

# Fish

## Mangrove Jacks

**Scientific Name:** Lutjanus argentimaculatus

**Other Common Names:** Red Bream



**General Information:** Mangrove Jack belongs to the Perch family of fish. It has an immense fighting ability and a knack of finding submerged snags, mangrove roots - where none should exist. It is sometimes confused with the Red Bass which is known to have been the cause of ciguatera poisoning. The difference is that the Mangrove Jack lacks the deep pit before the eye and the scales can easily be dislodged, whereas on the Red Bass they are difficult to remove.

**Habitat/Distribution/Growth:** Northern New South Wales right along the coast of Queensland and the Northern Territory around to north-west Western Australia. As the name implies, Mangrove Jack is a fish found in estuaries and bays where mangroves exist. It is believed that once reaching a certain size in the mangroves they head out to the Great Barrier Reef where they remain, reaching a size of approximately 700mm and weighing 16kg.

**Special Characteristics:** Colour varies from reddish pink to olive brown with each scale carrying a spot that forms into longitudinal lines. All fins are pink and the tail darkest of all. It has strong powerful dog like teeth.

