

IDENTIFICATION TOOLKIT FOR MOST TRAFFICKED MARINE SPECIES IN SRI LANKA

An output under the initiative

"Sri Lanka Counter Wildlife Trafficking Awareness, Capacity & Empowerment (ACE) Program"



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Funded by,



**United States
Government**



**Bureau of International
Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs**

Project by,



**Environmental Foundation
(Guarantee)Limited**

This toolkit was prepared as a component of the “Sri Lanka Counter Wildlife Trafficking Awareness, Capacity & Empowerment (ACE) Program” funded by the United States Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

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Disclaimer: This toolkit was funded by a grant from the United States Department of State. The opinions, findings and conclusions stated herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the United States Department of State.

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Introduction

Sri Lankan marine waters are influenced by tropical climate that make the waters temperate so it can support rich and diverse variety of fauna and flora. Thus, Sri Lankan waters are considered as one of the most diverse oceans of the world. The rich biodiversity due to the diverse coastal and marine ecosystems such as extensive mangrove forests, coral reefs, seagrass beds, coastal mud flats, beaches and open waters.

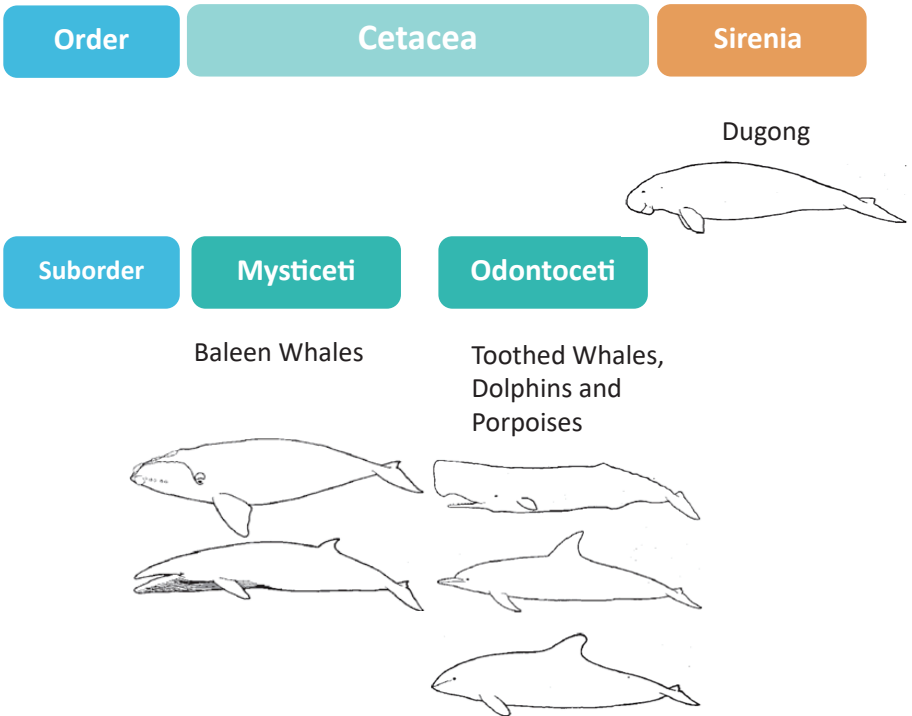
As a biodiversity hotspot with a wealth of economically important marine species, Sri Lanka is a lucrative target for illegal marine wildlife trafficking. Recording the correct taxa being illegal traded is critical for conservation and prosecution efforts. However, it is often difficult to differentiate the different species.

'Identification Toolkit for Most trafficked Marine Species in Sri Lanka' has been designed to assist identification of marine wildlife species which are commonly found in wildlife traffic in Sri Lanka. Further it designed as a quick reference for enforcers to determine if a case before them requires more scrutiny or investigation.

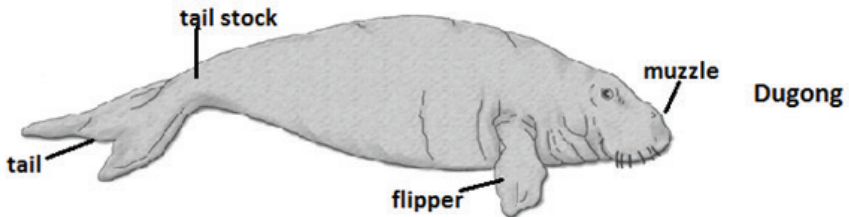
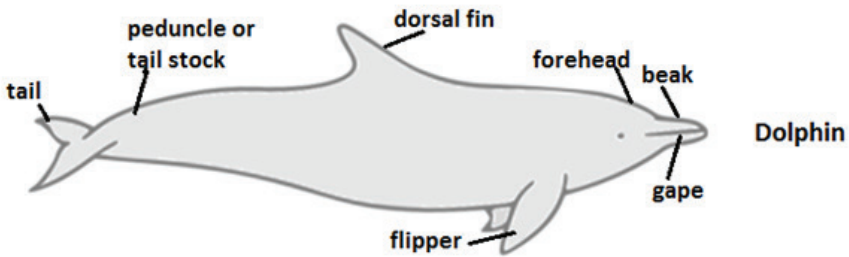
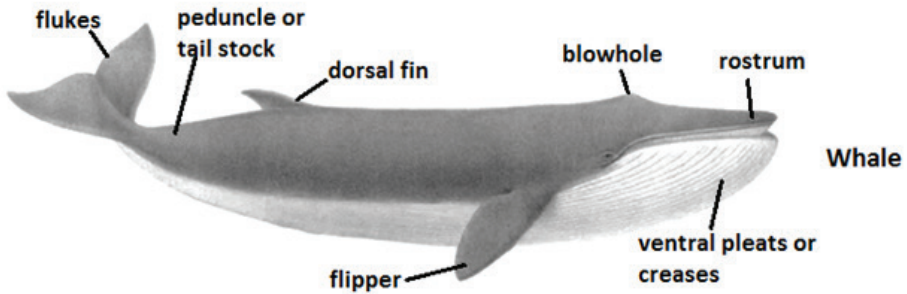
This toolkit provides information on key identification features for the species or taxa. For each of the species the scientific and common English names are listed. The Identification of commonly trafficked marine wildlife in Sri Lanka guide features more than forty marine wildlife taxa, including some of the country's most frequently confiscated live marine fauna, parts, and products. Hard to distinguish species are listed in this guide, such as marine mammals, fishes, manta & devil rays, sea horses, sea cucumbers, lobsters and gastropods.

