

Carolinian Names of Common Fishes in Saipan, Mariana Islands

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The Carolinians are knowledgeable of the sea and are fishermen by tradition. However, Carolinian is dying out as a language just as the Carolinians are decreasing in number. Much irreplaceable knowledge will be lost with the last Carolinian fisherman.

Prior to returning to college in 1971, I began to interview Saipanese fishermen on the Carolinian and Chamorro vernacular names of fishes. About 50 percent of these interviews took place on fishing trips where the vernacular names obtained were based on fishes caught during the trips; the rest were obtained by showing fishermen illustrations of fishes. Although the Chamorro names were also obtained, I am not listing them here since Kami *et al.* (1968) and Kami (1971) have already listed most of them in earlier papers in this journal.

The author has considered also the names used by a clan of Carolinians other than his own living on the northern part of Saipan in Tanapag village. This clan uses a different accent, but there are a few differences in fish names. The Tanapag version of two species is designated in parenthesis.

Like the Chamorros, the Carolinians used the same method of identification for smaller size fishes. Jacks, anywhere from three to five inches in total length, is called *ee* in the Chamorro language, while the Carolinians called it *dtep* (*dcjep*). The rabbitfish which is half the size, .25 to .50 inches, of juvenile jacks is identified as *manahac* in Chamorro; Carolinians call it *til*.

The Carolinian names (in boldface print) is listed alphabetically, followed by the scientific names (in italics) or family names and the common English equivalent. The scientific and English equivalents of fishes listed here were obtained from Jordan and Evermann (1903), Fowler (1948), Schultz *et al.* (1953, 1960, and 1966), Kami *et al.* (1968), Kami (1971), and Hobson and Chave (1972).

It is understood that there will be disagreement on the vernacular names. Nevertheless, it is essential to record the information known at this time. Any addition, deletion or correction is welcomed.

abai—*Sphyræna forsteri*—barracuda

afel—*Ctenochaetus striatus*—surgeonfish

ahil—*Gymnosarda nuda*—dogtooth tuna

aitam—*Mugil axillaris*, *Neomyxus chaptalii*—mullet

- aiwe—*Aprion virescens*—snapper
 ali—*Epinephelus elongatus*, *E. fuscoguttatus*, *E. tauvina*, *Grammistes sexlineatus*—
 grouper
 alipapa—*Aulostomus chinensis*—trumpetfish
 ali-mulial—*Paracirrhites arcatus*—hawkfish
 ali-pashig—*Plectropomus truncatus*—grouper
 anga-rap—*Katsuwonus pelamis*—skipjack tuna
 araf—*Chelon vaigiensis*—mullet
 aron—*Caranx lugubris*—jack
 aschewa—*Holocentrus microstomus*—squirrelfish
 a-shewa—All species of Apogonidae—cardinalfish
 asi-lei—*Euthynnus affinis*—skipjack tuna
 a-soap—*Epibulus insidiator*—wrasse
 atigh—*Lethrinus ornatus*, *L. variegatus*—emperor
 au-keng—All species of Hemiramphidae—half beak
 auta—*Chanos chanos*—milkfish
 bauriap—*Priacanthus cruentatus*—big eye
 borig—*Zebrasoma veliferum*—surgeonfish
 bula-lai—*Naso lituratus*—surgeonfish
 bule-lei-lonlon—*Variola louti*—grouper
 buub—*Rhinecanthus aculeatus*—triggerfish
 buub salapi—*Balistoides conspicillum*—triggerfish
 buub shol—*Balistapus undulatus*—triggerfish
 dahlia—*Coris gaimardi*, *Macropharyngodon pardalis*, *Thalassoma quinquevittata*—
 wrasse
 dchtep—Juvenile *Carangoides ferdau*—jack
 etam—*Caranx sexfasciatus*, *C. melampygus*—jack
 fa-fa—*Elagatis bipinnulatus*—rainbow runner
 fei-ligi (feilesi)—*Parupeneus barberinus*—goatfish
 felang—*Acanthurus lineatus*—surgeonfish
 fial—*Sufflamen chrysoptera*—triggerfish
 gim—*Naso brevirostris*, *N. vlamingi*—surgeonfish
 ig-angung—*Acanthurus gahhm*—surgeonfish
 igh-falfal (libotmeha)—*Naso unicornis*—surgeonfish
 ighil-lon-lon—*Cheilio inermis*—wrasse
 ighil-wosh—*Stethojulis linearis*, *Thalassoma lutescens*—wrasse
 kitui—*Coris aygula*, *Labroides bicolor*, *L. dimidiatus*—wrasse
 lakule—*Pterois volitans*—scorpionfish
 legh—*Siganus argenteus*—rabbitfish
 let—*Holocentrus tiere*—squirrelfish
 liburbur—*Thalassoma hardwickei*, *T. umbrostigma*, *Xyrichtys taeniourus*—wrasse
 lifaima—*Epinephelus microdon*—grouper
 liga-sche-sche—*Acanthurus nigroris*—surgeonfish

