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What species [of snappers] are marketed?

Aquaculture Department, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

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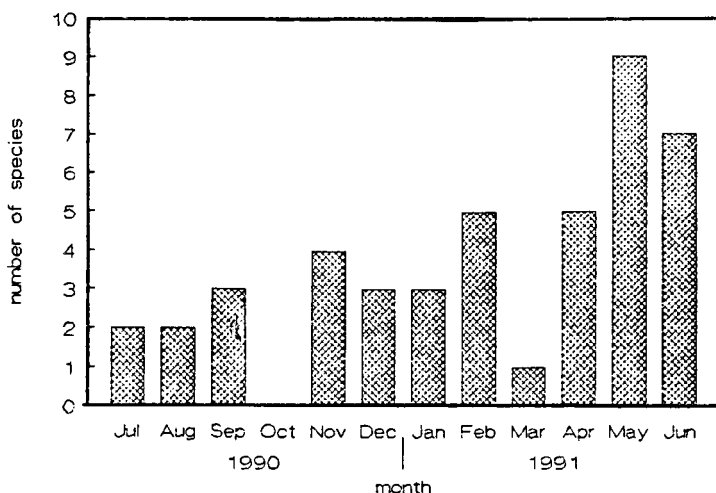
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What species are marketed?

The family Lutjanidae is divided into four sub-families, namely *Lutjaninae*, *Paradicichthyinae*, *Etelinae*, and *Apsilinae* representing 103 species in 17 genera. The genus *Lutjanus* in the sub-family *Lutjaninae* has 65 species, of which 39 have been documented in the Indo-West Pacific. Thirty-two species of *Lutjanus* have been described in the Philippines.

A market survey of snappers of the genus *Lutjanus* was conducted by the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department to identify the species from Panay and Palawan waters. Bi-weekly sampling was conducted for one year at the Iloilo Fishing Port starting July 1990. The fishing port was visited between 12:45 AM - 3:00 AM when the majority of fish were landed. Fish were sourced for location of capture through

Although lutjanids were present year-round, it can be seen that the number of species increased in April with a peak in May. The high number of species that occurred during this time may be the result of the spawning season. This incidence of snapper throughout the year may serve as a guide for the availability of species in the Philippines.



interviews. Specimens were identified, photographed, then preserved in 10% formalin for future reference. From October 1990, the Iloilo Central Market was included in the sampling schedule, and thereafter the fishing port and the market were each sampled once a month.

Thirteen species of snappers were identified. They were *Lutjanus argentimaculatus*, *L. bouton*, *L. carponotatus*, *L. decussatus*, *L. fulviflamma*, *L. malabaricus*, *L. monostigma*, *L. quinquelineatus*, *L. rivulatus*, and *L. vitta*. Incidence of lutjanids was year-round with a peak in May. Most abundant and commonly observed were *L. vitta*, *L. gibbus*, and *L. argentimaculatus*. High-value species such as *Lutjanus malabaricus* were not captured in waters off Panay, but were reported from Palawan.

Source: R. Cheong, W. Gallardo, J. Toledo. 1992. A market survey of snappers (Genus *Lutjanus*) from Panay and Palawan waters. *The Philippine Journal of Science* 121 (1): 1-14.