

OFFICIAL RULES:

Legal Sizes, Set Sizes & Banned Marine Species in Fiji







Ministry of Fisheries Fiji CONTACT THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES! **CENTRAL DIVISION:** 3476587 / 9908101 Sweden Vibrant Oceans **EASTERN DIVISION:** Sverige Initiative ******* 3361122 / 9966752

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TO (AT(H AS MORE AND MORE UNDERSIZED FISH ARE (AUGHT, SOLD AND EXPORTED



LEGAL & SET SIZES

This booklet shares both the Legal Sizes and Set Sizes for Fiji's most common food fish.

In 1942, Fiji set **legal minimum** sizes for fish (legal sizes) to ensure that they get big enough to breed, and retock our fishing grounds. But these sizes were based on limited studies.

If the Ministry of Fisheries finds fishers, sellers or exporters with fish under legal size, confiscations and fines may follow.

Please note some fish do not have legal sizes.

So in recent years, the Ministry of Fisheries teamed up with fisheries experts and civil society to collect data on age of maturity of Fiji fish and determine exactly what sizes our fish should be in order to ensure they are breeding enough each year to restock our fishing grounds.

This guide shares the latest research on minimum sizes for fish in Fiji to help fishers, fish sellers and consumers make more informed decisions. We call these the Set Size, because if you are catching Set Size or bigger, the future is Set. Set Sizes are not legally enforceable but it should be our target if we want to keep enjoying these species.

DONU DAMU



Leopard coralgrouper

Plectropomus leopardus

Legal Size: 25cm+

Age of Maturity: 3 years Set Size: 55cm+

Legal Size

The current legal minimum sizes in Fiji. Fiji's current legal minimum sizes for fish were set in 1942 and at the time, there was no research from Fiji. So the sizes were based on fish from other countries. Most of Fiji's current legal sizes are too small and won't sustain our fisheries.

SEVASEVA



Harlequin sweetlips/Many spotted sweetlips

Plectorhinchus chaetodonoides

Legal Size: NONE
Age of Maturity: 4 years
Set Size: 55cm+

Set Size

Based on new research, the proposed minimum size of fish to ensure we have enough fish for today and tomorrow.

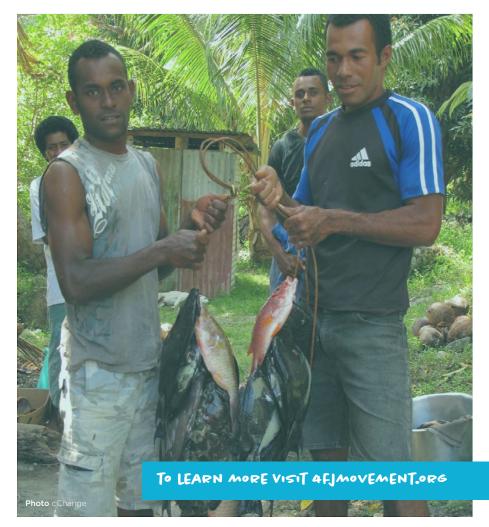
Age of Maturity

The number of years it takes each fish to reach maturity and can start breeding.

COMMON FOOD FISH

Inshore fishing grounds in Fiji are important for food and livelihoods. However, increasing population, increase income needs and increase access to markets is placing more pressure on Fiji's fishing grounds.

To sustain our fishing grounds, it is important to ensure fish and other marine species caught and sold are above the Legal Size, and ideally Set Size. To help guide fishers, sellers and exporters, the following pages list the legal size of common food fish and marine species in Fiji.



