

Goatfishes of Hawai'i



Weke pueo
Upeneichthys sandaripus
Bandtail Goatfish, Chale weke, Nightmare weke
Size: Length up to 12 inches, maximum weight unknown
Habitat: Shallow sandy or muddy bottoms
Feeding: Diurnal; crustaceans and small fish



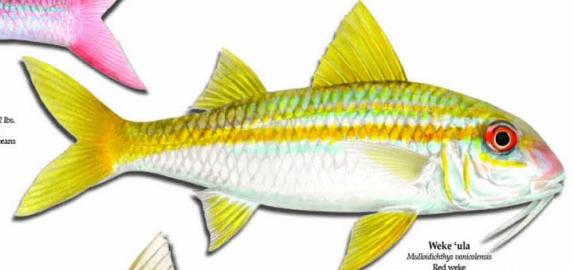
Stripe Goatfish
Upeneichthys vittatus
*Accidental introduction
Size: Length up to 11.5 inches, weight up to 1 lb.
Habitat: Shallow sandy or muddy bottoms
Feeding: Small crustaceans



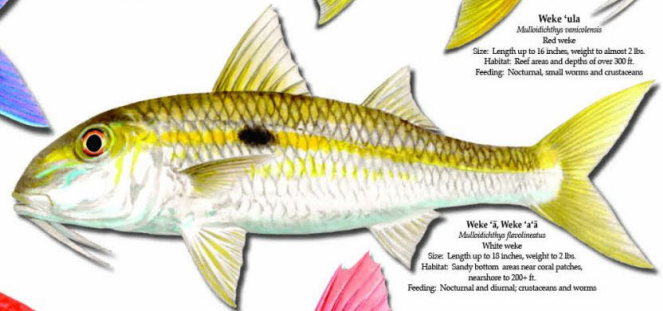
Malu - *Parupeneus pleurostigma*
Sidespot Goatfish
Size: Length up to 16 inches, weight up to 2 lbs.
Habitat: Nearshore to depths of 246 ft.
Feeding: Diurnal; small worms and crustaceans



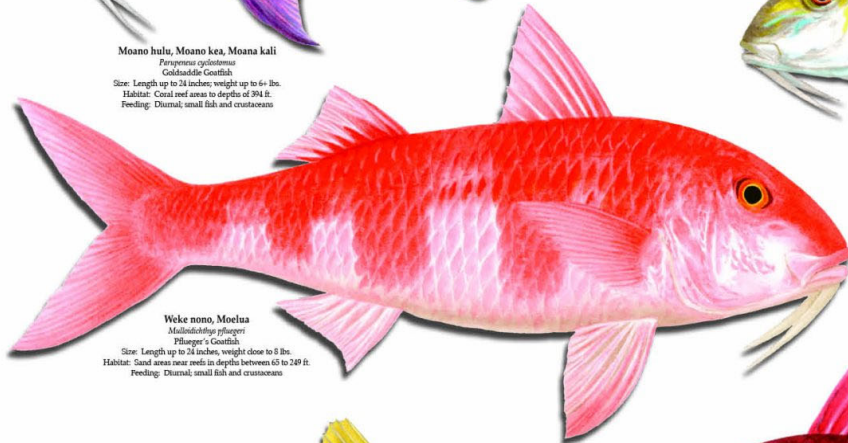
Moano hulu, Moano kea, Moano kali
Parupeneus cyclostomus
Goldheaded Goatfish
Size: Length up to 24 inches; weight up to 6+ lbs.
Habitat: Coral reef areas to depths of 394 ft.
Feeding: Diurnal; small fish and crustaceans



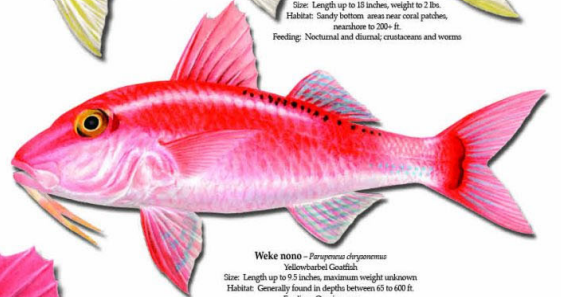
Weke 'ula
Mulloidichthys rupestris
Red weke
Size: Length up to 16 inches, weight to almost 2 lbs.
Habitat: Reef areas and depths of over 30 ft.
Feeding: Nocturnal; small worms and crustaceans



Weke 'i, Weke 'a'a
Mulloidichthys flaccidus
White weke
Size: Length up to 13 inches, weight to 2 lbs.
Habitat: Sandy bottom areas near coral patches, nearshore to 200+ ft.
Feeding: Nocturnal and diurnal; crustaceans and worms



