

CNMI FISH FACT SHEET



Specimen caught by Jess Guerrero and Gregory Camacho at 400ft of water, west of Saipan on reef 300. Photo by: DFW

Scientific Name: *Saloptia powelli* (Masuda, H., et al. 1984/fishbase.org). A member of the grouper family; this genus is characterized by a lack of canine teeth on side of lower jaw and absence of spots in the body.

Common Names: Yamabukihata (jpn), Golden grouper

Maximum size: 39.0cm total length

Size recorded: 42.0cm fork length

Physiology: Yellow-orange in color on head and dorsally, with whitish color on ventral portion of body. Caudal fin slightly marginate. Head profile from snout to tip of dorsal fin straight or slightly concave.

Gender: Female.

Habitat: Deep sea and rocky benthic associated; marine; depth range 146-400 meters.

Distribution: Pacific Ocean, Western pacific to French Polynesia, Marianas.

Diet: Possibly feeds on small fish and crustaceans.

Climate: Tropical, Subtropical

!FACTOID!

The Golden grouper is found in waters as deep as 1000ft.