01. Marine Mammals

Classification of Marine Mammals Reported in Sri Lanka



Illustrated Glossary of Technical Terms



1.1. Order: Cetacea

Sub order - Odontoceti

1.1.1 *Grampus griseus* (Cuvier, 1812)

Common Name: Risso's dolphin



Distinctive Characteristics

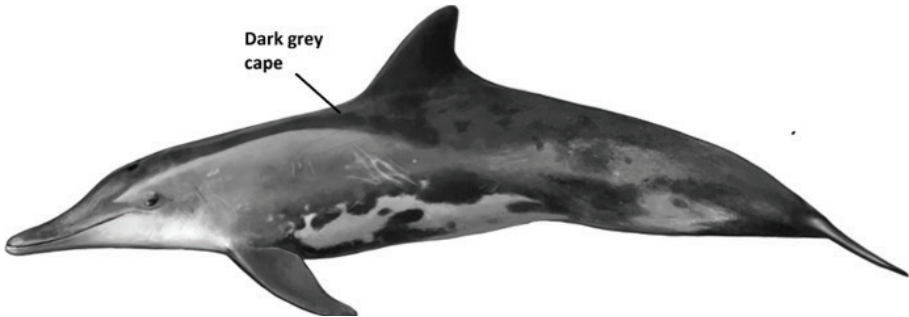
- Robust blunt-headed animals without distinct beaks
- The flippers are long, pointed, and recurved
- The dorsal fin is tall and falcate
- Vertical crease on the front of the melon
- Color: Adults range from dark grey to nearly white, but are typically covered with white scratches, spots, and blotches

Identification of a dead specimen

- Presence of a crease or bifurcation in the melon on the extreme front of the head
- Presence of only seven or fewer pairs of teeth in the lower jaw
- The tall, slender, falcate dorsal fin and by the presence of numerous scars and scratches all over the body

1.1.2 *Steno bredanensis* (Lesson, 1828)

Common Name: Rough-toothed dolphin



Distinctive Characteristics

- Relatively robust, with a conical head and no demarcation between the melon and the snout
- Large flippers (seemingly oversized for the animal) that are set far back on the side, and a prominent falcate dorsal fin

Identification of a dead specimen

- Long and slender beak which grades into the melon with no sharp demarcation
- The texture of the tooth crown, which have fine vertical wrinkles

1.1.3 *Sousa chinensis* (Osbeck, 1765)

Common Name: Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin



Distinctive Characteristics

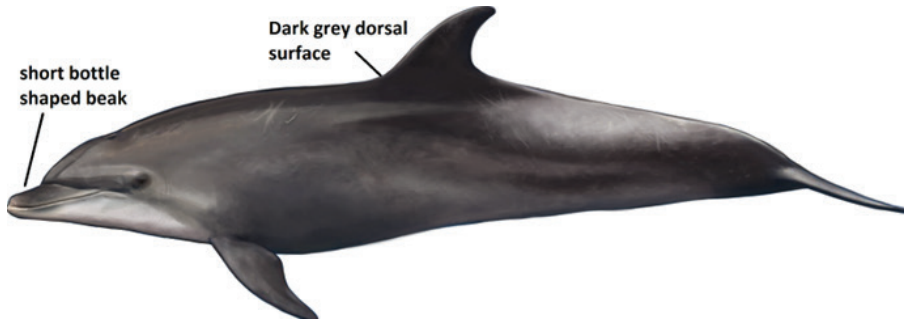
- Robust body with a long, well-defined beak

Identification of a dead specimen

- The small dorsal fin on a base
- Pinkish mottling in adults

1.1.4 *Tursiops truncatus* (Montagu, 1821)

Common Name: Bottlenose dolphin



Distinctive Characteristics

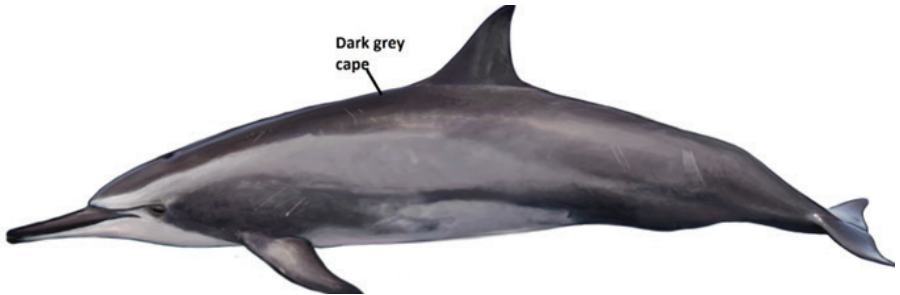
- Short to moderate length stocky snout that is distinctly set off from the melon by a crease
- The dorsal fin is tall and falcate, and set near the middle of the back

Identification of a dead specimen

- Robust head; relatively short beak, which is defined by a crease
- Tooth count: 20-26 in each upper jaw and 18-24 in each lower jaw

1.1.5 *Stenellalongirostris* (Gray, 1828)