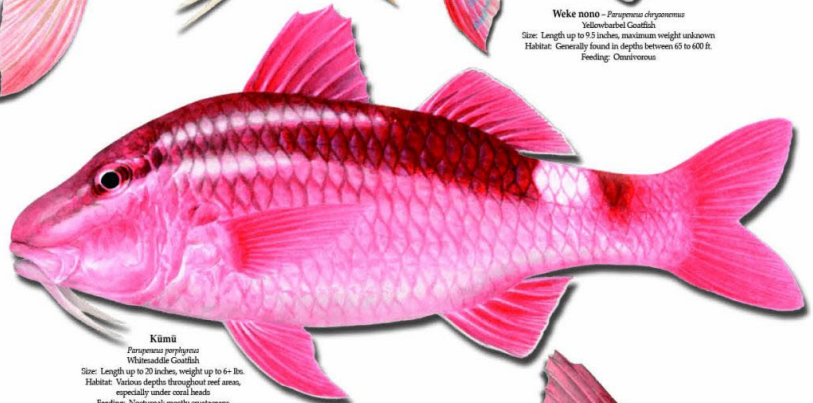
Weke nono, Moelua
Mulloidichthys pfliegeri
Pflieger's Goatfish
Size: Length up to 24 inches, weight close to 8 lbs.
Habitat: Sand areas near reefs in depths between 65 to 249 ft.
Feeding: Diurnal; small fish and crustaceans



Weke nono - *Parupeneus degnanensis*
Yellowbarbed Goatfish
Size: Length up to 9.5 inches, maximum weight unknown
Habitat: Generally found in depths between 65 to 600 ft.
Feeding: Omnivorous



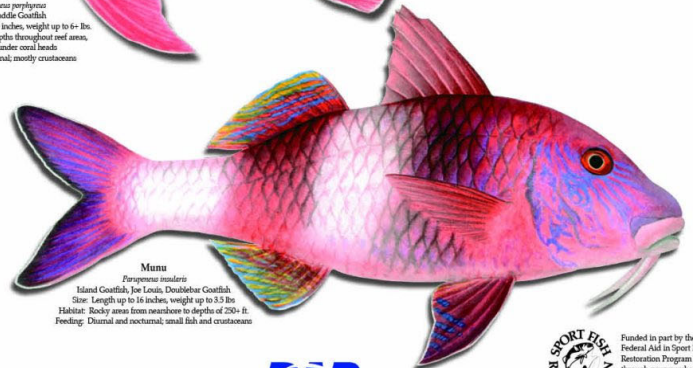
Mimic Goatfish
Mulloidichthys mimus
Size: Length up to 12 inches, maximum weight unknown
Habitat: Various depths throughout reef areas
Feeding: Nocturnal; mostly crustaceans



Kumu
Parupeneus porphyreus
Whitetail Goatfish
Size: Length up to 20 inches, weight up to 6+ lbs.
Habitat: Various depths throughout reef areas, especially under coral heads
Feeding: Nocturnal; mostly crustaceans



Moano, Moana
Parupeneus multifasciatus
Manybar Goatfish
Size: Length up to 14 inches, weight up to 1 lb.
Habitat: Rocky areas, sand bottoms near coral heads to depths of 409 ft.
Feeding: Diurnal; crustaceans and small fish



Muna
Parupeneus insularis
Island Goatfish, Joe Louis, Doublebar Goatfish
Size: Length up to 16 inches, weight up to 3.5 lbs.
Habitat: Rocky areas from nearshore to depths of 250 ft.
Feeding: Diurnal and nocturnal; small fish and crustaceans



DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES
Department of Land and Natural Resources

Designed and illustrated by Leo Hata



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The Goatfish Family, commonly known as "weke" in Hawai'i, includes species such as the kumu, moano, malu, weke 'ula, moano kea and others. Goatfish are unique from other reef fish in that they possess a pair of barbels on their chin which function as sensory organs used most importantly for finding and recognizing food buried in the sand. Almost any fisherman or diver has observed at least once, a weke probing the sand with their barbels looking for prey. Common in inshore waters, many are

considered desirable food fishes supporting valuable cultural, commercial and sport fisheries in Hawai'i. The young juveniles of two species in particular, *Mulloidichthys flavolineatus* and *M. vanicolensis*, are known as 'oama and provide a valuable recreational fishery for local families. 'Oama are commonly found in shallow sandy areas during the late summer and are highly sought after by shoreline fishermen for consumptive use as well as bait for pāpio and other predators.