



SATMONETI (goatfish)

Goatfish, or satmoneti as they are called in Chamorro, are bottom dwellers which have a pair of long barbels or whiskers under the chin. They use the barbels to search the bottom for small animals to eat. While most of the 13 kinds of satmoneti in Guam's waters feed on crabs, shrimps and other sand-dwelling animals, a few primarily feed on other fish. Most kinds hunt over sandy bottoms, but a few are found feeding over hard rock or coral bottoms.

Satmoneti are excellent to eat and are caught by a variety of methods. Young goatfish, called ti'ao in Chamorro, are caught by talâya (cast net), lâgua' (scoop net) and chenchulu (drag net). Larger goatfish, called satmoneti-yos, or satmoneti if over eight inches (20 cm), are caught by tekken (gill net), tokcha' (spear) and etupak (hook and line).

From the open sea, young goatfish swim to the reef as silvery post-larvae when they are about two to three inches long. Within a few days, they change to their adult color pattern and start feeding on the bottom. For the first several days on the reef, they are known as ti'ao. The most common goatfish, the yellowstripe goatfish (*Mulloidichthys flavolineatus*), arrive on the reef flats in large groups. Both young and adult yellowstripe goatfish are the most common kind of goatfish in shallow reef flat and lagoon waters. During the day they most often occur in large groups. Adults may be seen hovering in deeper parts of the reef flats near the shelter of corals. They disperse over the sand at night to feed and change their color to a blotched pattern with an elongate dark spot on their sides. A few individuals also feed during the day and are uniformly light with the elongate spot on the sides. The dash-and-dot goatfish (*Parupeneus barberinus*) is the largest kind of satmoneti and grows to about 24 inches (60 cm).