

CNMI FISH FACT SHEET



Specimen caught by B&H fish market during a fishing trip in Sarigan, The sample was caught while spear fishing for reef fish. Photo by: DFW

Scientific Name: *Oplegnathus punctatus* (Masuda, H., et al. 1984/fishbase.org). A member of the Knifejaw family; this genus is characterized by having teeth in both jaws coalesced, forming a beak.

Common Names: Ishigakidai (jpn), Spotted knifejaw

Maximum size: 86.0cm total length

Size recorded: 48.0cm fork length

Physiology: Body is vertically compressed. Protruding beak like teeth. Black to black spotted coloration, with spots becoming less pronounced as adults.

Gender: Unknown

Habitat: Inhabits rocky and coral reefs. Juveniles are known to associate with drifting seaweed.

Distribution: Pacific Ocean, Central Honshu, Japan to South China Sea, Marianas.

Diet: Feed on zooplankton as juveniles and feeds on inverts and other benthic animals as adults.

Climate: Tropical, Subtropical

!FACTOID!

Only two species of Oplegnathids have been documented in the Western Pacific.