

CNMI FISH FACT SHEET



Specimen caught off Saipan by spear fisherman Felix Sasamoto near Sugar Dock, Saipan. Photo by: Richard Seman, Marianas Fishing Magazine

Scientific Name: *Chanos chanos*. *Chanos chanos* is the only species listed in the Chanidae family; this genus is characterized by having fins without spines.

Common Name: Milkfish

Maximum size: 180cm standard length

Maximum age: 15 years

Lifeshistory: *C. chanos* is said to reach sexual maturity in 5 years. Spawning occurs in seawater near coral reefs during new or full moon phases. Milkfish are heterosexual fish. Determining gender through morphological differences has not been established.

Habitat: Reef and mangrove associated; marine; depth range 1-30 meters

Distribution: tropical pacific, Indo-pacific, recorded in the CNMI.

Diet: Juveniles feed mainly on diatoms, benthic cyanobacteria, small crustaceans and nematodes. Adults are herbivorous but also feed on zooplankton.

!FACTOID!

The Chamorro name for *Chanos chanos* is **Agua.**