Common Name: Spinner dolphin



Distinctive Characteristics

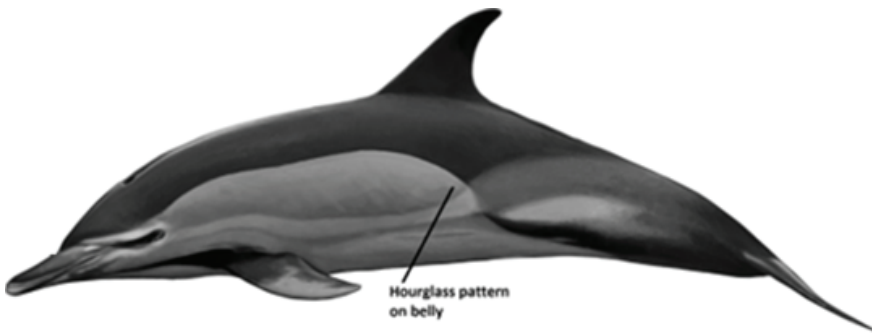
- Extremely long, thin beak
- Head is very slender at the apex of the melon
- The dorsal fin ranges from slightly falcate to erect and triangular

Identification of a dead specimen

- The long beak and triangular or falcate dorsal fin
- Fresh specimens using the tripartite color pattern

1.1.6 *Delphinus capensis* (Gray, 1828)

Common Name: Long-beaked common dolphin



Distinctive Characteristics

- Long beak and a tall, slightly falcate dorsal fin
- Strikingly marked, with a dark brownish grey back, white belly, and tan anterior flank patch. This flank patch dips below the dorsal fin and combines with streaks of light grey on the tail stock to produce the species most characteristic feature, an hourglass pattern on the side

Identification of a dead specimen

- The long slender beak with 40-50 small, sharply pointed teeth in each side of the upper and lower jaw
- Colour pattern of the sides, the yellow or white becomes blackish when dead

1.1.7 *Kogia breviceps* (de Blainville, 1838)

Common Name:Pygmy sperm whale



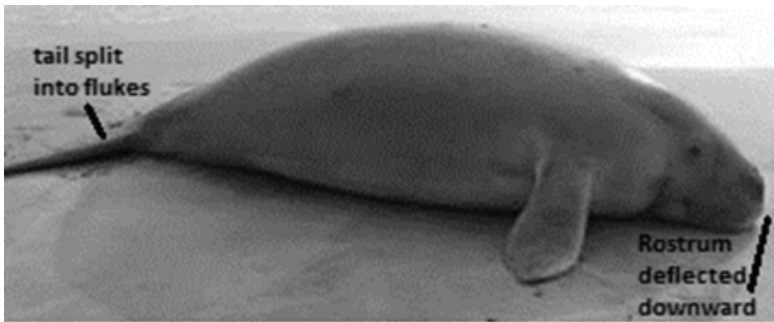
Distinctive Characteristics

- Shark-like head with a narrow underslung lower jaw
- The flippers are set high on the sides near the head
- The small falcate dorsal fin (< 5% of the body length)

1.2 Order: Sirenia

1.2.1 *Dugong dugon* (Müller, 1776)

Common Name: Dugong



Distinctive Characteristics

- Flattened tail is expanded into flukes with a median notch;
- Tail stock laterally compressed
- Nostrils on top of snout;
- Incisors (tusks) present
- Rostrum that is deflected downwards
- The presence of erupted tusks in males

Identification of a dead specimen

The most distinguished features of dead dugong;

- The down turned muzzle and shape of the head
- Colour, flippers and the lack of a dorsal fin.



Photographs of dead dugongs in Puttalam and Mannar Districts during 2016 (Source: Pahawattaarachchiet al., 2018)

Source of illustrations /Photographs:

Order Odontoceti - Maël Dewynter, Natural science illustrations of marine mammals

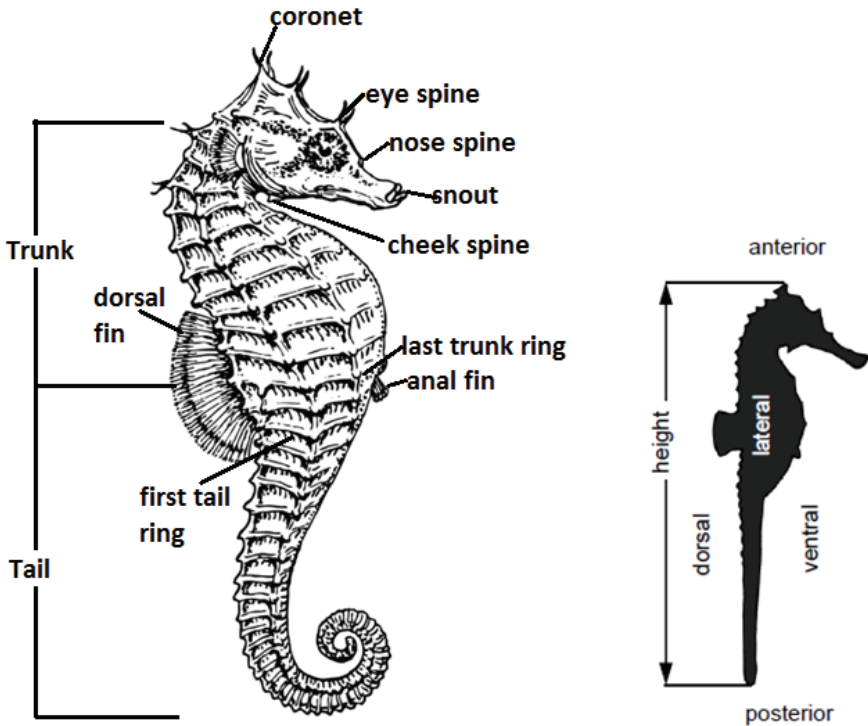
<https://sanctuaire-agoa.fr/editorial/natural-science-illustrations-marine-mammals>

