

by Richard N. Uchida

Valid name	<i>Priacanthus cruentatus</i> (Lacepède 1802) (Fig. 50)
Synonymy	<i>Labrus cruentatus</i> Lacepède 1802 <i>Priacanthus carolinus</i> Lesson 1826 <i>Priacanthus macrophthalmus</i> Cuvier and Valenciennes 1829 <i>Priacanthus boops</i> Cuvier and Valenciennes 1829 <i>Priacanthus blochii</i> Günther 1851 (?) <i>Priacanthus schlegelii</i> Hilgendorf 1879 (from Weber and De Beaufort 1929)
Common and vernacular names	Glasseye snapper, red bigeye, aweoweo

Distribution

Occurs throughout the main islands. In the NWHI, they occurred from Necker to Midway at depths from 20 to 296 m.

Distinguishing characteristics

D. X, 13; A. II, 14; LLs. 11-100-53 (Jordan and Evermann 1905). Body moderately elongate, deep, laterally compressed, covered with small, rough ctenoid scales; dorsal and ventral outlines similarly curved; snout bluntly pointed; lower jaw prominent, strong, and projecting; mouth moderate, oblique; lateral line runs dorsally to area of caudal fin base then descends to midlateral caudal peduncle (Jordan and Evermann 1905; Schultz et al. 1953).

Teeth small, villiform on jaws, vomer, and palatines; gill rakers long, slender; tongue broad, rounded and free; maxillary extends to anterior edge of pupil; eyes large; fins moderate with origin of spinous dorsal over upper base of pectoral; dorsal spines short, stout, blunt; soft dorsal rounded; caudal truncate; pectoral short, broad; preopercle strongly toothed with a strong rugose toothed sharp or blunt variable spine at angle (Jordan and Evermann 1905; Schultz et al. 1953).

Bright red mottled with silvery white in life; six dark red vertical bars alternating with fainter bars on side of back; dorsal and caudal fins rosy; iris and jaws deep red.

Life history

Glasseye snapper are nocturnal predators, feeding on free swimming organisms (mostly crustaceans and cephalopods), and inhabiting reefs, bays, and harbors (Hobson 1974). Fishes and polychaetes make up the bulk of the remaining food items (Randall 1967). A study conducted off Kona, Hawaii demonstrated that the species takes shelter in groups or singly under rocks or coral during daylight (Hobson 1974). At night, they emerge from the shelter, assemble in schools high in the water column, migrate offshore, and do not return to the reef until about 40 minutes before sunrise. Lesser numbers, mostly solitary or in small groups, remain over inshore reefs throughout the night. All fish were noted to return to daytime shelter 30 min before sunrise.

Gear and catch

Glasseye snapper is caught around the main islands primarily with handline and gill net.

The State annual landings of this species fluctuated between 780 and 4,764 kg, averaging 1,886 kg during the period 1961-69.

There is no fishery for priacanthids in the NWHI.

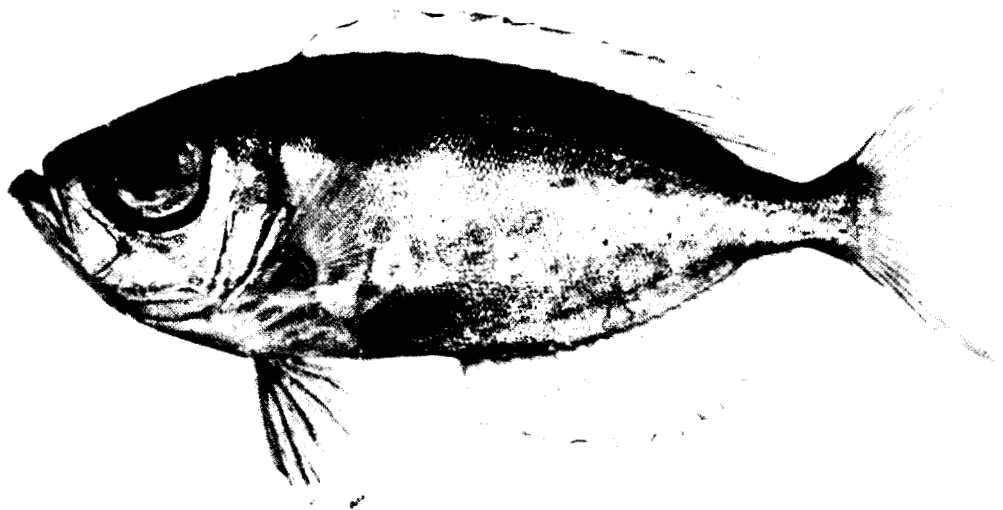


Figure 50.—*Priacanthus cruentatus*.