

Fun Fact Sheet: Mullet (Cocos Keeling Islands)

Region

Gascoyne Coast, West Coast, Indian Ocean Territories

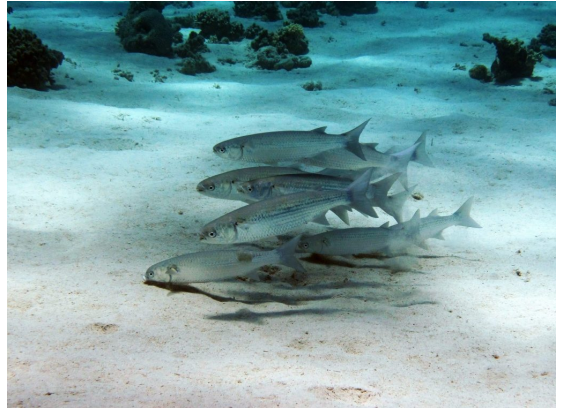
Summary

Two species of mullet are found in the lagoon at Cocos (Keeling) Islands; diamond scale mullet and sea mullet.

Both species have small triangular mouths, two separate dorsal fins and no lateral line – the organ that helps fish detect movement and vibration in surrounding water. They mainly feed on algae and have very small teeth.

Diamond scale mullet (*Liza vaigiensis*) is one of the biggest species of mullets growing to over 50 cm in length. They are easily identified by their distinct diamond shaped scales that have a black edge. They are often seen in large schools.

Diamond scale mullet and sea mullet (*Mugil cephalus*) are popular fish to target using a net in the lagoon at the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. Nets are an effective fishing method, but if used inappropriately nets can result in high and unsustainable catches of a number of species,



including juvenile fish which use the lagoon as a nursery.