

# Additional Records of Fishes from Fort Pond Bay on Long Island, New York\*

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by

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## Abstract

Six fish species previously unreported from Fort Pond Bay, Montauk, were caught by pound net and trawl and are recorded as a supplement to the ichthyofaunal list of Hickey and Lester (1983). Additionally, two errata to that 1983 list are corrected. This supplement brings the species total to 108 fishes for the period 1970-1981.

## Introduction

In 1983, we reviewed the historical accounts of marine fish studies for eastern Long Island and presented an accounting of 100 species taken in Fort Pond Bay, Montauk, for the years 1970-1975 (Hickey and Lester 1983). Fort Pond Bay, situated on the northern side of the easternmost extremity of Long Island, is south of Block Island Sound and southeastward across Gardiner's Bay from Orient Point (Fig. 1).

The fishes listed in the 1983 paper were primarily those captured by the second author in two pound nets (mesh sizes 2 to 6 inches) operated near the southern beach of Fort Pond Bay. Other species were either observed by the authors or brought to their attention by interested persons.

Two additional species taken during 1977 and 1978 also were described in that paper, for a total of 102 species. Four species new to our records for Fort Pond Bay have been caught since 1978, and an additional two species were found in our catch and photographic files from 1971. These six species are described here and included in Table 1. Two errata in the 1983 paper have been brought to our attention and are corrected herein. These additions and corrections bring the species total to 108 fishes for the period 1970-1986. A revised checklist of all species recorded from Fort Pond Bay is given in Table 2.

## Additional Species Since 1978

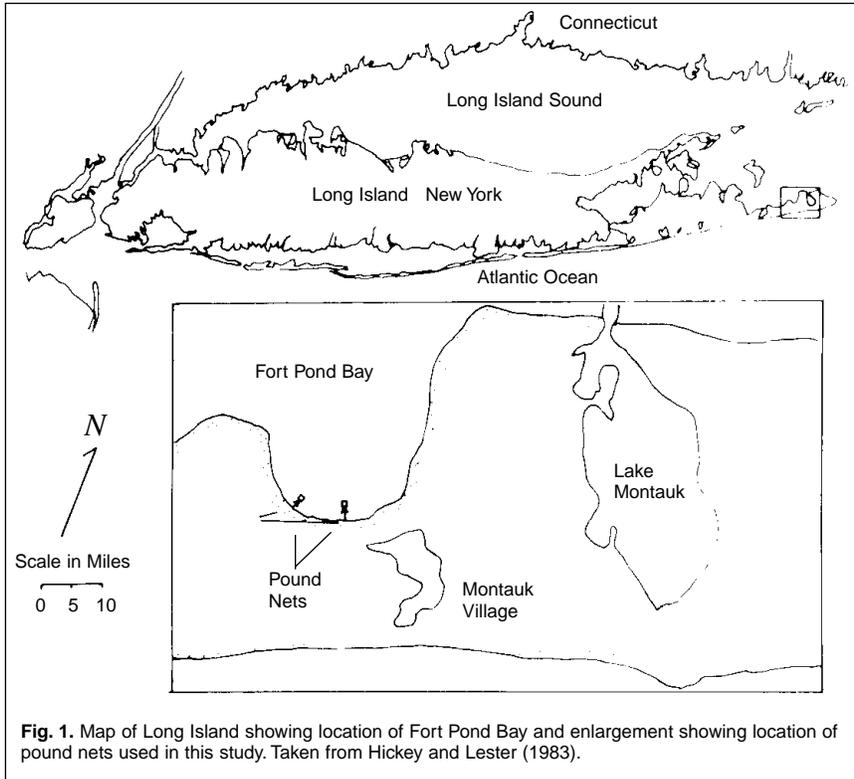
Six new records of occurrence for species since our 1983 paper are included in Table 1. Five species are represented by the catch of one individual, and one species (greater amberjack) by two individuals. All six species would be considered "rare" by our 1983 relative abundance criteria (see chart at bottom of page 7).

Blue shark and yellowtail flounder are common species in the offshore waters of Block Island Sound and the Atlantic Ocean. They are strays to the inshore waters of Eastern Long Island. Briggs (1984), however, reported blue shark captures by anglers from within Great South Bay, to the west.

The occurrence of greater amberjack in New York waters was reviewed by Hickey and Loewen (1976), who reported the first conclusive state record for the species

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from Gardiners Bay in October 1974. The 84 pound greater amberjack caught in Fort Pond Bay in 1986 (Table 1) appears to be the largest yet taken from state waters.