Order Sirenia - Pahawattaarachchi, V., Suraweera, P.A.C.N.B., Dahanayaka, D.D.G.L., Pieris U.K.L. and W.A.K.D. Madurangika (2020)

Feed preference and habitat requirement of dugongs in Sri Lankan waters: Evidence with stomach content analysis, WILDLANKA Vol.8, No.4, pp. 198 -205

02. Seahorses

Illustrated Glossary of Technical Terms



2.1 Order: Syngnathiformes

2.1.1 *Hippocampus kuda* (Bleeker, 1852)

Common names: Yellow seahorse; Spotted seahorse

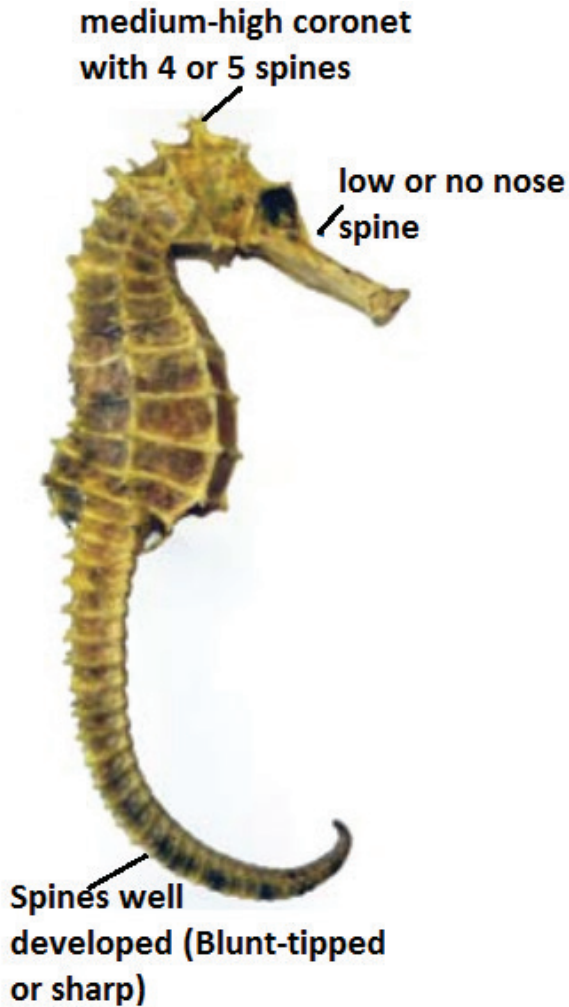


Distinctive Characteristics

- Trunk rings: 11
- Tail rings: 36 (34–38)
- HL/SnL: 2.3 (2.0–2.6)
- Rings supporting dorsal fin: 2 trunk rings and 1 tail ring
- Dorsal fin rays: 17 (17–18)
- Pectoral fin rays: 16 (15–18)
- Coronet: Low to medium-height, rounded, overhanging at the back, often with a cup-like depression in
- The top; sometimes with broad flanges; not spiny
- Spines: Low, rounded bumps only
- Deep head; deep body; thick snout
- Colour/pattern: Often totally black with a grainy texture; alternatively pale yellow or cream with fairly large, dark spots (especially females); may be sandy coloured, blending in with surroundings

2.1.2 *Hippocampus spinosissimus* (Weber, 1913)

Common names: Hedgehog seahorse



Distinctive Characteristics

- Trunk rings: 11
- Tail rings: 36 (33–39)
- HL/SnL: 2.2 (2.0–2.4)
- Rings supporting dorsal fin: 2 trunk rings and 1 tail ring
- Dorsal fin rays: 17–18 (16–20)
- Pectoral fin rays: 17 (16–19)
- Coronet: Low to medium-height, with four or five sharp spines
- Spines: Well-developed, either blunt or sharp, usually longer on first, fourth, seventh and eleventh
- Trunk rings and with a regular series of longer spines on tail
- Other characteristics: Single or double cheek spines; small or no nose spine; spine in front of coronet rather undeveloped. Males have strongly developed, blunt-tipped spines bordering the pouch
- Single or double cheek spines; small or no nose spine; spine in front of coronet rather undeveloped. Males have strongly developed, blunt-tipped spines bordering the pouch
- Colour/pattern: Variable; plain or pale with darker saddles across dorso-lateral surface and with darker cross-bands on tail

03. Manta & Devil Rays

3.1 Order - Myliobatiformes

3.1.1 *Manta birostris* (Walbaum, 1792)

Common names: Giant Manta, Giant Oceanic Manta Ray



Distinctive Characteristics

- Extremely broad head with long head fins, and a terminal mouth;
- Upper surface of disc covered with denticles, and tail usually without a spine
- Blackish above, sometimes with white shoulder patches;
- White below, with grey edging on Tail whip like but short

3.1.2 *Mobula japonica* (Müller & Henle, 1841)

Common Name: Spine tail devil ray, Spine tail mobula

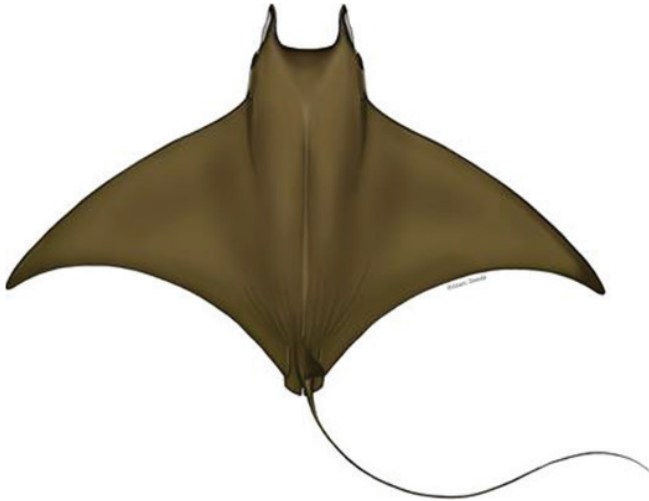


Distinctive Characteristics

- Dark blue to black above, white below
- Inner surface of cephalic fins silver grey with black tip, outer surface and side behind eye white
- Presence of tail spine

