

Report of two surgeonfishes, *Naso reticulatus* and *Naso lopezi* from coastal waters of Maharashtra, Arabian Sea

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Fishes of the family Acanthuridae (Perciformes), called Surgeonfish, tang, and unicorn fish are common marine fishes observed in tropical and subtropical waters, with 85 valid species reported in 6 genera (Fricke *et al.*, 2022). In Indian waters, Mohapatra *et al.*, (2020) listed, 33 species of surgeonfishes under 5 genera, however, missed 2 species listed by Nair *et al.* (2014), ie *Naso lopezi* Herre 1927 and *Naso thynnoides* (Cuvier 1829), and another 2 species listed by Rajan *et al.* (2013) from Andaman waters ie, *Acanthurus japonicus* (Schmidt 1931) and *Zebrasoma velifer* (Bloch 1795), making the total surgeon fishes known from India

to 37. Acanthurid fishes are known for long larval durations and widespread population connectivity. However, interestingly new geographical records are continuously reported for several species in the Acanthuridae from the commercial fishery along Indian coasts (Ray *et al.*, 2013; Roul *et al.*, 2019) suggesting dedicated diversity studies. During regular fishery monitoring surveys in Maharashtra, two previously non-reported surgeonfishes were observed in the fishery landings. The fishes are identified as *Naso reticulatus* Randall, 2001 and *N. lopezi* following Randall (2001) which are not previously known from Maharashtra.



***Naso reticulatus* Randall, 2001**

Reticulate Unicornfish

Naso reticulatus (53 cm TL) collected at Sasson dock Mumbai, Maharashtra

Naso reticulatus, is currently known from Pakistan to Indonesia. In India, Mohapatra *et al.* (2013) reported *N. reticulatus* from West Bengal and Roul *et al.* (2019) reported the species from Gujarat, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and suggesting the species is widely distributed rather than previously known. Since October 2021 it is landed in stray numbers in gillnet and trawl fisheries. *Naso reticulatus* is assessed as Data Deficient (DD) in the IUCN Red List of Threatened species.

***Naso lopezi* Herre, 1927**

Elongate Unicornfish

Naso lopezi (55 cm TL) collected at Sasson dock Mumbai, Maharashtra

Naso lopezi was previously known from southern India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, to New Caledonia. In India, it is reported from Andaman waters (Rajan *et al.*, 2013) and Southern India. It is also figured in Nair *et al.* (2014). On 4th February, 2022 two specimens were landed at Sasson dock, Mumbai by gillnetters operated off Dhabol, Ratnagiri in the Arabian Sea. This report extends the known distribution range of species to the northern Arabian Sea. *Naso lopezi* has been assessed as Least Concern (LC) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

References

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