
Fishes Identification Guide

for

**ChesMMAP and NEAMAP
Diet Analysis Studies**

Chesapeake Bay Multispecies Monitoring and Assessment Program
Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program



7/12/11

This book is a compilation of identification resources for fishes found in stomach samples. By no means is it a complete list of all possible prey types. It is simply what has been found in past ChesMMAP and NEAMAP diet studies. A copy of this document is stored in both the ChesMMAP and NEAMAP lab network drives in a folder called ID Guides, along with other useful identification keys, articles, documents, and photos. If you want to see a larger version of any of the images in this document you can simply open the file and zoom in on the picture, or you can open the original file for the photo by navigating to the appropriate subfolder within the Fisheries Gut Lab folder.

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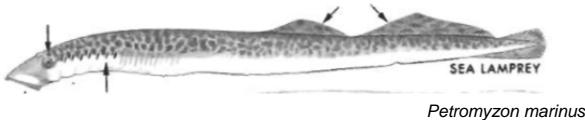
5000 unidentified fish
0796 unidentified bony fish
1116 unidentified elasmobranch
1092 unidentified larval fish
0529 fish scales
0567 fish eggs
1098 skate eggs



Order Petromyzontiformes

Family Petromyzontidae

0100 *Petromyzon marinus*, sea lamprey

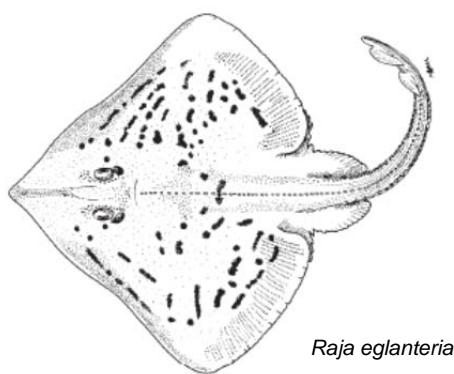


Order Rajiformes

Family Rajidae

0181 *Raja spp.*, (i.e.—*R. eglanteria*, clearnose skate)

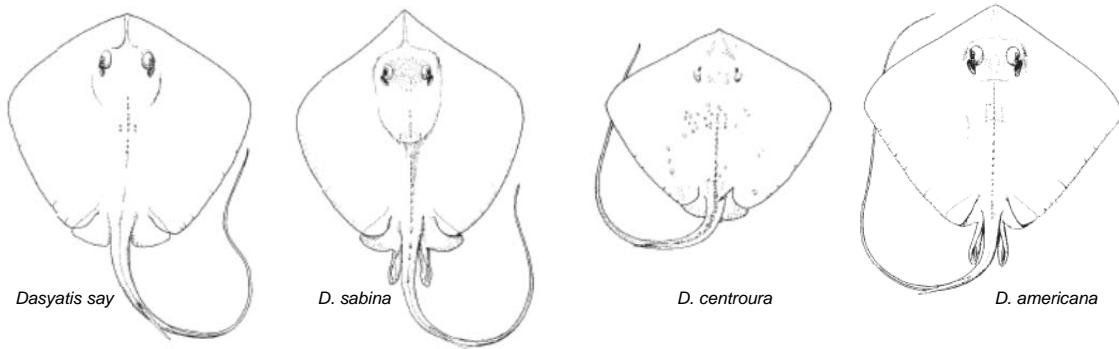
1069 *Leucoraja spp.*, (i.e.—*L. erinacea*, little skate and *L. ocellata*, winter skate)



Order Myliobatiformes

Family Dasyatidae

0178 *Dasyatis spp.*

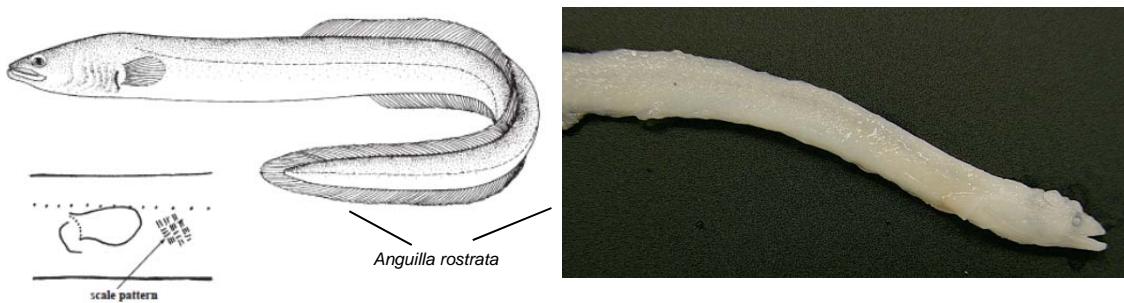


Order Anguilliformes

1062 unidentified eel

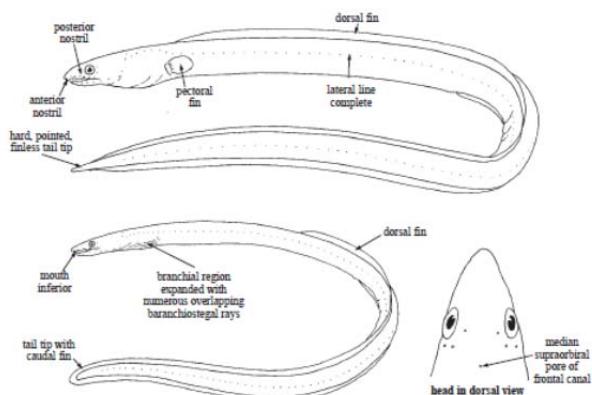
Family Anguillidae

0060 *Anguilla rostrata*, American eel



Family Ophichthidae

1082 unidentified snake eel



Order Anguilliformes (continued)

Family Congridae

0190 *Conger oceanicus*, oceanic conger eel



Order Clupeiformes

Family Engraulidae

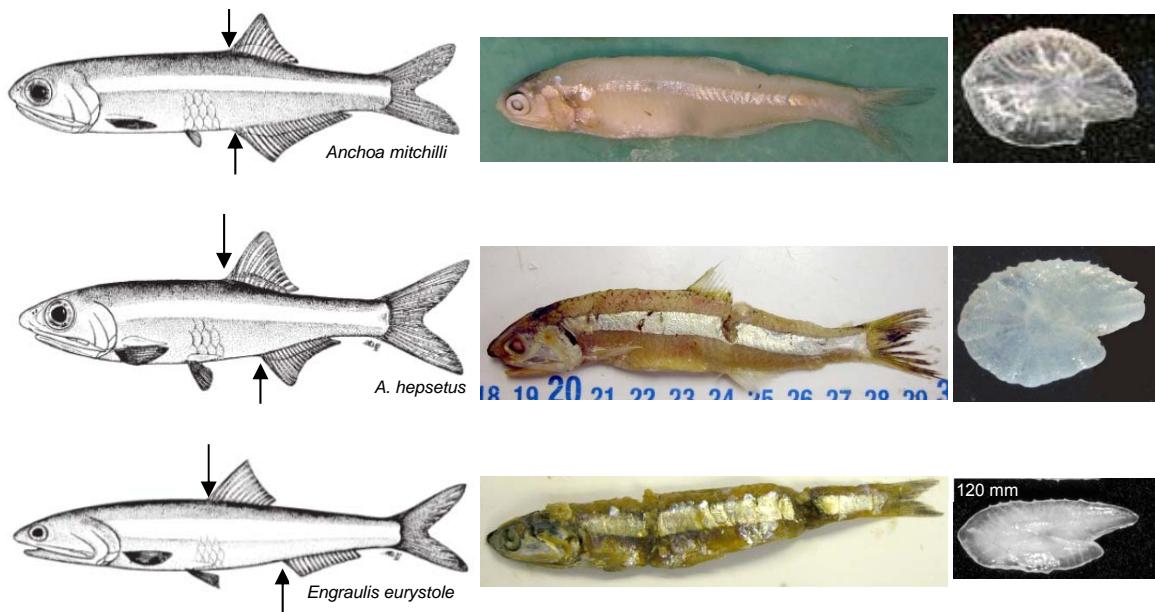
1056 unidentified anchovy

0399 *Anchoa spp.*

0103 *Anchoa mitchilli*, bay anchovy

0102 *Anchoa hepsetus*, striped anchovy

0937 *Engraulis eurystole*, silver anchovy



Order Clupeiformes (continued)

