

Fish Name Fact File 4

Change to scientific name for certain *Epinephelus* species

The FRDC Fish Names Committee is responsible for the maintenance and ongoing development of the Australian Fish Names Standard (AS 5300). The FNC makes decisions on the Standard Fish Names to be used for all species traded in Australia. Decisions made by the FNC are based on the fish name protocols that give guidance to names, and stakeholder feedback.

Most FNC decisions are straightforward and/or non-contentious but, in some cases, the background to the name selection and the FNC reasons need to be fully articulated.

This is one of a series of fact sheets about fish species that the FNC has considered and that need further explanation. The fact sheet provides the background as to how the name was selected and why it was approved.

Background

The Fish Names Committee has been advised that a number of *Epinephelus* species were reclassified in 2018 as *Hyporthodus* species as per the list below.

The Fish Names Committee does not determine scientific names for fish species but notes changes to names and includes any amended names in the AFNS following reputable taxonomic advice.

The scientific names for fish are defined in the Australian Fish Names Standards as “the unique scientific name for a fish determined as per international convention and consisting of a genus name and a species name - the scientific names used in this Standard are those advised by CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research or another competent authority.” The changes noted here were published by Ma and Craig (2018).

Affected Species

CAAB	Standard Fish Name	New scientific Name	Previous Scientific name
37 311910	BAR ROCKCODS	<i>Hyporthodus ergastularius</i> & <i>Hyporthodus septemfasciatus</i>	<i>Epinephelus ergastularius</i> & <i>Epinephelus septemfasciatus</i>
37 311146	Darwin Grouper	<i>Hyporthodus darwinensis</i>	<i>Epinephelus darwinensis</i>
37 311147	Banded Rockcod	<i>Hyporthodus ergastularius</i>	<i>Epinephelus ergastularius</i>
37 311152	Eightbar Grouper	<i>Hyporthodus octofasciatus</i>	<i>Epinephelus octofasciatus</i>
37 311153	Puzzling Grouper	<i>Hyporthodus perplexus</i>	<i>Epinephelus perplexus</i>
37 311060	Convict Grouper	<i>Hyporthodus septemfasciatus</i>	<i>Epinephelus septemfasciatus</i>

CAAB	Standard Fish Name	New scientific Name	Previous Scientific name
37 311969	[a rockcod] not listed in AFNS	<i>Hyporthodus</i> spp.	<i>Epinephelus</i> spp.

Further Discussion and Clarification

This note is to advise affected stakeholders of the amendments. The Australian Fish Names Standard has been updated to reflect these changes.

Reference

Ma, K. Y. and M. T. Craig (2018) An inconvenient monophyly: an update on the taxonomy of the groupers (Epinephelidae). *Copeia* v. 106 (no. 3): 443–456.

Status of the Australian Fish Names Standard

Usage of the names included in the Australian Fish Names Standard is strongly encouraged but not currently mandatory.

Usage of the Australian Fish Names Standard is listed as an Advisory Note in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code - Standard 2.2.3 - Fish and Fish Products (see <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2011C00569>).

Status of the Australian Fish Names Standard – Australian Fish for Export

Usage of the names included in the Australian Fish Names Standard is a legislative requirement.

Trade descriptions applied to fish and fish products for export as food from Australia must include the Australian Fish Name and/or scientific name detailed in the Australian Fish Names Standard

Usage of the Australian Fish Names Standard is detailed in the Export Control (Fish and Fish Products) Orders – 2005 – Schedule 7 – Trade Description (see <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2011C00766>)