OGO



Great barracuda

Sphyraena barracuda

Legal Size: 30cm+

Age of Maturity: 2 years
Set Size: 70cm+

MAMA, BU



Humpnose bigeye bream

Monotaxis grandoculis

Legal Size: NONE

Age of Maturity: 4 years
Set Size: 45cm+

KABATIA NI CAKAU



Pinkear emperor

Lethrinus lentjan

Legal Size: 15cm+

Age of Maturity: 3 years Set Size: 25cm+

TOMA, MAMANINUBU



Blue-lined large-eye bream

Gymnocranius grandoculis

Legal Size: 25cm+

Age of Maturity: 4 years Set Size: 35cm+

KABATIA



Thumbprint emperor

Lethrinus harak

Legal Size: 15cm+

Age of Maturity: 2 years Set Size: 25cm+

KAWAGO



Spangled emperor

Lethrinus nebulosus

Legal Size: 25cm+

Age of Maturity: 4 years
Set Size: 55cm+

Longface emperor
Lethrinus olivaceus

Legal Size: 25cm+
Age of Maturity: 4 years
Set Size: 55cm+

SABUTU



Pacific yellowtail emperor

Lethrinus atkinsoni

Legal Size: 20cm+
Age of Maturity: 3 years
Set Size: 25cm+

KAWAKAWA NI TIRI



Whitespotted grouper

Epinephelus coeruleopunctatus

Legal Size: 25cm+
Age of Maturity: 6 years
Set Size: 55cm+

SOISOI



Orange spotted grouper

Epinephelus coioides

Legal Size: 25cm+
Age of Maturity: 6 years
Set Size: 90cm+

REVUA



Blue rock cod

Epinephelus cyanopodus

Legal Size: 25cm+
Age of Maturity: 7 years
Set Size: 55cm+

DELABULEWA



Brown marbled grouper

Epinephelus fuscoguttatus

Legal Size: 25cm+
Age of Maturity: 6 years
Set Size: 90cm+

KAWAKAWA, KASALA



Camouflage grouper

SEPTMEBER

30

JONE

BAN

SEASONAL

GROUPER

Epinephelus polyphekadion

Legal Size: 25cm+

Age of Maturity: 6 years

Set Size: 55cm+

Greasy grouper *Epinephelus tauvina*

KAWAKAWA

Legal Size: 25cm+
Age of Maturity: 7 years
Set Size: 55cm+

BATISAI



Squaretail coralgrouper

Plectropomus areolatus

Legal Size: 25cm+
Age of Maturity: 3 years
Set Size: 55cm+

DONU LOA



Blacksaddled coralgrouper

Plectropomus laevis

Legal Size: 25cm+
Age of Maturity: 3 years
Set Size: 55cm+

DONU DAMU



Leopard coralgrouper

Plectropomus leopardus

Legal Size: 25cm+
Age of Maturity: 3 years
Set Size: 55cm+

WALU



Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel

Scomberomorus commerson

Legal Size: NONE
Age of Maturity: 2 years
Set Size: 90cm+

_

SEPTEMBER

BAN: 1 JUNE

SEASONAL

GROUPER

KOTO, KANACE



Flathead grey mullet Mugil cephalus

Legal Size: 20cm+ Age of Maturity: 2 years Set Size: 35cm+

ULURUA



Steephead parrotfish Chlorurus microrhinos

Legal Size: 25cm+ Age of Maturity: 4 years Set Size: 45cm+

RAWARAWA NI NUBU



Ember parrotfish

Hipposcarus rubroviolaceus

Legal Size: 25cm+

Age of Maturity: 3 years Set Size: 45cm+

DOGO SASA, **LAUMARAWA**



Spotted parrotfish

Cetoscarus ocellatus

Legal Size: 25cm+ Age of Maturity: 3 years Set Size: 45cm+

ULAVI



Pacific longnose parrotfish

Hipposcarus longiceps

Legal Size: 25cm+

Age of Maturity: 3 years Set Size: 45cm+

RAWARAWA, **BUBUTE (SMALL)**



Surf parrotfish

Scarus rivulatus

Legal Size: 25cm+

Age of Maturity: 3 years Set Size: 25cm+

NUQA, VOLACA



Vermiculated spinefoot

Siganus vermiculatus

Legal Size: 20cm+

Age of Maturity: 3 years Set Size: 25cm+

BO, YABO, TAE



Humpback snapper

Lutjanus gibbus

Legal Size: 30cm+

Age of Maturity: 3 years Set Size: 35cm+

BALAGI



Yellowfin surgeonfish

Acanthurus xanthopterus

Legal Size: 20cm+

Age of Maturity: 5 years Set Size: 35cm+

DAMU NI VEITIRI, **DAMU**



