

# Undiscovered Indonesia - Sulawesi to Raja Ampat

Naturetrek Tour Report

24th February – 12th March 2026

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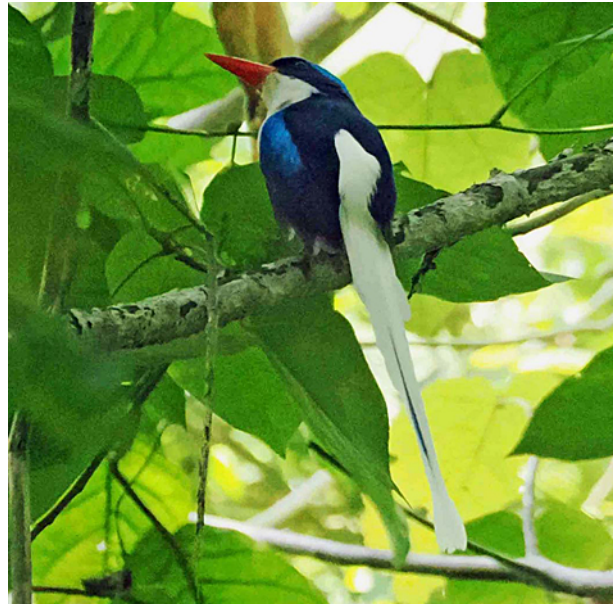
Hawksbill Turtle



Sperm Whale



Wilson's Bird-of-paradise



Kofiau Paradise Kingfisher

Tour report by Charles Anderson

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Tour participants: Dr Charles Anderson (leader) with eight Naturetrek clients

## Summary

This splendid wildlife holiday took us from Sulawesi, past Halmahera and through the Raja Ampat archipelago to Papua, providing plentiful opportunities for birding on land and at sea, numerous cetacean encounters, and regular snorkelling on the most biodiverse coral reefs in the world. We started with a couple of days on land, in northern Sulawesi, at a lodge right on the shores of the Lembah Strait. This not only gave us easy access to some excellent snorkelling, but was also an ideal base from which to visit Tangkoko National Park, where we enjoyed wonderful encounters with both birds and mammals (including Crested Black Macaque, Gursky's Spectral Tarsier and Bear Cuscus). Then we started the main cruise part of the holiday, boarding MV *Mermaid*, our home for the next ten days.

And what a cruise it was! Among the thousands of seabirds seen, there were hundreds of Black-naped, Common and Great Crested Terns, Lesser and Great Frigatebirds and Red-necked Phalaropes, as well as smaller numbers of less common species such as Streaked Shearwater and Abbott's Booby. On land, top birds were undoubtedly Wilson's Bird-of-paradise and Kofiau Paradise Kingfisher. Cetacean sightings included Spinner, Spotted, Common Bottlenose, Indo-Pacific Bottlenose, Fraser's and Risso's Dolphins, and Melon-headed, Short-finned Pilot and Omura's Whales. But the encounter of the trip must be the one we had with the large pod of Sperm Whales, which we watched from the boat and then most memorably in the water.

Also in the water, our coral reef snorkelling was world-class. In addition to the more obvious megafauna (Reef Manta Ray, Mobula Ray, Stingray, Black-tipped Reef Shark, and Green and Hawksbill Turtles) the diversity and abundance of corals and reef fishes was all but overwhelming. Meanwhile, on MV *Mermaid*, the accommodation, the food and the care of the crew all contributed to make this a trip to remember.

## Day 1

**Tuesday 24th February**

Clients departed from the UK.

## Day 2

**Wednesday 25th February**

Most of us arrived at Manado airport, in north-eastern Sulawesi, from Singapore this afternoon. Once we were through immigration and customs, the friendly staff of the Cocotinos Lembah Resort were waiting to greet us, and we were soon on our way by air-conditioned coach across the island, via the newish highway, to the bustling port of Bitung and on via a very hilly coastal road to our accommodation. Those who were tired after the journey retired to a welcome bed soon after checking in. But for those who stayed up, there were several birds on show, including a flock of Pied Imperial Pigeons feeding on a fruit tree on an islet just offshore, Pacific Swallows dipping over the resort pool, Pacific Reef Egrets feeding along the rocky shore, Tree Sparrows, swiftlets in numbers overhead, and a Brahminy Kite cruising by.

Those who dipped into the sea saw why the Lembah Strait is renowned for the diversity of its marine life, and in particular its macro critters. There was also a nice variety of corals and plenty of small fishes, all hinting at what should be a good tomorrow.

## Day 3

Thursday 26th February

We had a relaxing day at our seaside lodge, with plenty of time for birding (and butterfly watching) from the garden, and snorkelling or diving off the beach.

Birding started with a bang, literally, as a Glossy Swiftlet crashed into a hotel wall and tumbled to the ground. It was rescued and photographed in the hand, before being given a boost back into the air. Other highlights included many Pied Imperial Pigeons and a couple of Pink-necked Green Pigeons in the trees on the nearby offshore island, where we also spotted Collared and Common Kingfishers. Along the shore were plenty of Pacific Reef Egrets (all dark-morph), some Little Herons and a single Common Sandpiper. In the opposite direction, inland, much excitement was caused by two passing Brahminy Kites, which attracted the attentions of a mob of Sulawesi Crows. But the big birds of the day were Black and Gurney's Eagles.

For those who ventured into the sea, the snorkelling was superb. The structure of the reef itself was nothing special, but the diversity of reef life was just astonishing. In addition to the good variety of corals, soft corals and sponges, there were many ascidians (sea squirts) and echinoderms (with plentiful starfishes, sea urchins, sea cucumbers and featherstars). The fish life was also stupendous, with particularly great diversity of damselfishes and wrasses, as well as several species of anemonefishes, plus Razorfish, False Stonefish and mega-blennies.

## Day 4

Friday 27th February

This was a fabulous day, starting early for those who had opted for the full day excursion to Tangkoko National Park. We left Cocotinos at 5.00am, and arrived at our first birding spot, Temboan Hill on the outskirts of the park, soon after first light. Our local bird guides were waiting, with a scope already trained on a White-bellied Imperial Pigeon. That was followed in quick succession by an astonishing array of birds, including Black-billed Koel, Yellow-billed Malkoha, Sulawesi Cuckoo-dove, Golden-mantled (Sulawesi) Racket-tail, Sulawesi and Pygmy Hanging-parrots, Black-naped Oriole, Sulawesi Spangled Drongo, and Sulawesi Crested and White-necked Mynas. A short walk to a different vista produced Red-knobbed and Sulawesi Hornbills, Ivory-backed Wood-swallow and Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeon, as well as Glossy, Uniform and Sulawesi Swiftlets. Returning to the van for breakfast, we were entertained by Sahul Sunbirds and Grey-sided Flowerpeckers on a nearby bush. Then we took a stroll up the road, where we added Black-naped Fruit Dove (the male sporting an extraordinary black mohican), a pair of Ornate Lorikeets, Yellow-sided Flowerpecker, Crimson Sunbird, several gorgeous black-and-yellow Common Birdwing butterflies (*Troides helena*) and a beautifully back-lit Sulawesi Lined Gliding Lizard (*Draco spilonotus*). It was now gone 9.00am and it was warming up, so it was time to move down to a more shaded area, stopping on the way to watch a White-breasted Woodswallow.

At the base of the hill, we set off by foot into the forest, crossing a stream on a narrow tree trunk bridge. We headed first to a site for Sulawesi Pitta, without success, although we did see a Sulawesi Babbler as we arrived. We eventually moved on, in a more successful search for a Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher. And what a splendid little bird it was, providing great views.

It was now getting hot, even under the canopy, so it was time for a break. We moved on to the village of Batuputih, at the very entrance to the main part of Tangkoko NP. Here was a chance to rest in the shade with some coffee bushes, and to enjoy some more butterflies, while waiting for the three who were due to join us for the afternoon

excursion. Once they arrived, on schedule, lunch was taken. Then we went back into the park for our afternoon session.

First up were pairs of Green-backed and Sulawesi Lilac Kingfishers. Further into the park, we passed the Wallace statue, commemorating the life and achievements of Alfred Russel Wallace, who was the first biologist to work at Tangkoko, where he carried out a pioneering study on breeding of the Maleo (megapode) birds.

Under the roof of a nearby shelter, we stopped to admire a Sulawesi Horseshoe Bat, before pushing deeper into the park. There were lots of cicadas calling, and several were visible, perching on the trunks of large trees, as were another pair of Gliding Lizards and several chunky millipedes.