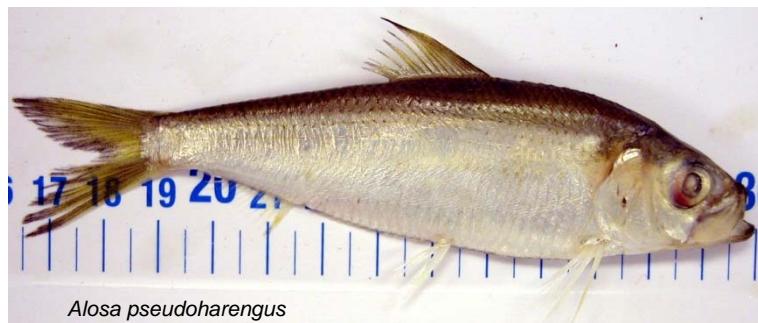
Family Clupeidae

0916 unidentified herring/shad/menhadan

0256 *Alosa* spp., river herrings

0026 *Alosa pseudoharengus*, alewife

0027 *Alosa aestivalis*, blueback herring



Alosa pseudoharengus



A. aestivalis

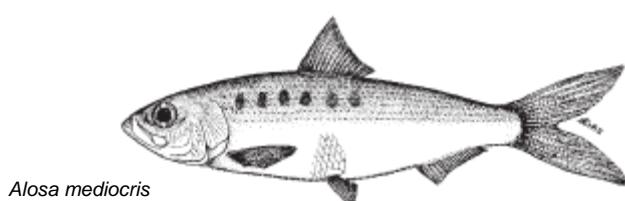


14a. Peritoneum silvery to pale grey; dorsum greyish green; eye diameter greater than snout length *Alosa pseudoharengus*

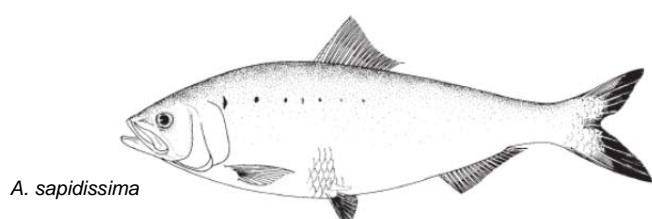
14b. Peritoneum sooty or black; dorsum distinctly blue; eye diameter less than snout length *Alosa aestivalis*

0028 *Alosa mediocris*, hickory shad

0030 *Alosa sapidissima*, American shad



Alosa mediocris



A. sapidissima



15a. Jaw teeth present; gill rakers on lower limb of anterior arch less than 25; lower jaw projecting beyond upper when mouth closed *Alosa mediocris*

15b. Jaw teeth minute or absent in adults; gill rakers on lower limb of anterior arch more than 30; lower jaw not projecting beyond upper when mouth closed *Alosa sapidissima*

Order Clupeiformes (Clupeidae continued)

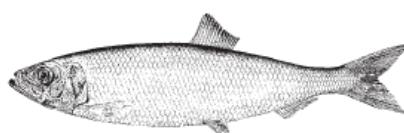
0037 *Brevoortia tyrannus*, Atlantic menhaden



0029 *Clupea harengus*, Atlantic herring

0076 *Etrumeus teres*, round herring

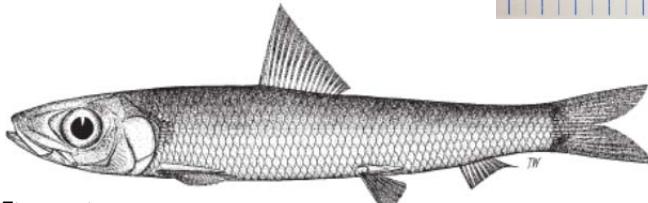
0992 *Sardinella aurita*, Spanish sardine



Clupea harengus



Etrumeus teres



Sardinella aurita

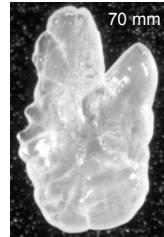
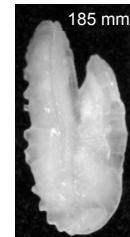
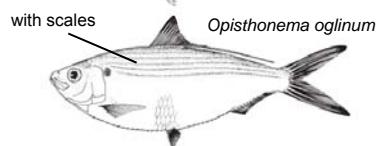
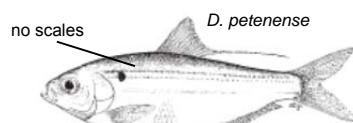
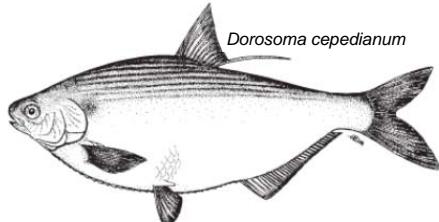


Order Clupeiformes (Clupeidae continued)

0051 *Dorosoma cepedianum*, gizzard shad

0275 *Dorosoma petenense*, threadfin shad

0038 *Opisthonema oglinum*, Atlantic thread herring



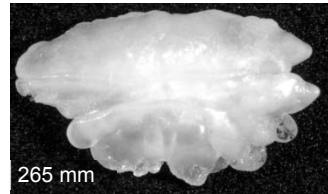
Order Aulopiformes

Family Synodontidae

0189 *Synodus foetens*, inshore lizardfish



Synodus foetens



Order Ophidiiformes

Family Ophidiidae

1093 *Ophidion spp.*

0229 *Ophidion marginatum*, striped cusk eel

0437 *Ophidion grayi*, blotched cusk eel



O. grayi



Order Gadiformes

Family Gadidae

0053 *Urophycis spp.*

0070 *Urophycis regia*, spotted hake

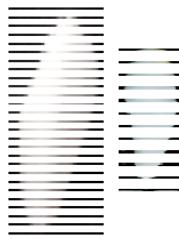
0015 *Urophycis chuss*, red hake

0006 *Merluccius bilinearis*, silver hake

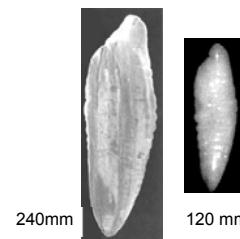
0197 *Enchelyopus cimbrius*, fourbeard rockling



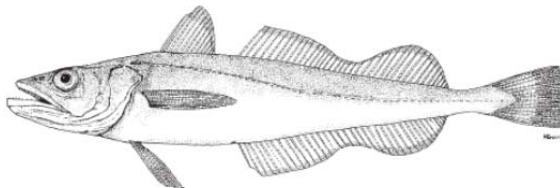
Urophycis regia



Urophycis chuss



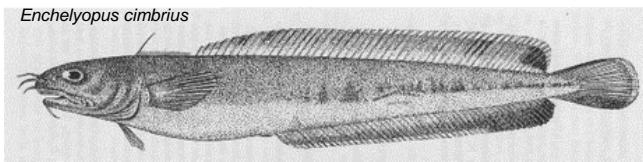
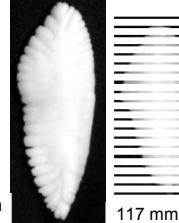
240mm 120 mm



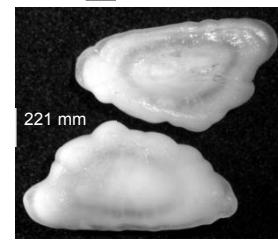
Merluccius bilinearis



230 mm 117 mm



Enchelyopus cimbrius



221 mm

Order Batrachoidiformes

Family Batrachoididae

0154 *Opsanus tau*, oyster toadfish



Opsanus tau



Order Atheriniformes

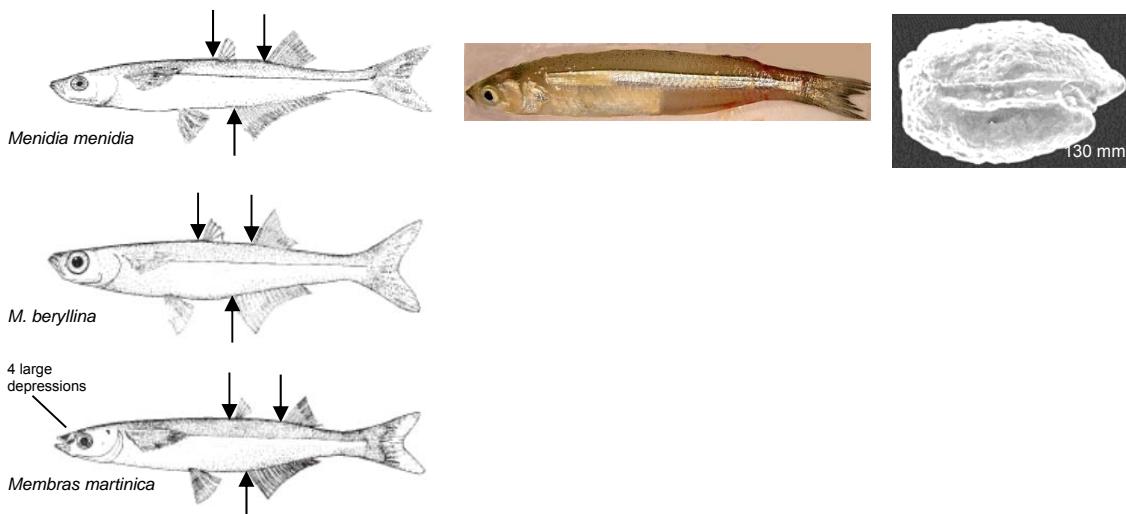
Family Atherinopsidae

0155 *Menidia* spp.

