Figure 1: Map of the Solomon Islands showing the West Nggela region
What's in a name? An analysis of the West Nggela (Solomon Islands) fish taxonomy.

by Simon Foale

Introduction

Accurate knowledge about the behaviour, biology and ecology of organisms comprising marine fisheries is a vital prerequisite for their management. Before beginning any study on local knowledge of marine fauna, a working knowledge of their local names must be obtained. Moreover, a great deal of local knowledge can often emerge in the very process of obtaining names (Ruddle, 1994). A detailed treatment of the local naming system of West Nggela marine fauna is given in this paper.

Methods

Local names of fish were collected by asking people to provide the Nggela names for fishes from photographs in books featuring most of the common Indo-Pacific species (Randall et al., 1990 and Myers, 1991). Most identifications were cross-checked with at least five people before being included in the list. This could still, however, sometimes be an unreliable way of obtaining the correct name (Bulmer, 1969; Diamond, 1989, 1991).

 Occasionally the photograph might have been of an individual whose colour variation did not quite match that of the population that occurs at Nggela (even though it was still the same species), or the colour balance of the photograph might have been a bit unnatural, or the fish was not easy to recognise for some other reason. Occasionally, people would create names for fishes, based on their appearance in photographs, even if the fish did not occur in the Nggela region. With this in mind, I tried to obtain names of living, or freshly-caught specimens whenever possible.

For some groups of fish this was difficult, or impossible. I depended heavily or entirely on photographs for Nggela identifications of species in 22 of the 86 scientific families of cartilaginous and bony fishes listed in Appendix 1. They were: Pseudochromidae, Kuhlidae, Priacanthidae, Lobotidae, Gerreidae, Sparidae, Ephippidae, Chaetodontidae, Pomacentridae, Cirrhitidae, Polynemidae, Labridae, Opistognathidae, Trichonotidae, Pinguipedidae, Blenniidae, Gobiidae, Microdesmididae, Zanclidae, Bothidae, Pleuronectidae, and Soleidae.

The English names of many species of fish vary quite a bit, even within one country such as Australia. For most of the species listed in Appendix 1, I have used the English names given by Randall et al. (1990). For species not included in Randall et al. (1990), names from Kailola (1987a, b, 1991) were used.

Results

Appendix 1 contains 350 unique Nggela folk taxa for cartilaginous and bony fishes, together with the scientific (Linnean) taxa they correspond to and, where available, a brief note describing an aspect of local knowledge about the taxon. Wherever possible, an etymology was provided for the Nggela taxon (in many cases, the Nggela dictionary compiled by Fox, 1955 was used). Similar data are also presented for marine mammals, reptiles, commonly-used invertebrates, and some important plants. The list includes a small number of Nggela taxa that I was unable to identify.

Some scientific species correspond to more than one folk taxon. In some cases these folk taxa could be regarded as sub-taxa, since they were usually acknowledged to simply be different growth stages of the same Nggela ‘species’. The most notable example of this is for the small carangid, Selaroides leptolepis (Smooth-tailed trevally), which is most usually referred to as Malaboro, but which can also be referred to by four other names, depending on its size (see Appendix 1). In other cases, however, usually where species (such as many scarids) show strong sexual dimorphism, the Nggela taxa are not necessarily regarded as being related. In general, splitting of taxa was more common for species that were commonly

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1. Department of Zoology, The University of Melbourne, Australia.
used, whereas fish that were of relatively little economic importance tended to be ‘lumped’ together.

Semantically speaking, the Nggela taxa can be divided into primary and secondary lexemes (Berlin et al., 1973; Hooper, 1991). The former usually comprise one word, such as Kara (‘trevally’), while the latter are typically binomials, such as Kara mera (Blue-spot trevally, Caranx melampygus), comprising a primary, ‘generic’ term and a descriptive qualifier (mera = blue). In a few cases this descriptive qualifier comprises two words, which in most cases can be treated as one lexeme (e.g. Bagea papala vohe [Scalloped hammerhead shark]: Bagea = shark generic; papala = handle; vohe = paddle; thus: ‘paddle-handle shark’). However, several names do not fit well with this model (e.g. Kuli tuguru ni tahi, Tauna na sori, Malole ngongora rurugu—see etymologies in Appendix 1). While Nggela primary lexemes sometimes roughly correspond to scientific genera, and secondary lexemes to scientific species, this is certainly not the rule. Many primary lexemes correspond directly to scientific species (e.g. Kepo = Herklotsichthys quadrirunculatus). However, a larger number of West Nggela fish taxa correspond to more than one scientific species. Mostly these multiple correspondences are limited to similar looking fish within one scientific family, but ten West Nggela taxa correspond to two or more species which belong to different scientific families.

Etymologies of Nggela folk taxa are categorised in Table 1 according to the type of information they reveal about the animal. Many primary lexemes have no translation (e.g. Kavala, Ango) and are classified as such. The largest category of taxa comprises names which describe the external appearance of the fish. Some of these include a generic referent (e.g. Atu livoga [Dogtooth tuna]: Atu = tuna generic; livo = tooth), and some don’t (e.g. Igu koni [Yellow-tailed emperor]: Igu = tail; koni = yellow). Other names refer to the fish’s habitat (e.g. Kukupi horara [Spotted oceanic triggerfish]; Kukupi = large triggerfish generic; horara = open sea) or some aspect of its behaviour (e.g. Vulovatu [White damsel, or Farmerfish]: Vuloo = to clean or brush; vatu = stone, or dead coral—this refers to the grazing behaviour of pomacentrid ‘farmer fishes’ which appear to clean the seabed within their small territories). These dominant categories suggest that

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Etymological category</th>
<th>No. of taxa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Untranslatable primary lexeme</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Descriptive only</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat only</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behaviour only</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Descriptive + other</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat + other</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Behaviour + other</td>
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<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that owing to the overlapping nature of some categories the total does not equal 350.
Taxonomic structure

The West Nggela fish taxonomy appears to be relatively shallow, unlike the scientific system, which employs seven basic levels of classification from species through to kingdom. The next level of Nggela classification above ‘generic’ (e.g. Kara) is Iga, which equates roughly to ‘fish’, including bony and cartilaginous fishes. Iga fits the criteria for the category of ‘Life-form’ used by Berlin et al. (1973) and Clark (1981).

Answers to some survey questions indicated that whales, dolphins, dugongs, turtles and crocodiles may also be classified, at least occasionally, under Iga (see also Clark, 1991). However, Iga is also used as a generic for many taxa, including one species of shark (Iga tao, the Tassled wobbegong). In addition to its status as a generic, Bagea is almost certainly used as an ‘intermediate’ (Berlin et al., 1973), between generic and life form, since most sharks are referred to as Bagea prior to being properly identified.

The specific Nggela name for Trochus niloticus is Lala. Its next level of classification, probably equating to ‘life-form’ (Clark, 1981), is Vanguda, which most commonly means ‘shelled mollusc’ and includes bivalves, but may also include other groups of (usually edible) invertebrates, such as echinoderms and crustaceans (see also Clark, 1991).

Discussion

There are many aspects of the West Nggela marine fauna taxonomy that warrant discussion, particularly in a comparative context, but which are beyond the scope of this paper. Some local knowledge is immediately available from etymologies (Appendix 1), and this was often supplemented with more detailed information which emerged in the course of my discussions and fishing activities with West Nggela fishers. Some of this information became the subject of more thorough investigations which have been published or submitted for publication elsewhere (Foale, 1997, in review a; b; Foale & Day, in press).

The lack of Nggela names for most of the deep-sea snappers (the Solomon pidgin term, Siliva pis (= ‘Silver fish’), is used for most species of Etelis, Pristipomoides and Aphaeres) indicates that these species have not been an important feature of the Nggela subsistence economy in the past. This is not the case for many Polynesian societies, where a tradition of deep-sea fishing clearly existed prior to colonisation (Nordhoff, 1930; Hooper, 1990, 1991). However, recent surveys by the Solomon Islands Fisheries Division indicated that sizeable stocks of several species of deep-sea snappers exist in the Sandfly area (Michael Batty, pers. comm.). During the last 3 months of 1995, the infrastructure for a deep-sea snapper fishery was in fact installed at Semege Sub-station on Sandfly Island, and fishing had commenced by March 1996.

On the other hand, the complexity of the naming system for more commonly exploited fishes, such as Selaroides leptolepis (Smooth-tailed trevally) and Selar crumenophthalmus (Purse-eyed scad), belies a much greater depth of experience with such species. Concerted questioning about these fishes (and observations of fishing practices) would very likely reveal detailed local knowledge of their biology and behaviour.

It is important to note that relatively little of the information gleaned from the etymologies and folklore presented here could be considered as being directly applicable to contemporary stock management issues (i.e. maximising and sustaining yields), the information nevertheless has considerable worth in its own right.

Moreover, given the linguistic and cultural handicaps faced by the cross-cultural worker in an investigation of such limited duration, the data should be regarded as far from comprehensive; a great deal more information would surely come to light if more time were available for fieldwork. The data presented here are clearly also a necessary starting point for any concerted investigations into indigenous knowledge about more fisheries-relevant aspects of natural history such as growth, natural mortality, and recruitment.

Acknowledgements

Paramount Chief Christian Sale and his contemporaries from Tumbila and Olevuga villages provided many of the names in Appendix 1. Frank Tura and Paul Pule and their senior relatives also contributed significantly to the identification of many species of fish and other marine animals, and also provided much interesting folklore about many species.

There are many other West Nggela people who contributed material in Appendix 1 and to these I am also most grateful. Many thanks to Rob Day, Peter Dwyer, Martha Macintyre and Catherine Black for reading drafts of the thesis chapter from which the text of this paper was extracted.

