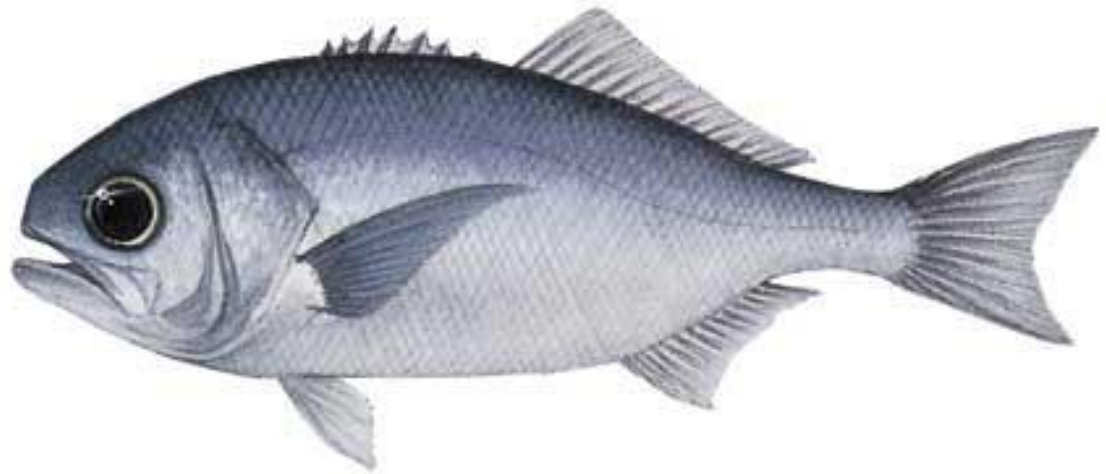


## Blue-Eye Trevalla *Hyperoglyphe antarctica*



**Status:** Relatively stable since 1998. **Size:** To 140cm and 50 kg (commonly about 55-90 cm and 2-10 kg)

**Description:** Deep bodied and robust with a blunt snout, body is uniformly bluish-grey in colouring and has large deep-blue eyes ringed with pale yellow.

**Habitat:** Marine waters from southern WA through to southern Queensland, around Tasmania as well as Lord Howe Island and Norfolk Islands; adult Blue-Eye Trevalla are benthopelagic and remain close to the sea bed around and above rocky bottoms and seamounts. Residing at a depth of 200-600 m during the day and moving up the water column by night following concentrations of food. Juveniles inhabit more mid-water to the surface waters.

**Feed:** Blue-Eye Trevalla feed primarily on Pelagic Tunicate *Pyrosoma atlantica* which is found near the seabed during the day but dispersed throughout the water column at night they also feed on small to large fish, squid, molluscs and crustaceans.

**Fishery:** Caught mainly using drop-lines and long-lines, but also taken as a by catch of demersal and mid-water trawls. Main fishery occurs on the continental slope between Sydney (NSW), Adelaide (SA) and around Tasmania.

## Blue-Eye Trevalla *Hyperoglyphe antarctica*



**History:** The first Blue-Eye Trevalla were caught in error by shark long-liner Thomas Maddox in 1917 when he set shark long-lines too close to the drop off and they were swept over the continental shelf into much deeper water. In 1952 Minister JJ Dwyer the then Tasmanian Fisheries Minister instructed Captain Roy Downie of the Fisheries research vessel *Liawenee* to spend a year surveying the edge of the continental shelf in depths of 200 to 400 fathoms. Good catches of Blue-Eye Trevalla, Pink Ling and Ribaldo were recorded. Roy Downie was to pioneer the drop-line method of catching these fish. In the 1960'S it became apparent that the commercial Southern Rocklobster fishery had to be managed and was closed three months of the year, Rocklobster fishermen who had insufficient funds to tide them over realised the Blue-Eye Trevalla fishery was ideal with minimal investment outlay, but because there was plenty of Blue-Eye Trevalla available for only a short period the price remained relatively low. In 1978 George Mure of the fishing vessel *Melicent* began targeting Blue-Eye Trevalla 12 months of the year with annual catches exceeding 50 tonnes. Once the fishery had been proved other boats soon followed and the Blue-Eye Trevalla fishery was born. By 1993 AFMA decided to manage the fishery by implementing quotas, the quotas themselves were not actually introduced until 1998.

**Management:** Managed by AFMA with a TAC (Total Allowable Catch) in 2010 of 428 tonnes of whole weight.

**Remarks:** Among the most highly regarded temperate food fishes. The off-white flesh is firm, moist and delicately flavoured.