0150 *Menidia menidia*, Atlantic silverside

0149 *Menidia beryllina*, inland silverside

0148 *Membras martinica*, rough silverside



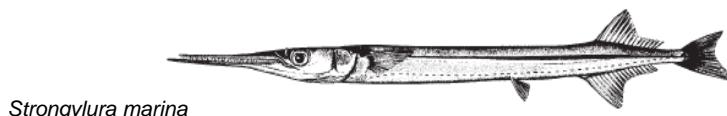
Order Beloniformes

Family Belonidae

0924 unidentified needlefish

0196 *Strongylura marina*, Atlantic needlefish

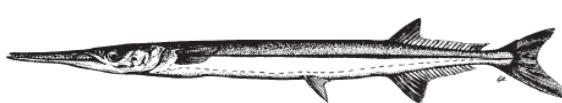
0909 *Tylosurus crocodilus*, houndfish



Strongylura marina

relatively short
snout length

Tylosurus crocodilus



Order Cyprinodontiformes

Family Fundulidae

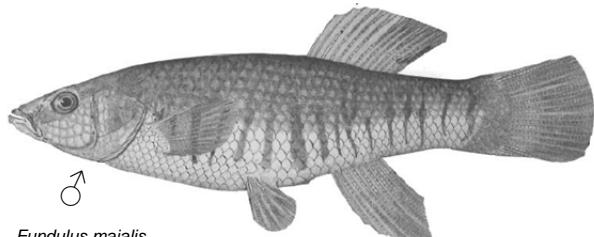
0560 *Fundulus spp.*

0124 *Fundulus majalis*, striped killifish

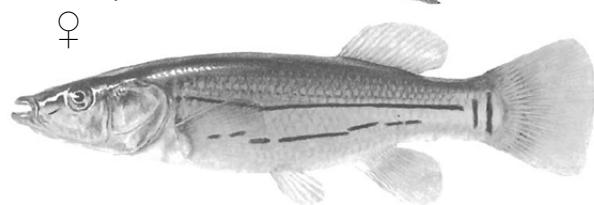
0122 *Fundulus heteroclitus*, mummichog

0121 *Fundulus diaphanus*, banded killifish

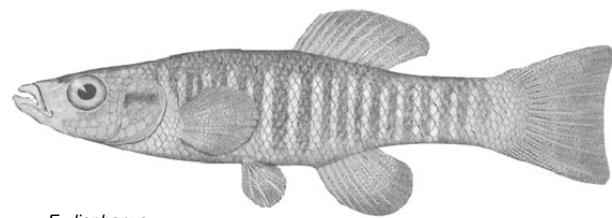
0120 *Cyprinodon variegatus*, sheepshead minnow



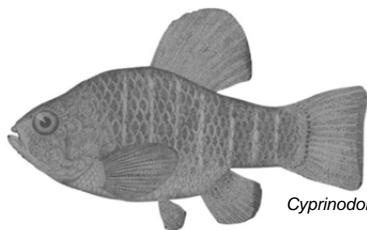
Fundulus majalis



F. heteroclitus



F. diaphanus



Cyprinodon variegatus



Order Gasterosteiformes

Family Gasterosteidae

0127 *Apeltes quadracus*, fourspine stickleback



Family Syngnathidae

1055 unidentified pipefish/seahorse

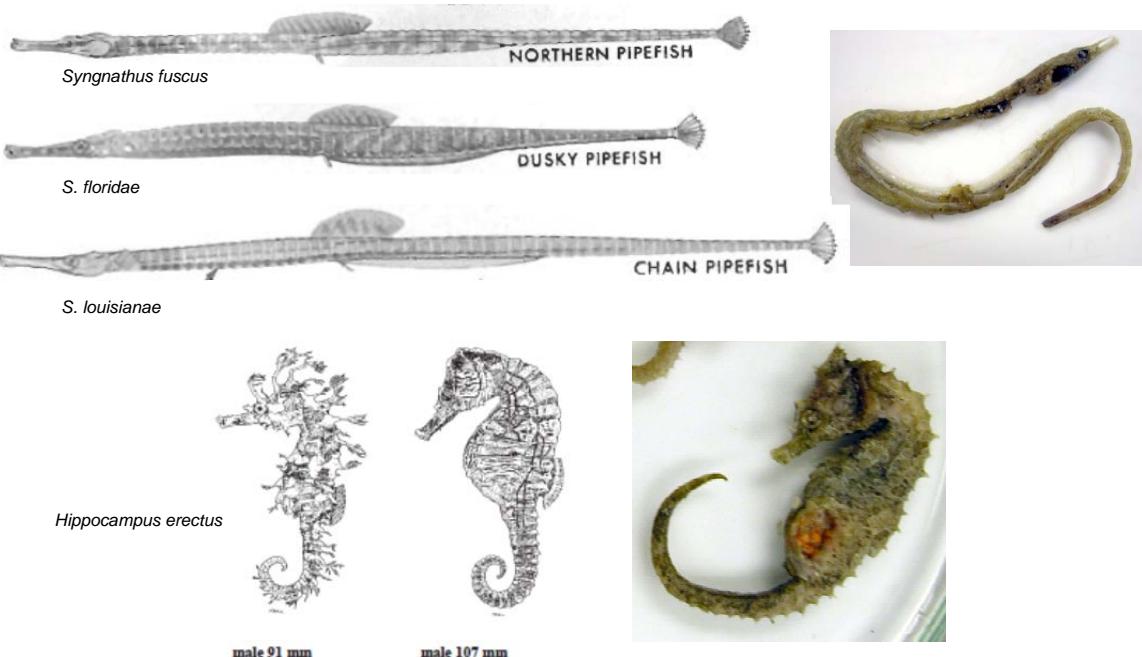
0156 *Syngnathus* spp.

0131 *Syngnathus fuscus*, northern pipefish

0130 *Syngnathus floridae*, dusky pipefish

0326 *Syngnathus louisianae*, chain pipefish

0129 *Hippocampus erectus*, lined seahorse



Order Gobiesociformes

Family Gobiesocidae

0153 *Gobiesox strumosus*, skilletfish



Order Scorpaenidae

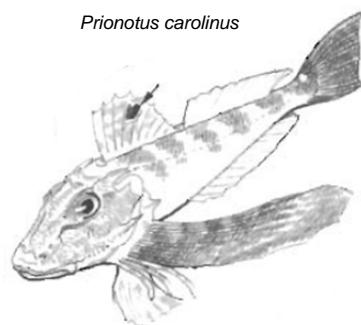
Family Triglidae

0023 *Prionotus spp.*

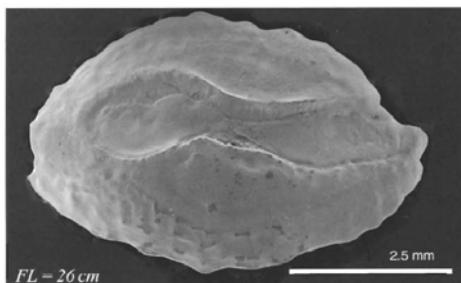
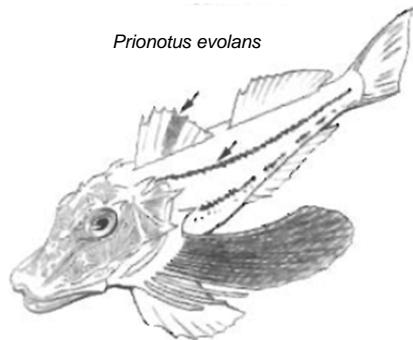
0071 *Prionotus carolinus*, northern searobin