3.1.3 *Mobula tarapacana* (Philippi, 1892)

Common Name: Sickie fin devil ray, Chilean devil ray



Distinctive Characteristics

- Long head bearing short head fins;
- Dorsal fin plain, and pectoral fins with strongly curved, swept-back tips;
- Upper disc densely covered with small, pointed denticles and tail shorter than disc with no spine
- Dark blue, olive-green to brownish above;
- Ventral side white anteriorly, grey posteriorly, with an irregular but distinct line of demarcation
- No caudal fin

3.1.4 *Mobula mobular* (Bonnaterre, 1788)

Common Name: Giant devil ray, Devilfish,
Spine tail devil ray

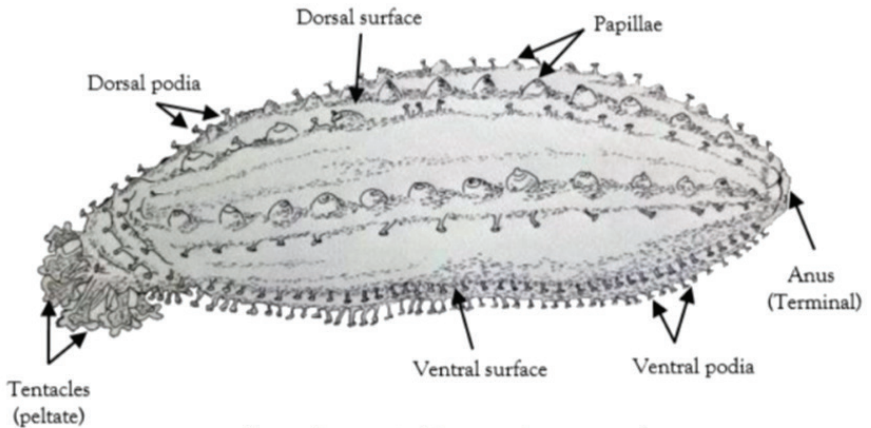


Distinctive Characteristics

- Tail with spine and prickles

04. Sea cucumbers

Illustrated Glossary of Technical Terms



External anatomical features of a sea cucumber

4.1 Order: Aspidochirotida

4.1.1 *Actinopyga echinites*

Common Name: Deep-water redfish

Distinctive Characteristics

Fresh



- Rough and slightly ridged,
- Dark brown colour,
- Elongated, cylindrical body
- Slightly arched dorsal surface
- Flattened ventral surface with numerous podia
- Ventrally located mouth with 20 stout,
- Brown colour tentacles
- Five small yellow conical teeth around the anus

Processed



- Oval shape body with arched dorsal surface,
- Flattened ventral surface and rounded ends
- Rough and slightly ridged, dark brown dorsal surface
- Light brown, granular ventral surface
- Small cut across the anus

4.1.2 *Actinopyga mauritiana*

Common Name: Surf redfish

Distinctive Characteristics

Fresh



- Stout cylindrical body with slightly arched,
- Wrinkled dorsal surface
- Flattened ventral surface and mildly tapered ends
- Brown to reddish colour dorsal surface with white patches
- Cream to light brown ventral surface
- Ventrally located mouth with 25 short and stout brown colour tentacles
- Five small whitish teeth around the anus

Processed



- Elongated oval shape body with arched dorsal surface
- Moderately flattened ventral surface
- Dark brown colour dorsal surface with white spots and numerous small groves
- Cream to light brown granular ventral surface
- Small cut on the ventral surface

4.1.3 *Actinopyga miliaris*

Common Name: Hairy blackfish

Distinctive Characteristics

Fresh



Processed



- Uniformly black, stout cylindrical body
- Slightly arched dorsal surface and flattened ventral surface
- Ventrally located mouth with 20 stout
- Black colour tentacles
- Five small yellow conical teeth around the anus

- Roughly oval shape body with slightly arched dorsal surface
- Flattened ventral surface
- Uniformly black
- Smooth dorsal and ventral surfaces
- Small cut across the anus

4.1.4 *Holothuria fuscogilva*

Common Name: White teatfish

Distinctive Characteristics

Fresh



Processed



- Sub-oval, stout, firm and rigid body
- Arched dorsal surface and flattened ventral surface
- Light brown colour dorsal surface with beige or white blotches along the lateral sides
- Grey to brown colour ventral surface
- 6 -8 lateral protrusions (teat /papillae)
- Ventrally located mouth with 20 stout, grey colour tentacles
- Inconspicuous calcareous teeth around the yellow colour anus

- Flat and stout body with distinct teats along sides
- Body with different shades of grey-brown colour
- Slightly wrinkled, smooth body
- Single cut in the middle of dorsal body surface

4.1.5 *Holothuria nobilis*

Common Name: Black teatfish

Distinctive Characteristics

Fresh



- Sub-oval, stout, very firm and rigid body
- Arched dorsal surface and strongly flattened ventral surface
- Dark brown colour dorsal surface with distinct light brown to orange lateral patches
- Grey to brown colour ventral surface
- 6 -8 lateral protrusions (teat /papillae)
- Ventrally located mouth with 20 stout tentacles
- Five small calcareous teeth around the anus

Processed



- Flat and stout body with distinct teats along sides
- Slightly wrinkled, smooth body
- Grey to brown colour dorsal surface with distinct dark patches
- Dirty grey colour ventral surface
- Single cut in the middle of dorsal body surface

