

A list of the estuarine and marine fishes and some shellfishes of Sierra Leone, with their common names in either Krio or English.

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Introductory notes

Sierra Leone has a population of over 3 million people, an area of 27,925 square miles (73,326 sq km) and a coastline of about 210 miles (approx. 340km). The country lies on the west coast of Africa between latitudes $6^{\circ} 55'$ and $10^{\circ} N$, and longitudes $10^{\circ} 16'$ and $13^{\circ} 8' W$. The continental shelf (the area within the 100 fathom depth) is twenty miles wide near the Liberian border to the south and approximately ninety miles wide at the Guinea border to the north. The major estuaries are the Scarcies in the north, the Sierra Leone or Rokel River in the middle and the Sherbro in the south.

The fishing activities centre around longlines ("Morren" and "Flotin"), hook-and-line and various kinds of fishing nets operated from several types and sizes of canoes. Several trawlers also fish in Sierra Leone territorial waters. The canoe fleet consists of about 600 canoes operated by about 12000 part-time and full-time fishermen. Their catch amounts to over 36,000 metric tons annually of locally consumed fish. During the off season (July to September), when the weather is unsettled, the activities of the canoe fishermen are reduced considerably. The catch comprises mostly of pelagic species e.g. bonga,

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herring and lati. Some bottom species such as the sole, gwangwa and snapper are also taken. The beach-seines operated from the shore may also catch pelagic, mid-water and demersal species. Part of the commercial trawlers' catch is consumed locally and an unknown quantity is exported. A significant quantity of tinned fish is also imported.

There are about 16 tribes in Sierra Leone, but those concerned with fishing mostly reside along the coast, the estuaries and the river systems. The major marine fishing tribes are the Susu along the Bullom shore in the north, the Temnes in the central coastline and the Sherbros in the south. Over the years there has been a lot of mixing of these tribes, dictated primarily by the migratory patterns of the most sought-out fish, namely the bonga and herring. Inland communities residing along fresh-water systems practise mostly subsistence fishing using nets, traps and the hook-and-line.

In the coastal villages, the fishes are mostly known by their local names in Krio because most residents of the fishing villages, often comprising of more than two tribes, can communicate in Krio. Also, many fishes are popularly known today by their English names; their tribal names may be restricted to particular geographical areas. The same species of fish may have two or more common names and two or more species may be known by the same common name. For example, both Sardinella eba and Sardinella aurita are called herring; in some cases, where species differentiation occurs, it is done by adjectives, e.g. gwangwa and black gwangwa; lady and longneck lady; black joe-fish and white joe-fish, etc.

Most of the fishes on this list are eaten locally. Sharks, eels, cēphalopods and tunas caught by foreign fleets are exported. The trigger-fishes are reported to be poisonous. Many other edible shellfishes are not listed.

The following list aims at standardising the common names of the fishes and shellfishes with reference to their scientific names. The list is far from complete and it is hoped that it will be updated sometime in the future.

FISHES

<u>Common name (in Krio or English)</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>
Angle fish	Monodactylus(=Psettus) sebae
Awefu	Ethmalosa fimbriata*(juvenile)
Biaku; Smooth puffer	Lagocephalus laevigatus
Biaku; Common puffer or Swamp	Hemiconiatus (=Ephippion) guttifer
Bearbear; Beardfish	Polynemus (=Pentanemus) quinquarius
Bigeye fish	Priacanthus sp.
Bonga	Ethmalosa fimbriata*(adult)
Boarfish	Antigonia; Capros spp.
Bonito	Sarda sarda
Butterfish	Gerres melanopterus
Catfish; Sea-cats	Arius spp.
Cowreh	Caranx carangus
Cowreh	Caranx hippos
Couta; Baracuda	Sphyræna spp.
Crocus	Pomadasys jubelini (other species of Pomadasys?)
Cutmoney	Chloroscombrus chrysurus

* = Ethmalosa dorsalis

<u>Common name (in Krio or English)</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>
Damselfish	Abudefduf; Chromis spp.
Dogsole; Flounder	Psettodes belcheri
Doctor Penknife; Surgeon fishes	Acanthurus, Xesurus spp.
Dolphin fish	Coryphaena spp.
Eels; congers	Conger conger
Eels; snake eels	Ophichthus; Myrichthys; Pisodonophis spp.
Eels; morrays	Lycodontis spp.
Flyingfish	Exocoetus; Cypselurus
Frogfish; Toad fishes	Batrachus liberiensis
" "	Batrachus decadactylus
Grainger; Needlefishes	Ablennes hians
Grouper (rose or red)	Lutjanus agenes
Grouper (grey or black)	Lutjanus goreensis
Grouper (brown)	Lutjanus dentatus
Grouper (brown)	Lutjanus modestus
Gwangwa	Pseudotolithus elongatus
Gwangwa (black)	Pseudotolithus epipercus
Herring (flat)	Sardinella eba
Herring (round)	Sardinella aurita
Herring (round)	Sardinella madarensis
Hognose	Plectorhynchus macrolepis
Joefish (blackish); Sand mackerel	Trachinotus glaucus
Joefish (whitish); Sand mackerel	Trachinotus goreensis
Johndories	Cyttus; Zenopsis; Zeus spp.
Kinni (juvenile barracuda)	Sphyræna spp.
Kaiman	Brachydeuterus auritus
Ladyfish	Pseudotolithus senegalensis
Ladyfish (longneck)	Pseudotolithus typus