Grubby is a small benthic fish that we caught by trawl in the outer area of Fort Pond Bay (water depth about 50-58 feet). Nichols and Breder (1926) reported it as a permanent resident in New York and common at Orient, on the north fork of eastern Long Island. Briggs (1984) reports it as common also.

One leatherjacket was reported (Hickey, Sosnow, and Lester, 1975) as having been caught by pound net during 1971, but it was omitted, inadvertently, from our 1983 list of species. It is included here for completeness.

One winter skate captured by pound net during 1971 was recognized, in a color photograph in our collection, by the presence of two characteristic large white "eye spots" posteriorly on the pectoral fins, as described by Bigelow and Schroeder (1953). Winter skate is cited as a common species in New York waters by Briggs (1984).

### Errata in Hickey and Lester (1983)

We reported the capture of one specimen of timucu, *Strongylura timucu* (family Belonidae), in July 1978. It was identified using standard field keys and thus separated

from *S. marina*, the Atlantic needlefish, which is a more common summer species in mid-Atlantic waters. Collette (1968) differentiates these two species of *Strongylura* as follows: (1) the left and right gonads of *S. timucu* both are developed, while only the right gonad is developed in *S. marina*; (2) *S. timucu* has fewer predorsal scales (120-185, mean=156) than *S. marina* (213-304, mean=256); and (3) by several other morphological characteristics. Collette further describes the northernmost record for *S. timucu* from the St. Lucie Inlet, Florida (personal communication, B. Collette, September 8, 1983). Our 1978 capture was not identified according to the above criteria of Collette (1968) and cannot be verified due to the subsequent loss of our specimen. For these reasons, we are deleting the specific name (*timucu*) from Table 1 of

our 1983 list, but retaining the entry as "*Strongylura* sp." since we believe that our specimen was not *S. marina*.

The species identification for the sheepshead (family Sparidae) was incorrectly noted as *Calamus penna* in Table 1 of our 1983 paper. The correct species we caught is *Archosargus probatocephalus*.

With the above corrections, the two families noted in our 1983 paper should appear as follows:

| Family and Species                 | Common Name         | Relative Abundance Spring Summer Fall |                |                |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                    |                     | Spring                                | Summer         | Fall           |
| <b>Belonidae</b>                   |                     |                                       |                |                |
| <i>Strongylura marina</i>          | Atlantic needlefish | -                                     | R              | R              |
| <i>Strongylura</i> sp.             | needlefish sp.      | -                                     | R              | -              |
| <b>Sparidae</b>                    |                     |                                       |                |                |
| <i>Archosargus probatocephalus</i> | sheepshead          | -                                     | R              | -              |
| <i>Lagodon rhomboides</i>          | pinfish             | -                                     | R              | -              |
| <i>Stenotomus chrysops</i>         | scup                | A                                     | A <sup>†</sup> | O <sup>†</sup> |

**A = Abundant.** Species was captured or observed on numerous occasions in large quantities; often several size classes were present.

**O = Occasional.** Species was captured or observed periodically and in small quantities; size classes were more homogeneous than in the foregoing categories.

**R = Rare.** Species was captured or observed only rarely; usually only one or a few individuals constituted the catch.

**Absent.** Species was neither captured nor observed; absence of a species in or around the pound nets did not necessarily rule out its presence in Fort Pond Bay, but did suggest that it was extremely rare.

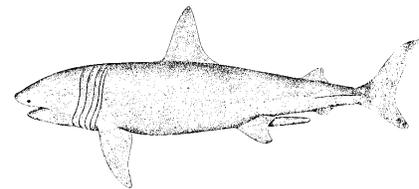
<sup>†</sup>Both adults and juveniles present.

**Table 1.** Records of four fish species caught in Fort Pond Bay during 1979 and 1981, plus two species from 1971 identified from catch records and photographic material. Illustrations from Jordan and Evermann, *The Fishes of North and Middle America* (1896-1900).