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References


FOALE, S.J. (in review, a.). Assessment and management of the trochus fishery at West Nggela, Solomon Islands: an interdisciplinary approach. Ocean and Coastal Management.


Notes on pronunciation

Vowels: a as in far, e as in end, i as in tin, o as in or, u as in put. G is the Melanesian g, a velar fricative, sounded as the old English gh, with the back of the tongue articulating with but not touching the back of the palate. Ng as in singer, nγ as in finger. D is always pronounced nd (daro = ndaro) and b always mb (bosa = mbosa). The accent is always on the penultimate syllable.

Iga: Cartilaginous and bony fishes

Sharks

Stegostomidae - Leopard sharks
Bagea oneone: Stegostoma fasciatum (Leopard shark). Etymology: oneone = black sand. Name probably refers to the black spotted pattern of this shark.

Ginglymostomatidae - Nurse sharks
Bagea (ro)rodo: Nebrius ferrugineus (Tawny nurse shark). Etymology: (ro)rodo = blind. Name may connote the small eye of this species or it’s sedentary habit. In pijin it is called ‘sleeping shark’.

Carcharhinidae - Whaler sharks or Requiem sharks
Bagea mara: Carcharhinus albimarginatus (Silvertip shark). Etymology: Mara = bright, colourful. May refer to the silver markings on the fins.
Bagea totoho: Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos (Grey reef shark).
Bakebake: Carcharhinus melanopterus (Blacktip reef shark).

Hemigaleidae - Weasel sharks
Eno-eno: Triaenodon obesus (White-tip reef shark).

Sphyrnidae - Hammerhead sharks
Bagea papala vohe: Sphyrna lewini (Scalloped hammerhead). Etymology: papala = handle. vohe = paddle. The name describes the paddle-handle shape of the lateral extensions on the head of this species.

Rhyncodontidae - Whale sharks
Bagea ni oka: Rhincodon typus (Whale shark). Etymology: Oka = open, broad, far reaching (a synonym of horara = open ocean).

Orectolobidae - Wobbegongs
Iga tao: Eucrossorhinus dasypogon (Tassled wobbegong). Etymology: tao = lying flat, flat on face. Connotes the sedentary habit of this species.

Appendix 1

Nggela marine fauna taxonomy

Rays

Dasyatidae - Stingrays
Vali: Dasylatis kuhlii (Kuhl’s stingray), Taeniura lymna (Blue-spotted stingray) and T. melanosila (Black-blotched stingray).

Myliobatidae - Eagle rays
Vali lovo: Aetobatus narinari (Spotted eagle ray). Etymology: lovo = to fly.

Mobulidae - Devil or Manta rays
Vali lovo: Manta birostris (Manta ray) and Mobula tarapacana (Devil ray). Etymology: lovo = to fly.

Fishes

Albulidae - Bonefishes
Oaa: Albula neoguinaica (Pacific bonefish). Note: the milkfish, Chanos chanos, is also called Oaa.

Muraenidae - Moray eels
Daununu: Gymnothorax javanicus (Giant moray) and other large Gymnothorax spp.
Polli ni tahi: Gymnothorax spp. (smaller) + remaining Muraenid genera. Etymology: Polli = snake; tahi = sea.
Posau: Gymnothorax nudivomer (Yellowmouth moray), G. meleagris (Whitemouth moray) and Echidna nebulosa (Starry moray)

Eels from various other families
Polli ni tahi: Moringua ferruginea (Slender worm eel) (Moringuidae – Worm eels), Kaupichthys hyoproroides (Grey reef eel) (Chlopsidae – False morays), Leiurana semicinctus (Culverin) (Ophichthidae – Snake eels). Etymology: Polli = snake; tahi = sea.
Posali: Conger cinerius (Black-edged conger) (Congridae – Conger eels).
Sia kale: Myrichthys maculosus (Spotted snake eel) (Ophichthidae). Etymology: Sia = flower of sugar cane, reed or bamboo; kale = to strike, hit. May connote the fine spotted pattern of this species.

Toitokiri: Myrichthys colubrinus (Harlequin snake eel) (Ophichthidae).

Clupeidae - Herring sardines
Kepo: Herklotsichtys quadrimaculatus (Four spot herring). Note: This species usually mills around in large schools under wharves or along sandy beaches in protected bays. It usually goes into deep water at night. Kepo is an important food species to the Nggela people and is usually parcellled in leaves and baked in a motu oven if large numbers are netted. According to some fishers, Kepo populations do not recover quite as quickly as other species of baitfish after heavy fishing.

Chanidae - Milkfishes
Oaa: Chanos chanos (Milkfish).

Plotosidae and Ophidiidae - Catfishes
Iga bola: Plotosus lineatus (Striped catfish) (Plotosidae – Eel tail catfishes) and Brotula multibarbara (Bearded brother) (Ophidiidae – Brotulas). Etymology: bola = 1. a pigeon; 2. a constellation, Southern Cross.

Carapidae - Pearlfishes
Iga ni opaopa: Onuxodon margaritifer (Bivalve pearlfish). Etymology: This species is commonly found in a species of bivalve called opaopa.

Synodontidae - Lizardfishes
Koisogavu: Saurida gracilis (Slender lizardfish), Synodus spp. (various lizardfishes) and Trachinocephalus myops (Snakefish).

Stonefishes, scorponfishes, toadfishes, frogfishes and gurnards
Novu: 1. All species of the family Scorpaenidae (Scorpionfishes) except for Dendrochirus spp. and Pterois spp. This includes: Ablabys taenianotus (Cockatoo waspfish), Inimicus caledonicus (Caledonian stinger), Scorpaenoides spp., Scorpaenopsis spp., Sebastapistes spp. (Scorpionfishes), Synanceia spp. (Stonefishes), and Taenianotus triacanthus (Leaf scorpionfish). Novu = right angle, right angled, possessing a cross-handle, as a small adze. This name obviously refers to the horny appendage under the chin of this species. Novu: 2. Antennarius spp. (Antennariidae – Frogfishes or anglerfishes).
Novu lovo: Dendrochirus spp. and Pterois spp. (Lionfishes, firefishes), Histrio histrio (Sargassumfish) (Antennariidae – Frogfishes or anglerfishes), Dactyloptena orientalis (Flying gurnard) (Dactylopteridae: Flying gurnards). Etymology: lovo = to fly. So named because the fishes appear to have wings.

Novu tonikama: Halophryne diamensis (Banded frogfish) (Batrachoididae – Toadfishes). Etymology: tonikama = old woman, or old man. Local knowledge: Stings from the spines of fishes in the Novu group can be treated with the leaves of the Dirigi tree (no identification).

Exocetidae - Flyingfishes
Kidu: Cypselurus spp. (and other common genera of flyingfishes).

Hemiramphidae - Halfbeaks
Kelo: Hemiramphus spp. and Hyporhamphus spp. Totoro: Zenarchopterus dispar (Estuarine halfbeak). Note: Totoro occurs mainly in shallow water around mangroves in sheltered bays.

Belonidae - Longtoms and needlefishes
Malo: (Belonidae, (Beroides) and possibly also the larger individuals of Tylosurus crocodilus crocodilus (Crocodile longtom) which are found some distance seaward of the edge of reefs.
Malo legolego (No identification).
Malo ngongora (No identification—this may be the pelagic belonid, Ablenes hians), which is a highly laterally-compressed species). Etymology: Legolego = flat, laterally compressed, as in some species of trevallies.

Malo ngongora rurugu (no identification)
Etymology: Ngongora = a young girl; Rurugu = under, below, a space under a tree.

Malo poli (No identification). Etymology: Poli = snake.

Malo sobolonga: Tylosurus crocodilus crocodilus (Crocodile longtom). Etymology: Sobo = to float; Longa = shorewards. Medium-sized and small individuals of this species are supposed to occur close to the shore, generally around fringing reefs. This is either the largest or second largest (after Malo) type of Malo.

Malo vaivipapa: Strongylura incisa (Reef needlefish). Etymology: Vaivari = a reciprocal prefix with some verbs. Papa = to carry on one’s back, piggyback. The name probably refers to this species’ habit of going in pairs or small groups.

Malo valala: Tylosurus acus melanotus (Keeljawed or Black-finned longtom). Note: Has a compressed horny appendage under chin and occurs in open sea or around deep reefs. Is often preayed up on by dolphins. Etymology: Valala = right angle, right angled, possessing a cross-handle, as a small adze. This name obviously refers to the horny appendage under the chin of this species. It should be noted that juveniles of several species of belonids may have a barrel or bony tab on the tip of the bottom jaw. Consequently this taxon may also correspond to the juvenile form of some of the other taxa listed here.

Local knowledge:
1. Some types of Malo are reproductive when the Habaga tree (Alstonia scholaris or ‘Milky pine’) flowers and fruits. This is usually in June/July.
2. Larger Malo are caught traditionally with sago palm leaf kites and spiderweb lures (Dala on Nggela). They can also be caught by trolling (Ariari), or with a technique called...
Koikoito, which comprises a baited hook on a short line (1–2 fathoms) which is tied to the dried fruit of the Barringtonia tree and left to float off the edge of the reef for a while, before being picked up by the fisherman in his canoe.

3. A very commonly told story in the Sandfly region describes a bizarre interaction (which many people profess to have witnessed) between any of the above types of Malole and a land snake called Iga ni kuli (Dendrelaphus caligastra). The snake usually jumps into the sea from a mangrove, koilo (Calepusylium inopphiium) or coconut tree and swims to a waiting Malole. The snake then coils its body around the fish, which makes no attempt to escape, and appears to mate with it. The snake then uncoils from the fish and swims back to the shore.

