

FRESHWATER FISHES OF NAMIBIA

A guide to common angling and subsistence fishes



Zambezi Grunter (*Parauchenoglanis ngamensis*)

River System: Ka, KL, UZC

Maximum length 38 cm SL



Spotted Squeaker (*Synodontis nigromaculatus*)

River System: Ka, KL, UZC

Maximum length 30 cm SL



Leopard Squeaker (*Synodontis leopardinus*)

River System: Ku, CV, Ka, KL, UZC

Maximum length 20 cm SL



Finetooth Squeaker (*Synodontis vanderwaali*)

River System: Ku, Ka, KL, UZC

Maximum length 16 cm SL



Upper Zambezi Squeaker (*Synodontis woosnami*)

River System: Ku, CV, Ka, KL, UZC

Maximum length 20 cm SL



Ocellated Spiny Eel (*Mastacembelus vanderwaali*)

River System: Ka, UZC
Maximum length 18 cm SL



Okavango Churchill (*Petrocephalus okavangoensis*)



River System: Ka
Maximum length 17 cm SL

Dwarf Stonebasher (*Pollimyrus castelnaui*)

River System: Ku, CV, Ka

Maximum length 7 cm SL



Western Bottlenose (*Mormyrus lacerda*)



River System: Ku, CV, Ka, KL, UZC

Maximum length 50 cm TL

Sharptooth Catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*)

River System: Ku, CV, Ka, KL, UZC, OR, NW

Maximum length 1.4 m SL



Silver Catfish (*Schilbe intermedius*)



River System: Ku, CV, Ka, KL, UZC
Maximum length 30 cm SL

African Banded Barb (*Enteromius fasciolatus*)



River System: Ku, Ka, KL, UZC
Maximum length 6 cm SL

Straightfin Barb (*Enteromius paludinosus*)

River System: Ku, CV, Ka, KL, UZC, OR, NW

Maximum length 15 cm SL



Striped Topminnow (*Lacustricola katangae*)



River System: Ku, Ka, KL, UZC
Maximum length 5 cm TL

Johnston's Topminnow (*Lacustricola johnstoni*)



River System: Ku, CV, Ka, KL, UZC
Maximum length 5 cm TL

Upper Zambezi Bulldog (*Marcusenius altisambesi*)



River System: Ka, KL, UZC
Maximum length 30 cm SL

Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) (NN)



River System: NW
Maximum length 97 cm TL

Common Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) (NN)



River System: OR, NW
Maximum length 1 m TL

Orange-fin Barb (*Enteromius eutaenia*)



River System: Ku, Ka, KL, UZC
Maximum length 14 cm SL

Dashtail Barb (*Enteromius poechii*)



River System: Ka, KL, UZC

Maximum length 12 cm SL

Beira Barb (*Enteromius radiatus*)



River System: Ku, CV, Ka, KL, UZC
Maximum length 12 cm SL

Key

- FL Fork length
- SL Standard length
- TL Total length
- NN Non-native

Distribution:

- Ku Kunene
- CV Cuvelai
- Ka Kavango
- KL Kwando-Linyanti
- UZC Upper Zambezi-Chobe
- OR Orange
- NW National Waterbodies



Republic of Namibia
Ministry of Fisheries
and Marine Resources



COMMUNITY
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Committed to conservation

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Reference:
Merron, G.S. and C.H. Hocutt (Eds.). 2025. *Inland Fishes and Fisheries of Namibia* (2 nd Ed.). Published by Namibian Chamber of Environment, John Meinert Printing (Pty) Ltd., Windhoek, Namibia: 367 pp.

Design & layout by: Carmen Begley

DIVERSITY:

Namibia has 137 known fish species, but new species are routinely recognized. Of this total, 125 species are *indigenous* (native to Namibia) while three are *endemic* (known only from Namibia).

There are 12 non-native species known in Namibia. Some have been deliberately *introduced* or *transplanted* from outside their native range for *aquaculture* (fish farming) or sport fishing, while others are alien or exotic species principally released into inland waters by tropical aquarium hobbyists. Non-native species are a potential threat to native species.

WATERWAYS:

Namibia has five *perennial* (flowing year round) rivers, all representing international borders. The southern border is bounded by the lower Orange River with the Fish River being its major Namibian tributary. The Orange/Fish River has 12 native species with five being endemic to the drainage.