Bata Rufus



Bear Cuscus



Green-backed Kingfisher



Bleeker's Parrotfish

By now we were quite a way into the forest, and found a pair of Black Macaques. The female had noticeably swollen pink buttocks, which must have been especially alluring, as they were soon mating. A bit further on we found the main group, with perhaps fifty members, including adults, youngsters, and mothers with infants. They were all moving slowly through the forest, mostly on the ground, but several through the trees. What a privilege it was to walk alongside them, as they went about their business, completely ignoring us.

It was hard to drag ourselves away, but we eventually did move on to a known Gursky's Spectral Tarsier roosting tree. With none at home, we moved on again, passing the Black Macaques which were gathering in their sleeping tree, to a second tarsier roost. This time we had some luck: two were in view, sleeping in hollows in the massive Banyan Tree.

And then we had our final target mammal: Bear Cuscus. Our guides had found one, but it was not easy to see in the high canopy. But they had also located two more, which although still high above us, offered much better views. They were slowly moving through the canopy, showing their delightful faces, thick fur and prehensile tails.

Finally leaving the Bear Cuscuses, we walked back to the park entrance, stopping briefly at the beach near the Wallace statue, where the great man himself had once worked. Then we made the ninety-minute hour drive back to Cocotinos, in time for a welcome shower and cold drink before dinner.

## Day 5

## Saturday 28th February

We had a quiet final morning at Cocotinos Lembeh, enjoying the sunshine on the water and the Bougainvillea, while on the lawn Black-headed Munias mixed with noticeably larger Tree Sparrows. We were picked up by cars sent from *Mermaid* at 11.00am for our transfer to Bitung port, just ten minutes down the road. Then we hopped into the dinghies for a quick ride out to the *Mermaid*, anchored in the Lembeh Strait.

After lunch and separate briefings for boat safety and snorkelling, it was time for our first snorkel. We took to the dinghies for the short ride to the nearby snorkel site, known as Nudi Falls, because of the abundance of nudibranchs (sea slugs) and the presence of a small waterfall tumbling down the forested hillside into the sea here. And what a great snorkel it turned out to be. We started over a coral reef, which gave way to a sandier slope, then a steep drop-off, and finally a bay with a shipyard and shipwreck. All the while we were snorkelling adjacent to or under overhanging forest trees. While the corals here were not the best, there were plenty of fishes and other reef creatures. These included Batfish, juvenile Harlequin Sweetlips, the local endemic Banggai Cardinalfish, six species of anemonefishes, many species of giant sea anemone, featherstars, Peacock Mantis Shrimp and several species of nudibranchs.

Evening talk: Dolphins of Indonesia.

## Day 6

## Sunday 1st March

We left our sheltered anchorage north of Bitung early this morning, and headed south down the Lembeh Strait, passing numerous cargo ships and fishing boats. Overhead, a single juvenile White-bellied Sea Wagle was being mobbed by Sulawesi Crows. Around the south-east corner of Lembeh, in a sheltered bay, with a parade of Lesser Frigatebirds soaring overhead, we found our snorkel site at Pantai Pancetansa. The corals here were superb, with a delightful mix of branching, table, massive and fire corals. Among the many fishes here were a juvenile black Lionfish, Zebra Moray, Striped Sweetlips, Firetail Dottyback, dozens of species of damselfishes and wrasse, and a variety of butterflyfishes including Lined, Lattice, Chevron, Red-tailed, Klein's, Baronessa, Threadfin and Vagabond. The coral reef shelved very gently in shallow water, eventually giving way to a somewhat steeper rubble and sand slope dominated by tall seagrasses, with their own unique fish fauna including the striking White Damselfish.

Back on board the *Mermaid*, breakfast was ready, and we were soon off, on the long crossing to Halmahera. We almost immediately had our first cetacean sighting of the trip: a large and boisterous mixed school of Melon-headed Whales and Fraser's Dolphins. We stayed with these animals for a full hour, enjoying their bow riding and antics alongside.

When we finally left and turned back on course, the sea was still fairly calm. But soon the wind picked up, and although it never became too rough, the conditions made spotting tricky. Perhaps as a result, we had no more cetacean sightings today. But we did enjoy a nice variety of seabirds, including Greater Crested and Bridled Terns, a couple of Wilson's Storm Petrels, a dozen or more Streaked Shearwaters, and many Red-necked Phalaropes, as well as Brown Boobies and White-tailed Tropicbirds.

As the light faded in the late afternoon, we were approaching the small island of Tifore, roughly half way across the Halmahera Strait. *Mermaid* anchored here in calm water, giving us a peaceful time for dinner, before we continued on our crossing.

## Day 7

## Monday 2nd March

Having travelled through the night, this morning found us approaching the volcanic island of Makian, off the coast of Halmahera. We came to rest near a village on the sheltered south side of the islands, from where we spotted two schools of Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphins cruising along the coast.

Those who were snorkelling were soon into the dinghies and into the water. We started on a steep rocky wall, plastered with an astonishing variety of large sponges, including several huge Barrel Sponges. This gave way to a shelving stretch of black sand in front of the local village (from where local school boys hailed us), and then to a coral reef. The diversity of habitats gave us a great diversity of reef fishes, with highlights including Spotted Porcupinefish, Regal and Blue-girdled Angelfishes and several species of butterflyfishes. There was also a Banded Sea Snake, a huge squidgy sea cucumber, and local bamboo fish traps. And for the client who went ashore, a highlight of a walk around the village was watching a local lady setting out her nutmeg and mace harvest to dry in the sun.

Once we were all back on board, breakfast was ready, and then we were off, heading south along the coast of Halmahera. Almost immediately we had Spinner and Spotted Dolphins rushing in to our bows. And a bit later we had another much larger mixed school, again coming in to our bows, as well as leaping and spinning alongside.

In the early afternoon, our crossing of the equator provided an excuse for a cheer and a group photo. Continuing south between Halmahera and Kayoa Islands, we turned in towards the tiny island of Pulau Alipan for our afternoon snorkel. This was a delight, with a superb coral reef bursting with life. Here were great meadows of branching corals, numerous tables, plus massive and fire corals too. Among the fishes, we spotted at least ten species of butterflyfishes, Blue Ribbon and Giant Moray Eels, in addition to the usual confusion of damselfish and wrasse species, plus the pink egg roseate of a Spanish Dancer sea slug.

Pushing on further south we had one more encounter with Spinner Dolphins, which were charging north. This was followed by a rare sighting of an Olive Ridley Turtle, just before sunset and prior to our anchoring off southwestern Halmahera.

Evening presentation: Blackfish of Indonesia.

## Day 8

## Tuesday 3rd March

*Mermaid* moved first thing, along the coast of Pulau Saleh Besar (between Halmahera and Bacan), to the tiny but densely-wooded island of Pulau Proco. A small flock of Lesser and Great Frigatebirds soared over as we came to rest. Our morning reef snorkel here was world-class, thanks to the early sunlight, clear water and superb corals, which were densely packed and highly diverse with reef fishes to match. Among the particular highlights were Black-tipped Reef Shark, Blue Spotted Ribbon Ray, Common Lionfish and Banded Sea Snake. But the highlight was a mating pair of Reef Cuttlefish, the female delicately placing her eggs under a coral ledge. As we reluctantly got out, Eclectus Parrots were calling noisily from the shore.

After breakfast, *Mermaid* moved on, around the great Bay of Babang. Seabirds included dozens of Red-necked Phalaropes, more frigatebirds, a couple of Brown Boobies and three Streaked Shearwaters. As we headed south, the wind picked up, but we did find a group of Spinner Dolphins (well spotted, Simon), which charged in to our bows and rode alongside for some time.

As we cleared the rugged southern tip of Bacan, the wind dropped and viewing conditions improved dramatically. But then the rain set in: it was a real tropical downpour, in the middle of which an Oriental Pratincole flew up to and around the boat! We waited for the rain to ease, and then got into the dinghies for our afternoon snorkel. It was still overcast, so the light was not the best, but the reef here was again wonderful, with superb corals and reef fishes. There were also two more cuttlefishes, and plenty of butterflyfishes and angelfishes.

Evening talk: Seabirds of Indonesia. We took breaks for intermittent viewings of tonight's total lunar eclipse, which had started just after sunset, and starwatching on the top deck during the totality, with David explaining the phenomenon and the night sky above us.

## Day 9

## Wednesday 4th March

It was flat calm first thing this morning, as *Mermaid* moved just a little way along the south coast of Bacan, disturbing a Hawksbill Turtle en route, to the site of our morning snorkel. This reef was a delight, with lush coral growth and, again, a fabulous diversity of reef fishes. Among the many highlights were Black-tipped Reef Shark, Egg Cowrie, Peacock Mantis Shrimp, several different sea cucumbers, Solor Boxfish, iridescent Sapphire Copepods and more.

Meanwhile the birders in the second dinghy were patrolling the mangrove edge in search of birds. Among their highlights were Great-billed and Red-cheeked Parrots, Violet-necked Lory, Moustached Treeswift, Bacan Spangled Drongo and Osprey.