0072 *Prionotus evolans*, striped searobin

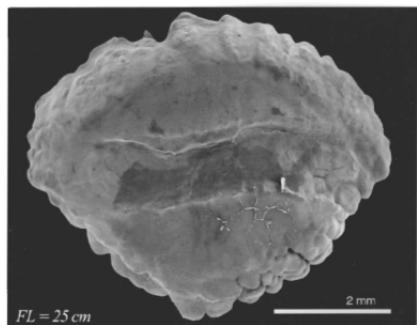
Prionotus carolinus



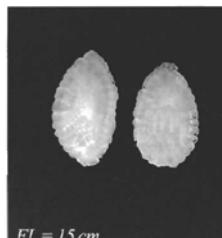
Prionotus evolans



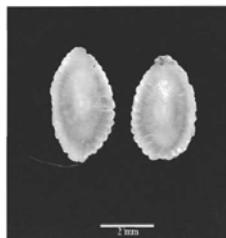
FL = 26 cm



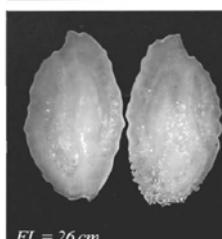
FL = 25 cm



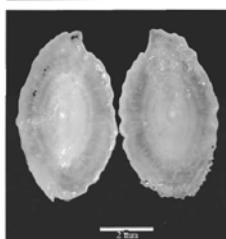
FL = 15 cm



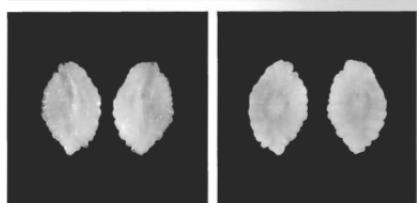
2 mm



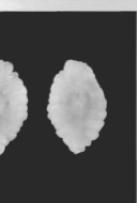
FL = 26 cm



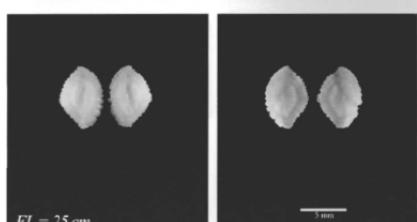
2 mm



FL = 9 cm



2 mm



FL = 25 cm

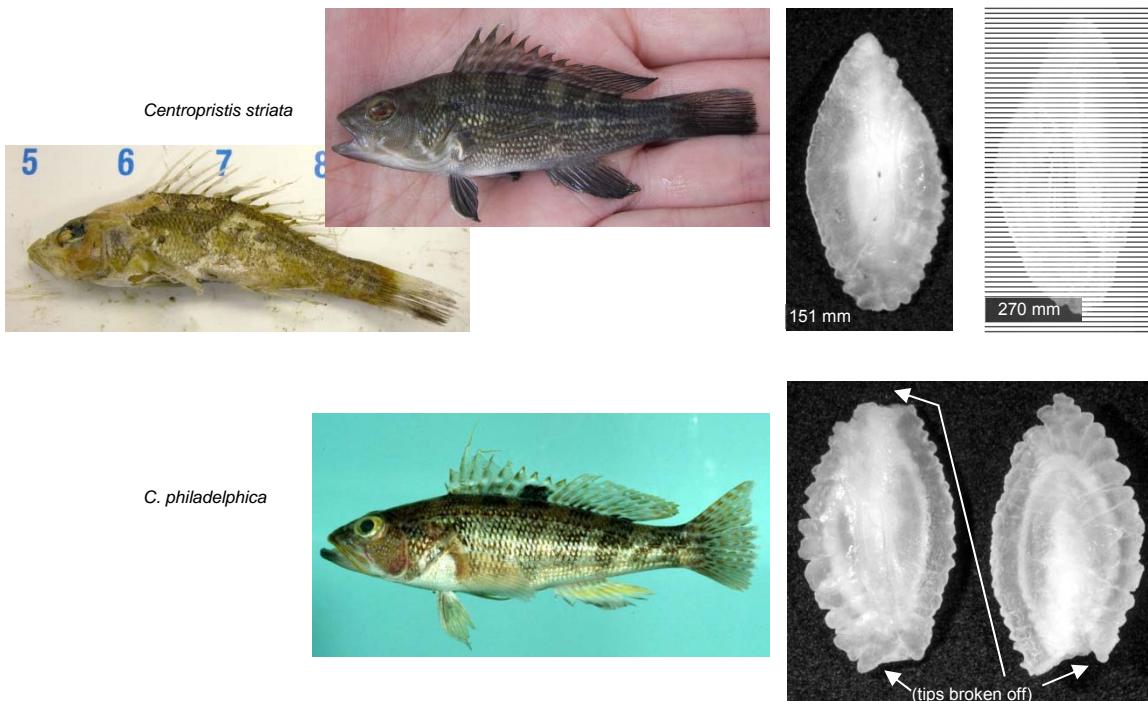


2 mm

Order Perciformes

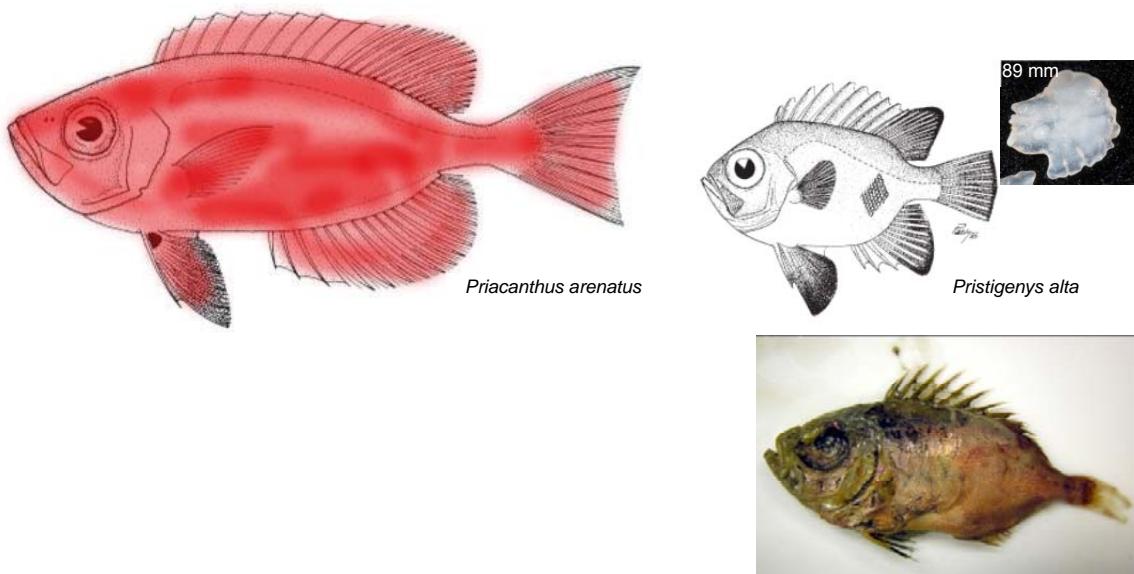
Family Serranidae

- 0087 unidentified seabasses
0002 *Centropristes striata*, black seabass
0260 *Centropristes philadelphica*, rock seabass



Family Priacanthidae

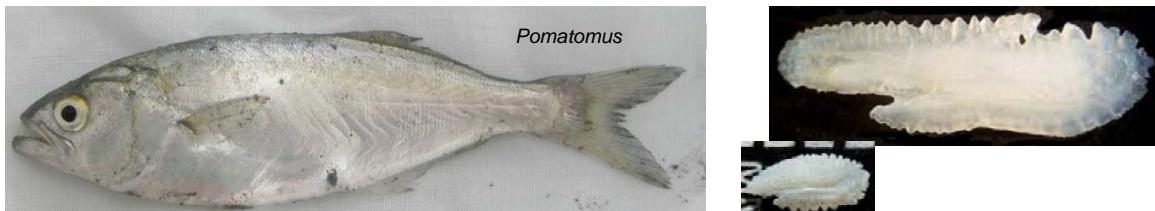
- 0339 *Priacanthus arenatus*, bigeye
0340 *Pristigenys alta*, short bigeye



