

Student Resource Sheet: Fish dichotomous key

Phase of learning

Years 7 - 8

WA Curriculum

K-10 Science

Region

North Coast, Gascoyne Coast, West Coast, South Coast, Indian Ocean Territories

Summary

This student resource sheet is associated with the Lesson: What's this fish?



Fish Dichotomous Key

Step 1

Fish has a lunate shape tail (like a crescent moon)	<i>go to Step 2</i>
Fish has any other tail shape	<i>go to Step 5</i>

Step 2

Fish has a long and thin bill	Sailfish
Fish does not possess a long and thin bill	<i>go to Step 3</i>

Step 3

Fish has a humped head and long dorsal fin (along length of body)	Mahi Mahi
Fish does not possess long dorsal fin (along length of body)	<i>go to Step 4</i>

Step 4

Fish is predominantly red in colour	Yellowedge coronation trout
Fish exhibits counter-shading (dark upper, pale lower body)	Southern Bluefin tuna

Step 5

Fish has a rounded tail shape	<i>go to Step 6</i>
Fish has any other tail shape	<i>go to Step 10</i>

Step 6

Fish has eight dark vertical bands on the side of the body	Eightbar grouper
Fish does not possess dark vertical bands on the side of its body	<i>go to Step 7</i>

Step 7

Fish has dark coloured face and horseshoe pattern on side of the body	Horseshoe leatherjacket
Fish has mottled or spotted pattern on the side of body	<i>go to Step 8</i>

Step 8

Fish has flattened body shape (pancake-like)	Smalltooth flounder
Fish does not possess flattened body shape	<i>go to Step 9</i>

Step 9

Fish has large oval shaped spots on side of body	Potato rockcod
Fish has small head and polka dot pattern on side of body	Barramundi cod

Step 10

Fish has eel-like tail	Estuary cobbler
Fish has truncate tail shape	<i>go to Step 11</i>

Step 11

Fish is predominantly green/blue in colour	Baldchin groper
Fish is predominantly red in colour	Mangrove Jack

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