Once back on board *Mermaid*, we were soon off, heading east towards the southern tip of Halmahera. Along the way we had some interesting seabirds, including a flock of Common Terns, which came up astern. Our cetacean encounters were excellent, with Spinner and Risso's Dolphins, and Short-finned Pilot Whales. The Spinners were somewhat subdued, although several did bow ride. In contrast, the Risso's Dolphins were in exuberant mood, with many headstands, breaches and tail slaps. Meanwhile, off the southernmost tip of Halmahera, the pilot whales were on a mission, determinedly heading west, diving for fifteen to twenty minutes, then surfacing for a few minutes. We stayed with them for a full hour, before turning back towards Halmahera for our afternoon snorkel.

Once again, the reef was superb, with dense cover of hard corals (including a massive *Porites* bommie), fire and leather corals, as well as blue and red corals. Fishes were excellent too, with particularly large numbers of wrasses, damselfishes and small parrotfishes.

Evening talk: Corals of Indonesia.

## Day 10

## Thursday 5th March

What a great day! We started with a snorkel off the southern tip of Halmahera. As before, the reef was densely populated with hard, fire and leather corals. And the fish life was again overwhelming, with a great diversity of species. Just among the butterflyfishes, we counted twenty different species, including our first sighting of the delightful Panda Butterflyfish. Black-tipped Reef Shark and Crown-of-thorns Starfish were other notable sightings.

For those more interested in birds, the second dinghy went along the shoreline, giving a chance to see Moluccan Imperial Pigeon, Moluccan Cuckooshrike, Red-cheeked Parrot and Moustached Treeswift, among others.

Then we were off, startling a Green Turtle and passing an incoming school of Spinner Dolphins on our way out of the channel. Out in deeper water, we passed a surprising number of huge barges being tugged, carrying nickel ore from one side of Halmahera to the other for processing.

Leaving Halmahera behind, the wind picked up, but we still spotted a school of Short-finned Pilot Whales. We turned to follow them and realised that they were being accompanied by numerous Common Bottlenose Dolphins, some of which rushed in to bow ride, while others leaped and splashed alongside. And then, just as we were thinking of moving on, a tight, fast-moving group of Fraser's Dolphins charged in.

When we finally pushed on across the wide channel towards Raja Ampat, the wind died and the sea calmed, giving us superb travelling and viewing conditions. Seabirds were not plentiful, but there were a few terns (both Bridled and Greater Crested) and the usual Red-necked Phalaropes and frigatebirds (both Lesser and Great), as well as four Streaked Shearwaters, heading north to their breeding islands in the north-west Pacific.

Good viewing conditions allowed us to pick up some distant blows, some three to four miles away, just short of the horizon. They were Sperm Whales, a great school of them, well spread out and diving out of sync. As a result, they were not easy to count, but there were perhaps over thirty, with singles and small groups spread out over a wide expanse of ocean. In among them were at least two mothers with calves. And there was also a school of Melon-headed Whales too, which at one point approached the Sperm Whales remarkably closely.

After a full hour of watching from the surface, those who wanted went out in the Zodiacs, with a great buzz of anticipation, to try and swim with the whales, with great success! First we encountered a huge male, which swam straight towards us, jaws wide open, head and mouth white with age, clanging loudly. Wow! Then we tried again, with a mother and calf, which turned away but came back again and again, giving superb prolonged views to some. Fantastic!

Back on board *Mermaid*, we continued on our way, enjoying the sunset off the Boo Islands (part of the Kofiau group, and outliers of Raja Ampat).

## Day 11

## Friday 6th March

We had anchored during the night off the north coast of Kofiau. This morning, after a snack, our local bird guide came aboard and led us ashore in the Zodiacs. After a beach landing, we started our walk along the coast, where there were plenty of Philippines Ground Orchids in flower, and plenty of birds overhead including Lesser and Great Frigatebird, Gurney's Eagle, Brahminy Kite and Moluccan Imperial Pigeon. Then we went up a short, raised reef escarpment, to a low, forested plateau. Here some had the briefest glimpse of a Dusky Scrubfowl (and we later passed their impressive nest mound).



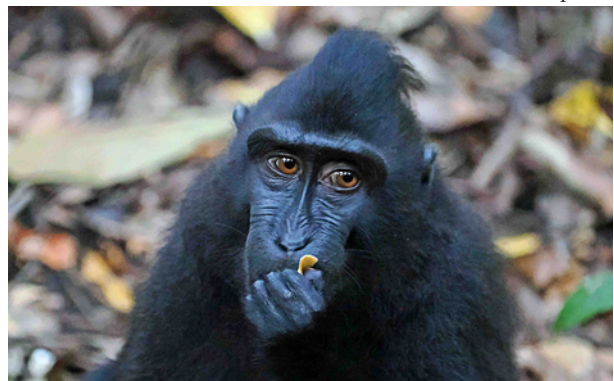
Common Bottlenose Dolphins



Fraser's Dolphin



Manta Ray



Black Macaque

Although there were plenty of birds calling from the jungle, they were very difficult to see. Nevertheless, we did get glimpses of both male and female Common Shining Flycatchers. And then we had several glimpses of Kofiau Paradise Kingfisher, culminating for some in a couple of superb views of this cracking bird. Other birds seen included Slender-billed Cuckoo-Dove, Moluccan Imperial Pigeon, Spotted Kestrel, Violet-necked Lory, Moluccan King Parrot, Metallic Starling and Black Sunbird. We also found several beautiful butterflies and dragonflies.

We had breakfast before our morning snorkel. This was a nice gentle potter in the shelter of Deer Island, along a sand slope with many soft corals, plus seagrasses and a wonderful diversity of fishes.

Back on board, we were soon out to sea, heading north-east towards the main Raja Ampat islands. It was a bit windy, but viewing conditions were good. However, it was not until late in the afternoon that we found a large and very active group of Spotted Dolphins. But before that, we had found the seabird of the day: an Abbott's Booby. It was sitting on the water and flew off when we approached, but soon settled on a log, from which it displaced a Brown Booby, providing us with excellent close views. We also spotted a couple of Streaked Shearwaters heading

north, and brightly illuminated by the lowering sun. Then as the sun set, turning the western sky a glorious orange, we came in to anchor near Fam Island.

Evening talk: Reef creatures of Indonesia.

## Day 12

## Saturday 7th March

Today was another great day. *Mermaid* moved first thing, from our overnight anchorage off Fam Island to the small island of Penemu (or Piaynemo). A pair of Radjah Shelducks flew right past our bows as we came into our mooring. Then we headed ashore in the dinghies, landed at the jetty, and headed up the wide wooden stairway to the viewpoint overlooking the extraordinary karst formations in the lagoon below. Birds seen from the viewpoint were not as plentiful as usual, but did include Spice Imperial Pigeon and Metallic Starling; we also saw a splendid monitor lizard. Back at the jetty, there were archerfishes to admire in the lagoon, before a dinghy ride around another lagoon lined with extraordinary karst cliffs.

Back on board *Mermaid*, there was time for a drink and a bite, then it was all change for snorkelling at the nearby island of Batu Rufus. Here, the limestone cliffs enclose a shallow sheltered lagoon, the floor of which is thick with corals and full of fish, like a giant aquarium. There was a huge school of Yellowtail Fusiliers, as well as some butterflyfishes we had not seen before (Bennett's and Teardrop), plus a splendid Sixbar Angelfish. On the outside, the steep reef wall was undercut, providing ideal habitat for barrel sponges (one with two Panda Butterflyfishes chilling inside), seafans and orange star corals, as well as shelter for two Elegant Unicornfish. From the wall, a glorious coral meadow sloped out to the drop-off, where Giant Napoleon Wrasse, several large groupers, and a Black-tipped Reef Shark were loitering. There were also two Hawksbill Turtles: one particularly relaxed one came right up to us when surfacing to breath. Spectacular!

After a late breakfast, we were off again and heading north, first along the drop-off, and then over the shelf. Among the seabirds here was a group of four Long-tailed Skuas sitting on the sea. They were followed by a great cavalcade of frigatebirds streaming overhead, and then a busy feeding flock of Greater Crested and Common Terns. A single Streaked Shearwater flew northwards.

Then, late in the afternoon, we almost ran over a giant Oceanic Manta. We slowed and turned and soon had it alongside: it gave us wonderful views. While we watched, a whale was spotted nearby. We followed, and had a couple more glimpses, but could not refind it, until blows were spotted away to the north. We headed in that direction, and some did get another glimpse of the animal, but again it gave us the slip. Then blows were seen again off to the east. Again, we turned and waited, but this time there was no show. Although we did not get an excellent view, the sightings we did have strongly suggested that this was an Omura's Whale, a medium-sized tropical baleen whale, only recognized as a distinct species in 2003.

