



National Environmental
Research Program

NORTHERN AUSTRALIA HUB

Improving biodiversity
conservation in
northern Australia

Fishes of Nyul Nyul country

Rararr



Yellowtail trumpeter

Amniataba caudivittatus

An estuarine species that occasionally moves upstream into freshwater. Grows to 25cm.

Nigilbardiny/ Nigilbuninj



Indian shortfinned eel

Anguilla bicolor

Occurs in springs but needs to migrate to the ocean to breed. Widespread throughout south-east Asia but uncommon in Australia, except the Kimberley region. Grows to 100cm.

Barool



Lesser salmon catfish

Neoarius graeffei

Widespread across northern Australia occurring in springs, rivers and estuaries. The eggs are held in the mouth of the male until after hatching. Grows to 60cm.

Madjalk



Milkfish

Chanos chanos

An estuarine species that occasionally penetrates into freshwaters. Widespread across northern Australia and south-east Asia. It is an important aquaculture species in Asia despite being very bony. Grows to 45cm.



Giant herring

Elops hawaiiensis

A near-shore marine and estuarine species that occasionally penetrates into freshwater habitats. Commonly grows to 50cm.



Empire gudgeon

Hypseleotris compressa

Widespread across northern Australia occurring in the lower freshwater reaches of rivers or in wetlands near the coast. Males develop very bright colours during the breeding season. Grows to 6-7cm.

Gajarr



Barramundi

Lates calcarifer

Widespread across northern Australia and south-east Asia occurring in estuaries, rivers and wetlands. Needs to be able to migrate to the river mouth to spawn before the wet season. Grows to more than 100cm.

Marran (Bardi)



Mangrove Jack

Lutjanus argentimaculatus

Widely distributed around northern Australia's coast. Small juveniles occur in small freshwater creeks and wetlands, large juveniles occur in estuaries and on near shore reefs and adults (which are a golden colour) occur on reefs distant from the land. Grows to 80cm.

Jalabunan



Ox-eye herring or Australian tarpon

Megalops cyprinoides

Widespread across northern Australia and south-east Asia. Juveniles occur in freshwater rivers and wetlands whereas adults occur in estuaries and near-shore coastal environments. Grows to about 100cm.



Rainbowfish

Melanotaenia australis

Widespread and abundant in freshwater habitats across north-western Australia but rare and uncommon in wetlands and springs of the Dampier Peninsula. Grows to 10cm.

Noongul



Sea mullet

Mugil cephalus

Common around Australia. Juveniles occur in freshwater rivers and wetlands after migrating upstream from estuaries. Adults migrate downstream to the ocean to breed. Large ocean going individuals known as *amarry*. *Jandooral* or diamond scale mullet also occur in the region.

Banjarr



Banded scat

Selenotoca multifasciata

Widely distributed across northern Australia in estuaries, lowland rivers and wetlands. Venomous spines can deliver a very painful sting. Elsewhere known as "memorable moments". Can be very abundant in some years and absent from wetlands in others. Grows to 28cm but most commonly less than 10.

Garnamerr



Bull shark

Carcharhinus leucas

Widespread across northern Australia. Juveniles often found far upstream in freshwater rivers and wetlands. Adults more common in estuaries and near shore habitats. Grows as large as 340cm.

Jubiyank



Freshwater sawfish

Pristis pristis

Adult freshwater sawfish live in estuarine or marine systems, but juveniles can live far upstream in freshwater creeks and waterholes. Northern Australia is one of the last refuges for this globally Critically Endangered species. Grows up to 650cm long.

Jinup



Freshwater whipray

Himantura dalyensis

One of many stingrays that occur in northern Australian estuaries but this species occurs well upstream into freshwater. May grow to more than 150cm across but commonly less than 100cm.



Eastern gambusia or Mosquitofish

Gambusia holbrooki

An introduced pest species originally from central America. Populations of this species may be found throughout Australia. Despite the name, it has no value as a control agent for the mosquito. Grows to 3cm. Females are larger than males and bear live young.

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Nyul Nyul language names and their spellings were provided by Mr Stephen Victor, Nyul Nyul Traditional Owner.



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