Mangrove red snapper

Lutianus argentimaculatus

Legal Size: 30cm+

Age of Maturity: 5 years Set Size: 35cm+

TEVULU



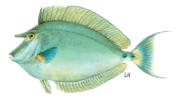
Chinamanfish

Symphorus nematophorus

Legal Size: NONE

Age of Maturity: 6 years Set Size: 45cm+

TA, LELE, JIVIJIVI



Bluespine unicornfish

Naso unicornis

Legal Size: 30cm+

Age of Maturity: 4 years Set Size: 45cm+

SEVASEVA



Harlequin sweetlips/Many spotted sweetlips

Plectorhinchus chaetodonoides

Legal Size: NONE

Age of Maturity: 4 years Set Size: 55cm+

SAQA BUI DROMO



Brassy trevally

Caranx papuensis

Legal Size: 30cm+

Age of Maturity: 3 years Set Size: 45cm+

BONITO



Bigeye trevally

Caranx sexfasciatus

Legal Size: 30cm+

Age of Maturity: 3 years
Set Size: 45cm+



Giant trevally

Caranx ignobilis

Legal Size: 30cm+

Age of Maturity: 6 years Set Size: 70cm+

SAQANIVATU



Bluefin trevally

Caranx melampygus

Legal Size: 30cm+

Age of Maturity: 3 years
Set Size: 45cm+

QARI DINA



Mangrove mud crab

Scylla serrata

Legal Size: 12.5cm+

Age of Maturity: 2-3 years
Set Size: 12.5cm+

SIZE LIMITS FOR SHELLS:

No person shall take, be in possession of, sell, offer or expose to sale or export of any shell of **Sici** (*Rochia nilotica*) (as pictured) measuring less than 90mm across the whorl. Please note that the scientific name for Trochus has changed to *Rochia nilotica* (formerly *Trochus niloticus*, then *Tectus niloticus*).

SICI



Trochus

Rochia nilotica



CIVA

For **Civa** (*Pinctada margaritifera*) of which the nacre or mother-of-pearl measures less than 100mm from the butt or hinge or the opposite edge or lip.

Blacklip pearl oyster
Pinctada margaritifera

RESTRICTIONS FOR SICI AND CIVA ARE APPLIED UNDER REGULATION 21(A) AND 21(B) OF THE FISHERIES REGULATIONS ENACTED UNDER THE FISHERIES ACT.



BANNED MARINE SPECIES

Fiji has some marine species that are at such low numbers, the Government of Fiji has established special bans and/or restrictions on killing, capturing, selling or exporting these listed species.

Some bans are temporary and it is important to consult the Ministry of Fisheries for the most updated restrictions.

Please note the restrictions are created under a number of different legislations, including the Fisheries Act (1941), Offshore Fisheries Management Act (2012), Offshore Fisheries Management Regulations (2014) and Customs (Prohibited Imports and Exports) Regulation (1986) and Endangered and Protected Species Act (2017) (EPS).

The following pages provide a guide for the protection and regulation of common listed species that are present in markets. But not all listed species and regulations are outlined in this booklet.

For more information visit Fiji's Ministry of Waterways and Environment (mowe.gov.fj) and Ministry of Fisheries (fisheries.gov.fj).



BANNED FISH

Fiji has banned the harvest, sale, possession and transport of some at risk fish. Fiji also controls the trade of some fish that are at risk and listed through the Endangered and Protected Species Act (EPS). In these cases, fish are banned for trade unless the Government of Fiji has permitted a person to register for trade of these species and typically under strict conditions. The Government of Fiji may refuse these requests for these at risk species if it is viewed as detrimental to the survival of the species.

