



## Longfin Batfish

*Platax tiera*

### Range/Habitat

- Longfin batfish occurs in the Indo-Pacific from the Red Sea and east Africa to Papua New Guinea, north to the Ryukyu Islands and south to Australia.
- Juveniles inhabit sea grass meadows, mangrove areas and floating sargassum weed beds in shallow protected inner reefs.
- Adult is usually found from coastal lagoons out to seaward reefs and occasionally in deeper water offshore.
- Longfin batfish is found most often at depths to 65 feet (20 m).
- Commonly encountered near a deep wreck, mainly in the mid-waters above it.

### Physical Characteristics

- Adults grow to approximately 27.5 inches (70 cm) in length.
- The body is rounded and strongly compressed.
- Coloration is yellowish silver or dusky in color and have a short dark vertical bar through the eye and another wider bar behind the operculum.
- Adult has a bony hump on the forehead and its dorsal and anal fins are high and arched, but in proportion to its body.
- The juvenile looks very different from the adult. It has a very short body with extremely tall dorsal and anal fins and does not have a forehead hump.

### Diet/Feeding

- Feeds on algae and a variety of invertebrates, such as jellies or other plankton.

### Conservation Status

- “Not Evaluated” on the IUCN Red List.

### Additional Information

- Adult may be solitary or occasionally form large schools.
- Juveniles have been observed mimicking floating leaves in coastal waters. They also will form schools under floating rafts of sargassum.
- It is believed that this batfish spawns in the open ocean and its larvae transform into the tall juvenile when it is less than an inch (25 mm) long.
- Another common name for this fish is “tiara batfish”.

### Sources

[www.fishbase.org](http://www.fishbase.org)

*Coral Sea Reef Guide*. Halstead, B., pg. 119

*Southeast Asia Tropical Fish Guide*. Kuitert, R. H. and Debelius, H.



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