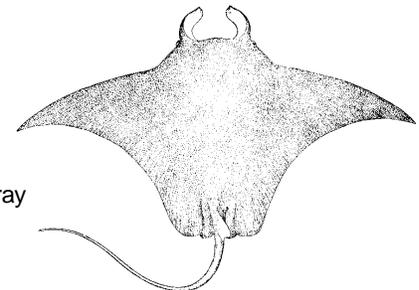
| Family and Species                          | Common Name         | Comments                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Carcharinidae<br><i>Prionace glauca</i>     | blue shark          | Captured by pound net, summer 1979, returned alive; 7 ft. TL.                            |
| Rajidae<br><i>Raja ocellata</i>             | winter skate        | Captured by pound net during 1971.                                                       |
| Carangidae<br><i>Seriola dumerili</i>       | greater amberjack   | Captured by pound net, summer 1979, 38 lbs. total wt.; and Sept. 1986, 84 lbs. total wt. |
| <i>Oligoplites saurus</i>                   | leatherjacket       | Captured by hook & line, Sept. 1971; approx. 11 inches (280 mm) TL.                      |
| Cottidae<br><i>Myoxocephalus aeneus</i>     | grubby              | Captured by trawl, May 1981.                                                             |
| Pleuronectidae<br><i>Limanda ferruginea</i> | yellowtail flounder | Captured by pound net, July 1979; approx. 2 lbs total wt.                                |

**Table 2.** Checklist of fish species recorded in Fort Pond Bay.

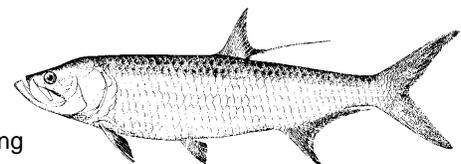
| Family          | Species                         | Common Name          |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Petromyzontidae | <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>       | sea lamprey          |
| Lamnidae        | <i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>       | basking shark        |
| Carcharhinidae  | <i>Mustelus canis</i>           | smooth dogfish       |
|                 | <i>Prionace glauca</i>          | blue shark           |
| Squalidae       | <i>Squalus acanthias</i>        | spiny dogfish        |
| Torpedinidae    | <i>Torpedo nobiliana</i>        | Atlantic torpedo     |
| Rajidae         | <i>Raja eglanteria</i>          | clearnose skate      |
|                 | <i>Raja erinacea</i>            | little skate         |
|                 | <i>Raja ocellata</i>            | winter skate         |
| Dasyatidae      | <i>Dasyatis centroura</i>       | rougtail stingray    |
|                 | <i>Gymnura micrura</i>          | smooth butterfly ray |
| Myliobatidae    | <i>Myliobatis freminvilli</i>   | bullnose ray         |
|                 | <i>Rhinoptera bonasus</i>       | cownose ray          |
| Mobulidae       | <i>Manta birostris</i>          | Atlantic manta       |
| Acipensieridae  | <i>Acipenser</i> sp.            | sturgeon             |
| Elopidae        | <i>Elops saurus</i>             | ladyfish             |
|                 | <i>Megalops atlantica</i>       | tarpon               |
| Anguillidae     | <i>Anguilla rostrata</i>        | American eel         |
| Congridae       | <i>Conger oceanicus</i>         | conger eel           |
| Clupeidae       | <i>Alosa aestivalis</i>         | blueback herring     |
|                 | <i>Alosa pseudoharengus</i>     | alewife              |
|                 | <i>Alosa sapidissima</i>        | American shad        |
|                 | <i>Brevoortia tyrannus</i>      | Atlantic menhaden    |
|                 | <i>Clupea harengus harengus</i> | Atlantic herring     |
|                 | <i>Etrumeus teres</i>           | round herring        |
| Engraulidae     | <i>Anchoa mitchilli</i>         | bay anchovy          |
| Salmonidae      | <i>Onchorhynchus kisutch</i>    | coho salmon          |
|                 | <i>Onchorhynchus mykiss</i>     | rainbow trout        |
|                 | <i>Salmo salar</i>              | Atlantic salmon      |