<u>Common name (in Krio or English)</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>
Langa-mina	Anchoviella guineensis
Lati	Ilisha africana
Mackerel	Cybium tritor
Mangopage	Tilapia spp.
Mollit (jombo)	Mugil cephalus
Mollit (flat)	Mugil falcipinnis
Mollit (round)	Mugil curema
Mollit (trangabak)	Mugil grandisquamis
Moonfish; Headfish; Sunfish	Mola mola
Needle fishes	Ablennes; Belone; Strongylura spp.
Ninebone	Elops lacerta; Elops senegalensis
Parrot fish; Wrasse	Coris julis
Pente; Half beaks	Hyporhamphus unifaciatus
Pente; Half beaks	Hemirhamphus brasiliensis
Picardo; Remoras	Echeneis naucrates
Pollock	Decapterus rhonchus; Decapterus punctatus; Trachurus trachurus
Pomp	Scyris alexandrinus
Pomp	Vomer setapinnis
Porcupine fish	Diodon spp.
Porcupine fish	Chilomycterus spp.
Record; Seabasses	Serranus spp.
Record; Seabasses	Epinephelus spp.
Rogie; Red mullet; Goatfish	Pseudupeneus prayensis
Sailfish; Billfish	Istiophorus; Tetrapterus spp.
Swordfish	Pristis pristis
Scorpion fishes	Helicolenus; Pontinus; Scorparna spp.
Dogfish (shark)	?Squalus sp.

<u>Common name (in Krio or English)</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>
Basking shark	Cetorhinus maximus
White shark	Scoliodon terra-novae
Whale shark	Rhincodon (=Rhiniodon) typus
Hammerhead shark	Sphyrna spp.
Sharpnose shark	Carcharhinus spp.
Sheephead	Drepane africana
Shinenose	Galeoides decadactylus
Silversides	Atherina spp.
Silverfish	Trichiurus lepturus
Skeete; Shovel nose; Guitarfish	Rhinobatis & Rhinobatus spp.
Skeete; Stingray; Whipray	Dasyatis margarita; Dasyatis spp.
Skeete	Pteroplatea micrura
Skeete; Electric rays	Torpedo spp.
Skeete	Raja (Raia) spp.
Skeete; Eagle rays	Myliobatis; Pteromylaeus spp.
Skeete; Eagle rays	Aetobatus; Rhinoptera spp.
Skeete	Zanobatus sp.
Skeete; Devilfish; Mantaray	Mobula spp. Manta birostris
Skeete; Cownose rays	Rhinoptera bonasus; R. marginata
Squirrel fishes	Holocentrus; Myripristis spp.
Sleepfish	Lobotes surinamensis
Snapper (red)	Pagrus; Dentex; Pagellus spp.
Snapper (black)	Lethrinus atlanticus
Sole	Cynoglossus spp.
Spanish	Polydactylus quadrifilis
Tarpon	Megalops atlanticus
Tenny; Bonefish	Albula vulpes
Trigger fish; Hard-skin fish	Balistes spp.

<u>Common name (in Krio or English)</u>	<u>Scientific name</u>
Tuna (albacore)	<i>Germon alalunga</i>
Tuna (Skipjack)	<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>
Tuna (Bluefin)	<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>
Tuna (Yellowfin)	<i>Neothunnus albacore</i>
Tuna (Bigeye)	<i>Parathunnus obesus</i>
Tuna (Little)	<i>Euthynnus alleteratus</i>
Whiting; Cassada-fish	<i>Pseudotolithus brachygnathus</i>

SHELLFISHES

Mangrove oyster	<i>Crassostrea tulipa</i> = <i>C. rhizophorae</i> ; <i>C. gasar</i>
Rock oyster	<i>Crassostrea denticulata</i>
Cockle	<i>Arca (Senilia) senilis</i>
Sorongbah	<i>Tagelus angulatus</i>
Gbende-gbende	<i>Tympanotonus</i> sp.
Octopus	<i>Octopus</i> sp.
Cuttle fish; Ink fish	<i>Sepia</i> sp.
Pink shrimp	<i>Penaeus duorarum</i>
Tiger shrimp	<i>Penaeus kerathurus</i>
Lobsters	<i>Panulirus</i> sp.

A list of the freshwater fishes and some shrimps of Sierra Leone with their vernacular names in Mende, Temne and Limba.

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Introduction

Sierra Leone has over 6000 km of rivers and streams net-work and a few medium-sized lakes. Most of the main rivers tend to run in a north to south direction, with numerous tributaries. A provisional and partial list of the fishes and a few shrimps is given below, with their vernacular names in Mende, Temne and Limba.

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Mende</u>	<u>Temne</u>	<u>Limba</u>
<i>Protopterus annectens</i>	Vongboi; Hemei; Ndorgoe; Tupu-nyei	Bopr; Afak	Kutha
<i>Polypterus senegalus</i>	Jeyei	Keskla	Kutenkellie
<i>Cynothrissa</i>	Polie	Kokoro	Inkuinie
<i>Papyrocranus afer</i>	Ndanyei	Fak	Kudamgba
<i>Xenomystus nigri</i>	Patapan	"	K-bopoh
<i>Hyperopisus occidentalis</i>	Bebee	Thoth	Kusumbun
<i>Mormyrus macrophthalmus</i>	Magbukpui	Mahereh	N'heren
<i>Mormyrus rume</i>	Kayani	Kururu	Lollie
<i>Mormyrops deliciosus</i>	Ndurguy	Aloh	Mamankalay
<i>Isichthys henryi</i>	Vongboi	Karump	?

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