4.1.6 *Holothuria scabra*

Common Name: Sandfish

Distinctive Characteristics

Fresh



- Oval body with arched dorsal surface and moderately flattened ventral surface
- Dark grey to black colour dorsal surface with white or yellow transverse stripes
- White or light grey colour ventral surface with fine black dots
- Ventrally located mouth with 20 small grey colour tentacles
- No calcareous teeth around the anus

Processed



- Cylindrical body with bluntly curved ends
- Black colour dorsal surface with deep transverse wrinkles
- Light brown colour ventral surface
- Small cut across the anus

4.1.7 *Stichopus naso*

Common Name: Selenka's sea cucumber

Distinctive Characteristics

Fresh



- Slightly arched dorsal surface with squat, wart like papillae
- Yellowish-tan colour dorsal surface mottled with light brown
- Numerous large podia in ventral surface arranged in longitudinal rows
- A brown central longitudinal band runs between the rows of podia
- Tips of podia and dorsal papillae are dark brown
- Ventrally located mouth with 18 -20 tentacles
- No papillae around the anus

Processed



- Slender and quadrangular body
- Uniformly brown body colour
- Wart-like bumps on dorsal surface and prominent lateral papillae on ventral margin
- Large and irregularly arranged ventral podia
- No cuts or small cut across the anus

4.1.8 *Thelenota anax*

Common Name: Amber fish

Distinctive Characteristics

Fresh



Processed

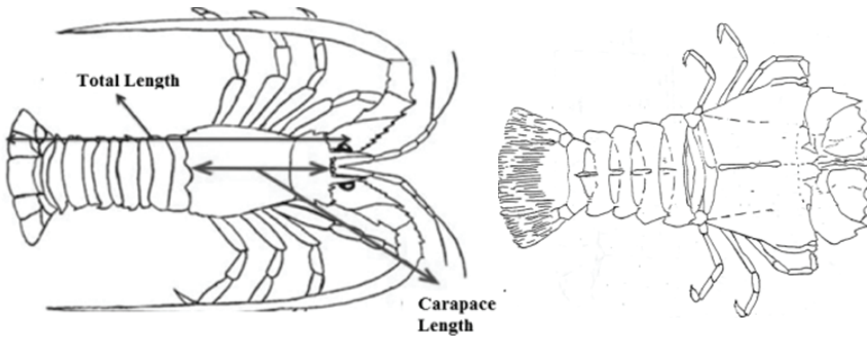


- Firm and rigid body with flat ventral surface
- Cream colour dorsal surface with large beige spots
- Blotches and numerous light colour wart-like bumps
- A row of large papillae demarcated dorsal surface from ventral surface
- Ventrally located mouth with 18 –20 tentacles
- Terminal anus covered by large papillae

Variously shaded light brown body

- Rough dorsal surface with wart like bumps
- Grainy ventral surface
- A small cut across the anus

05. Lobsters

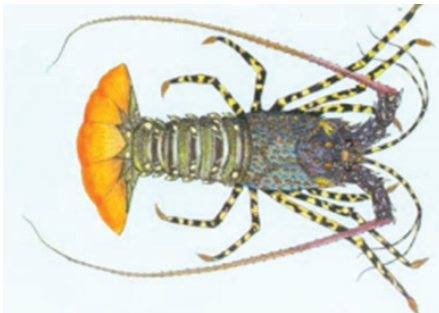


Spiny lobster (*left*) and Slipper Lobster (*Right*)

5.1 Order - Decapoda

5.1.1 *Panulirus ornatus* (Fabricius, 1798)

Common Name: Ornate spiny lobster



- Antennular somite has four principal spines but the posterior pair is very much smaller than the anterior pair. Small cattered spinules are present on the antennular somite.
- Both the anterior and posterior regions of the cephalothorax have numerous spines in young specimens.
- In older specimens the number of spines on the posterior regions of the carapace is considerably reduces.
- The spines are orange at the base and light green at the tip.
- Numerous nodules are also present on the posterior region of the carapace there being only a few on the anterior region.
- The base of the second antenna and the anterior region of the carapace is vermiculate.
- Bright orange spots are present on the posterior region of the carapace.
- The walking legs of these species are decorated with alternate bands of cream and maroon. The peduncles and flagella are also similarly banded.

Source of information: Status of the South Coast Lobster Fishery 2009, CENARA Project Reports on Lobsters
<http://www.nara.ac.lk/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Status-of-the-South-Coast-Lobster-Fishery-2009.pdf>

06. Gastropods

6.1 Order: Littorinimorpha

6.1.1 *Charonia tritonis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Common name: Triton's trumpet



Image source: Naturalis Biodiversity Center/Wikimedia Commons

Distinctive Characteristics

- Humongous spindle-shaped shell
- Shells have intricate striped patterns, typically in yellow, brown, and white

6.1.2 *Tibia insulae* (*Tibia insulaechorab*) (Röding, 1798)

Common name: Arabian tibia



Image Source: Naturalis Biodiversity Center/Wikimedia Commons

Distinctive Characteristics

- Shell fusiform, solid, light brown, paler below the sutures; spire attenuated, apex sharp-pointed.

6.1.3 *Mirabilistrombus listeri* (Gray, 1852)

Common name: Lister's conch



Image Source : Mário NET/ Wikimedia Commons

Distinctive Characteristics

- The shell size varies between 90 mm and 160 mm
- When the animal is mature, the body whorl takes up over 50% of the shell's height.
- The pronounced projection at the end of the apertural lip is characteristic of the species

6.2 Order: Venerida

6.2.1 *Tridacna maxima* (Röding, 1798)

Common name: Giant clam

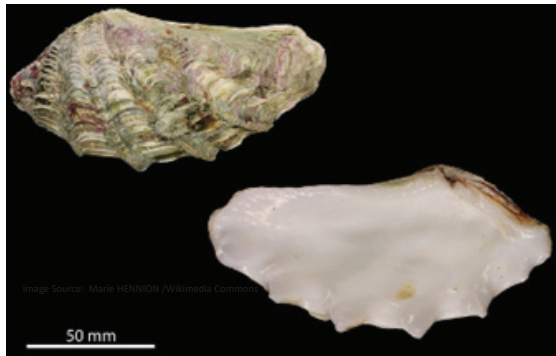


Image Source: Marie HENNION /Wikimedia Commons

Distinctive Characteristics

- Colors include combinations of blue, brown, green, gray, purple and yellow.
- Patterns can be stripes, blotches, or spots.

