



# Requirements for reporting hāpuku and bass

The purpose of this fact sheet is to clarify the reporting requirements for hāpuku and bass and to assist fishers with identifying the two species.

## Reporting requirements

Type of report or return	Reporting requirement	Example
Fish catch reports, Processing reports	Report the individual species code	HAP
Disposal reports, Landing reports	Report the individual fishstock code	HAP1
Monthly Harvest Returns	Report the QMS fishstock code	HPB1
Licensed fish receiver returns	Report the individual species code	HAP

## Hāpuku and bass

### Bass *Polyprion americanus*



Relatively deep body

Uniform body colour (no counter-shading)

10 cm

Māori names: Moeone, toti

Reporting codes: BAS (all except MHR), HPB (MHR only)

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES:** Adults have a relatively uniform body coloration without a sharp change from dark upper to pale lower body (no counter-shading), upper and lower tips of the tail fin pale, and tail margin is straight to slightly rounded.

**COLOUR:** Adults have uniform body colour without a sharp change from dark upper to pale lower body. Upper and lower tips of tail fin pale. Leading edge of pelvic fin pale. Pelagic juveniles have mottled body camouflage pattern with dark brown to grey blotches on pale cream to yellow background.

**SIZE:** To 175 cm total length.

**DEPTH:** 30 to 900 m.

**DISTRIBUTION:** Widespread in New Zealand from Kermadec Islands to southern end of Stewart/Snares shelf/slope, including shallower parts of Chatham Rise and Chatham Islands. Widespread in subtropical and temperate Atlantic, south Indian, and southwest Pacific Oceans.

**BIOLOGY & ECOLOGY:** Adults are demersal over reefs and rises and appear to be much less common than hāpuku in New Zealand. Juveniles are pelagic, sometimes well offshore, and have been observed around colonies of goose barnacles attached to floating objects at the surface. Probably settle on the bottom at about 60 cm total length. Probably reach ages of at least 40 years.

## Hāpuku *Polyprion oxygeneios*



Relatively slender body

Obvious counter-shading  
(dark upper and pale-silvery lower body)

10 cm

**Māori names:**  
Haapuku, kapua,  
whapuku

**Other names:** Groper

**Reporting codes:** HAP  
(all except MHR), HPB  
(MHR only)

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES:** Adults have a dark upper body with a sharp change about mid-body to a pale silvery lower body (counter-shading), the tail fin is uniform blackish or greyish lacking pale upper and lower tips, and the tail margin is straight or slightly forked.

**COLOUR:** Adults have dark upper body with a sharp change to a pale silvery lower body. Tail fin uniform blackish lacking pale upper and lower tips. Other fins dark except pelvics which have a whitish leading edge. Pelagic juveniles have a series of 3 or 4 broad vertical irregular dark bands on the body.

**SIZE:** To 178 cm total length.

**DISTRIBUTION:** Widespread in New Zealand from Kermadec Islands to Campbell Plateau, including shallower parts of Chatham Rise, and Chatham Islands. Widespread in southern hemisphere but absent off South Africa.

**DEPTH:** 50 to 600 m.

**SIMILAR SPECIES:** Adult bass (*P. americanus*) have a relatively uniform body coloration without a sharp change from dark upper to pale lower body (no counter-shading), upper and lower tips of the tail fin pale, and tail margin is straight to slightly rounded.

**BIOLOGY & ECOLOGY:** Adults are demersal over reefs and rises. Juveniles are pelagic, sometimes well offshore and settle on the bottom at about 50 cm total length. Reach an age of at least 60 years.

Spawn in winter but spawning areas are unknown. Predators of fishes and invertebrates such as red cod, tarakihi, blue cod, hoki, squids.

[www.fisheries.govt.nz](http://www.fisheries.govt.nz)