Order Perciformes (continued)

Family Pomatomidae

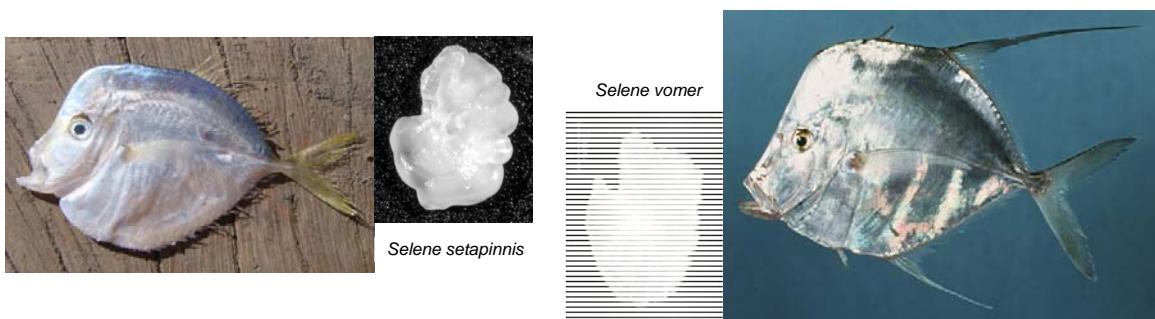
0009 *Pomatomus saltatrix*, bluefish



Family Carangidae

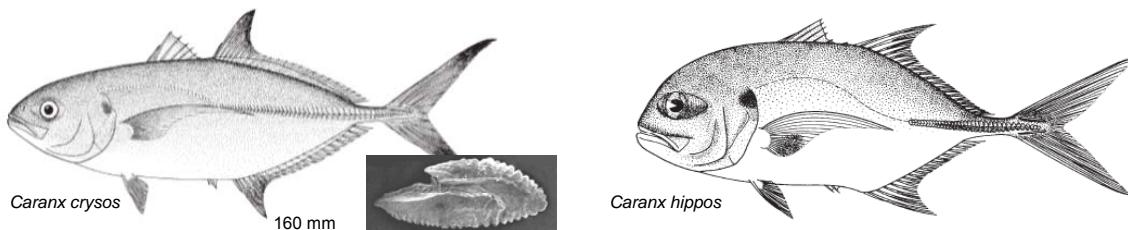
0211 *Selene setapinnis*, Atlantic moonfish

0207 *Selene vomer*, lookdown

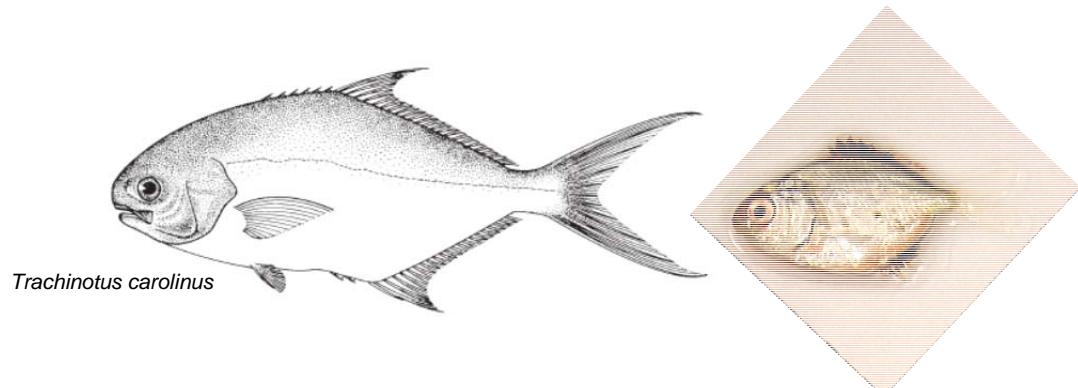


0203 *Caranx cryos*, blue runner

0204 *Caranx hippos*, crevalle jack



0061 *Trachinotus carolinus*, Florida pompano

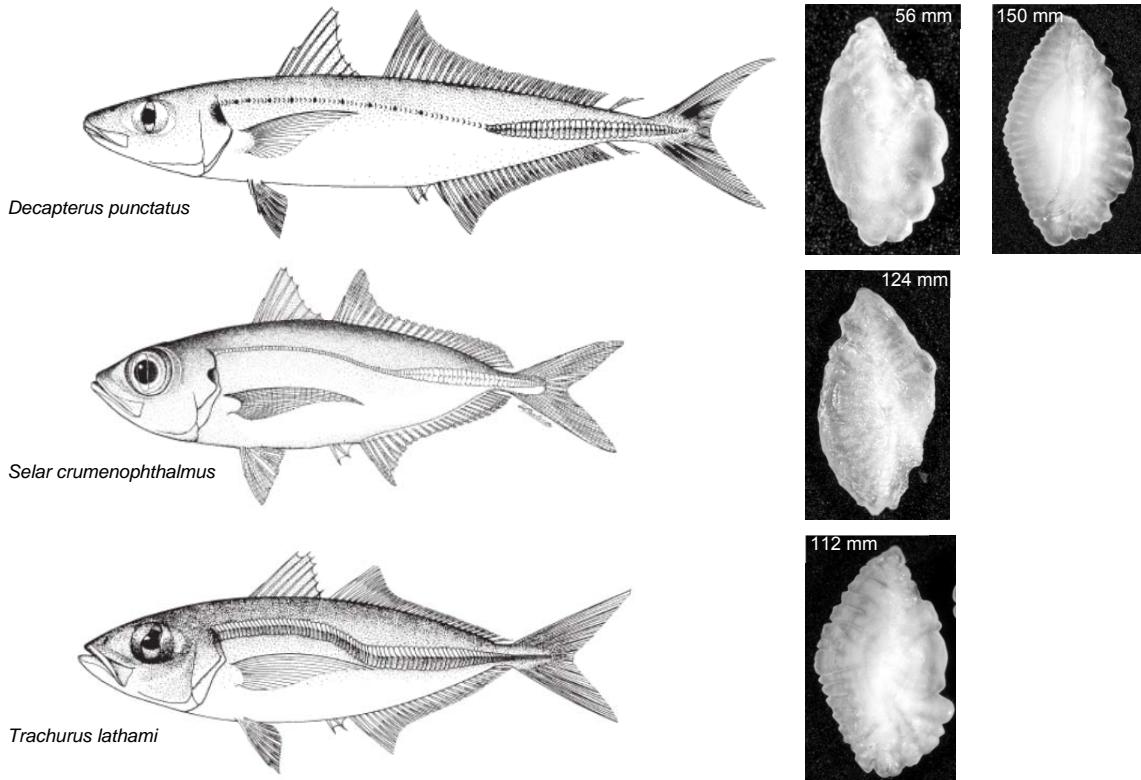


Order Perciformes (Carangidae continued)

0205 *Decapterus punctatus*, round scad

0206 *Selar crumenophthalmus*, bigeye scad

0210 *Trachurus lathami*, rough scad



Family Chaetodontidae

0217 *Chaetodon ocellatus*, spotfin butterflyfish

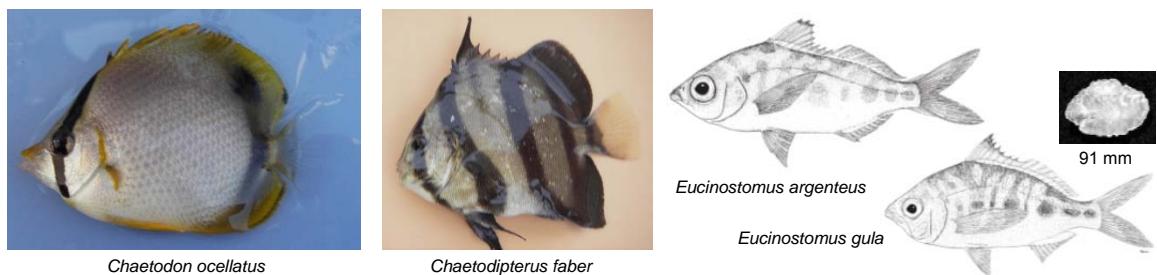
Family Ephippidae

0064 *Chaetodipterus faber*, Atlantic spadefish

Family Gerreidae

0285 *Eucinostomus argenteus*, spotfin mojarra

0353 *Eucinostomus gula*, silver jenny



Order Perciformes (continued)