When we finally moved on, we were almost immediately joined by two chunky Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphins, which bow rode with us for over ten minutes. *Mermaid* finally anchored for the night near the village of Sawandarek, on Mansuar Island.

Evening presentation: Whales of Indonesia.

## Day 13

## Sunday 8th March

This morning started with an Omura's Whale swimming down the side of *Mermaid*, just before we left on the dinghies in two groups today. Most of us snorkelled on the reef of Sawandarek, while others went for a walk and did some birding in the village.

The snorkel was spectacular. The reef here is fully protected by the villagers, with no fishing allowed. As a result, there is a profusion of large and confiding fishes, and turtles. Entering near the jetty, we were greeted by clouds of rudderfishes and sergeant-majors. Just to one side was an aggregation of several different sweetlips species: Oriental, Diagonal-banded, Gold-striped, Harlequin and Giant. There were schools of fusiliers, barracudas and rabbitfishes, large angelfishes (Six-barred, Imperial, Blue-faced, Regal) and so much more. A Black-tipped Reef Shark swam through, as did a small squadron of Short-horned Mobula Rays. And as if that wasn't enough, there were turtles, with large Green Turtles (some people seeing five) and at least two Hawksbill Turtles. They were well-used to snorkellers and came startlingly close on several occasions. Wow!

Meanwhile, the others had enjoyed a pleasant stroll through the well-kept village, enjoying the greenery, flowers, and birds. Species of note included a white Variable Goshawk, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Black-capped Lory, Singing Starling, Hooded Butcherbird and an unidentified honeyeater.

Back on board *Mermaid*, breakfast was ready, and we were off, heading across the Dampier Strait towards Batanta. On the way we had an Oceanic Manta alongside, with more jumping in the distance. There were plenty of seabirds too, with numerous Red-necked Phalaropes and dozens of frigatebirds, as well as Greater Crested Terns resting in a neat row on a floating log, which is always a delightful sight.

On the Batanta side of the Dampier Strait, we sailed along the edge of the slope, searching for whales, but without luck this time. However, we did pass a tiny sandbank, densely covered with roosting terns. Most were Black-naped Terns, but there were also Greater Crested and Common, plus a single Turnstone.

Near the tiny island of Jerief we anchored in time for lunch, and our early afternoon snorkel at a Manta site. The reef here was patchy, with coral bommies scattered over a flat sandy bottom at about seven metres depth. A large Reef Manta was beneath us as soon as we jumped in, but it immediately moved off. We moved up to a slightly shallower reef area and waited. There was plenty of action, with great shoals of plankton-feeding fusiliers, damselfishes and surgeonfishes. There were patrolling predators too, including Black-tipped Reef Shark, Great Barracuda, Wahoo and Rainbow Runner. And then a cry went up: Manta! Back where we started, another Manta was being cleaned, circling slowly over a low coral bommie, with Klein's Butterflyfishes and Moon Wrasses swarming over it. Then a third Manta appeared, this time a black-morph individual. We spent thirty minutes admiring them before the tide started to change and the Mantas moved off. Wow, again!

Once back on board *Mermaid*, we turned north, crossing back over the Dampier Strait, this time to Waigeo, with lots more phalaropes, terns and frigatebirds en route. An Osprey and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos were flying along the coast as we anchored off the tiny village of Saporkren, just in time for drinks on deck at sunset, ahead of running through the evening checklist.

## Day 14

## Monday 9th March

We had an early start today, with a 5.30am run ashore in the dinghies. At the jetty, we were greeted by our local guides, who led us up a steep path to the road, into our waiting 4x4 vehicles, then up a bumpy forest trail, deep into the hilly forest. The light was coming up now, and birds of many species were starting to call, including Hooded Butcherbirds, Pinon's Imperial Pigeon and Papuan Pitta. A moderate walk along a narrow jungle track took us to a couple of screens, set up in front of a Wilson's Bird-of-paradise lek.

And there he was! It was an exquisite bird, the darkest velvet-black ground colour set off with blazing flashes of crimson, yellow, iridescent green, sky-blue and cream. Although there were two males in the area, one was in view on the lek for most of the nearly two hours we stayed. He was calling manfully, and eventually his patience was rewarded by the arrival of three (or possibly four) females. They were a much more subdued brown in colour, but still with a sky-blue skull cap. It was a quite extraordinary display.

We eventually dragged ourselves away, and headed just a short distance back along the track to another screen, this time in search of Papuan Pitta. However, this bird failed to appear, so we continued our walk along the main logging track, spotting Rufous-bellied Kookaburra, Eclectus Parrot and a glorious stick insect. This took us to another pitta hide, but again there was no show. And now the rain started, not heavily, and not entirely unexpectedly in a tropical rain forest, but enough to send us back to our vehicles and the coast. Here, a few more birds were spotted, including Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Palm Cockatoo and Willie Wagtail, before we all returned, buzzing, to the *Mermaid*.

Now we were heading east towards Waisai, the regional capital for mandatory port clearance, passing a school of Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphins, as well as jumping Mantas and a large unidentified turtle on the way

Out at sea, we found another school of dolphins, Spinner Dolphins this time. They readily bow rode, but they were heading east and we now wanted to travel south, across the deep Dampier Strait. Here we found more Red-necked Phalaropes, frigatebirds and Greater Crested Terns, and we also had a brief fly-past by a single Red-footed Booby (well spotted, Alan!). Then, entering the shallow shelf zone of Batanta Island, we passed huge numbers of Black-naped and Common Terns, feeding over tuna schools. *Mermaid* now turned in to the sheltered Birie Bay for our overnight anchorage.

The site for our afternoon snorkel here was not on the best coral reef, nor did it have the best visibility, but it was superb nevertheless. There were so many reef fishes, and in the exceptionally calm conditions, they were very easy to approach closely among shallow corals. This gave us wonderful views of tiny blennies, gobies and damselfishes, as well as Scorpionfish, soapfishes, and seafans festooned with featherstars. Most of us stayed in the water for a full ninety minutes. However, a couple of snorkellers did get out early to sit in the dinghies and watch for birds, spotting several Dusky Scrubfowl on the beach, as well as Sulphur-crested Cockatoo and Papuan Hornbill.

We were all back on board *Mermaid* before sunset, in time to watch a stream of Papuan Hornbills crossing the bay to their roosting island nearby.

Evening talk: Alfred Russel Wallace

## Day 15

**Tuesday 10th March**

The day dawned calm and sunny in Birie Bay. We started with a Zodiac ride around Yum Island and along the shore of Birie Island, in search of birds. Among those spotted were Spice Imperial Pigeon, Papuan Hornbill, Papuan Friarbird, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Willie Wagtail and some very noisy Torresian Crows. We also spotted a small Black-tipped Reef Shark and a couple of Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphins on our return.

Back on *Mermaid*, we had time for a drink, and then we were off again, this time for a snorkel on the reef of Yum Island. The reef here did not offer spectacular scenery, but the corals and fishes were amazing. The density and diversity of both was quite extraordinary, with more than enough to keep us fully engrossed for well over an hour. Among some of the many highlights were Common Lionfish, Shrimp Gobies in their burrows with commensal shrimps, gorgeously coloured blennies, and more butterflyfishes and angelfishes than we could keep track of.

When the last snorkeller had reluctantly come out of the water, and we were all back on board *Mermaid*, it was time for late breakfast. Then we headed out of the densely-forested Birie Bay into the Dampier Strait, where we found hundreds (if not thousands) of terns in great feeding flocks. There were plenty of Greater Crested and Bridled Terns, even more Common Terns, and uncountable numbers of Black-naped Terns, all making for a most beautiful sight.

Further out in the Dampier Strait there were no more terns, but plenty of frigatebirds. We were hoping for some whales too, as we had seen several on previous crossings of this sector, but apart from one splash and blow, we did not find any today. But as we came into the approaches to Sorong port, we did have three separate groups of Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphins. Then we went to anchor in the boat roads. That gave us time to chat and pack and write up notes before our final evening checklist update. This was followed by a recap of the trip, and a roundup of everyone's highlights. Different people remembered different highlights, with a dozen being recalled, but top of the pile were our encounter with Sperm Whales, snorkelling with Manta Rays, snorkelling on the coral reefs with their astonishing diversity of corals and fishes, Wilson's Bird-of-paradise, and our visit to Tangkoko National Park. At dinner a birthday cake was produced for John, and there was a gathering of all the crew so we could offer our thanks.

## Day 16

**Wednesday 11th March**

After breakfast and sad farewells, we disembarked from *Mermaid* in two waves for transfers to Sorong airport, from where we travelled home.

## Day 17

**Thursday 12th March**

Clients finally returned home to the UK.