Pictured and listed on this page are some of the most common that have species protections. Those caught in violation of these

VARIVOCE



Humphead wrasse

Cheilinus undulatus

Banned under the Offshore Fisheries Management Act.

KALIA



Green humphead parrotfish

Bolbometopon muricatum

Trade is allowed only for persons who register as a trader under the EPS but Government can refuse to register if trade is viewed as detrimental to the survival of the species.

C S RO

KAVU SEVULA ___

Malabar grouper (Epinephelus malabaricus)



KAVU-LOA ---

Giant grouper (*Epinephelus lanceolatus*)



DREKENI-NI-TOGAGiant sweetlips
(Plectorhinchus albovittatus)

TRADE IS ALLOWED
ONLY FOR PERSONS WHO
REGISTER AS A TRADER
UNDER THE EPS BUT
GOVERNMENT CAN
REFUSE TO REGISTER
IF TRADE IS VIEWED
AS DETRIMENTAL TO
THE SURVIVAL OF THE
SPECIES!



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BANNED TURTLES

The Ministry of Fisheries has banned the harvest, sale, possession and transport of sea turtles, their eggs or any part or product of a sea turtle under Regulation 5 of the Offshore Fisheries Management Regulations - this covers all waters so it applies to all internal, inshore and offshore areas of Fiji. The Minister of Fisheries has historically provided exemptions for turtle harvesting in special cases, such as cultural use for customary practices.

Penalties for any breach of this ban are as follows:

- + For individuals, an instant fine of \$10,000, with the potential of up to \$50.000 in fines.
- + For corporations, an instant fine of \$20,000, with the potential of up to \$100.000 in fines.

VONU TAKU TUVONU Hawksbill turtle Loggerhead turtle Caretta caretta Eretmochelys imbricata



BANNED SEA CUCUMBERS

Fiji has created periodic moratoriums/seasonal bans on specific species, which must be obeyed. At the time of the printing of this booklet, there was a seasonal ban in place for all sea cucumber (beche-de-mer) species. That means, at printing, it is illegal to possess, harvest, export, transport in a natural or processed form ALL sea **cucumber species.** For the most current information visit fisheries.gov.fi.

When the seasonal ban is not in place, there are a number of relevant protections:

- ◆ When the seasonal ban is not in place, there is still an Fisheries Act
- + It is also illegal to possess, harvest, export, transport in a natural, or processed form, export ban on Dairo under the two CITES listed species (Black and White teatfish), which are protected under the Offshore Fisheries Management Act.



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BANNED CLAMS

Fiji has banned the harvest, sale, possession and transport of all wild *Tridacninae* species (Giant clams) under the Offshore Fisheries Management Act. The following most common banned Giant clams are pictured:

KATAVATU



Maxima clam Tridacna maxima

CEGA



Fluted giant clam Tridacna squamosa

VASUA DINA



Smooth giant clam Tridacna derasa

VASUA TEVORO



Devil clam Tridacna tevoroa

BANNED SHELLS

It is illegal to take, sell, offer or expose It is illegal to take, sell, offer or expose to sale or export any shell of **Davui** Dabe: Giant helmet shell, (Cassis cornuta) under Regulation 23 of the Fisheries Regulations enacted under the Fisheries Act 1941.

to sale or export any shell of **Davui**: Giant triton shell, (Charonia tritonis) under Regulation 22 of the Fisheries Regulations enacted under the Fisheries Act 1941.