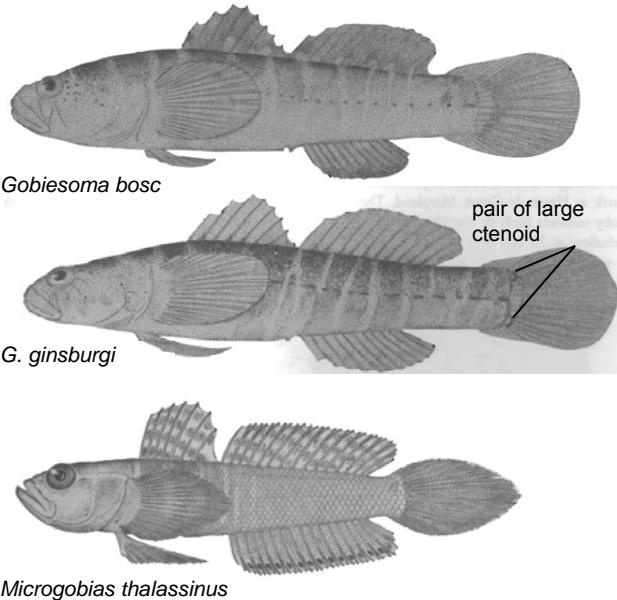
Family Gobiidae

0281 unidentified goby

0581 *Gobiosoma bosc*, naked goby

0145 *Gobiosoma ginsburgi*, seaboard goby

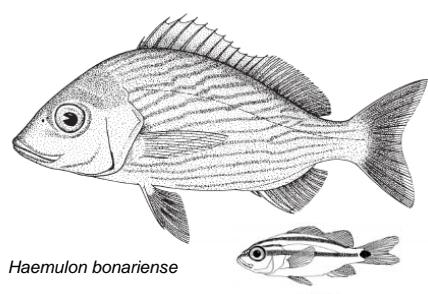
0139 *Microgobius thalassinus*, green goby



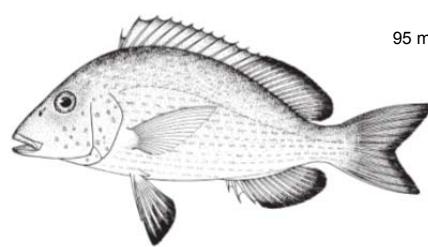
Family Haemulidae

0408 *Haemulon bonariense*, black grunt

0059 *Orthopristis chrysoptera*, pigfish



Haemulon bonariense



Orthopristis chrysoptera

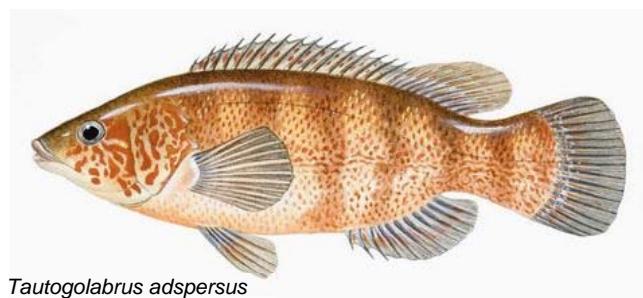
95 mm



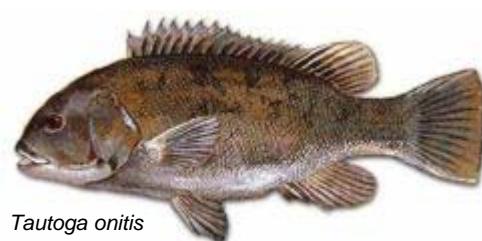
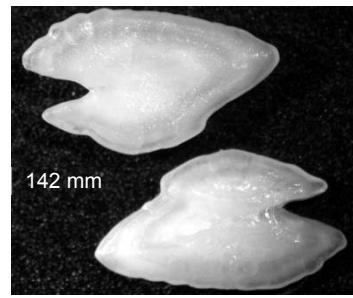
Order Perciformes (continued)

Family Labridae

0218 *Tautogolabrus adspersus*, cunner
0055 *Tautoga onita*, tautog



Tautogolabrus adspersus



Tautoga onitis



Family Mugilidae

0232 *Mugil curema*, white mullet



Mugil curema

Family Ammodytidae

0491 *Ammodytes spp.*, sand lances



Order Perciformes (continued)

Family Blenniidae

0146 *Chasmodes bosquianus*, striped blenny

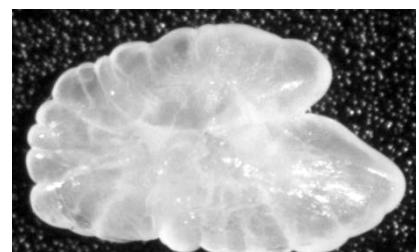
0147 *Hypsoblennius hentzi*, feather blenny



Chasmodes bosquianus



Hypsoblennius hentzi



Family Moronidae

0031 *Morone saxatilis*, striped bass

0032 *Morone americana*, white perch



Order Perciformes (continued)

Family Sciaenidae

0963 unidentified croaker/drum

0005 *Micropogonias undulatus*, Atlantic croaker

0033 *Leiostomus xanthurus*, spot



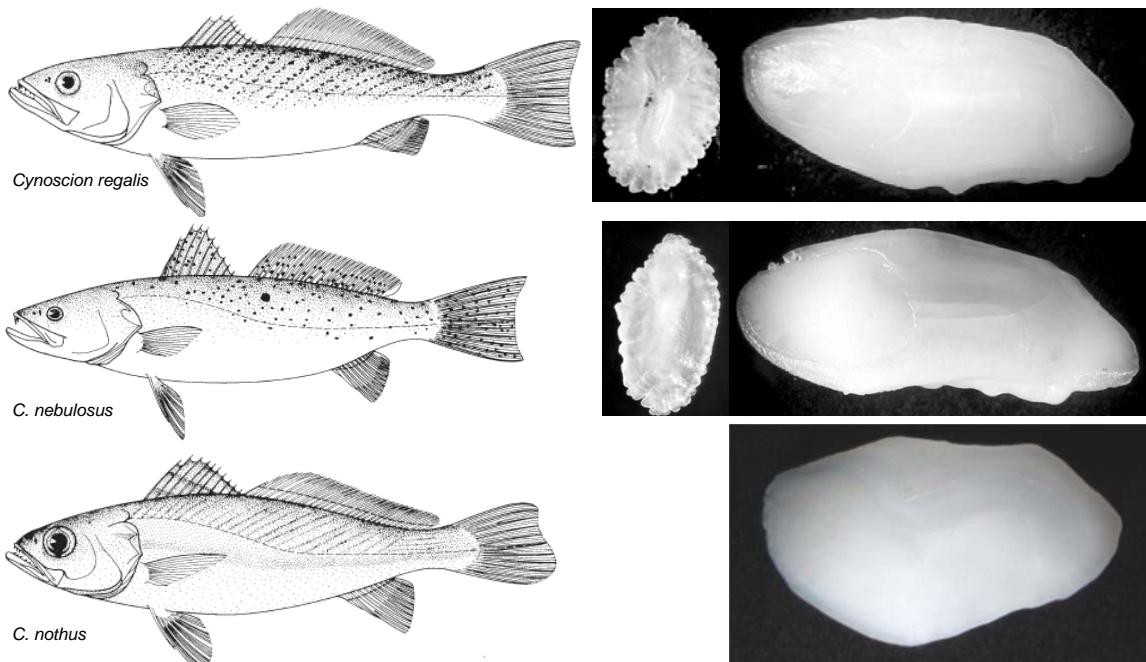
0213 *Bairdiella chrysoura*, silver perch

