LUTJANIDAE — Taape

by Richard N. Uchida

Valid name *Lutjanus kasmira* (Forsskål 1775) (Fig. 63)

Synonymy
Sciaena kasmira Forsskåal 1775
Honocentrus quinquelinearis Bloch 1790
Holocentrus quinquelineatus Bloch 1790
Holocentrus bengalensis Bloch 1790
Diacope octolineata Cuvier and Valenciennes 1828
Diacope notata Cuvier and Valenciennes 1828
Diacope decemlineata Cuvier and Valenciennes 1830
Mesoprion octolineatus Bleeker 1849
Mesoprion pomacanthus Bleeker 1855
Genyoroge bengalensis Günther 1859
Evoplites pomacanthus Gill 1862
Mesoprion bengalensis Kner 1865
Lutjanus pomacanthus Bleeker 1868
Lutjanus bengalensis Bleeker 1868
Genyoroge amboinensis Day 1870
Diacope Kasmira Klunzinger 1870
Lutjanus quinquelineatus Bleeker 1873
Lutjanus quinquelinearis Day 1888
Mesoprion kasmira Klunzinger 1884
Diacope octolineata Sauvage 1891
Evoplites kasmira Jordan and Evermann 1898
Evoplites decemlineatus Fowler 1904
Lutjanus caeruleolineatus Jordan and Seale 1906
Lutjanus notatus McCulloch 1929
Lutjanus spilurus Fowler 1931
(from Weber and De Beaufort 1936)

Common and vernacular names Blue-striped snapper; blue-banded sea perch; blue-line snapper; taape

Distribution

Introduced by the Hawaii DLNR into Hawaiian waters from the Marquesas Islands and Moorea in 1955 and 1961. Opened to public fishing in October 1966 after it became established ([Hawaii] 1967). Now occurs at all major islands and the lower NWHI. The NMFS surveys found taape distributed from Middle Bank to Maro Reef in depths from 24 to 110 m. The range of this species has extended to Laysan (Parrish et al. 1980).

Distinguishing characteristics

D. X-XI, 13-16; A. III, 8; P1. II, 14-15; LLs. 48-51; Gr. 7+1+14. Body moderately compressed; teeth in jaw in narrow bands, outer series enlarged, anterior ones caninoid; vomer with broad inverted V-shape patch of villiform teeth; knob of interopercle fits into notch on preopercle; scale rows above lateral line running obliquely to base of dorsal fin, those below horizontal; caudal fin emarginate (Schultz et al. 1953; Munro 1967).

Color in life vivid, varying from bright golden to lemon yellow with four blue stripes, edged in deep violet, running lengthwise from head to tail; fins and tail yellowish; blackish blotch sometimes present between front of soft dorsal base and lateral line.

Life history

Not much is known about the reproductive cycle of this species. The rapid spread of taape throughout the main islands and into the NWHI indicates that the eggs and larvae are free floating and are carried by ocean currents between the islands.

The species is an active nocturnal carnivore feeding on or near the bottom. Fish and a few species of adult crustaceans, mainly portunids, constitute the main prey items (Oda and Parrish 1981; Tabata 1981). Despite assertions that taape compete for food with other commercially valuable species such as mempachi, *Myripristis kuntee*, or weke, *Mulloides flavolineatus*, the diets of taape and mempachi caught incidentally with taape did not overlap. Mempachi fed mainly on crab megalops and other planktonic crustaceans.

Taape usually occurs in dense schools as evidenced by our trap catches, which frequently included 100-200 fish per trap in an overnight set. Talbot (1960) reported that off South Africa, females were mature at 125 mm and males with sperm were observed at 155 mm and were ripe at 165 mm.

Figure 63.—*Lutjanus kasmira.*

Gear and catch

Usually caught nearshore, the species is harvested by a variety of gear including gill net, handline, rod and reel, purse seine, and traps.

Catches of taape were first reported in 1970 when about 500 kg were landed. By 1977, landings had multiplied nearly 33 times that of 1970, reaching 16,330 kg. The catch continued to increase sharply in 1978, amounting to 26,808 kg, but slowed its increase in 1979 when 27,397 kg were landed.