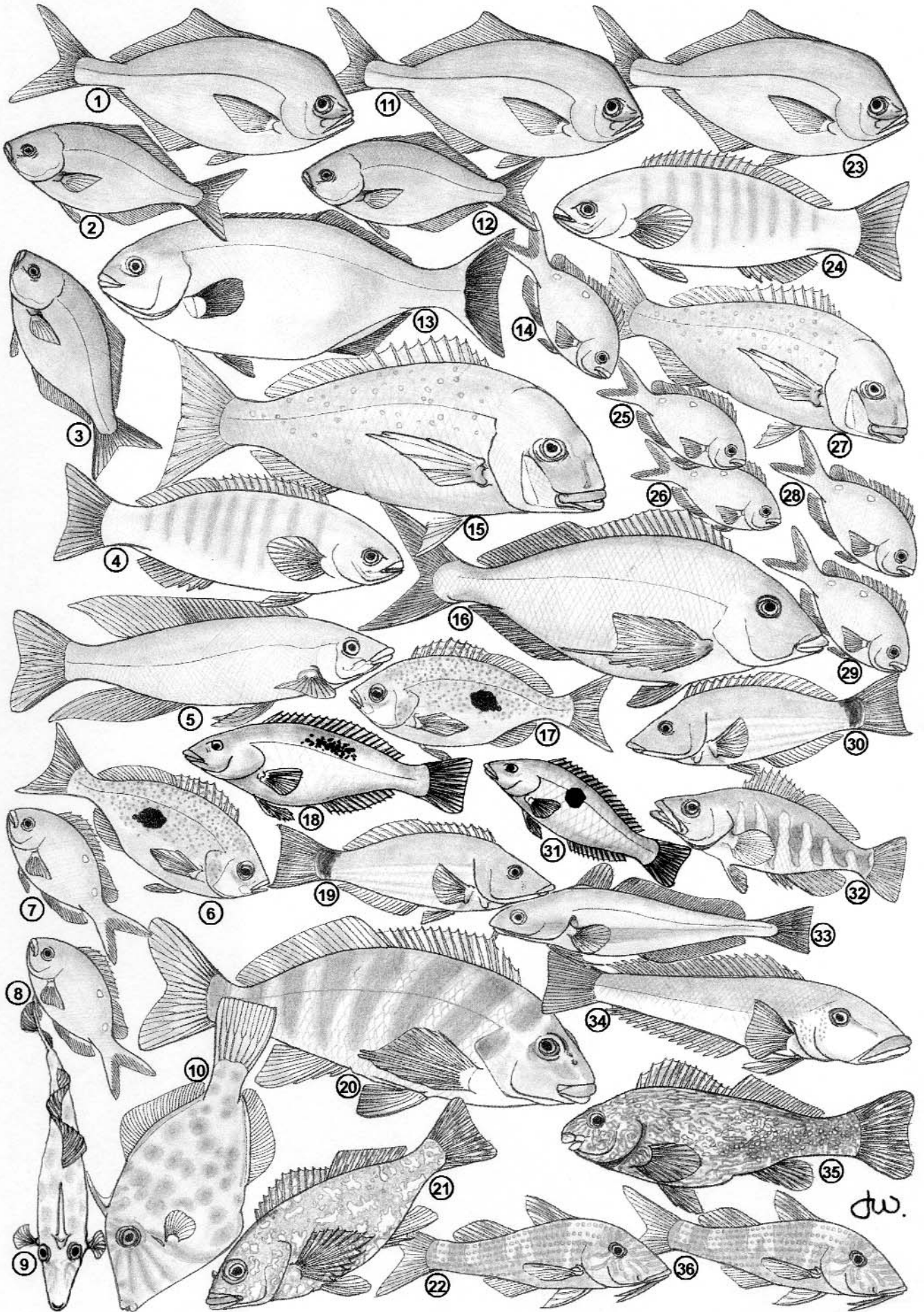
Students should use the pamphlet and fish identification books (listed in the resource section, pages 132 – 137, to familiarise themselves with the fish they are likely to see. The next step is to test themselves by identifying each fish in the Fish Frenzy sheet and write the names on the accompanying fish identification label sheet.



## Fish identification label sheet

(teacher's copy)

1	Blue maomao	<i>Scorpius violaceus</i>
2	Sweep	<i>Scorpius lineolatus</i>
3	Sweep	<i>Scorpius lineolatus</i>
4	Parore	<i>Girella tricuspidata</i>
5	Butterfish	<i>Odax pullus</i>
6	Betterfly perch	<i>Casioperca lepidoptera</i>
7	Demoiselle	<i>Chromis dispilus</i>
8	Demoiselle	<i>Chromis dispilus</i>
9	Leather jacket	<i>Parika scaber</i>
10	Leather jacket	<i>Parika scaber</i>
11	Blue maomao	<i>Scorpius violaceus</i>
12	Sweep	<i>Scorpius lineolatus</i>
13	Silver drummer	<i>Kyphosus sydneyanus</i>
14	Demoiselle	<i>Chromis dispilus</i>
15	Snapper	<i>Pagrus auratus</i>
16	Porae	<i>Nemadactylus douglasi</i>
17	Butterfly perch	<i>Casioperca lepidoptera</i>
18	Paketi / Spotty (male)	<i>Notolabrus celidotus</i>
19	Scarlet wrasse	<i>Pseudolabrus miles</i>
20	Red moki	<i>Cheilodactylus spectabilis</i>
21	Hiwihivi	<i>Chironemus marmoratus</i>
22	Goat fish	<i>Upeneichthys lineatus</i>
23	Blue maomao	<i>Scorpius violaceus</i>
24	Parore	<i>Girella tricuspidata</i>
25	Demoiselle	<i>Chromis dispilus</i>
26	Demoiselle	<i>Chromis dispilus</i>
27	Snapper	<i>Pagrus auratus</i>
28	Demoiselle	<i>Chromis dispilus</i>
29	Demoiselle	<i>Chromis dispilus</i>
30	Scarlet wrasse	<i>Pseudolabrus miles</i>
31	Paketi / Spotty (female)	<i>Notolabrus celidotus</i>
32	Red banded perch	<i>Ellerkeldia huntii</i>
33	Red cod	<i>Pseudophycis bachus</i>
34	Blue cod	<i>Parapercis colias</i>
35	Marble fish	<i>Aplodactylus arctidens</i>
36	Goat fish	<i>Upeneichthys lineatus</i>



Fish identification label sheet	
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