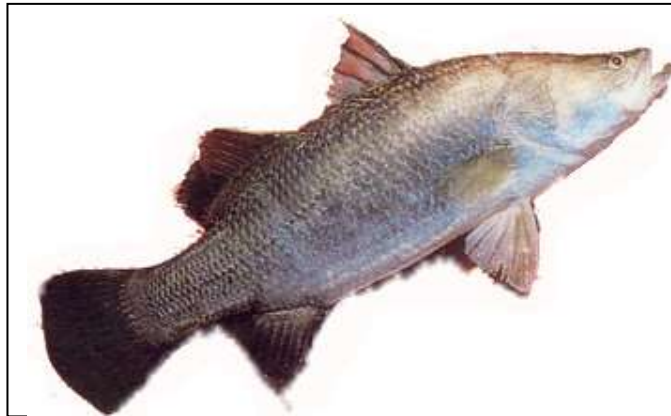


# Fish

## Barramundi

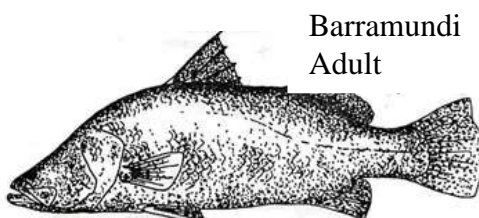
**Scientific Name:** *Lates calcarifer*

**Other Common Names:** Barra, Pink-eyed/Giant Perch



**General Information:** A member of the large Perch family. It frequents both fresh and salt water but spawns (breeds) in estuaries and coastal flats in brackish water. Brackish water is essential for the survival of the egg, sperm and larvae. Normally the juveniles are all males and change to a female at approximately 5 years or 600mm. Breeding occurs between September and March (wet season). The female lays roughly 3-5 million eggs. This fish is highly regarded by anglers for its fighting ability and eating. The word barramundi is an aboriginal word meaning large scales.

**Habitat/Distribution/Growth:** Ranges from Rockhampton northward through Queensland, Northern Territory and tropical Western Australia. They are found in all river systems, in beds of submerged aquatic plants, lagoons, large deep water snags and the bottom of waterholes. The Barramundi can reach a length of 1800mm and can weigh up to 60 kg.



**Special Characteristics:** A mouth that is capable of being thrust forward or extended, a curved head shape, concave dorsal head profile, a humped back and a large, rounded caudal fin. Barramundi have a very sharp gill plate. Colour is silver with dark fins, although when in fresh water Barramundi obtain a yellow/copper colour.

One of the largest of the estuary fish, apart from the groper, reaching sizes of up to 1.8 metres and 60 kg. They are excellent sport and eating fish. These fish change sex when they grow with the smaller ones up to about 70cm being male and fish larger than this being female. Barra live in both fresh and saltwater, but breed in salt water in the estuaries with fry heading upstream to freshwater during the wet season floods. Barra swallow their prey (fish and prawns whole) descaling fish as they pass over the serrated gill rakers.

### Life Cycle of Barramundi