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## Species lists

Birds (H=heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	February - March 2026													
		25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Radjah Shelduck	<i>Radjah radjah</i>											✓	✓		
Dusky Megapode	<i>Megapodius freycinet</i>										✓			✓	
Moustached Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne mystacea</i>								✓	✓			✓		
Glossy Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia esculenta</i>		✓	✓	✓										
Moluccan Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus infuscatus</i>								✓	✓					
Sulawesi Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus infuscatus sororum</i>		✓	✓	✓										
Uniform Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus vanikorensis</i>		✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	
Yellow-billed Malkoha	<i>Rhamphococcyx calyrorhynchus</i>			✓											
Black-billed Koel	<i>Eudynamis melanorhynchus</i>			✓											
Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>			✓											
Amboyna Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Macropygia amboinensis</i>										✓				
Sultan's Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Macropygia doreya</i>			✓											
Pink-necked Green Pigeon	<i>Treron vernans</i>		✓												
Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon	<i>Treron griseicauda</i>			✓											
White-bibbed Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus rivoli</i>										✓				
Black-naped Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus melanospilus</i>			✓											
White-bellied Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula forsteni</i>			✓											
Green Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>			✓											
Spectacled Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula perspicillata</i>									✓	✓				
Spice Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula myristicivora</i>											✓		✓	✓
Pinon's Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula pinon</i>													H	
Pied Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula bicolor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula luctuosa</i>			✓											
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		✓					✓		✓				✓	
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>												✓		
Oriental Pratincole	<i>Glareola maldivarum</i>							✓							
Black Noddy	<i>Anous minutus</i>														✓
Bridled Tern	<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>								✓			✓	✓	✓	✓

Common name	Scientific name	February - March 2026														
		25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Black-naped Tern	<i>Sterna sumatrana</i>														✓	✓
Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pomarine/Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius sp.</i>					✓			✓							
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>											✓				
White-tailed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon lepturus</i>					✓		✓								
Wilson's Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>					✓										
Streaked Shearwater	<i>Calonectris leucomelas</i>					✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Lesser Frigatebird	<i>Fregata ariel</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Great Frigatebird	<i>Fregata minor</i>							✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Abbott's Booby	<i>Papasula abbotti</i>										✓		✓			
Red-footed Booby	<i>Sula sula</i>														✓	
Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Pacific Reef Heron	<i>Egretta sacra</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Little Heron	<i>Butorides atricapilla</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓									✓
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			✓												
Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea coromanda</i>	✓		✓	✓			✓			✓					
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>								✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malaiensis</i>		✓													
Gurney's Eagle	<i>Aquila gurneyi</i>		✓								✓					
Variable Goshawk	<i>Tachyspiza hiogaster</i>												✓			
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	
White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Icthyophaga leucogaster</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓								
Blyth's Hornbill	<i>Rhyticeros plicatus</i>														✓	✓
Knobbed Hornbill	<i>Rhyticeros cassidix</i>			✓												
Sulawesi Hornbill	<i>Rhabdotorrhinus exarhatus</i>			✓												
Green-backed Kingfisher	<i>Actenoides monachus</i>			✓												
Kofiau Paradise Kingfisher	<i>Tanysiptera ellioti</i>										✓					
Sulawesi Lilac Kingfisher	<i>Cittura cyanotis</i>			✓												
Rufous-bellied Kookaburra	<i>Dacelo gaudichaud</i>														✓	
Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>		✓	✓												
Beach Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus saurophagus</i>												✓			
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		✓													
Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx fallax</i>			✓												
Spotted Kestrel	<i>Falco moluccensis</i>										✓					

Common name	Scientific name	February - March 2026														
		25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Palm Cockatoo	<i>Probosciger aterrimus</i>														✓	
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua galerita</i>													✓	✓	✓
Golden-mantled Racket-tail	<i>Prioniturus platurus</i>			✓												
Moluccan Eclectus	<i>Eclectus roratus</i>						✓								✓	
Red-cheeked Parrot	<i>Geoffroyus geoffroyi</i>								✓	✓						✓
Great-billed Parrot	<i>Tanygnathus megalorhynchus</i>								✓							
Black-capped Lory	<i>Lorius lory</i>											✓				
Ornate Lorikeet	<i>Saudareos ornata</i>			✓												
Violet-necked Lory	<i>Eos squamata</i>								✓		✓					
Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot	<i>Loriculus galgulus</i>			✓												
Pygmy Hanging Parrot	<i>Loriculus exilis</i>			✓												
Papuan Pitta	<i>Erythropitta macklotii</i>														H	
Helmeted Friarbird	<i>Philemon buceroides</i>			✓												
White-breasted Woodswallow	<i>Artamus leucorhynchus</i>			✓									✓			
Ivory-backed Woodswallow	<i>Artamus monachus</i>			✓												
Hooded Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus cassicus</i>												✓	H	H	
Pied Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina bicolor</i>			✓												
Moluccan Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina atriceps</i>								✓	✓						
Black-naped Oriole	<i>Oriolus chinensis</i>			✓												
Sulawesi Drongo	<i>Dicrurus montanus</i>			✓												
Spangled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus bracteatus</i>								✓							
Willie Wagtail	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>								✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shining Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra alecto</i>										✓					✓
Sulawesi Crow	<i>Corvus celebensis</i>	✓	✓													
Brown-headed Crow	<i>Corvus fuscicapillus</i>												✓			
Torresian Crow	<i>Corvus orru</i>															✓
Glossy-mantled Manucode	<i>Manucodia ater</i>														H	
Wilson's Bird-of-paradise	<i>Diphyllodes respublica</i>														✓	
Sooty-headed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus aurigaster</i>		✓	✓	✓											
Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo javanica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓								✓	✓	✓	
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Sulawesi Babbler	<i>Pellorneum celebense</i>			✓												
Metallic Starling	<i>Aplonis metallica</i>										✓	✓				
Singing Starling	<i>Aplonis cantoroides</i>												✓			

Common name	Scientific name	February - March 2026														
		25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Sulawesi Myna	<i>Basilornis celebensis</i>			✓												
White-necked Myna	<i>Streptocitta albigollis</i>			✓												
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓														
Red-backed Thrush	<i>Geokichla erythronota</i>			✓												
Yellow-sided Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum aureolimbatum</i>			✓												
Grey-sided Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum celebicum</i>			✓												
Black Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma aspasia</i>										✓					
Sahul Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris frenatus</i>			✓								✓			✓	
Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>			✓												
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓								✓			
Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	✓														
Chestnut Munia	<i>Lonchura atricapilla</i>				✓											

## Mammals

Common name	Scientific name	February - March 2026														
		25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Common Bear Cuscus	<i>Ailurops ursinus</i>			✓												
Crested Macaque	<i>Macaca nigra</i>			✓												
Gursky's Spectral Tarsier	<i>Tarsius spectrumgurskyae</i>			✓												
Whitish Dwarf Squirrel	<i>Prosciurillus leucomus</i>			✓												
Sulawesi Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus celebensis</i>			✓												
Omura's Whale	<i>Balaenoptera omurai</i>											✓	✓			
Fraser's Dolphin	<i>Lagenodelphis hosei</i>					✓					✓					
Pantropical Spotted Dolphin	<i>Stenella attenuata</i>						✓				✓					
Spinner Dolphin	<i>Stenella longirostris</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		
Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops aduncus</i>						✓					✓		✓	✓	
Common Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>									✓						
Short-finned Pilot Whale	<i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i>								✓	✓						
Risso's Dolphin	<i>Grampus griseus</i>								✓							
Melon-headed Whale	<i>Peponocephala electra</i>					✓				✓						
Sperm Whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>									✓						
Feral Pig	<i>Sus domesticus</i>													✓		

Reptiles

Common name	Scientific name	February - March 2026													
		25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Hawksbill Turtle	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>								✓			✓	✓		
Green Turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>									✓			✓		
Olive Ridley Turtle	<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>						✓								
Monitor Lizard	<i>Varanus sp.</i>											✓			
Asian House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>	✓	✓	✓											
Sulawesi Lined Gliding Lizard	<i>Draco spilonotus</i>			✓											
Banded Seasnake	<i>Laticauda colubrina</i>						✓	✓							