Atherinidae - Hardyheads or silversides

Sipu: Hypoatherina sp. (Hardyhead). Note: As Sipu gets bigger, it becomes Gohi, then Kodove. These names may equate to other species, which may be in other families. Sipu is a preferred bait for some types of trolling.

Holocentridae - Soldierfishes and squirrelfishes

Sori beta: Plectropops lima (Cardinal soldierfish). Etymology: beta = breadfruit tree, or its fruit. Sori gau: Neophostis spp. and some Sargocentron spp. Etymology: gau = knife. Sori tubu mata: Myripristis adusta (Shadowfin soldierfish) and M. berndti (Bigscale soldierfish). Etymology: Tubu = to swell, expand. Mata = eye. Sori: Myripristis spp. (Soldierfishes [generic]). Note: Sori are commonly fished using a small hook baited with cotton wool (or any small bright piece of cloth or feather), which is tied to a short line on a bamboo pole and dragged across the surface on moonlit nights.

Tala: Sargocentron spiniferum (Spinecheek squirrelfish). Local knowledge: The red flowers of the Rara tree (Erythrina indica – the Coral or Flame tree), usually around August, mark the time when the flesh of Tala is greasiest.

Fistulariidae - Flutmouths

Konga: Fistularia commersoni (Smooth flutmouth). Local knowledge: Ulu ni Konga (Ulu = head) is a metaphor for stupidity and refers to the thick bony structure of the head region of this species.

Aulostomidae - Trumpetfishes

Iga veoveo: Aulostomus chinensis (Trumpetfish). Etymology: Veoveo = hole in net or fence. Refers to the long thin shape of the fish.

Aeoliscidae - Razorfishes

Iga tuguru: Aeoliscus striatus (Razorfish). Etymology: Tuguru = stand up, standing.

Syngnathidae - Pipefishes

Hinapi ni vua: Corythoichthys spp. and Doryrhamphus spp. (Pipefishes). Etymology: Hinapi = lime-stick (used to transfer powdered lime, for chewing with betel nut, from its container to the mouth). Vua = crocodile. Iga ni kuli: Halicampus nitidus (Glittering pipefish). Etymology: Kuli = seagrass

Kuli tuguru ni tahi: Hippocampus kuda (Spotted seahorse). Etymology: Kuli = seagrass; Tuguru = standing (Standing seagrass [fish of the sea]).

Platyecephalidae - Flatheads

Usa vero: Thysanophrys otaensis and T. chiltonae (Flatheads). Etymology: Vero = erect penis. Maybe that’s what it looks like!

Yugovugo sadana: Thysanophrys arenicola (Sand flathead). Etymology: Vugo = net; Sada = 1. woman’s skirt of banana leaves, 2. to tie the thatch in beginning a roof.

Serranidae - Rockcods or groupers

Subfamily Anthiinae:

Vare: Pseudanthias spp. and related genera.

Subfamily Epinephelinae:

Angora gree: Cephalopholis sexmaculata (Six-spotted rockcod). Etymology: gree = writing.


Karamalabo: Plectropomus spp. (Coral trouts). Includes P. areolatus, P. laevis, P. leopardus, P. macrodon, and P. ocellatus (the latter is also sometimes called Taburara, Sili taburara and Gaumare).

Kobili: Epinephelus sp. (unidentified rockcod).

Koho: Epinephelus lanceolatus (Queensland grouper). Also called Bangabanga. Etymology: Koho = carried, using stick shouldered by two people (Verb, transitive: Kali koho). Bangabanga is a slang term connoting extreme gluttony. This is the largest Indo-Pacific reef fish, and can attain weights of over 400 kg.

Kuli patu: Epinephelus polyplakadion (Camouflague rockcod). Etymology: Kuli = seagrass; Patu = joint in bamboo, knot.

Kusele: Epinephelus corallilucia (Coral rockcod), E. hexagonatus (Hexagon rockcod), E. howlandii (Blacksaddle rockcod), E. macrops (Snubnose rockcod), E. merra (Dwarf-spotted rockcod).

Kusele geregerea: Epinephelus quyusanus (Longfin rockcod). Etymology: Geregere = to write.

Kuva: Cephalopholis argus (Peacock rockcod).

Mankovava: E. fascoguttatus (Flowerly cod).

Polo: Cephalopholis cyanostigmata (Blue-spotted rockcod), C. miniata (Coral cod) (sometimes also called Sivari baba), Epinephelus malabaricus (Malabar grouper). Etymology: Polo = hide; Baba = hole/cave.

Sivari: Variola albinigrina (Lyre-tail trout), V. louti ( Coronation trout) (latter sometimes also called Sivari baba). Etymology: Baba = hole/cave.

Sogilo ni kolo: Cromileptes altivelis (Baramundi cod) (Sometimes called Demara and Iga Piu). Etymology: Kolo = strait; Piu = a species of bird.

Tagulu pohaha: Epinephelus areolatus (Areolate rockcod). Etymology: Pohaha = mottled grey and white smudges as a banana leaf.

Vualia: Epinephelus tukula (Potato cod).

Subfamily Grammistinae:

Tubuna vua: Liopromus susumii (Meteor perch),
Rainfordia opercularis (Flathead perch). Etymology: Tubu = Sister’s child or mother’s brother; Vua = crocodile.

Iga poipoi: Diplorhynchus bifasciatus (Barred soapfish), Grammistes ocellata (Ocellated podge).

Pseudochromidae - Dottybacks and eel blennies
Iga lade: Congorogadus subducens (Carpet eel blenny), Dottybacks (generic). Etymology: Lade = coral.

Terapotidae - Grunters
Kaboia: Terapon jarbua (Crecent grunter). Note: This species is commonly referred to as ‘Harbour master’ in pijin, due to its scavenging habit, and common occurrence near toilet beaches.

Kuhlidae - Flagtails
Valuado: Kuhlia mugil (Fiveband flagtail). Etymology: Valu = a species of tree; Ado = to think, understand.

Priacanthidae - Bigeyes
Kaulau ni horara: Heteropriacanthus spp. and Priacanthus spp. (Glassseyes [generic]). Etymology: Kaulau = Archerfish (Toxotes sp.); Horara = Open sea.

Apogonidae - Cardinalfishes
Vivihi: Apogonidae (generic).

Malacanthidae - Sandtile fishes
Iga kuikui: Malacanthus latovittatus (Blue blanquil-lo). Etymology: Kuikui = lizard.

Echeneididae - Remoras:
Raorago bagea: Echeneis naucrates (Slender suckerfish). Etymology: Raoro = to join/merge with; Bagea = shark. Commone the common association this fish has with sharks.

Carangidae - Trevallies
Andiandi: Megalaspis cordyla (Finnly scad). Note: Also called Kai iguga (iguga = possessing a tail) and Panggaganggati (Pangga = ten pigs, birds, or fish).

Babalatu: Trachinothys bailloni (Black-spotted dart) and Trachinothys blochii (Snub-nosed dart). Etymology: Baba = hole or cave. Latu = going on forever, unending.

Buma: Salar crumenophthalmus (Purse-eyed scad). Note: Juveniles are called Papa. Buma are an important subsistence species at Nggela (along with Malaboro—and they often school together) and are caught with a variety of techniques, including Soga, Unggalu and Ariari.

Doa: Atule mate (Fringe-finned trevally) and Caranx bucculentis (Blue-spotted trevally). Etymology: Ato = a string with anything strung on it.


Kai daro: Decapterus russelli (Russell’s mackerel scad). Etymology: Daro = long.

Kai vala daro: Scombroides commersonianus (Talang queenfish). Etymology: Vala = shoulder, collarbone, Daro = long.

Kara: (Trevallies [generic]), Carangoides fulvoguttatus (Gold-spotted trevally) and Caranx papuensis (Brassy trevally).

Kara gabutogo: Caranx melampygus (Blue-fin trevally). Etymology: Gabu = blood. Togo = to spear. Note: also called Kara mera (mera = blue). Feeding schools of this and other types of Kara are called Vangavanga.

Kara iguga: Carangoides gymnostethus (Bludger trevally). Etymology: Iguga = possessing a tail.

Kara kara: Carangoides uii (Japanese trevally).

Kara koni: Gnathanodon speciosus (Golden trevally). Etymology: Koni = yellow.

Kara legolego: Carangoides caeruleopinnatus (Onion trevally). Etymology: Legolego = flat.

Kara nadi: Caranx para (Banded scad). Etymology: Nadi = hard.

Kara pura: Carangoides chrysophrys (Club-nosed trevally). Etymology: Pura = white.

Kara uluga: Caranx tille (Tille trevally). Etymology: Uluga = possessing a head—refers to the steep forehead of this species.

Kara vali: Parastromates niger (Black pomfret). Etymology: Vali = stingeray.

Kara voramua: Caranx sexfasciatus (Bigeye trevally). Etymology: Vora = to open eyes wide. Mua = yet, still. Refers to the very large staring eye of this species.

Kavala: Scomberoides tala (Barred queenfish).

Lailahi: Scomberoides lysi (Double-spotted queenfish). Note: this name is also commonly used as a generic term for Scomberoides spp.

Lailahi kaekalea: Scomberoides tol (Needleskin queenfish). Etymology: Kaekalea = needle, spine.

Malaboro: Salaroides leptolepis (Smooth-tailed trevally). Note: Malaboro sub-taxa as follows, in order of increasing size: Tata poipoi (smallest), Malaboro, Malaboro tutura, Puri, Pailori (biggest). Malaboro are a very important subsistence species at Nggela and are caught with a variety of techniques, including Soga, Unggalu and Ariari. Etymology: Mala = 1. occupation, rank; 2. as, like; Boro = bottom, inside, keel of a canoe (so the name Malaboro may refer to the fact that the species, because it is small, usually gravitates to the bottom of the canoe, i.e. under all the other fish); Tata = to shiver, tremble; Poi = foam, spray; Tutura = a string with anything strung on it.

