

CNMI FISH FACT SHEET



Specimen caught near the Saipan seaport with hook and line, 2/21/2002. Photo by: Michael C. Tenorio.

Scientific Name: *Ranzania laevis* (Myers, R.F. 1999, 3rd edition). A Member of the Molidae family; this genus is characterized by their vertically compressed bodies with no caudal tail.

Common Names: Mola, Slender sunfish

Maximum size: approximately 100cm

Size recorded: FL-35.1cm

Physiology: Not much is known on the life history of *R. laevis*. The sunfish is generally a solitary fish. The fish is silvery in color, often with darker coloration dorsally. It has a vertical mouth slit with no teeth. The caudal tail is said to be present during its juvenile stage, then subsiding to a clavus as the sunfish matures.

Habitat: This fish inhabits oceanic, epipelagic subtropical areas.

Distribution: Found in tropical to subtropical waters in all seas.

Diet: The Slender sunfish feeds on zooplankton.

Climate: Tropical to subtropical

!FACTOID!

The Slender sunfish loses its tail as it matures.