## Fishes

Group	Common name	Scientific name
Sharks and Rays	Blacktip Reef Shark	<i>Carcharhinus melanopterus</i>
	Blue-spotted Fantail-ray	<i>Taeniura lymma</i>
	Reef Manta	<i>Mobula alfredi</i>
	Oceanic Manta	<i>Mobula birostris</i>
Moray Eels	Shortfin Mobula Ray	<i>Mobula kuhlii</i>
	Snowflake Moray	<i>Echidna nebulosa</i>
	Peppered Moray	<i>Gymnothorax pictus</i>
	Blue Ribbon Eel	<i>Rhinmuraena quaesita</i>
Herrings	Giant Moray	<i>Gymnothorax javanicus</i>
	Silver Sprat	<i>Spratelloides gracilis</i>
Lizardfishes	Slender Lizardfish	<i>Saurida gracilis</i>
	Twospot Lizardfish	<i>Synodus binotatus</i>
	Blackblotch Lizardfish	<i>Synodus jaculum</i>
	Reef Lizardfish	<i>Synodus varigatus</i>
Frogfishes	Giant Frogfish	<i>Antennarius commersoni</i>
Mullet	Fringelip Mullet	<i>Crenimugil crenilbaris</i>
	Squaretail Mullet	<i>Ellochelon vaigiensis</i>
Halfbeaks	Halfbeak	<i>Hemiramphus sp.</i>
Needlefishes	Needlefish	<i>Tylosaurus crocodilus</i>
Solider and Squirrelfishes	Bigscale Soldierfish	<i>Myripristis berndti</i>
	Blotcheye Soldierfish	<i>Myripristis murdjan</i>
	Scarlet Soldierfish	<i>Myripristis pralina</i>
	Violet Soldierfish	<i>Myripristis violacea</i>
	Crown Squirrelfish	<i>Sargocentron diadema</i>
	Tailspot Squirrelfish	<i>Sargocentron caudimaculatum</i>
	Sabre Squirrelfish	<i>Sargocentron spiniferum</i>
	Clearfin Squirrelfish	<i>Neoniphon argenteus</i>
	Spotfin Squirrelfish	<i>Neoniphon sammara</i>
	Pipefishes	Reeftop Pipefish
Ringed Pipefish		<i>Dunkerocampus naia</i>
Seahorse		<i>Hippocampus kuda</i>
Razorfishes	Razorfish	<i>Centriscus scutatus</i>
Trumpetfishes	Trumpetfish	<i>Aulostomus chinensis</i>
Cornetfish	Cornetfish	<i>Fistularia commersonii</i>
Scorpionfishes	Spotfin Lionfish	<i>Pterois antennata</i>
	Lionfish	<i>Pterois volitans</i>
	False Stonefish	<i>Scorpaenopsis diabolus</i>
	Papuan Scorpionfish	<i>Scorpaenopsis papuensis</i>
Flatheads	Crocodilefish	<i>Cymbacephalus beauforti</i>
Groupers	Redmouth Grouper	<i>Aethaloperca rogae</i>
	Slender Grouper	<i>Anyperodon leucogrammicus</i>
	Peacock Grouper	<i>Cephalopholis argus</i>
	Chocolate Grouper	<i>Cephalopholis boenak</i>
	Blue-spotted Grouper	<i>Cephalopholis cyanostigma</i>
	Leopard Grouper	<i>Cephalopholis leopardus</i>
	Freckled Grouper	<i>Cephalopholis microprion</i>
	Darkfin Grouper	<i>Cephalopholis urodeta</i>
	Humpback Grouper	<i>Epinephelus (Cromileptes) altivelis</i>
	Honeycomb Grouper	<i>Epinephelus merra</i>
	Specklefin Grouper	<i>Epinephelus ongus</i>
	Foursaddle Grouper	<i>Epinephelus spilotoceps</i>
	Highfin Coralgrouper	<i>Plectropomus oligacanthus</i>
Lyretail Grouper	<i>Variola louti</i>	

Group	Common name	Scientific name
	Whitemargin Lyretail Grouper	<i>Variola albimarginata</i>
	Purple Anthias	<i>Mirolabrichthys tuka</i>
	Yellowback Anthias	<i>Pseudanthias evansi</i>
	Threadfin Anthias	<i>Pseudanthias huchtii</i>
	Scalefin Anthias	<i>Pseudanthias squamipinnis</i>
	Double-banded Soapfish	<i>Diploprion bifasciatum</i>
	Sixline Soapfish	<i>Grammistes sexlineatus</i>
	Freckled Hawkfish	<i>Paracirrhites forsteri</i>
Dottybacks	Red Dottyback	<i>Labracinus cyclophthalmus</i>
	Splendid Dottyback	<i>Manonichthys splendens</i>
	Raja Ampat Dottyback	<i>Pseudochromis ammeri</i>
	Bandit Dottyback	<i>Pseudochromis perspicillatus</i>
Cardinalfishes	Large-toothed Cardinalfish	<i>Cheilodipterus macrodon</i>
	Fiveline Cardinalfish	<i>Cheilodipterus quinquelineatus</i>
	Banda Cardinalfish	<i>Nectamia bandanensis</i>
	Ring-tailed Cardinalfish	<i>Ostorhinchus aureus</i>
	Spotgill Cardinalfish	<i>Ostorhinchus chrysopomus</i>
	Splitband Cardinalfish	<i>Ostorhinchus compressus</i>
	Pajama Cardinalfish	<i>Sphaeramia nematoptera</i>
	Orbicular Cardinalfish	<i>Sphaeramia orbicularis</i>
	Banggai Cardinalfish	<i>Pterapogon kauderni</i>
	Girdled Cardinalfish	<i>Taeniamia zosterophora</i>
Tilefishes	Blue Tilefish	<i>Malacanthus latovittatus</i>
Remoras	Sharksucker	<i>Echeneis naucrates</i>
Jacks	Blacktip Trevally	<i>Caranx heberi</i>
	Giant Trevally	<i>Caranx ignobilis</i>
	Bluefin Jack	<i>Caranx melampygus</i>
	Bigeye Jack	<i>Caranx sexfasciatus</i>
	Orange-spotted Trevally	<i>Flavocaranx bajad</i>
	Barcheek Trevally	<i>Craterognathus plagiotænia</i>
Snappers	Mangrove Snapper	<i>Lutjanus argentimaculatus</i>
	Twospot Snapper	<i>Lutjanus biguttatus</i>
	Red Snapper	<i>Lutjanus bohar</i>
	Spanish Flag Snapper	<i>Lutjanus carponotatus</i>
	Checkered Snapper	<i>Lutjanus decussatus</i>
	Ehrenburg's Snapper	<i>Lutjanus ehrenbergii</i>
	Blacktail Snapper	<i>Lutjanus fulvus</i>
	Paddletail Snapper	<i>Lutjanus gibbus</i>
	Blue-lined Snapper	<i>Lutjanus kasmira</i>
	Darktail Snapper	<i>Lutjanus lemniscatus</i>
	Onespot Snapper	<i>Lutjanus monostigma</i>
	Speckled Snapper	<i>Lutjanus rivulatus</i>
	Black-banded Snapper	<i>Lutjanus semicinctus</i>
	Midnight Snapper	<i>Macolor macularis</i>
	Black-and-white Snapper	<i>Macolor niger</i>
Fusiliers	Scissortail Fusilier	<i>Caesio caeruleaurea</i>
	Yellowtail Fusilier	<i>Caesio cuning</i>
	Lunar Fusilier	<i>Caesio lunaris</i>
	Yellow-and-blue-back Fusilier	<i>Caesio teres</i>
	Banana Fusilier	<i>Pterocaesio pisang</i>
	One-stripe Fusilier	<i>Pterocaesio tessellata</i>
	Bluestreak Fusilier	<i>Pterocaesio tile</i>
Sweetlips	Giant Sweetlips	<i>Plectorhinchus albovittatus</i>
	Harlequin Sweetlips	<i>Plectorhinchus chaetodontoides</i>
	Goldlined Sweetlips	<i>Plectorhinchus chrysotaenia</i>