Malaboro mala: Decapterus macrosoma (Long-bodied scad). Etymology: Mala = 1. occupation, rank; 2. as, like.

Malahau koni igu: Seriola lalandi (Yellowtail kingfish). Etymology: Mala = 1. occupation, rank; 2. as, like; Hawaii = 1. far, old; 2. to stretch, raise up; Koni = yellow; Igu = tail.

Malahau ni horara: Seriola rivoliana (Almaco jack). Etymology: Mala = 1. occupation, rank; 2. as, like; Hawai = 1. far, old; 2. to stretch, raise up; Horara = open sea.

Malahau tunununa: Seriola nigrofasciata (Black-banded kingfish). Etymology: Mala = 1. occupation, rank; 2. as, like; Hawaii = 1. far, old; 2. to stretch, raise up; Tunununa = spotted.

Maroho: Elagatis bipinnulata (Rainbow runner). Note: This name appeared to be falling into disuse at the time of fieldwork. The species is more commonly referred to by its market (Solomon Pidgin) name of ‘Rainbow’ by most people these days.
**Lutjanidae - Snappers**

**Ango:** *Lutjanus rivulatus* (Maori seaperch) and *Symphorus nematophorus* (Chinaman fish).

**Ango gautago:** *Symphorus hilis* (Siulfin snapper). Etymology: *gautago* = knife.

**Ango ni bongi:** *Macolor macularis* (Midnight seaperch). Etymology: *bongi* = night.

**Ango ni horara:** *Macolor niger* (Black and white seaperch). Etymology: *horara* = open sea. Note: Juveniles of both *Macolor* species are called *Iga kuikui* (‘Lizard fish’).

**Bulobulo geregerea:** *Lutjanus decussatus* (Checkerered seaperch). Etymology: *geregerea* = write.

**Bulobulo horara:** *Lutjanus kasmira* (Bluestripe seaperch). Etymology: *horara* = open sea.

**Bulobulo koni:** *Lutjanus fulviflamma* (Blackspot snapper). Etymology: *kon* = yellow.

**Bulobulo ni kolo:** *Lutjanus quingue lineatus* (Five-lined seaperch). Etymology: *kolo* = strait.

**Bulobulo ni toke:** *Lutjanus monostigma* (Onespot perch). Etymology: *toke* = point of a reef.

**Bulobulo pura:** *Lutjanus lemniscatus* (Dark-tailed seaperch) and *Lutjanus russelli* (Moses perch). Etymology: *pura* = white.

**Bulobulo tubumata:** *Lutjanus lutjanus* (Bigeye seaperch). Etymology: *tubumata* = to swell, expand; *mata* = image.

**Gaumare:** *Lutjanus biguttatus* (Two-spot snapper). Etymology: *gaumare* = to swell; *mata* = shape, image, appearance.

**Iga mona or ‘Curry Fish’:** *Lutjanus boultoni*. Note: commonly caught using strikeline and *kura* in sheltered areas over sandy or rubble bottoms deeper than 20 m.

**Koukoru:** *Lutjanus bohar* (Red bass). Etymology: *koukoru* = fat. This is a highly prized table fish.

**Labiango:** *Aphareus furca* (Small-toothed jobfish).

**Livo gau:** *Lutjanus carponatus* (Spanish flag) and *Lutjanus viitia* (Brownstripe seaperch). Etymology: *livo* = tooth; *gau* = knife.

**Mahi:** *Lutjanus argentimaculatus* (Mangrove jack).

**Sagasaga:** *Lutjanus fulvus* (Yellow-margined seaperch).

**Siliva pis:** *Etelis spp.* (coruscans, carbunculus and others) (Deepwater snappers / jobfish). Note: There is no Nggela name for these species, as it would appear they were not commonly fished until recent times.

**Susi, or Susi ni horara:** *Aprion virens* (Green jobfish). Etymology: *horara* = open sea.

**Uvoro:** *Lutjanus gibbus* (Paddletail).

**Livo gau:** *Trachinotus botla* (Common dart). Etymology: *gau* = to swell, expand; *mata* = to wade, or float.

**Sagasaga:** *Lutjanus sebae* (Red emperor). Etymology: *horara* = open sea.

**Vurusinge:** *Lutjanus semicinctus* (Black-banded seaperch). Etymology: *Vuru* = smell; *singe* = a plant

**Caesionidae - Fusiliers**

**Toatoa pote:** *Caesio caeruleaurea* (Gold-banded fusilier). Etymology: *pote* = to fill, bulge, swollen, expanded.

**Igu saga:** *Caesio cuning* (Red-bellied fusilier). Etymology: *Igu* = tail; *saga* = to wither.

**Igu saga mane:** *Caesio lunaris* (Lunar fusilier). Etymology: *Igu* = tail; *saga* = to wither; *mane* = man, male.

**Igu saga ni horara:** *Caesio teres* (Blue and gold fusilier). Etymology: *Igu* = tail; *saga* = to wither, *horara* = open sea.

**Toatoa:** *Pterocaesio marri* (Marr’s fusilier)

**Toatoa ni lade:** *Pterocaesio tile* (Neon fusilier). Etymology: *lade* = coral.

**Toatoa ni tuvi:** *Pterocaesio trilineata* (Three-lined fusilier). Etymology: *tuvi* = the flat, shallow part of a reef near the edge.

**Lobotidae - Tripletails**

**Kooha dale:** *Lobotes surinamensis* (Tripletail). Etymology: *Kooha* = Epinephelus lanceolatus (Queensland grouper); *dale* = child, offspring.

**Gerreidae - Siver biddies**

**Pabeta:** *Gerris ogena* (Oceanic silver biddy).

**Haemulidae - Sweetlips**

**Gaumare:** *Plectorhinchus chaetodonoides* (Many-spotted sweetlips) and *P. fasciatus* (Netted sweetlips). Etymology: *Gaumare* = knife; *mare* = shape, image, appearance.

**Kaboa mane:** *Plectorhinchus celebus* (Celebes sweetlips). Etymology: *mene* = male, man.

**Kaboa ni bongi:** *Plectorhinchus diagrammus* (Striped sweetlips) and *P. goldmani* (Diagonal-banded sweetlips). Etymology: *bongi* = night.

**Kometulu:** *Plectorhinchus gibbosus* (Brown sweetlips), *P. obscurus* (Giant sweetlips) and *P. schotaf* (Somber sweetlips). Etymology: *Kometulu* = a gastropod (*Strombus canarium*); *tulu* = to wade, or float.

**Tauna na kometulu:** *Plectorhinchus picus* (Dotted sweetlips). Etymology: *Tauna* = wife/husband of.

**Tiakoko:** *Diagramma pictum* (Painted sweetlips).

**Sparidae - Sea breams**

**Daivula ni horara:** *Chrysophrys auratus* (Snapper). Etymology: *horara* = open sea.

**Lethrinidae - Emperors**

**Asu:** *Gnathodentex aurolineatus* (Gold-lined sea bream).

**Daivula:** *Monotaxis grandoculis* (Big-eye bream).

Note: juveniles are called: *Mata buru* (*Mata* = eye; *buru* = to throng).
Dami popolo: Lethrinus erythropterus (Masked emperor). Etymology: Dami = to chew betelnut; popolo = to hide. The name refers to the red colour inside this fish’s mouth, implying that it chew betelnut covertly.

Esa-esa: Lethrinus miniatus (Sweetlip emperor), L. rubripercultus (Red-eared emperor), and L. xanthochilus (Yellow-lip emperor).

Goluhii: Lethrinus erythracanthus (Yellow-spotted emperor). Etymology: Goloi = to scrape out flesh of a coconut with a bivalve (Tue) shell; hiihi = to scoop out the flesh of a coconut.

Huru: Lethrinus harak (Thumbprint emperor) and L. obsoletus (Orange-striped emperor). Note: L. harak is also known as Mangata—both names appear to be accepted by most people as valid for this species.

Iga meresin: Gymnocranius grandoculis (Robinson’s sea bream). Etymology: Meresin is the pijin pronunciation of medicine; the name refers to the strange taste and smell of this species.

Igu koni: Lethrinus atkinsoni (Yellow-tailed emperor), Parupeneus barberinoides (Orange-striped emperor). Note: This species is commonly also known as Parupeneus spilurus (Blackspot goatfish). Etymology: Igu = tail; koni = yellow.

Labiangko: Lethrinus variegatus (Variegated emperor).

Mangata Gymnomranius euans (Japanese sea bream) and L. harak (Thumbprint emperor). Note: L. harak is also called Huru. Etymology: Manga = mouth; tata = to shiver, tremble.

Paere (or Papare): Lethrinus genivittatus (Lancer), L. laticaudis (Grass emperor), L. lenjan (Pink-eared emperor) and L. ornatus (Yellow-striped emperor).

Piho: Lethrinus olivaceus (Long-nosed emperor) and L. nebulous (Spangled emperor).

Nemipteridae - Coral breams

Asu ni horara: Pentapodus spp. (Butterfishes).
Etymology: Asu = Gnathodon sexcornutus (Gold-lined sea bream); horara = open sea.

Bubukele: Scolopsis affinis (Pale monocle bream).
Etymology: Bubu = to stare at; kele = a woman’s private parts.

Susi pile: Scolopsis spp. (Monocle breams).
Etymology: Susi = Apriov virescens (Green jobfish); pile = small.

Mullidae - Goatfishes

Mahavi: Parupeneus cyclostomus (Goldside goatfish).