- lighabobo**—*Arothron hispidus*, *Canthigaster cinctus*—smooth puffer
- lighergher**—All species of Chaetodontidae and Zanclidae—butterflyfish and moorish idol
- ligmelial**—*Cephalopholis miniatus*—grouper
- limasepeli**—*Bothus mancus*—flatfish
- limei**—*Acanthurus triostegus*—surgeonfish
- lioma**—*Alutera scripta*, *Amanes sandwichiensis*, *Oxymonacanthus longirostris*, *Peruvagor melanocephalus*—filefish
- lipau**—*Lutjanus vaigiensis*—medium size snapper
- lipo-le-ngi**—*Siganus doliatus*—rabbitfish
- lisheg**—All species of Pomacentridae—damsel fish
- liteitfash**—*Lutjanus monostigmus*—snapper
- liu-liu**—*Pseudobalistes fuscus*—triggerfish
- liweg**—*Cheilinus fasciatus*—wrasse
- lou**—*Scorpaenopsis gibbosa*—scorpionfish
- maluslus**—*Cephalopholis argus*—grouper
- mapung**—*Parupeneus porphyreus*—goatfish
- mar-re-fasch**—*Acanthurus achilles*, *A. nigrofuscus*, *A. olivaceus*—surgeonfish
- masedcha**—*Lutjanus gibbus*—snapper
- masemas**—*Myripristis kuntee*—squirrelfish
- mas-mas**—*Monotaxis grandoculis*—snapper
- masugi**—*Calotomus spinidens*—parrotfish
- mem**—*Hemigymnus fasciatus*, *H. malapterus*, *Cheilinus undulatus*, *Choerodon anchorago*—wrasse
- meshior**—*Cephalopholis urodelus*—grouper
- metel**—*Epinephelus fasciatus*—grouper
- moch-el-ghei**—*Acanthurus glaucopareius*—surgeonfish
- modch**—*Acanthurus leucopareius*—surgeonfish
- morab**—*Aphareus furcatus*—snapper
- muel**—*Myripristis murdjan*—squirrelfish
- noth**—*Lutjanus semicinctus*, *Pempherus oualensis*—snapper
- omei**—*Mulloidichthys auriflamma*—goatfish
- o-sha**—*Scarus microrhinos*—parrotfish
- pa-ir**—*Grammatorcynus bicarinatus*—mackerel
- palawa**—*Siganus spinus*—rabbitfish
- par-par**—*Zebrasoma flavescens*—surgeonfish
- peu**—*Carcharhinus melanopterus*, *C. menisorrh*, *Ginglymostoma ferrugineum*, *Triaenodon obesus*—shark
- pi-ngut**—*Amanes carolae*—filefish
- peti**—*Selar crumenophthalmus*—jack
- pol**—*Naso hexacanthus*—surgeonfish
- porou**—*Cheilinus celebicus*, *C. chlorourus*, *C. trilobatus*—wrasse
- pugusug**—*Balistoides viridescens*, *Odonus niger*—triggerfish

rel—All species of Kyphosidae—rudderfish
rou—*Scarus taeniurus*—parrotfish
saghuruwas—*Gnathodentex aureolineatus*—snapper
sagsag—*Adioryx diadema*—squirrelfish
sai-au—*Epinephelus leopardus*, *E. merra*—grouper
sara—*Adioryx spinifer*—squirrelfish
sas—*Lutjanus kasmira*—snapper
semaribong—*Parupeneus bifasciatus*, *P. cyclostomus*, *P. luteus*—grouper
serau—*Sphyræna barracuda*, *S. chinensis*, *S. helleri*—barracuda
siwig—*Lutjanus vaigiensis*, *Macolor niger*—large snapper
sou—*Mulloidichthys pflugeri*—goatfish
sou-feng—All species of Moringuidae, Muraenidae, and Ophichthidae—saltwater eel
tag-hu—*Neothunnus albacora*—yellowfin tuna
tigitol—*Anguilla marmorata*—freshwater eel
ul-lula—*Cirrhites pinnulatus*—hawkfish
ulul—*Lethrinus miniatus*—emperor
urupigh—*Carangoides ferdau*—adult jack
u-wau—*Gomphosus varius*, *Thalassoma purpureum*—wrasse
we-et—*Arothron nigropunctatus*—smooth puffer
wual—*Plectorhinchus diagrammus*—snapper

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