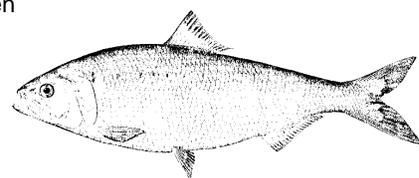
basking shark  
*Cetorhinus maximus*



Atlantic manta  
*Manta birostris*



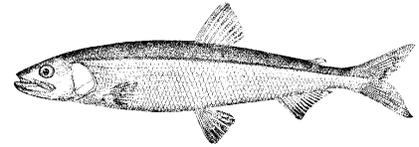
tarpon  
*Megalops atlantica*



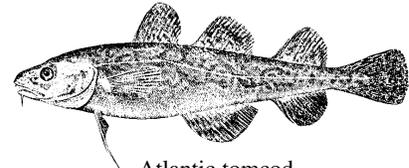
American shad  
*Alosa sapidissima*

**Table 2** (cont.). Checklist of fish species recorded in Fort Pond Bay.

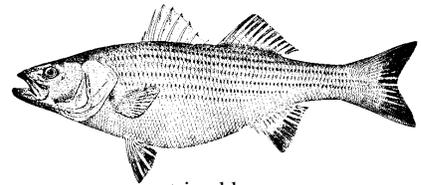
|                |                                    |                       |
|----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Osmeridae      | <i>Osmerus mordax</i>              | rainbow smelt         |
| Batrachoididae | <i>Opsanus tau</i>                 | oyster toadfish       |
| Lophiidae      | <i>Lophius americanus</i>          | goosefish             |
| Gadidae        | <i>Gadus morhua</i>                | Atlantic cod          |
|                | <i>Merlussius bilinearis</i>       | silver hake           |
|                | <i>Microgadus tomcod</i>           | Atlantic tomcod       |
|                | <i>Pollachius virens</i>           | pollock               |
|                | <i>Urophycis chuss</i>             | red hake              |
| Zoarcidae      | <i>Macrozoarces americanus</i>     | ocean pout            |
| Belonidae      | <i>Strongylura marina</i>          | Atlantic needlefish   |
|                | <i>Strongylura</i> sp.             | needlefish sp.        |
| Antherinidae   | <i>Menidia menidia</i>             | Atlantic silverside   |
| Syngnathidae   | <i>Syngnathus fuscus</i>           | northern pipefish     |
| Percichthyidae | <i>Morone americana</i>            | white perch           |
|                | <i>Morone saxatilis</i>            | striped bass          |
| Serranidae     | <i>Centropristis stiata</i>        | black sea bass        |
| Priacanthidae  | <i>Priacanthus cruentatus</i>      | glasseye snapper      |
|                | <i>Pristigenys alta</i>            | short bigeye          |
| Pomatomidae    | <i>Pomatomus saltatrix</i>         | bluefish              |
| Echeneidae     | <i>Echeneis naucrates</i>          | sharksucker           |
| Carangidae     | <i>Alectis crinitus</i>            | African pompano       |
|                | <i>Caranx crysos</i>               | blue runner           |
|                | <i>Caranx hippos</i>               | crevalle jack         |
|                | <i>Caranx latus</i>                | horse-eye jack        |
|                | <i>Decapterus punctatus</i>        | round scad            |
|                | <i>Oligoplites saurus</i>          | leatherjacket         |
|                | <i>Selar crumenophthalmus</i>      | bigeye scad           |
|                | <i>Selene vomer</i>                | lookdown              |
|                | <i>Seriola dumerili</i>            | greater amberjack     |
|                | <i>Seriola zonata</i>              | banded rudderfish     |
|                | <i>Trachinotus carolinus</i>       | Florida pompano       |
|                | <i>Trachinotus falcatus</i>        | permit                |
|                | <i>Vomer setapinnis</i>            | Atlantic moonfish     |
| Lutjanidae     | <i>Lutjanus cyanopterus</i>        | Cubera snapper        |
| Sparidae       | <i>Archosargus probatocephalus</i> | sheepshead            |
|                | <i>Lagodon rhomboides</i>          | pinfish               |
|                | <i>Stenotomus chrysops</i>         | scup                  |
| Sciaenidae     | <i>Bairdiella chrysura</i>         | silver perch          |
|                | <i>Cynoscion regalis</i>           | weakfish              |
|                | <i>Leiostomus xanthurus</i>        | spot                  |
|                | <i>Menticirrhus saxatilis</i>      | northern kingfish     |
|                | <i>Micropogon undulatus</i>        | Atlantic croaker      |
| Ephippidae     | <i>Chaetodipterus faber</i>        | Atlantic spadefish    |
| Chaetodontidae | <i>Chaetodon ocellatus</i>         | spotfin butterflyfish |
| Labridae       | <i>Tautoga onitis</i>              | tautog                |
|                | <i>Tautogolabrus adspersus</i>     | cunner                |