Mala bulu: Parupeneus bifasciatus (Doublebar goatfish).
Etymology: Mala = 1. position, rank; 2. like, as. bulu = to light with a lamp or torch. This species is commonly taken by gleaning over the top of the reef at low tide at night (usually around new moon in the wet season) using a lamp or torch. The name connotes either this fishing technique or the reddish colour that the animal assumes at night, which might be likened to a lamp or torch.

Ngingi: Parupeneus flavolineatus (Yellowstripe goatfish), P. heptacanthus (Cinnabar goatfish), P. indicus (Indian goatfish), P. multifasciatus (Manybar goatfish) and P. pleurostigma (Sidespot goatfish).

Ngingi bagea: Upenes tragula (Freckled goatfish).
Etymology: Bagea = shark.


Ngingi sisi: Parupeneus spinulosus (Blackspot goatfish). Etymology: sisi = red.

Noma: Mulloloides vanicolensis (Yellowfin goatfish).

Tio: Parupeneus barberinoides (Bicolour goatfish) and P. barberinus (Dash-dot goatfish).

Pempheridae - Sweepers

Tauna na sori: Pempheris spp. (Sweepers).
Etymology: Tauna = wife/husband of; sori = soldierfishes (generic).

Kyphosidae - Drummers

Langui: Kyphosus cinerascens (Top sail drummer) and K. vaigiensis (Long-finned drummer). Note: Both species are called Simasima as juveniles and Leoleko when they reach very large size.

Ephippidae - Batfishes

Koito: Platax pinnatus (Pinnate batfish) P. orbicularis (Circular batfish) P. leira (Longfin batfish, adult).
Etymology: Koito = a style of fishing; vaovao = 1. a shrub with very large leaves, 2. a very big ear.

Iga raurau: Platax leira (Longfin batfish, juvenile).
Etymology: Rau = leaf.

Chaetodontidae - Butterflyfishes

Arulole: Chaetodon ulietensis (Pacific double-saddled butterflyfish).
Etymology: Aru = a species of tree (Casuarina); lole = to scrape clean a yam, a stick.

Gautago: Heniochus spp. (Bannerfishes).
Etymology: Gau = knife; tago = to fish, fishing (= taotago).

Iga vila: Hemitaurichthys polylepis (Pyramid butterflyfish) and Heniochus varius (Humphead bannerfish).
Etymology: Vila = to flash, flashing. Name refers to the striking colours and patterns of these fishes.

Sigo vugo: Chaetodon spp. (Butterflyfishes (generic)).
Etymology: Sigo = to move silently, stealthily; vugo = net.

Sigo vugo refers to the habit of these fishes of ‘checking’ the net, or following the net, but never getting caught.

Pomacanthidae - Angelfishes

Belava: Genicanthus spp. (Angelfishes gen., except for those listed below).

Iga vila: Pomacanthus and Centropyge spp. (Angelfishes (generic)). Etymology: Vila = to flash, flashing. Name refers to the striking colours and patterns of these fishes (NB: this name is also used for some butterflyfishes, above).

Sigo vugo: Pygoplites diacanthus (Regal angelfish).
Etymology: Sigo = to move silently, stealthily; vugo = net. Sigo vugo refers to the habit of these fishes of ‘checking’ the net, or following the net, but never getting caught (NB: this name is also used for some butterflyfishes, above).

Pomacentridae - Damselfishes

Gegela: Abudefilu vaigiensis and A. sexfasciatus (Sergeants).

Guali: Chrysiptera unimaculata, Chromis agilis, Stegastes spp.

Iga ni bubula: Premnas biaculeatus (Spine-cheek fish). Etymology: Bubula = to light with a lamp or torch.
anemonefish) and *Amphiprion melanopus* (Red and black anemonefish). Etymology: *bubula* is the name of the anemone (*Entacmaea quadricolor*) with which these species are associated.

**Iga ni gavoro** *Amphiprion perideraion* (Pink anemonefish). Etymology: *gavoro* is the name of the anemone (*Heteractis magnifica*) with which this fish is often associated.

**Iga ni lade** *Chromis* spp. (small damselfishes closely associated with corals). Etymology: *lade* = coral.

**Iga ni raerade** *Amphiprion chrysopeterus* (Orange-finn anemonefish) and *A. clarkii* (Clark’s anemonefish). Etymology: *Raerade* is the name of the anemone (*Stichodactyla mertensii*) to which these fishes are commonly but not exclusively associated.

**Maumanu ni masao** *Amphiprion percula* (Clown anemonefish). Etymology: *Maumanu* = 1. flying insect; 2. spark; 3. animal; *masao* = the anemone, *Stichodactyla gigantea*, with which this fish is sometimes associated (it is also associated with other anemones, including *Heteractis magnifica*).

**Poto** Several species, in several genera, including *Amblyglyphidodon*, *Acanthochromis*, *Chromis*, *Poto* (Sandy damsel). Etymology: *Damsel*). Etymology: *Poto* = sand, beach, sandy place. The name refers to the typical shallow, sandy habitat of these species.

**Sagalea** *Pomacentrus lepidogenys* (Black-vent damsel). Etymology: *sagalea* = sand, beach, sandy place. The name refers to the typical shallow, sandy habitat of these species.

**Sao** *Abudedefu bengalensis*, *A. septemfasciatus* and *A. sordinus* (Sergeants).

**Vulovatu** *Distichodus perspicillatus* (White damsel, or farmerfish) and *D. melanotus* (Black-vent damsel). Etymology: *Vulo* = to clean, brush away; *vatu* = stone. The name refers to the habit of these ‘Farmer fishes’ of grazing the algae on a small territory which they defend from other herbivores.

**Cirrhitidae - Hawkfishes**

**Tavilade** (Hawkfishes, gen.). Etymology: *Tavi* = to slip, stumble, turn suddenly. *Lade* = coral.


**Iga tooho** *Oxycirrhitus typus* (Longnose hawkfish). Etymology: *Toogo* = to put one thing on another, strain, series one on another. May refer to the cross-hatched pattern of the fish.

**Mugilidae - Mullets**

**Galua** *Crenimugil crenilabis* (Warty-lipped mullet).

**Geru, Kuli binu** *Liza vaigensis* (Diamond-scaled mullet). Etymology: *Kuli* = ear; *binumbinu* = to line an oven.

**Sphyranaidae - Barracudas**

**Alu** *Sphyraena puthianae* (Chevron barracuda).

Note: This species usually occurs in groups, and sometimes in large stationary schools during the day.

**Gavi koburu** (no identification made). Etymology: *koburu* = the westerly monsoonal trade wind.

**Gori** *Sphyraena helleri* (Heller’s barracuda) and/or *Sphyraena forsteri*

**Nganggasu** *Sphyraena flavicauda* (Yellowtail barracuda) and/or *S. novaehollandiae* (Arrow barracuda).

**Ono** *Sphyraena barracuda* (Great barracuda). Local knowledge: This species is usually solitary but is reported by some Nganga fishermen to occur in groups around new and full moons at certain places around Sandfly Island.

**Polynemidae - Threadfins**

**Bou na pana** *Polydactylus sexfisilis* (Six-fingered threadfin). Etymology: *Bou* = hard, seasoned; *Pana* = the common tuber crop eaten as a starch staple at Nganga.

**Labridae - Wrasses**

**Gatuvi** *Choerodon anchorago* (Anchor tuskfish), *C. cephalotes* (Grass tuskfish).

**Hangguvia** *Novaculichthys taeniourus* (Rockmover wrasse). Etymology: *Hanggu* = to blow off, as a strong wind blows off a roof. Via is a transitive marker. The name probably refers to the ability of this species to overturn large rocks in search of food.

**Hangguvia ni horara** *Xyrichtys pavo* (Pavo razorfish), *X. aneitensis* (Whitepatch razorfish), *X. pentadactylus* (Fivefinger razorfish). Etymology: *Hangguvia* (see above); *horara* = open sea. These fish may have been likened to the Rockmover wrasse through similarity of appearance.

**Iga piu** *Gomphosus varius* (Bird wrasse), *Bodianus diana* (Diana’s hogfish). Etymology: *Piu* = a species of small bird.

**Iga raorago** *Labroides dimidiatus* and *Labroides spp.* (Cleaner wrasses). Etymology: *Rago* = to join two ends together. Probably connotes the association of these cleaners with larger (host) fishes.

**Kama kaluha** *Halichoeres chloropterus* (Pastel-green wrasse) *H. hortulanus* (Checkerboard wrasse). Etymology: *Kama* = great big, very, a king; *kaluha* = a species of bivalve mollusc. Note: these fishes both inhabit shallow, sandy/ruble areas.

**Kaumavi** *Thalassoma amblycephalum* (Bluntheaded wrasse), *T. lunare* (Moon wrasse). Etymology: *Kau* = to stick fast; *mavi* (abbreviated from mavitu) = all together, in a body. The name connotes its densely aggregating behaviour.


**Koleo** *Epibulus insidiator* (Slingjaw wrasse).

**Kolodau** *Thalassoma hardwicke* (Sixbar wrasse). Etymology: *Ko* = strain, *dau* = to seize, swoop on, snatch.

**Malaraurabu** *Halichoeres miniatus* (Circle-cheek wrasse). Etymology: *Mala* = 1. position, rank; 2. as, like; *ravu* = leaf; *rabu* = a species of tree.
Nggalanggari: Choerodon jordani, C. schoeleinii, Cirrhilabrus spp. and Thalassoma jansenii. Etymology: Nggala = a hand net; ganggari = a traditional method of catching fish with a hand net. It is likely that these species are no doubt traditionally caught with this method.