6.3 Order: Mesogastropoda

6.3.1 *Lambis lambis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Common name: Common spider conch



Image Source: H. Zell/ Wikimedia Commons

Distinctive Characteristics

- The maximum shell length for this species is up to 29 cm, and average length stands for 18 cm.
- Very large, robust and heavy shell.
- Striking characteristics is its flared outer lip, ornamented by six hollow marginal digitations.

6.3.2 *Harpago chiragra* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Common Name: Chiragra spider conch



Image Source: H. Zell/ Wikimedia Commons

Distinctive Characteristics

- Very thick, robust and heavy shell, with a distinct anterior notch.
- Prominent characteristic are the six long and curved marginal digitations, expanded from the flaring, thick outer lip and canals.

6.3.3 *Cypraea tigris* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Common Name: Tiger cowrie



Image Source: Naturalis Biodiversity Center/Wikimedia Commons

Distinctive Characteristics

- The beautiful glossy shell
- It measures up to 15 cm in length, and the upper or dorsal side is white, pale bluish-white, or buff, densely covered with dark brown or blackish barely circular spots.

6.3.4 *Cypraea talpa* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Common Name: Mole cowrie



Image Source: Naturalis Biodiversity Center/Wikimedia Commons

Distinctive Characteristics

- Variable in pattern and colour. The dorsum surface is smooth and shiny, the basic color is brown or yellowish brown, with three or four yellow or light brown transversal bands.

6.3.5 *Cypraea mappa* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Common Name: Map cowrie



Image source: Naturalis Biodiversity Center/Wikimedia Commons

Distinctive Characteristics

- The shell is colored white or cream, with several longitudinal brown lines, which are sometimes interrupted by circular empty spaces.

6.3.6 *Cypraea argus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Common Name: Eyed cowrie



Image Source: Naturalis Biodiversity Center/Wikimedia Commons

Distinctive Characteristics

- Shape of the shell is approximately cylindrical.
- The ground color is light to medium tan. Overlying the ground color of the dorsum are many rings of a medium brown color and varying sizes.

6.3.7 *Cypraea cassis rufa* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Common Name: Bullmouth helmet

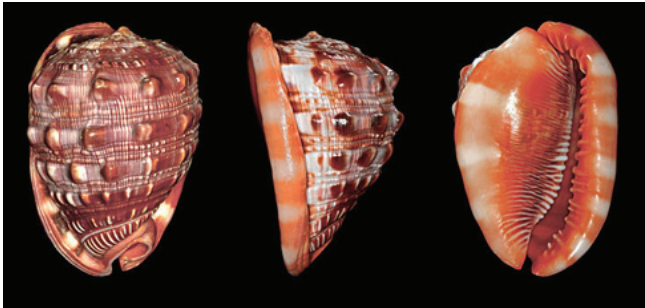


Image Source: H. Zell/ Wikimedia Commons

Distinctive Characteristics

- A conspicuous, solid, thick, heavy shell, up to 17 cm, with a narrow aperture.
- Dorsally reddish with 3 or 4 broad spiral bands bearing rounded nodules.
- Thick outer lip light orange with strong, lighter teeth, and columella orange with white ridges.

6.3.8 *Cassis cornuta* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Common Name: Horned helmet

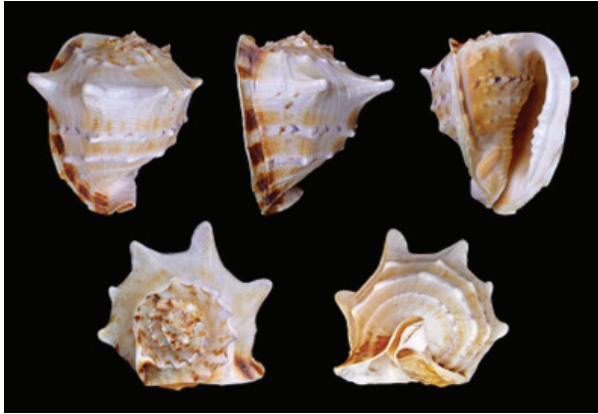


Image Source: H. Zell/ Wikimedia Commons

Distinctive Characteristics

- The length of the shell varies between 50 mm and 410 mm. It is the largest of all helmet shells.
- Very solid, heavy, rotund shell with large, horn-like knobs and a wide, flat base.
- The shell has a dorsally pale orange colour, its base vivid orange, faintly marked with white and brown

6.4 Order: Neogastropoda

6.4.1 *Chicoreus palmarosae* (Lamarck, 1822)

Common Name: Palmrose murex



Image Source: Naturalis Biodiversity Center/Wikimedia Commons

Distinctive Characteristics

- The size of an adult shell varies between 65 mm and 130 mm.
- It is mostly dark red with branch like structures all over the conch.