0214 *Larimus fasciatus*, banded drum

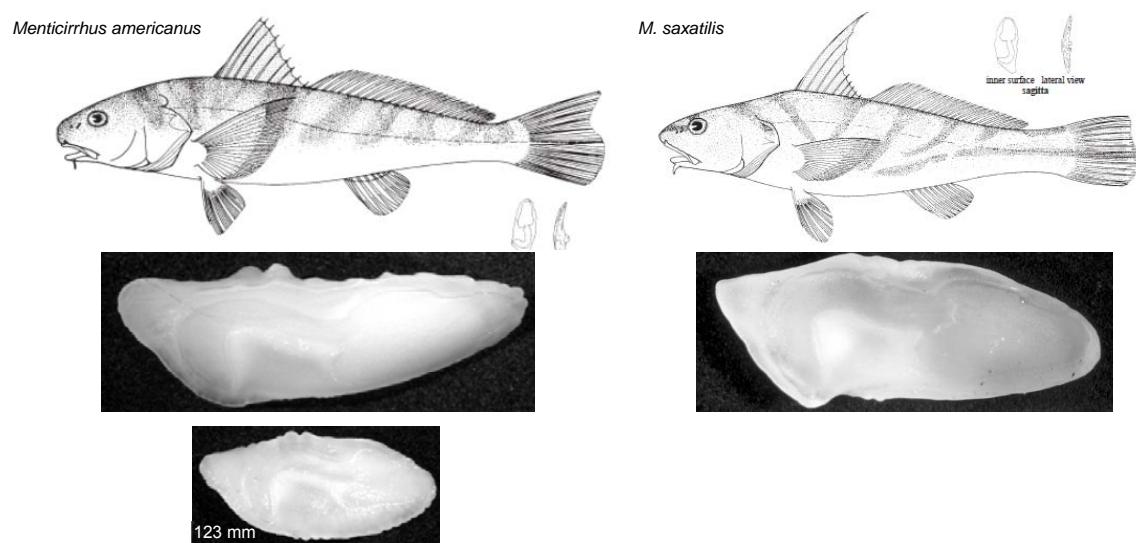


Order Perciformes (Sciaenids continued)

- 0007 *Cynoscion regalis*, weakfish
0058 *Cynoscion nebulosus*, spotted seatrout
0359 *Cynoscion nothus*, silver seatrout



- 0013 *Menticirrhus spp.*
0057 *Menticirrhus americanus*, southern kingfish
0056 *Menticirrhus saxatilis*, northern kingfish

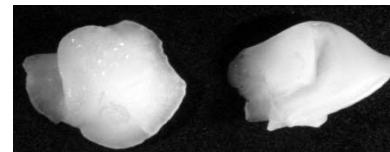
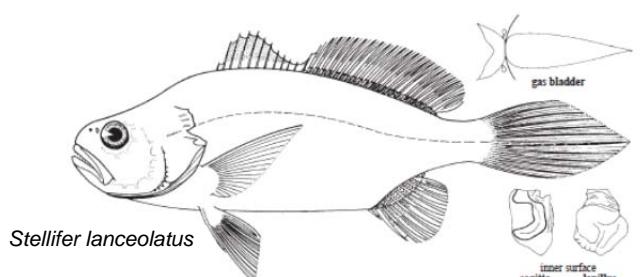
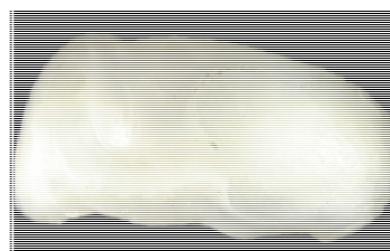
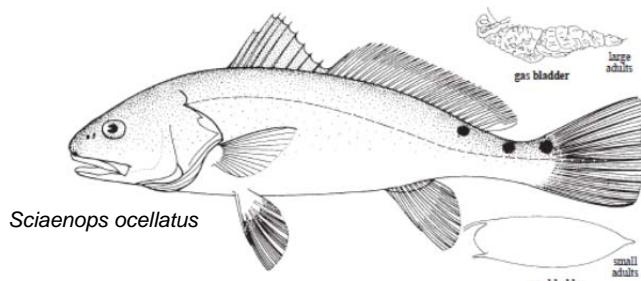
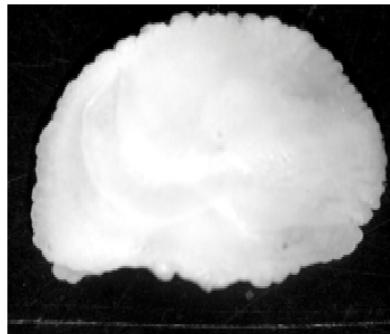
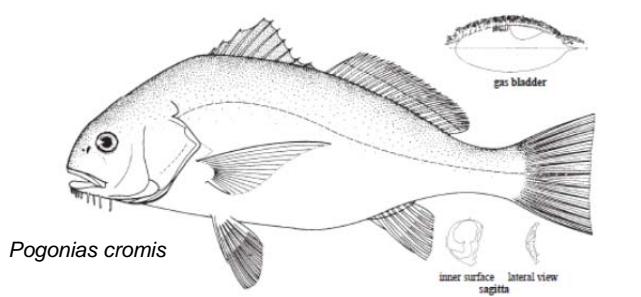


Order Perciformes (Sciaenids continued)

0034 *Pogonias cromis*, black drum

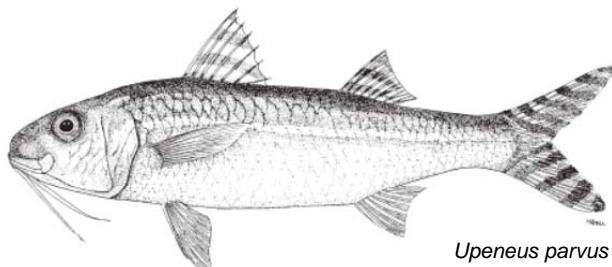
0035 *Sciaenops ocellatus*, red drum

0215 *Stellifer lanceolatus*, star drum

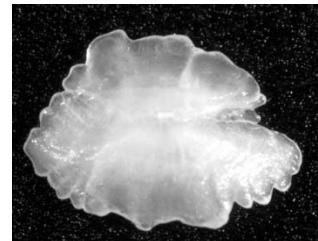


Family Mullidae

0387 *Upeneus parvus*, dwarf goatfish



Upeneus parvus



Order Perciformes (continued)

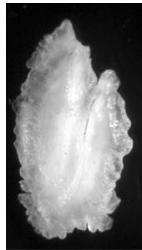
Family Sparidae

1096 unidentified sparids

0001 *Stenotomus chrysops*, scup

0216 *Lagodon rhomboides*, pinfish

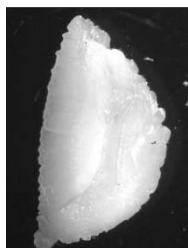
0054 *Archosargus probatocephalus*, sheepshead



Stenotomus chrysops



Lagodon rhomboides



Archosargus probatocephalus

Order Perciformes (continued)

Family Sphyraenidae

0230 *Sphyraena borealis*, northern sennet
0365 *Sphyraena guachancho*, guaguanche



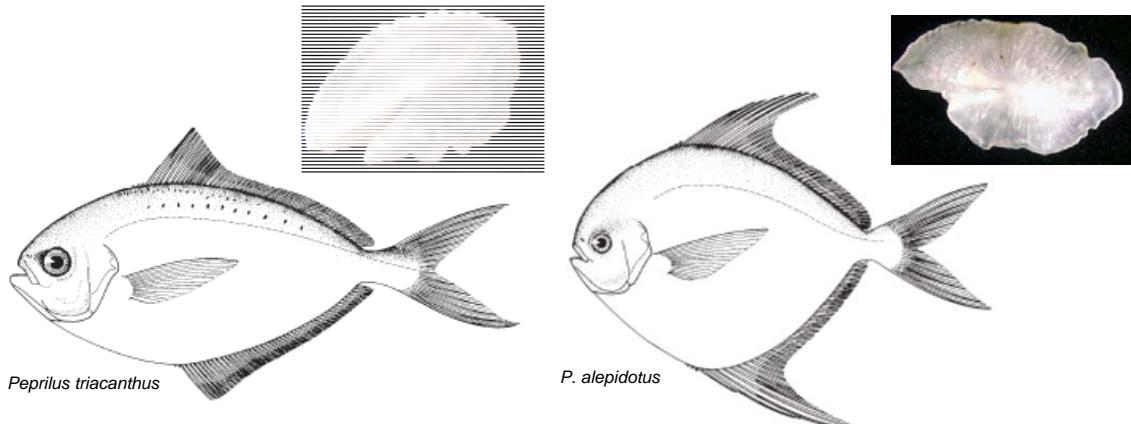
Family Trichiuridae

0219 *Trichiurus lepturus*, Atlantic cutlassfish



Family Stromateidae

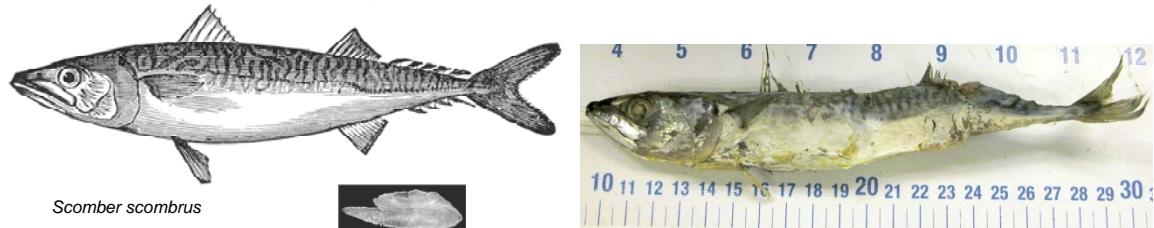
0004 *Peprilus triacanthus*, butterfish
0011 *Peprilus alepidotus*, harvestfish