Peopeo talia: Cheilinus diagrammus (Cheeklined maori wrasse), C. unifasciatus (Ringtail maori wrasse). Etymology: Peopeo = a species of gastropod mollusc, Cypraeopsis rufa (helmet shell), the shell of which is used as a trumpet; talia = C. fasciatus (see below).

Pulupulu sui: Chelinus fasciatus (Redbreasted maori wrasse). Etymology: Pulupulu = 1. to wrap up; 2. to put on clothes; sui = a species of red parakeet.

Roso taranggau / Iga taranggau: Bodianus perditio, Cheilinus chlorourus, C. oxycephalus, S. rivulatus (Surf parrotfish). Etymology: Roso = young fruit of coconut, Chelinus = a variety of fish). May connote the noise made by these fish as viviha (see below).

Scardidae – Parrotfishes

Note: TP = Terminal Phase; IP = Initial Phase.

Boila: Bolbometopon muricatum (Humphead parrotfish).

Mala boila: Scarus microrhinos (Steephead parrotfish). Etymology: Mala = like, as; boila = B. muricatum. Name connotes the similarities in appearance of the two species.


Mara kirta: Scarus frenatus (Bridled parrotfish) and S. psittacus (Palenose parrotfish, TP). Etymology: Papapuaga = a variety of Ngali nut (Canarium indicum) with very black skin.

Mui: Cetoscarus bicolor (Bicolour parrotfish, IP).

Sapa viviha: Scarus altipinnis (Minifin parrotfish). Etymology: Sapa = to go out, seawards, away from the shore; viviha = thunder. May connote the noise made by these fish as they feed in very large aggregations over the reef.

Taroa: Cetoscarus bicolor (Bicolour parrotfish, TP).

Ulavi: Hipposcarus longiceps (Pacific longnose parrotfish).

Uvu raungali: Initial phases of Scarus oviceps (Egghead parrotfish), S. psittacus (Palenose parrotfish), S. pyrrhus (Redtail parrotfish), S. dimidiatus (Yellowbarred parrotfish), S. globiceps (Globehead parrotfish) and Calotomus carolinus (Starkey parrotfish). Etymology: Uvu = sandy soil; raungali = leaf of ngali tree (Canarium indicum).

Vanga udu: Scarus rubrovilaceus (Ember parrotfish) and S. riculatus (Surf parrotfish). Etymology: Vanga = to eat; Udu = together, in company (these species usually feed in aggregations).

O pistognathidae – Jawfishes or Smilars

Iga tao: Opistognathus spp. (Jawfishes gen.). Etymology: tao = face down, flat on belly.

Trichonotidae – Sand-divers


Pinguipedidae – Sandperches

Koesonggavu: Parapercis spp. (Sandperches gen.).

Blenniidae – Blennies

Iga kuikui: Aspidontus taeniatus (Mimic blenny) and Plagiotremus rhinorhynchos (Bluestriped fangblenny). Etymology: kuikui = lizard.

Kakau pilo: Blennies (generic) including, and especially, Istiblemius spp. (Rockskippers). Etymology: Kakau = crab; pilo = to wave about.

Gobidae – Gobies

Bili geregere turguru: Eviota bifasciata (Doublebar goby). Etymology: Bili = black; geregere = to write, writing; turguru = stand up, standing up.


Iga bili vuna: Bryaninops amplus (Large whip goby). Etymology: Bili = black; vuna = to throw, lob.

Iga daro geregere: Valenciennesa longipinnis (Long-finned goby). Etymology: Daro = long; geregere = write, writing.

Iga gere turguru: Amblygobius rainfordi (Old glory). Etymology: Gere = write, writing; turguru = stand up, standing up.

Iga kukulu mana: Periophthalmus argentilineatus (Silverlined mudskipper). Etymology: Kukulu = short; mana = 1. quicksand, bog; 2. worthy, fitting.

Iga ni kolo: Tramma spp. Etymology: Kolo = strait.

Iga ni pari: Priolepis cincta (Girdled goby). Etymology: Pari = ground, earth, soil.

Iga pile matana: Gobiodon micropus (Small-eyed goby) and Paragobiodon xanthosomus (Yellowskin goby). Etymology: Pile = small; matana = eye (Matana = its eye).

Iga pohaha: Ctenogobiops tangaroae (Decorated goby). Etymology: Pohaha = spotted, blotched, grey and white, as a banana leaf.

Iga sagalea: Fusigobius neophytus (Sand goby). Etymology: Sagalea = beach, sand.

Iga tao tana sagalea: Istigobius decoratus (Decorated goby). Etymology: Tao = face down, flat on belly; tana sagalea = on the beach, sand.

Iga taotao: Amblyeleotris wheeleri (Wheeler’s shrimp goby). Etymology: Taotao = face down, flat on belly.

Iga tubumata: Cryptocentrus cinctus (Yellow shrimp goby). Etymology: Tubumata = to swell, expand; mata = eye.

Iga tunutunua: Gobiodon histo (Broad-barred goby). Etymology: Tunutunua = spotted.

Iga tunutunua bili: Fusigobius spp. (Blotched sand goby). Etymology: Tunutunua = spotted; bili = black.

Pomo: Amblygobius sphynx (Sphynx goby). Note: Pomo appears to be a generic term for gobies.
Pomo bili: Callogobius sctateri (Tripleband goby). Etymology: bili = black.
Pomo ni tahi: Bathygobius fuscus (Common goby). Etymology: tahi = sea.
Pomo vuruga: Callogobius maculipinnis (Ostrich goby). Etymology: vuruga = possessing scales.
Sisi mata Brynniniops erythrops (Erythrops goby) and B. natans (Redeye goby). Etymology: Sisi = red; mata = eye.
Tagulu pohaha: Ctenogobiops pomatistus (Spotfin shrimp goby). Etymology: pohaha = spotted, blotched, grey and white, as a banana leaf.
Tavi lade: Gobiodon citrinus (Fourbar goby) and G. okinavae (Okinawa goby). Etymology: Tavi = to slip, stumble, turn suddenly; lade = coral.

M.icrodesmidae - Wormfishes and dartfishes
Iga daro geregere: Nemateleotris decora (Elegant firefish) and N. magnifica (Fire dartfish). Etymology: daro = long, geregere = write, writing.
Iga hinapi: Gunnellichthys spp. (Wormfishes, gen.). Etymology: hinapi = lime stick.
Iga labe: Gunnellichthys curiosus (Curious wormfish). Etymology: labe = weak.
Iga sigere: Ptereleotris spp. (Dartfishes, gen.). Etymology: sigere = to fish, go fishing.

Acanthuridae - Surgeonfishes
Bagata: Acanthurus mata (Elongate surgeonfish), A. blochii (Ringtail surgeonfish), and A. dussumieri (Eyestripe surgeonfish).
Bagata ni horara: Acanthurus albipectoralis (Whitefin surgeonfish).
Bobona: Acanthurus nigricauda (Brown surgeonfish), Acanthurus pyroferus (Mimic surgeonfish), Ctenochaetus striatus (Lined bristletooth), Ctenochaetus strigosus (Goldring bristletooth), and Zebrasoma scopas (Brushtail tang). Etymology: Bobona = wet, damp.
Bobona pura igu: Acanthurus grammoptilus (Fineline surgeonfish). Etymology: pura = white; igu = tail.
Bolobolo: Ctenochaetus binotatus (Twospot bristletooth). Etymology: Bolo = 1. pig, 2. meat of any sort, 3. epilepsy, 4. to foam from the mouth.
Gule: Acanthurus triostegus (Convict surgeonfish).
Havalago: Naso lituratus (Orange spine unicornfish).
Iga balo: Acanthurus guttatus (White-spotted surgeonfish). Etymology: Balabo = to fish at dusk.
Iga bili: Acanthurus bariene (Roundspot surgeonfish). Etymology: bili = black. Note: Sometimes also called Bagata.
Iga bili igu pura: Acanthurus nigricauda (Blackstreak surgeonfish) and A. thompsoni (Thompson’s surgeonfish).
Iga vila: Zebrasoma veliferum (Sailfin tang). Etymology: vila = flash, flashing. Refers to the striking, striped pattern of this fish.
Igu pura: Acanthurus auranticavus (Orange-socket surgeonfish) and A. nigros (Bluelined surgeonfish). Etymology: Igu = tail; pura = white.

Kavaga: Naso annulatus (Whitemargin unicornfish), N. brachycentron (Humpback unicornfish), N. brevirostris (Spotted unicornfish), N. lopezi (Elongate unicornfish), N. thorp (Thorpe’s unicornfish), N. unicornis (Bluespine unicornfish) and N. hexacanthus (Sleek unicornfish).
Kavaga boila: Naso tuberosis (Humpnose unicornfish). Etymology: boila = Bobometan maricatum. The name refers to the bulbous head of N. tuberosus, which is similar to that of B. maricatum.
Kura korade: Acaththurus lineatus (Striped surgeonfish). Etymology: Kura = the ‘pepper’ leaf usually chewed with betel nut (Bua); Kura korade = a darker variety of Kura. Local knowledge: Wounds from the caudal ‘scalpel’ of this species are particularly painful.
Maluli: Naso vlamingi (Vlaming’s unicornfish). Note: This species is often referred to as Bagata, and sometimes as Iga ni vane (Vane = large ripples made by a fish underwater. Probably connotes the high dorsal fin of this species).
Moemole: Acanthurus olivaceus (Orangeband surgeonfish).
Seliseli: Acanthurus nigrircans (Whitecheek surgeonfish) and A. xanthepterus (Yellowfin surgeonfish).
Simusimu: Paracanththurus hepatus (Palette surgeonfish). Etymology: Simusimu = to twinkle, as a star; a cluster of small stars. Connotes the brilliant contrasting colours of this fish, which usually occurs in aggregations in clear water.

