

CNMI FISH FACT SHEET



Specimen was obtained from Asins' Fish Market on 11/26/12. This sample was caught in the Saipan Lagoon by spear fishing. Photo by DFW.

Scientific Name: *Megalops cyprinoides* (Myers, R.F. 1999, 3rd edition). A member of the tarpon family; this genus is one of the most primitive of bony fishes.

Common Names: Indo-Pacific Tarpon

Maximum size: 90.0 cm standard length

Size recorded: 34.2 cm fork length

Physiology: Silverish in coloration, with bluish-green on head and anterior body. Pectoral fins are located ventrally. The abdominal and pelvic fins have 9 or more rays and a deeply forked tail. Tarpons have a long thread like filament at the end of their dorsal fin.

Habitat: Reef; marine; mangrove and river associated. As juveniles they are found in mangroves and rivers.

Distribution: Red Sea to Society Islands, Korea, South to New South Whales, High islands in Micronesia.

Diet: Feeds on fish and crustaceans.

Climate: Tropical

!FACTOID!

The Indo-Pacific tarpon has a lung like airbladder which helps them survive in oxygen-poor waters.