Order Perciformes (continued)

Family Scombridae

0043 *Scomber scombrus*, Atlantic mackerel



Family Uranoscopidae

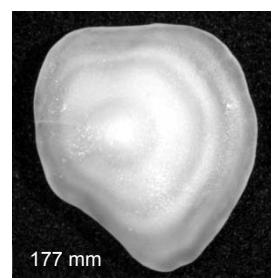
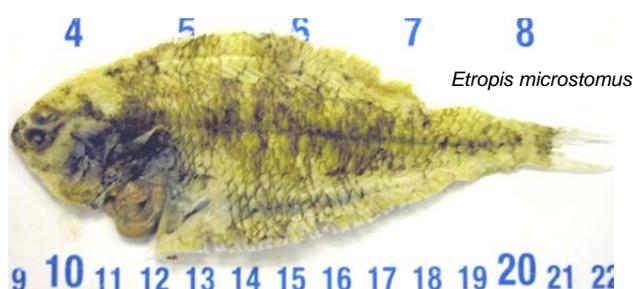
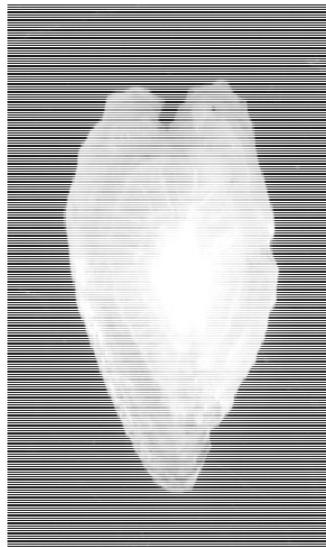
0225 *Astroscopus guttatus*, northern stargazer



Order Pleuronectiformes

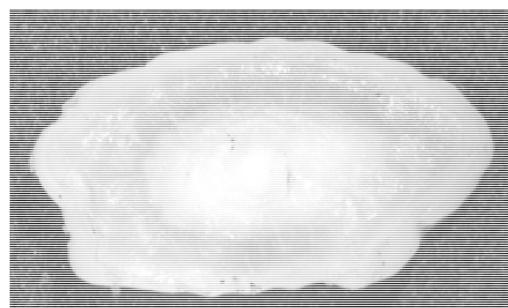
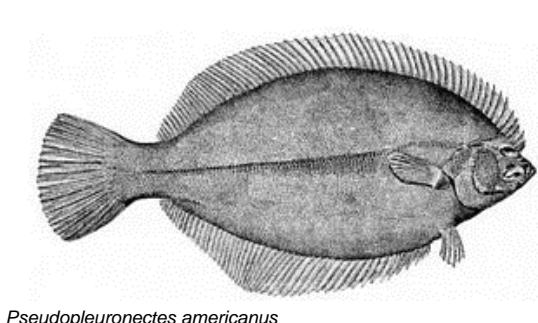
Family Paralichthyidae

- 0003 *Paralichthys dentatus*, summer flounder
0236 *Etropus microstomus*, smallmouth flounder
1023 *Etropus spp.*



Family Pleuronectidae

- 0044 *Pseudopleuronectes americanus*, winter flounder



Order Pleuronectiformes (continued)

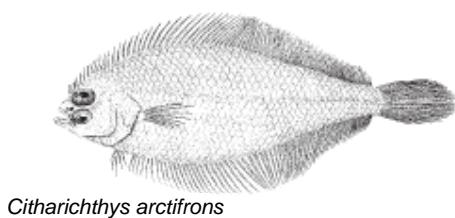
Family Scophthalmidae

0063 *Scophthalmus aquosus*, windowpane



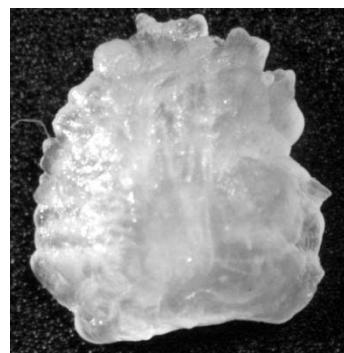
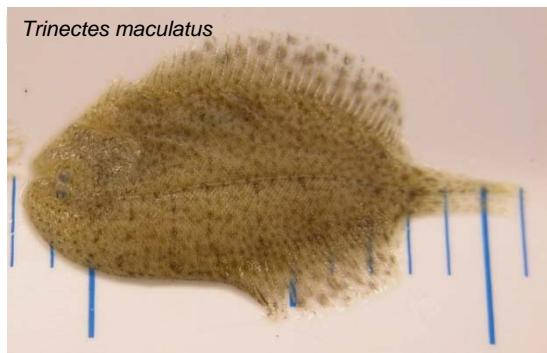
Family Bothidae

0247 *Citharichthys arctifrons*, gulf stream flounder



Family Achiridae

0151 *Trinectes maculatus*, hogchoker



Order Pleuronectiformes (continued)

Family Cynoglossidae

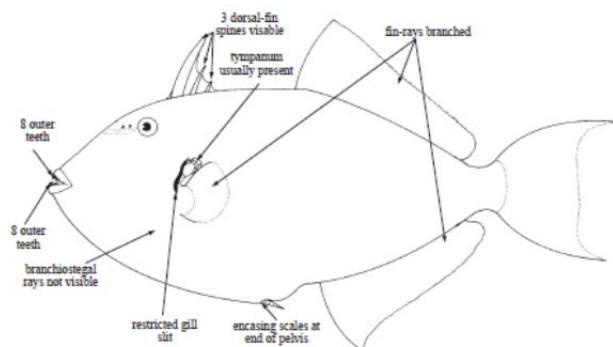
0152 *Syphurus plagiura*, blackcheek tonguefish



Order Tetraodontiformes

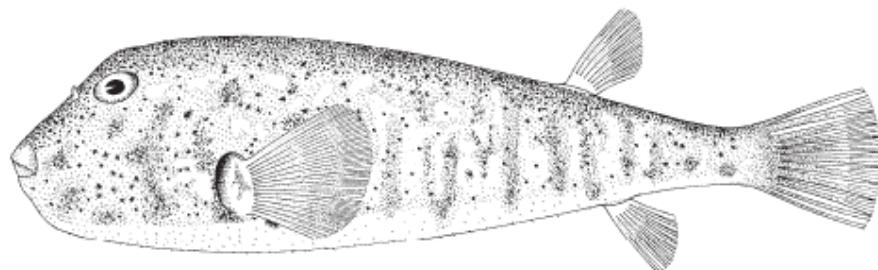
Family Balistidae

0085 *Balistes spp.*
0239 *Balistes capriscus*, gray triggerfish

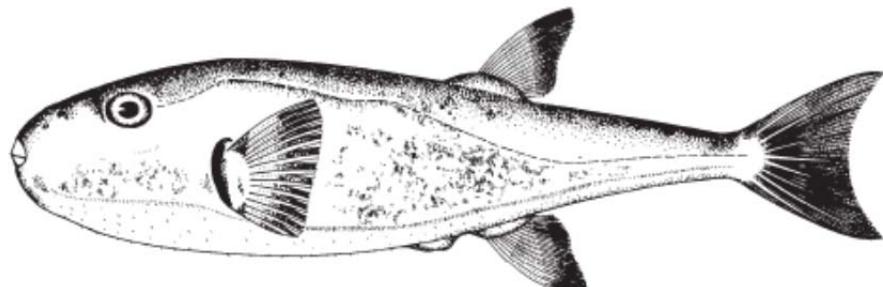


Family Tetraodontidae

0050 *Sphoeroides maculatus*, northern puffer
0079 *Lagocephalus laevigatus*, smooth puffer



Sphoeroides maculatus



Lagocephalus laevigatus