Zanclidae - Moorish idol
Iga gautago: Zanclus cornutus (Moorish Idol). Etymology: gau = knife; tago = to fish, go fishing.

Siganidae - Rabbitfishes
Borode: Siganus punctatissimus (Finespotted rabbitfish), and S. punctatus (Goldspotted rabbitfish).
Ginava: Siganus corallinus (Coral rabbitfish), S. doliatus (Barred rabbitfish), Siganus javus (Java rabbitfish), and S. puellus (Bluelined rabbitfish).
Iga piu: Siganus vulpinus (Foxface). Etymology: piu = a species of small bird. The name refers to the elongate, beak-like mouth of the fish.
Kaekale: Siganus argenteus (Forktail rabbitfish), S. fuscescens (Dusky rabbitfish) and S. vermicultus (Vermiculate rabbitfish). Etymology: Kaekale = spine. The name refers to the venomous spines in the dorsal, anal and pelvic fins of these fishes which can inflict very painful wounds. Note: S. argenteus is commonly taken by the traditional leaf sweep technique known as Kwarao. It is also commonly taken by hand spear at night on the reef flat where it sleeps.
Kaekale can be regarded as the generic term for rabbitfishes. Local knowledge: Stings from the spines of fishes in the Kaekale group can be treated with the leaves of the Dirigi tree (no identification).
Kaekale pile Siganus spinus (Spiny rabbitfish). Etymology: pile = small.
Olana: Siganus lineatus (Goldlined rabbitfish)
Scombridae - Tunas and mackerels

**Atu**: *Katsuwonus pelamis* (Skipjack tuna). Note: *Atu* can be regarded as the generic term for this group. Note: Traditional tuna fishing is known as *Daoli*. *Daoli* is no longer practiced on Nggela and has been replaced by trolling from outboard-powered fibreglass canoes (and sometimes paddle-powered dugout canoes), using modern hooks with various types of lures.

**Atu igu mera**: *Thunnus albacares* (Yellowfin tuna) and *T. obesus* (Bigeye tuna). Etymology: *Igu* = tail; *mera* = blue.

**Atu livoga**: *Gymnosarda unicolor* (Dogtooth tuna). Etymology:

**Atu pari longa**: *Euthynnus affinis* (Mackerel tuna, Island bonito). Etymology: *Pari* = ground, earth; *longa* = shoreward, inland. The name could broadly be translated as 'shore tuna', as it is rarely found far out to sea. This species is commonly taken by trolling light gear from paddle-powered dugout canoes.

**Ili**: *Acanthocybium solandri* (Wahoo). Note: This species is commonly called Malahau, due to its similarity to *Scomberomorus commerson*. The name connotes the white spotted pattern on this fish.

**Ili**: *Scomberomorus commersoni* (Spanish mackerel). This species is also known as *Kai* and *Ili*. *Scomberomorus commerson* is commonly called Malahau, due to its similarity to *Scomberomorus commerson*.

**Ki**: *Grammatorcyclus bilineatus* (Double-lined mackerel). This species is also known as *Ipa vuruvuru* (*vuruvuru* = smelly) due to the strong smell of its flesh. It is a popular bait fish for this reason. Juveniles are known as *Siubu*.

**Malahau**: *Scomberomorus commerson* (Spanish mackerel). Etymology: *Mala* = 1. occupation, rank; 2. as, like; *hau* = 1. far, old; 2. to stretch, raise up.

**Rumaga**: *Rastrelliger kanagurta* (Long-jawed mackerel, Indian mackerel). Note: Until the late 1980s, *Rumaga* were often fished using 'dynamite', but this practice has been banned, and is never seen anymore at Nggela. *Rumaga* can still be caught using nets, and juveniles are often caught at certain spots in protected bays (at around 40 m or more) using strikeline.

**Viluviu**: *Istiophorus platypterus* (Indo-Pacific sailfish). Etymology: *Vilu* = a species of palm with umbrella-like leaves. The name connotes the palm-leaf like appearance of the dorsal fin of this species.

**Note**: Nggela names were not obtained for the swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) or the marlins (*Makaira spp.*).

Paepangge pana - Flounders and soles

**Paepangge pana**: (Bothidae - Lefteye flounders): *Bothus mancus* (Flowery flounder) and *B. pantherinus* (Panther flounder); (Pleuronectidae – Righteye flounders): *Samariscus triocellatus* (Threespot flounder); (Soleidae – Soles): *Paradachirus pavo* (Peacock sole).

Etymology: *Pangge* = to skin, skin of (yam or pana); *pana* = the yam, *Diocorea esculenta*.

**Balistidae - Triggerfishes**

**Balubaru**: *Balistoides conspicillum* (Clown triggerfish). Etymology: *Baru* = shell inlay on traditional carvings. The name connotes the white spotted pattern on this fish.

**Bibigo**: *Rhinocanthus aculeatus* (Whitebanded triggerfish), *Rhinocanthus lunula* (Halfmoon triggerfish), *R. rectangulus* (Wedgetail triggerfish) and *R. verrucosa* (Blackpatch triggerfish). Etymology: *Bigo* = to crush shellfish for cooking—probably refers to the feeding behaviour of these species; their diet includes small molluscs and other benthic invertebrates.

**Buli vau**: *Sufflamen chrysoperus* (Flagtail triggerfish), *Sufflamen fraenatus* (Bridled triggerfish). Etymology: *Buli* = generic term for cowries; *vau* = to weave, plait, as a mat or basket. Latter part of the name may refer to the woven appearance of the scale pattern of these fishes.

**Igu pura**: *Melichthys vidua* (Pinktail triggerfish).

Etymology: *Igu* = tail; *pura* = white.

**Kukupi horara**: *Balistoides viridescens* (Titan triggerfish) and *Pseudobalistes flavimarginatus* (Yellowmargin triggerfish). Etymology: *Kukupi* = thick lips; *horara* = open sea. This species only occurs around floating objects in the open ocean or near current swept points of small islands. It nests around the new moon.

**Logeloge**: *Odontus niger* (Redtooth triggerfish) and *Xanthichthys auromarginatus* (Gilded triggerfish). *Mumuku*: *Abalistes stellatus* (Starry triggerfish) and juvenile *Balistapus undulatus* (Orange-lined triggerfish). Local knowledge: *Mumuku* are notorious for stealing bait from hooks.

**Mumuku horara**: *Sufflamen bursa* (Scimitar triggerfish) and *Pseudobalistes fuscus* (Yellow-spotted triggerfish). Etymology: *horara* = open sea.

**Toetole**: *Balistapus undulatus* (Orange-lined triggerfish). Etymology: *Tole, toetole* = stains of chewing betelnut on face and body. Name refers to orange striped pattern of this fish. Note: Juveniles of this species are called *Mumuku*.

Monacanthidae - Leatherjackets

**Iga kamau / Iga kakamau**: generic *Monacanthidae*. Etymology: *kamau* = a species of tree with large leaves which are eaten.

Ostraciidae - Boxfishes

**Pava**: generic *Ostraciidae*.

Tetraodontidae - Puffers

**Boebote**: generic *Tetraodontidae*. Note: This whole family is widely regarded as poisonous to eat and is not eaten on Nggela.

Diodontidae - Pocupinefishes

**Kaku**: generic *Diodontidae*. Note: *Nggani* when small.

Toxotidae - Archerfishes

**Puhuduki / Kaulau**: *Toxotes juculatrix* ( Archerfish). Etymology: *Puhu* = to blow, spout, shoot (a jet of water); *duki* = a common species of ant, yellow in colour, which the archerfish commonly preys upon by knocking them off mangrove roots with a jet of water.
Chirocentridae - Wolf Herrings
Sego: Chirocentrus dorab (Wolf Herring). Note: This species is often caught by trolling with light gear from dugout canoes, near mangroves, especially after rain. It is very bony and usually fed to pigs. It is edible if baked very dry.

Mauvo: (Freshwater eels [generic])

Other baitfishes
Soba: (No identification).
Meme: (small Soba).
Kuaba: (No identification).
Belea: (No identification).
Marumo: (No identification; described as being like small Kepo).

Iga mela: A fish commonly caught by droplining in water deeper than about 60 metres. (No identification—may be a Lutjanid). Etymology: Mela = red spittle from betel nut chewing. Name refers to the colour of the fish.

Mammals
Puhu: (Whales [generic]). Etymology: Puhu = to blow, spout.
Sausau: (Dolphins [generic]), e.g. Delphinus delphis (Common dolphin). Etymology: Sausu = to wash.
Vena: Dugong dugon (Dugong).

Reptiles
Kolage: Varanus sp. (Green monitor lizard, ‘Iguana’). Note: These beautiful green arboreal lizards are usually found in mangroves, but also can be found inland. Their preferred food appears to be fish. They are regularly caught and sold to wildlife dealers who sell them overseas. This trade represents an important source of cash for many people at West Ngella. No studies have been done on the population of this species, but it appears to be in decline.

Bokili mola: (Seasnakes [generic]).
Rombiu: Dermochelys coriacea (Leatherback turtle).
Vonu: (Turtle [generic]). Includes Eretmochelys imbricata (Hawksbill turtle) and Chelonidae mydas (Green turtle).
Vua: Crocodylus porosus (Salt-water crocodile).

