

Abudefduf abdominalis



Mamo



Hawaiian sergeant

Ka Hō'ike 'Ano - Description

- » Endemic to Hawai'i with a greenish white coloring and 5 black bars.
- » Their abdomen has a subtle yellow striping that can change in length and color
- » They feed on plankton, limu (seaweed) and other marine organisms
- » The Hawaiian name, Mamo, is a shortened version of ma'oma'o or green that speaks to their greenish color



citations: hawaiisfishes.com; wehewehe.org

Ka Lauā Kaianoho - Distribution

- » Found throughout the Main Hawaiian Islands and Johnston Atoll
- » From near-shore environments to 50m (164ft), usually in calm habitats
- » They occur in deep waters and coral reefs with young often found in tidepools



Spawning, Fish Hole, Midway Atoll, 35 feet



Nests, Fish Hole, Midway Atoll, 35 feet

citation: Randall, 2007

Ka Waiwai Ho'oilina - Cultural Significance

- » Mamo is the name for the now extinct Hawaiian Honeycreeper (*Drepanis pacifica*)
- » Mamo was also a preferred fish eaten by Hawaiian chiefs because of their softness. They were eaten raw or boiled.
- » Other names for this fish are ma'oma'o, mamamo, mao, and mamo pohole



Illustration from Rothschild (1893-1900)

citations: bishopmuseum.org; ulukau.org; wehewehe.org

'Ikepili Hoihoi - Interesting Fact

- » Mālama ka mao kāne i ka pūnana hua, inā ho'omaka'u 'ia ka mao kāne e kekahi 'ano mea, ha'alele 'o ia i kāna pūnana a 'ai koke 'ia nā hua mao e nā i'a 'ē a'e i 'ono i ka hua mao.
- » The male Maomao guards its nest, if the male is frightened by something he will leave his nest and his eggs are quickly eaten by the other fish who like to eat Maomao eggs.

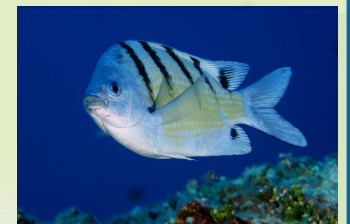


Photo by: James Watt/NOAA, 2002

citation: Kū'ula, 2003; ulukau.org