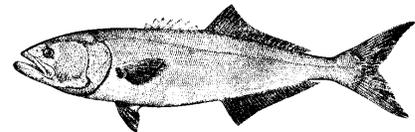
rainbow smelt  
*Osmerus mordax*



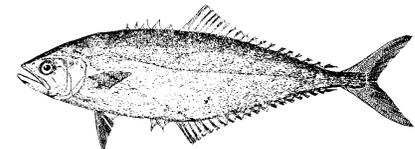
Atlantic tomcod  
*Microgadus tomcod*



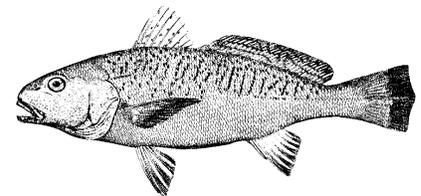
striped bass  
*Morone saxatilis*



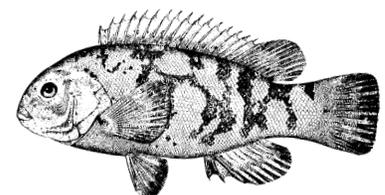
bluefish  
*Pomatomus saltatrix*



leatherjacket  
*Oligoplites saurus*



Atlantic croaker  
*Micropogon undulatus*



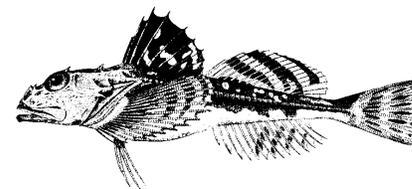
tautog  
*Tautoga onitis*

|                |                                        |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|
| Mugilidae      | <i>Mugil cephalus</i>                  |
| Sphyraenidae   | <i>Sphyraena borealis</i>              |
| Pholidae       | <i>Pholis gunnellus</i>                |
| Ammodytidae    | <i>Ammodytes</i> sp.                   |
| Trichiuridae   | <i>Trichiurus lepturus</i>             |
| Scombridae     | <i>Euthynnus alletteratus</i>          |
|                | <i>Sarda sarda</i>                     |
|                | <i>Scomber japonicus</i>               |
|                | <i>Scomber scombrus</i>                |
|                | <i>Scomberomorus maculatus</i>         |
|                | <i>Scomberomerus regalis</i>           |
|                | <i>Thunnus alalunga</i>                |
| Stomateidae    | <i>Hyperoglyphe perciformis</i>        |
|                | <i>Peprilus alepidotus</i>             |
|                | <i>Peprilus triacanthus</i>            |
| Triglidae      | <i>Prionotus carolinus</i>             |
|                | <i>Prionotus evolans</i>               |
| Cottidae       | <i>Hemitripterus americanus</i>        |
|                | <i>Myoxocephalus aeneus</i>            |
|                | <i>Myoxocephalus octodecemspinosus</i> |
| Cyclopteridae  | <i>Cyclopterus lumpus</i>              |
| Bothidae       | <i>Paralichthys dentatus</i>           |
|                | <i>Paralichthys oblongus</i>           |
|                | <i>Scophthalmus aquosus</i>            |
| Pleuronectidae | <i>Limanda ferruginea</i>              |
|                | <i>Pseudopleuronectes americanus</i>   |
| Soleidae       | <i>Trinectes maculatus</i>             |
| Balistidae     | <i>Aluterus schoepfi</i>               |
|                | <i>Balistes capricus</i>               |
|                | <i>Monacanthus hispidus</i>            |
| Tetradontidae  | <i>Sphoeroides maculatus</i>           |
| Diodontidae    | <i>Chilomycterus schoepfi</i>          |
| Molidae        | <i>Mola mola</i>                       |

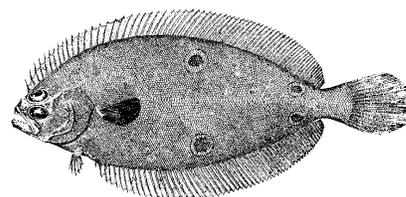
striped mullet  
 northern sennet  
 rock gunnel  
 sand lance  
 Atlantic cutlassfish  
 little tunny  
 Atlantic bonito  
 chub mackerel  
 Atlantic mackerel  
 Spanish mackerel  
 cero  
 albacore  
 barrelfish  
 harvestfish  
 butterfish  
 northern searobin  
 striped searobin  
 sea raven  
 grubby  
 longhorn sculpin  
 lumpfish  
 summer flounder  
 fourspot flounder  
 windowpane  
 yellowtail flounder  
 winter flounder  
 hogchoker  
 orange filefish  
 gray triggerfish  
 planehead filefish  
 northern puffer  
 striped burrfish  
 ocean sunfish



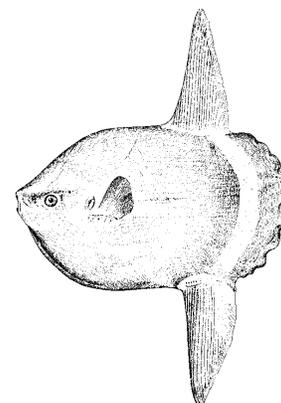
rock gunnel  
*Pholis gunnellus*



longhorn sculpin  
*Myoxocephalus octodecemspinosus*



fourspot flounder  
*Paralichthys oblongus*



ocean sunfish  
*Mola mola*

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