Group	Common name	Scientific name
	Striped Sweetlips	<i>Plectorhinchus lessoni</i>
	Lined Sweetlips	<i>Plectorhinchus lineatus</i>
	Ribbon Sweetlips	<i>Plectorhinchus polytaenia</i>
	Oriental Sweetlips	<i>Plectorhinchus vittatus</i>
Coral Breams	Three-striped Whiptail	<i>Pentapodus trivittatus</i>
	Yellowstripe Monocle Bream	<i>Scolopsis aurata</i>
	Two-lined Monocle Bream	<i>Scolopsis bilineata</i>
	Striped Monocle Bream	<i>Scolopsis lineata</i>
Emperors	Gold-lined Bream	<i>Gantheadentex aurolineatus</i>
	Yellowfin Emperor	<i>Lethrinus erythracanthus</i>
	Longfin Emperor	<i>Lethrinus erythropterus</i>
	Thumbprint Emperor	<i>Lethrinus harak</i>
	Spangled Emperor	<i>Lethrinus nebulosus</i>
	Orange-striped Emperor	<i>Lethrinus obsoletus</i>
	Bigeye Emperor	<i>Monotaxis grandoculis</i>
	Redfin Emperor	<i>Monotaxis heterodon</i>
Goatfishes	Yellowstripe Goatfish	<i>Mulloidichthys flavolineatus</i>
	Yellowfin Goatfish	<i>Mulloidichthys vanicolensis</i>
	Bicolour Goatfish	<i>Parupeneus barberinoides</i>
	Dot-dash Goatfish	<i>Parupeneus barberinus</i>
	Doublebar Goatfish	<i>Parupeneus crassilabris</i>
	Goldsaddle Goatfish	<i>Parupeneus cyclostomus</i>
	Multibar Goatfish	<i>Parupeneus multifasciatus</i>
	Freckled Goatfish	<i>Upeneus tragula</i>
Sweepers	Slender Sweeper	<i>Parapriacanthus sp.</i>
	Vanikoro Sweeper	<i>Pempheris vanicolensis</i>
Monos	Silver Mono	<i>Monodactylus argenteus</i>
Archerfishes	Archerfish	<i>Toxotes jaculatrix</i>
Rudderfishes	Topsail Chub	<i>Kyphosus cinerascens</i>
	Lowfin Chub	<i>Kyphosus vaigiensis</i>
Butterflyfishes	Panda Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon adiergastos</i>
	Threadfin Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon auriga</i>
	Eastern Triangular Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon baronessa</i>
	Bennett's Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon bennetti</i>
	Speckled Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon citrinellus</i>
	Saddled Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon ephippium</i>
	Klein's Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon kleinii</i>
	Racoon Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon lunula</i>
	Redfin Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon lunulatus</i>
	Black-backed Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon melannotus</i>
	Meyer's Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon meyeri</i>
	Spot-tail Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon ocellicaudus</i>
	Eight-banded Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon octofasciatus</i>
	Ornate Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon ornatissimus</i>
	Spot-nape Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon oxycephalus</i>
	Latticed Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon rafflesii</i>
	Yellow-dotted Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon selene</i>
	Dotted Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon semion</i>
	Oval-spot Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon speculum</i>
	Chevroned Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon trifascialis</i>
	Pacific Double-saddled Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon ulietensis</i>
	Teardrop Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon unimaculatus</i>
	Vagabond Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon vagabundus</i>
	Orange-banded Coralfish	<i>Coradion chrysozonus</i>
	Longnose Butterflyfish	<i>Forcipiger flavissimus</i>

Group	Common name	Scientific name
	Very Longnose Butterflyfish	<i>Forcipiger longirostris</i>
	Pyramid Butterflyfish	<i>Hemitaurichthys polylepis</i>
	Longfin Bannerfish	<i>Heniochus acuminatus</i>
	Pennant Bannerfish	<i>Heniochus chrysostomus</i>
	Schooling Bannerfish	<i>Heniochus diphreutes</i>
	Singular Bannerfish	<i>Heniochus singularis</i>
Angelfishes	Humphead Bannerfish	<i>Heniochus varius</i>
	Bicolor Angelfish	<i>Centropyge bicolor</i>
	Two-spined Angelfish	<i>Centropyge bipinosa</i>
	Midnight Angelfish	<i>Centropyge nox</i>
	Keyhole Angelfish	<i>Centropyge tibicen</i>
	Pearl-scaled Angelfish	<i>Centropyge vroliki</i>
	Vermiculated Angelfish	<i>Chaetodontoplus mesoleucus</i>
	Greytail Angelfish	<i>Chaetodontoplus poliourus</i>
	Lamarck's Angelfish	<i>Genicanthus lamarck</i>
	Emperor Angelfish	<i>Pomacanthus imperator</i>
	Blue-girdled Angelfish	<i>Pomacanthus navarchus</i>
	Semicircle Angelfish	<i>Pomacanthus semicirculatus</i>
	Six-banded Angelfish	<i>Pomacanthus sexstriatus</i>
	Yellow-mask Angelfish	<i>Pomacanthus xanathometopon</i>
Damselfishes	Regal Angelfish	<i>Pygoplites diacanthus</i>
	Spinecheek Anemonefish	<i>Amphiprion biaculeatus</i>
	Orangefin Anemonefish	<i>Amphiprion chrysopterus</i>
	Clark's Anemonefish	<i>Amphiprion clarkii</i>
	Red-and-black Anemonefish	<i>Amphiprion melanopus</i>
	False Clown Anemonefish	<i>Amphiprion ocellaris</i>
	Clown Anemonefish	<i>Amphiprion percula</i>
	Pink Anemonefish	<i>Amphiprion perideraion</i>
	Saddleback Anemonefish	<i>Amphiprion polymnus</i>
	Orange Anemonefish	<i>Amphiprion sandaracinos</i>
	Blacktail Sergeant	<i>Abudefduf lorentzi</i>
	Scissortail Sergeant	<i>Abudefduf sexfasciatus</i>
	Blackspot Sergeant	<i>Abudefduf sordidus</i>
	Indo-pacific Sergeant	<i>Abudefduf vaigiensis</i>
	Spiny Chromis	<i>Acanthochromis polyacanthus</i>
	Golden Damselfish	<i>Amblyglyphidodon aureus</i>
	Batuna's Damselfish	<i>Amblyglyphidodon batunai</i>
	Staghorn Damselfish	<i>Amblyglyphidodon curacao</i>
	Black-banded Damselfish	<i>Amblypomacentrus breviceps</i>
	Yellow Chromis	<i>Chromis analis</i>
	Blackaxil Chromis	<i>Chromis atripectoralis</i>
	Bicolour Chromis	<i>Chromis margaritifer</i>
	Dusky Chromis	<i>Chromis caudalis</i>
	Ternate Chromis	<i>Chromis ternatensis</i>
	Blue-green Chromis	<i>Chromis viridis</i>
	Pale-tail Chromis	<i>Chromis xanthura</i>
	Towospot Damselfish	<i>Chrysiptera biocellata</i>
	Bleeker's Dameslefis	<i>Chrysiptera bleekeri</i>
	Surge Damselfish	<i>Chrysiptera brownriggi</i>
	Blue Devil	<i>Chrysiptera cyanea</i>
	Rolland's Damselfish	<i>Chrysiptera rollandi</i>
	Talbot's Damselfish	<i>Chrysiptera talboti</i>
	Onespot Damselfish	<i>Chrysiptera unimaculata</i>
	Humbug Dascyllus	<i>Dascyllus aruanus</i>
	Blacktail Dascyllus	<i>Dascyllus melanurus</i>

Group	Common name	Scientific name
	Reticulated Dascyllus	<i>Dascyllus reticulatus</i>
	Threespot Dascyllus	<i>Dascyllus trimaculatus</i>
	Pale-spot Damselfish	<i>Dischistodus chrysopoecilus</i>
	Black-vent Damselfish	<i>Dischistodus melanotus</i>
	White Damselfish	<i>Dischistodus perspicillatus</i>
	Monarch Damselfish	<i>Dischistodus pseudochrysopoecilus</i>
	Fusilier Damselfish	<i>Lepidozygus tapeinosoma</i>
	Cross' Damselfish	<i>Neoglyphidodon crossi</i>
	Black Damselfish	<i>Neoglyphidodon melas</i>
	Behn's Damselfish	<i>Neoglyphidodon nigroris</i>
	Javanese Damselfish	<i>Neoglyphidodon oxyodon</i>
	Coral Demoiselle	<i>Neopomacentrus nemurus</i>
	Dick's Damselfish	<i>Plectroglyphidodon dickii</i>
	Goldbelly Damselfish	<i>Pomacentrus auriventris</i>
	Speckled Damselfish	<i>Pomacentrus bankanensis</i>
	Scaly Damselfish	<i>Pomacentrus lepidogenys</i>
	Lemon Damselfish	<i>Pomacentrus moluccensis</i>
	Jewel Damselfish	<i>Stegastes lacrymatus</i>
	Dusky Gregory	<i>Stegastes nigricans</i>
Wrasses	Blue-spotted Wrasse	<i>Anampses caeruleopunctatus</i>
	Axilspot Hogfish	<i>Bodianus axillaris</i>
	Redfin Hogfish	<i>Bodianus dictynna</i>
	Floral Wrasse	<i>Cheilinus chlorourus</i>
	Red-breasted Maori Wrasse	<i>Cheilinus fasciatus</i>
	Tripletail Wrasse	<i>Cheilinus trilobatus</i>
	Napoleon Wrasse	<i>Cheilinus undulatus</i>
	Cigar Wrasse	<i>Cheilio inermis</i>
	Anchor Tuskfish	<i>Choerodon anchorago</i>
	Blue-scaled Fairy-wrasse	<i>Cirrhilabrus cyanopleura</i>
	Batu Wrasse	<i>Coris batuensis</i>
	Yellowtail Coris	<i>Coris gaimard</i>
	Yellowtail Tubelip	<i>Diproctacanthus xanthurus</i>
	Latent Slingjaw Wrasse	<i>Epibulus brevis</i>
	Pacific Bird Wrasse	<i>Gomphous varius</i>
	Pastel-green Wrasse	<i>Halichoeres chloropterus</i>
	Checked Wrasse	<i>Halichoeres hortulanus</i>
	Dusky Wrasse	<i>Halichoeres marginatus</i>
	Tailspot Wrasse	<i>Halichoeres melanurus</i>
	Axilspot Wrasse	<i>Halichoeres podostigma</i>
	Twotone Wrasse	<i>Halichoeres prospeion</i>
	Zigzag Wrasse	<i>Halichoeres scapularis</i>
	Blackeye Thicklip Wrasse	<i>Hemigymnus melapterus</i>
	Ringwrasse	<i>Holoymnosus annulatus</i>
	Pastel Ringwrasse	<i>Holoymnosus doliatus</i>
	Tubelip Wrasse	<i>Labrichthys unilineatus</i>
	Bicolor Cleaner Wrasse	<i>Labroides bicolor</i>
	Bluestreak Cleaner Wrasse	<i>Labroides dimidiatus</i>
	Breastspot Cleaner Wrasse	<i>Labroides pectoralis</i>
	Yellowback Tubelip Wrasse	<i>Labropsis xanthonota</i>
	Rockmover Wrasse	<i>Novaculichthys taeniourus</i>
	Celebes Wrasse	<i>Oxycheilinus celebicus</i>
	Sixstripe Wrasse	<i>Pseudocheilinus hexataenia</i>
	Yamashiro's Wrasse	<i>Pseudocoris yamashiroi</i>
	Chiseltooth Wrasse	<i>Pseudodax moluccanus</i>
	Redshoulder Wrasse	<i>Stethojulis bandanensis</i>