DAVUI DABE



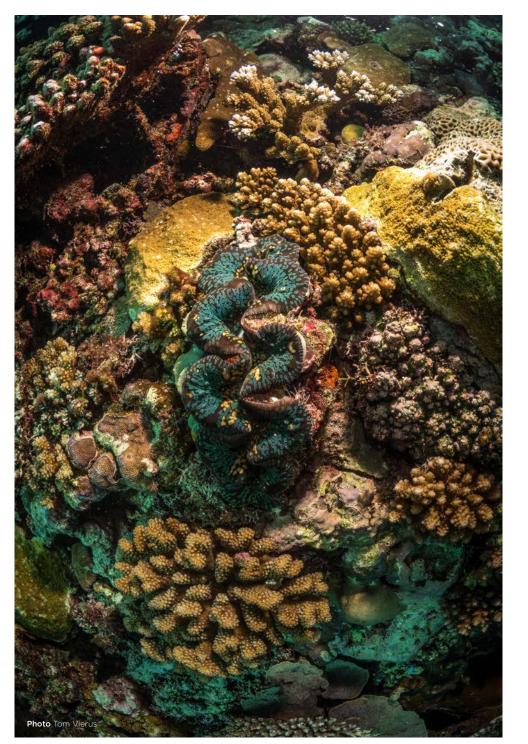
Giant helmet shell

Cassis cornuta

DAVUI



Giant triton shell Charonia tritonis

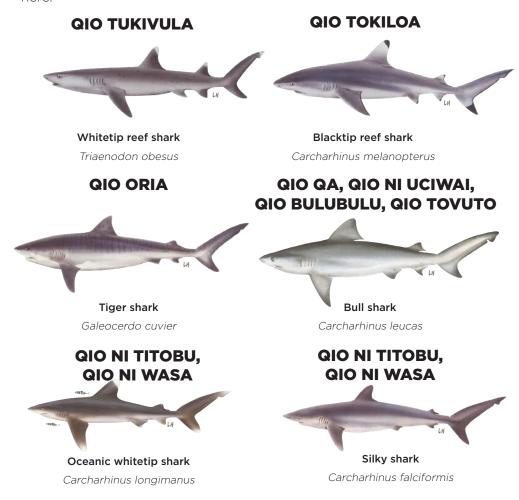


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BANNED SHARKS & RAYS

Studies show that there are thirty inshore shark species in Fiji and some of which are protected under Fiji law.

It is illegal to take, sell, offer or expose to sale or export some shark and ray species. The most common shark and ray species, which are banned under the Offshore Fisheries Management Act, are pictured here.



Please note: to reduce the practice of shark finning, Fiji has also banned exporting shark fins under the Customs (Prohibited Imports and Exports) Act.

QIO MATAITALIGA, **QIO MATAITALIA**



Great hammerhead & Smooth hammerhead Sphyrna mokarran (pictured) & S. zygaena

QIO ULUTAKI



Scalloped hammerhead Sphyrna lewini

QIO SAQA

QIO MAKO



Isurus oxyrinchus (pictured) & I. paucus

Grev reef shark Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos

Shortfin mako shark & Longfin mako shark

VΔΙ VUΚΔ

It is illegal to take, sell, offer or expose to sale or export all Rays of the Manta and Mobula species. The most common Ray species, which are banned, are pictured here.





Ray illustrations by Dr Lindsay Marshall, stickfigurefish.com.au

4FJ FISH SMART CAMPAIGN

The 4FJ Fish Smart campaign promotes practical local solutions to help communities better manage Fiji's fishing grounds to meet their food and income needs. today and tomorrow.

Why? Fishers across Fiji are reporting they have to spend more time fishing and money on fuel to catch fish and often for increasingly smaller catches, hurting livelihoods and family nutrition. The closer to major fish markets typically the harder fishing has become, but no area is spared in Fiji.

Communities can Fish Smart using a range of rules and actions including avoiding undersized fish. establish and respect tabu areas. ban small nets that leaves too few fish behind and harmful fishing gear, and limit fishing permits and create seasonal bans to protect breeding sites and seasons.

Everyone needs to help as communities alone cannot turn this around. Those in urban areas can help by Saying No to Undersized Fish in show of support for efforts in communities.

Everyone has a part to play.

For more information visit 4FJmovement.org and



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