7. Order: Perciformes

7.1 *Cephalopholis sonnerati* (Valenciennes, 1828)

Common names: Tomato hind



Photograph: Evano Hugues (2016), Vieille ananas (*Cephalopholis sonnerati*). Ifremer.
<https://image.ifremer.fr/data/00763/87540/>
Information Source: FishBase

Distinctive Characteristics

- Body depth greater than or sub equal to head length
- Dorsal head profile of adults straight to concave
- The nape distinctly convex; pectoral fins sub equal to pelvic fins, 1.5-1.7 times in head length for specimens of 15-40 cm length (in specimens larger than 40 cm, the pelvic fins are longer than the pectoral fins)
- Pelvic fins reaching to or beyond anus
- Ctenoid body scales, cycloid on abdomen
- Colour: generally pale reddish to yellowish brown, covered with numerous small brownish red or dark brown spots on head, body, and fins

Information Source: FishBase

7.2 *Chaetodon semeion* (Bleeker, 1855)

Common names: Dotted butterflyfish



Distinctive Characteristics

- Dorsal spines : 13 - 14; Dorsal soft rays : 23-26; Anal spines: 3; Anal soft rays: 19 - 22
- The abdominal region of females is noticeably thick set
- Body is golden yellow; base of the posterior portions of the dorsal and anal fins black; a prominent vertical black bar running across the eye; diagonal rows of black dots on the sides.
- A filament originating from the soft portions of the dorsal fin rays trails posteriorly.

7.3 *Centropyge bispinosa* (Günther, 1860)

Common names: Twospined angelfish



Distinctive Characteristics

- Dorsal spines : 14; Dorsal soft rays: 16-18; Anal spines: 3; Anal soft rays: 17 - 19.

7.4 *Pygoplites diacanthus* (Boddaert, 1772)

Common names: Regal angelfish



Distinctive Characteristics

- Dorsal spines : 14; Dorsal soft rays : 17-19; Anal spines: 3; Anal soft rays: 17 - 19.

Image source: Bernard DUPONT/Wikimedia Commons

Information Source: FishBase

Image source: JennyHuang at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/26598370@N00/157149007>

Information Source: FishBase

Image source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/zsispeo/14945183962/>

Information Source: FishBase

8. Order: Labriformes

8.1 *Coris aygula* (Lacepède, 1801)

Common names: Clown coris



Image source: Karelj/Wikimedia Commons
Information Source: FishBase

Distinctive Characteristics

- Dorsal spines : 9; Dorsal soft rays: 12-13; Anal spines: 3; Anal soft rays: 12
- Caudal fin slightly rounded in females, truncate and with filamentous rays in large males; pelvic fins of males very long
- Large males also become uniformly dark-green and develop a gibbus forehead and an elongate first dorsal spine. Juveniles distinct with the false eyes, shaded by orange

9. Order: Scorpaeniformes

9.1 *Pterois radiata* (Cuvier, 1829)

Common names: Radial firefish



Image source: Alan Slater/Wikimedia Commons
Information Source: FishBase

Distinctive Characteristics

- Dorsal spines : 11 - 13; Dorsal soft rays : 10-12; Anal spines: 3; Anal soft rays: 6 - 7.
- Body sides with five broad dark black bands and a horizontal broad dark band on caudal peduncle; the fourth and fifth body bands relatively narrow

10. Order: Carchariniformes

10.1 *Carcharhinus falciformis* (Bibron, 1839)

Common names: Silky shark

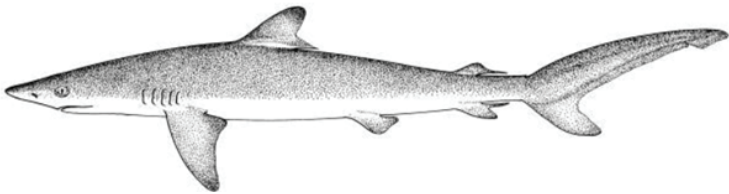


Image source: Sri Lanka National Plan of Action For the Conservation and Management of Sharks
Information Source: FishBase

Distinctive Characteristics

- A large, slim shark with a moderately long, flat and rounded snout, large eyes, small jaws, and oblique-cusped teeth with serrations
- Second dorsal fin low and with greatly elongated rear tip
- Grey or bluish-grey above, white below; no conspicuous fin markings

10.2 *Prionace glauca* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Common names: Blue shark

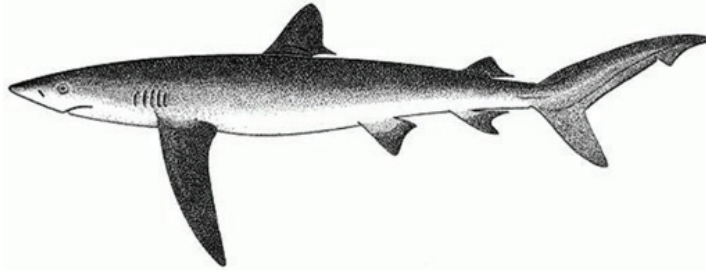


Image source: Sri Lanka National Plan of Action For the Conservation and Management of Sharks
Information Source: FishBase

Distinctive Characteristics

- A slim, graceful blue shark with a long, conical snout, large eyes, and curved triangular upper teeth with saw edges
- Pectorals long and narrow; no interdorsal ridge
- Dark blue dorsally, bright blue on the sides, white ventrally. Tips of pectoral fins and anal fin dusky



Sri Lanka Counter Wildlife Trafficking Awareness, Capacity & Empowerment (ACE) Program

Funded by the U.S. Department of State – Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), Sri Lanka Counter Wildlife Trafficking Awareness, Capacity & Empowerment (ACE) Program is a project implemented by The Environmental Foundation (Guarantee) Limited to facilitate formal and informal interactions between law enforcement authorities, prosecution, the judiciary, and civil society in the detection of wildlife trafficking to seizure of assets and prosecution of wildlife traffickers.

It also aims to establish systems that actively operate beyond the grant period by developing locally contextualized Counter Wildlife Trafficking (CWT) tools, legal guidelines, interagency mechanisms, and national and cross-border networks working with local stakeholders and international experts. The combined efforts will aim to result in a long-term CWT program activated by the Sri Lanka government with a sustainable CWT strategy to combat wildlife traffickers operating in and beyond Sri Lankan borders.