Group	Common name	Scientific name
	Fourline Wrasse	<i>Stethojulis trilineata</i>
	Blunthead Wrasse	<i>Thalassoma amblycephalum</i>
	Sixbar Wrasse	<i>Thalassoma hardwicke</i>
	Jansen's Wrasse	<i>Thalassoma janseni</i>
	Moon Wrasse	<i>Thalassoma lunare</i>
	Blackbar Wrasse	<i>Thalassoma nigrofasciatum</i>
	Stareye Parrotfish	<i>Calotomus carolinus</i>
	Spotted (formerly Bicolour) Parrotfish	<i>Cetoscarus ocellatus</i>
	Bleeker's Parrotfish	<i>Chlorurus bleekeri</i>
	Japanese Parrotfish	<i>Chlorurus japonensis</i>
	Pacific Bettlehead Parrotfish	<i>Chlorourus spilurus</i>
	Pacific Longnose Parrotfish	<i>Hipposcarus longiceps</i>
	Seagrass Parrotfish	<i>Leptoscarus vaigiensis</i>
	Yellowbarred Parrotfish	<i>Scarus dimidiatus</i>
	Bridled Parrotfish	<i>Scarus frenatus</i>
	Dusky Parrotfish	<i>Scarus niger</i>
	Darkcapped Parrotfish	<i>Scarus oviceps</i>
	Greenthroat Parrotfish	<i>Scarus prasiognathus</i>
	Quoy's Parrotfish	<i>Scarus quoyi</i>
	Pygmy Parrotfish	<i>Scarus spinus</i>
Sandperches	Speckled Sandperch	<i>Parapercis hexophthalma</i>
	Spotted Sandperch	<i>Parapercis millepunctata</i>
	Reticulated Sandperch	<i>Parapercis tetracantha</i>
Blennies	Brown Coralblenny	<i>Atrosalarias fuscus</i>
	Red-streaked Blenny	<i>Cirripectes stigmaticus</i>
	Banda Coralblenny	<i>Ecsenius bandanus</i>
	Bicolor Coralblenny	<i>Ecsenius bicolor</i>
	Midas Coralblenny	<i>Ecsenius midas</i>
	Schroeder's Coralblenny	<i>Ecsenius schroederi</i>
	Tailspot Coralblenny	<i>Ecsenius stigmatura</i>
	Ceram Blenny	<i>Salarias ceramensis</i>
	Jewelled Blenny	<i>Salarias fasciatus</i>
Gobies	Shrimpgoby	<i>Amblyeleotris</i> sp.
	Yellow Shrimpgoby	<i>Cryptocentrus</i> sp.
	Thread Shrimpgoby	<i>Ctenogobiops mitodes</i>
	Neophyte Sandgoby	<i>Fusigobius neophytus</i>
	Orange-striped Goby	<i>Koumansetta rainfordi</i>
	Mural Goby	<i>Valenciennesa muralis</i>
	Sixspot Goby	<i>Valenciennesa sexguttata</i>
Dartfishes	Twotone Dartfish	<i>Ptereleotris evides</i>
Batfishes	Golden Batfish	<i>Platax boersii</i>
	Longfin Batfish	<i>Platax pinnatus</i>
	Round Batfish	<i>Platax orbicularis</i>
Rabbitfishes	Blunthead Batfish	<i>Platax teira</i>
	Forktail Rabbitfish	<i>Siganus argenteus</i>
	Coral Rabbitfish	<i>Siganus corallinus</i>
	Barred Rabbitfish	<i>Siganus doliatus</i>
	Golden Rabbitfish	<i>Siganus guttatus</i>
	Lined Rabbitfish	<i>Siganus lineatus</i>
	Masked Rabbitfish	<i>Siganus puellus</i>
	Finespot Rabbitfish	<i>Siganus punctatissimus</i>
	Vermiculated Rabbitfish	<i>Siganus vermiculatus</i>
	Virgate Rabbitfish	<i>Siganus virgatus</i>
Moorish Idol	Foxface Rabbitfish	<i>Siganus vulpinus</i>
Surgeonfishes	Moorish Idol	<i>Zanclus cornutus</i>

Group	Common name	Scientific name
	Ringtail Surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus blochii</i>
	Japanese Surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus japonicus</i>
	Lined Surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus lineatus</i>
	Yellow-mask Surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus mata</i>
	Blackstreak Surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus nigricauda</i>
	Thompson's Surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus thompsoni</i>
	Convict Surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus triostegus</i>
	Striped Bristeltooth	<i>Ctenochaetus striatus</i>
	Palette Surgeonfish	<i>Paracanthurus hepatus</i>
	Orangespine Unicornfish	<i>Naso lituratus</i>
	Brushtail Tang	<i>Zebrasoma scopas</i>
Barracudas	Sailfin Tang	<i>Zebrasoma velifer</i>
	Great Barracuda	<i>Sphyaena barracuda</i>
	Pickhandle Barracuda	<i>Sphyaena jello</i>
Tunas	Blackfin Barracuda	<i>Sphyaena qenie</i>
	Wahoo	<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>
	Little Tuna	<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>
	Indian Mackerel	<i>Rastrelliger kanagurta</i>
Marlins	Yellowfin Tuna	<i>Thunnus albacares</i>
Triggerfishes	Sailfish	<i>Istiophorus platypterus</i>
	Orange-lined Triggerfish	<i>Balistapus undulatus</i>
	Clown Triggerfish	<i>Balistoides conspicillum</i>
	Titan Triggerfish	<i>Balistoides viridescens</i>
	Black Triggerfish	<i>Melichthys niger</i>
	Pinktail Triggerfish	<i>Melichthys vidua</i>
	Redtooth Triggerfish	<i>Odonus niger</i>
	Yellowmargin Triggerfish	<i>Pseudobalistes flavimarginatus</i>
	Blackpatch Triggerfish	<i>Rhinecanthus verrucosus</i>
	Scythe Triggerfish	<i>Sufflamen bursa</i>
	Flagtail Triggerfish	<i>Sufflamen chrysopterygum</i>
Filefishes	Scrawled Filefish	<i>Aluterus scriptus</i>
	Broom Filefish	<i>Amanses scopas</i>
	Yelloweye Filefish	<i>Cantherhines dumerili</i>
	Wirenet Filefish	<i>Cantherhines pardalis</i>
	Mimic Filefish	<i>Paraluteres prionurus</i>
Boxfishes	Thornback Cowfish	<i>Lactoria fornasini</i>
	Yellow Boxfish	<i>Ostracion cubicus</i>
	Spotted Boxfish	<i>Ostracion meleagris</i>
	Solor Boxfish	<i>Ostracion solorensis</i>
Pufferfishes	Blue-spotted Puffer	<i>Arothron caeruleopunctatus</i>
	Map Puffer	<i>Arothron mappa</i>
	Black-spotted Puffer	<i>Arothron nigropunctatus</i>
	Black-saddled Sharpnose Puffer	<i>Canthigaster valentini</i>
Porcupinefishes	Spotted Porcupinefish	<i>Diodon hystrix</i>
	Black-blotched Porcupinefish	<i>Diodon liturosus</i>