Invertebrates
Cnidaria
Bubula: Entacmaea quadricolor (Bubble-tentacle sea anemone).
Gavoro: Heteractis magnifica (Magnificent sea anemone).
Masao: Stichodactyla gigantea (Gigantic sea anemone).
Raeade: Stichodactyla mertensii (Mertens’ sea anemone).
Lade: Corals (generic).
Kova: Plate coral (generic).
Sisiri: Jellyfishes (generic). Etymology: Sisiri also means to sting, a sting from something.
Lumaluma: Linuche unguiculata (Thimble jelly). Note: This jellyfish forms large and dense aggregations or ‘blooms’ near the surface of the sea every year around September. The blooms always precede the emergence of Palolo worms (Odu) which usually happens in October. Many species of fish (and especially Rumaga (Rastrilliger kanagurta) feed on Lumaluma when it blooms, and Nggela people say that the flesh of these fish always stinks of the jellyfish at this time. Small Lumaluma are called Niro or Niroa.

Polychaeta
Odu: Eunice viridis (Palolo worm). Note: Odu usually emerges in large numbers from its burrows in the reef, about one hour after dark, on the first or second night after full moon (Galaga punghi) in October or November. If they do not emerge in abundance in October, that means they will be abundant in November. The Nggela name for the month of October is Odu Lade (Lade = coral) and the name for November is Odu Tina (Tina = mother). Swarming of Odu is usually preceded by swarms of another, smaller and non-edible species called Rau ni Aru (Rau = leaf, Aru = Casuarina equisetifolia—the name connotes the similarity of the worms to the Casuarina needles).
NB: What is known as Odu is actually the reproductive ‘epitoke’ of the worm, which breaks off to swim up into the plankton, disintegrate and liberate its sperm or eggs for external fertilization. The head and front end of the worm remain in the burrow. In recent years the abundance of Odu at Ravu Sodukosi Village on Sandfly seems to have declined, but it is hard to know what might be the reason for this.

Mollusca
Cephalopoda
Gilio: Nautilus scrobiculatus (Nautilus[shell]).
Kiko/ Iroiro: Nautilus pompilius (Nautilus [shell]).
Mananggi: Sepia spp. (Cuttlefish [generic]).
Nuho: Sepioteuthis spp. (Reef squids [generic]).
Sipiu Octopus cyanea, Octopus spp. (Octopus [generic]).

Gastropoda
Areho: Nerita albicilla (Periwinkle)
Boru: Potomidae (Mud whelks [generic]) and Terebralia palustris (a commonly harvested whelk).
Eo: Tectus pyramis (Trochidae).
Gombu: Strombus sp. (a stromb shell, smaller than Ngau).
Kalulu pale: Haliotis asinina (Reef abalone).
Kome: Strombus canarium.
Lage (vi)vindi: Conus geographus (Geographic cone).
Lala: Trochus niloticus (Trochus). Note: Lala can be most easily found during the period of ’Dantega’, which is between two and four days after full moon. Etymology: Dani = daytime; tea = to perch, perched. This term refers to the fact that the moon can be seen ‘perched’ above the horizon early in the day. Trochus are often subjected to fishing prohibitions or restrictions, by placing a ‘tambu’ over the reef, until the reef...
owner considers the Lal population has had enough time to build up and can be harvested.

Lili: Turbo spp. (Turban shells {generic}).
Lili taringa: Turbo petholatus.
Lili tinoni: Turbo crassus.
Lili vangavanga: Turbo argyrostromus.
Mbei mbei: Teredra maculata.
Mbui: Cypraea spp. (Cowrie {generic}).
Mbui siwa: Cypraea mauritiana.
Mbui vuare: Cypraea tigris (Tiger cowrie).
Meko: Strombus canarium.
Ngau: Strombidae (Strombs {gen.}) & Lambis crocata.
Ngau dalesamu: Strombus scorpis. Etymology: dalesamu = orphan. Refers to the fact that this shell is usually solitary, in contrast with many other strombs which are found in groups.
Peo-peo: Charonia tritonis (Triton shell).
Sagu: Neritidae (Nerites {generic}) and Nerita polita. Note: N. polita is sometimes harvested by women at night during spring tides when the tide is half out.
Sura: Strombus luhuanus.
Tadugu: (Chiton {generic}).
Tanggili pou: Lunella cinerea (a turban shell).
Tangi vagale: Olividae (Olive shells).
Tavuli: Cassis cornutus (Helmet shell).
Vanguard: (‘Shellfish’ {generic}). Note: This term may include crustaceans and echinoderms but is usually only used with reference to molluscs.

**Giants clams**

Gima: Tridacna gigas.
Hihi: Tridacna derasa. Note: also called Boroboro or Kamumu by some people.
Kunungga: Tridacna crocea.
Masirauva: Hippopus hippocus.
Pukumau: Tridacna maxima
Talinga: Tridacna squamosa.

**Other bivalves**

Aro: Pinctada margaritifera (Black-lip pearl-shell).
Ihu: Crassostrea sp. (Common oyster)
Kaluha: (No identification).
Karaguna: (No identification).
Kuta: (No identification).
Lombo: Teredo sp. (‘Shipworm’). Note: Can be harvested from the wood of some types of mangroves. There are traditional restrictions on the consumption of this animal in some parts of West Nggela.
Opaopa: (No identification). Note: This shell is known to harbour a species of pearlfish (Iga ni Opaopa).
Tue: Batissa sp. (perhaps B. unioniformis). A small, commonly harvested bivalve. Note: The shell of this bivalve has traditionally been used at Nggela to scrape the meat of coconuts for cooking.

**Crustacea**

Kakau vula: (Carpilus maculatus).
Lingamo: Scylla serrata (Mud crab).
Mapa: (Slipper lobster {generic}) (Parribacus antarcticus).

Pouporu: Hippa pacifica (Pacific mole crab). Note: These animals can be abundant around the waterline on sandy beaches, and are harvested by small children who thread them onto coconut leaf midribs and roast them.

Tarika: Squillidae, Harposquillidae, Lysiosquillidae (Mantis shrimps {generic}).
Ura: Panulirus spp. (Crayfish {generic})
Urepa: Birgus latro (Coconut crab).

**Land crabs**

Kakau tina: Cardisoma hirtites (Common black land crab). Etymology: Kakau = generic for crabs; tina = mother. Note: This crab is harvested in large numbers when it migrates to the shore to ‘wash’ (‘Sapa toga’—usually starting an hour or so after dusk, from about three days to one week after the full moon during the early wet season (October to January)) prior to mating and ovulation in the females. The harvesting is usually done by women using torches made from bundles of dried coconut leaves (Pahu). The crabs can also be dug up at other times. The berried females go down to the sea to spawn (‘Sau lami’—Sau = wash; Lami = land crab eggs) either around dawn or shortly after sunset during the three days preceding full moon. The start of the Kakau tina breeding season is signalled by the flowering of the Bobolo tree (Euodia elleryana). The Nggela name for the month of December is Kakau.
Koba: several genera (Hermit crab {generic}). Note: Hermit crabs are a very reliable source of bait when no fish is available. Local knowledge: Around full moon, some of the larger varieties of koba can be seen in large numbers coming out onto beaches. The females have eggs at this time.
Tubala: Cardisoma carnifex (‘White’ land crab). Note: This species does not appear to display the spectacular synchronised spawning or ‘washing’ migrations that Kakau tina does, but is still commonly harvested for food, though it usually has to be dug up.

**Echinoderata**

Veitugu: (Starfish {generic}). Etymology: Veitugu = star.
Vula: (Cushion starfishes {generic}). Etymology: Vula = moon.

Uta melo: Acanthaster planci (Crown of thorns starfish). Etymology: Mela = red spittle from betelnut chewing. Refers to the reddish colour of many individuals of this species.
Alalo vilua: (Brittle stars {generic}). Etymology: Alalo = the vine of a yam; vilua = a species of palm with umbrella-like leaves. The wirthing arms of brittle stars do indeed resemble yam vines.

Baraso: (Spiny urchins {generic}).
Konola: (Short-spined urchins—edible{generic}).
Gila sou: (Slate pencil urchins {generic}). Etymology: Gila = 1. to know, 2. a stone adze; sou = 1. a species of heron, 2. jagged.
Pou: (Beche-de-mer {generic}).
Pou luluhi: (Beche-de-mer that eject cuverian tubules{generic}). Etymology: Luluhi: to squeeze milk from a woman’s breasts.
Politi tivi: Synapta maculata (Spotted Sea Cucumber). Etymology: tivi = 1. a sling for carrying a baby;
The use of optimal foraging theory to assess the fishing strategies of Pacific Island artisanal fishers: A methodological review

by Shankar Aswani

Introduction

Artisanal fisheries play a major role in the social, cultural, and economic life of most Pacific Islanders, particularly in rural communities where people are highly dependent on marine resources for subsistence and commercial purposes. Yet, marine resources are being threatened by pressure from exploding human populations and the increasing commercialisation of the subsistence fishery—circumstances which are now forcing researchers to find novel ways to examine issues of coastal management and marine resource conservation. Among the most recent approaches to coastal management has been to study marine ecological processes in conjunction with those of the contiguous shoreline and upland habitats, or what has been termed Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM).

From the standpoint of maritime anthropology, any comprehensive study of the integration of marine and terrestrial biotic components requires the parallel consideration of human activities, including existing property regimes, resource access and distribution rules, and resource exploitation strategies. Although numerous studies have concentrated on the social aspects of Pacific Island artisanal fisheries (e.g. Johannes, 1981; Hviding, 1996; Lieber, 1994), few have dealt explicitly with the micro-ecology of daily human-marine interactions (see Aswani, 1997; Bird & Bird, 1997). Such neglect has hampered attempts to fully integrate studies of environmental coastal processes with those of human activities.

In this paper, I examine the utility of optimal foraging theory and its methodology, as applied to the study of Pacific Island artisanal fishers. The inclusion of foraging theory can contribute to