The Kunene River is located about 1,500 km north of the Orange River. It represents the northwest border with Angola for 340 km, where it is known as the *Cunene*. Some 66 species are known from the Namibian portion of the basin, nine being endemic in the basin.

The *endorheic* (catchment with no outflow) Cuvelai basin lies to the east of the Kunene River. It originates in Angola and drains south into Etosha National Park across a shared border 130 km in length. The Cuvelai and Kunene drainages have a shared history, both naturally and as influenced by man-made water supply structures. The Namibian portion of the basin is *ephemeral* (seasonally dry) and is principally dependent upon *efundja* (seasonal flood waters) from Angola. A wealth of fishes usually accompanies the flooding, migrating along the *iishana* (seasonally inundated channels) where they are harvested. Some 47 species are known from the Cuvelai basin, Namibia and Angola with 14 of these shared exclusively with the neighboring Kunene.

The Kavango River lies eastward of the Cuvelai, draining south out of Angola (where it is known as the *Cubango*) into the *Okavango* Delta of Botswana. It forms a border with Angola for 415 km. The Namibian portion of the Kavango has 84 known species with three being endemic to the system. Twenty more species occur in the Angolan portion of the river.

The Kwando River (*Cuando* in Angola) is wedged between the Kavango and Upper Zambezi rivers. This low gradient system has 74 known species, most shared with the adjacent two rivers. Two species are currently considered endemic.

The Upper Zambezi and Chobe rivers have had a long geological history in association with one another, including Lake Liambezi. Thus, they are considered together. Some 85 native fishes are known with six being endemic.

Tigerfish (*Hydrocynus vittatus*)

River System: Ka, KL, UZC

Maximum length 80 cm FL



Southern African Pike (*Hepsetus cuvieri*)



River System: Ku, CV, Ka, KL, UZC

Maximum length 47 cm FL

Striped Robber (*Brycinus lateralis*)



River System: Ku, CV, Ka, KL, UZC

Maximum length 14 cm SL

Silver Robber (*Micralestes acutidens*)



River System: Ku, CV, Ka, KL, UZC

Maximum length 8 cm SL

Northern Barred Minnow (*Opsaridium zambezense*)



River System: Ka, KL, UZC

Maximum length 18 cm TL

Nembwe (*Serranochromis jallae*)



River System: Ka, KL, UZC

Maximum length 56 cm SL

Threespot Tilapia (*Oreochromis andersonii*)



River System: Ku, CV, Ka, KL, UZC

Maximum length 50 cm SL

Redbreast Tilapia (*Coptodon rendalli*)



River System: Ku, CV, Ka, KL, UZC, NW

Maximum length 40 cm TL

Mozambique Tilapia (*Oreochromis mossambicus*) (NN)



River System: OR, NW

Maximum length 40 cm SL

Greenhead tilapia (*Oreochromis macrochir*)



River System: Ku, CV, Ka, KL, UZC, NW

Maximum length 43 cm SL

Humpback Largemouth (*Serranochromis altus*)



River System: Ku, Ka, KL, UZC

Maximum length 56 cm TL

Thinface Largemouth (*Serranochromis angusticeps*)



River System: Ku, CV, Ka, KL, UZC

Maximum length 41 cm TL

Dusky Bream (*Sargochromis codringtonii*)



River System: Ka, KL, UZC

Maximum length 29 cm SL

Pink Bream (*Sargochromis giardi*)



River System: Ka, KL, UZC

Maximum length 50 cm SL

Purpleface Largemouth (*Serranochromis macrocephalus*)



River System: Ku, CV, Ka, KL, UZC

Maximum length 35 cm SL

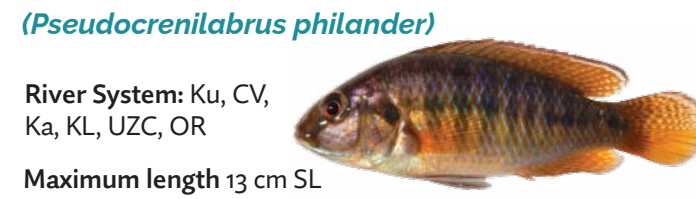
Banded Tilapia (*Tilapia sparrmanii*)



River System: Ku, CV, Ka, KL, UZC, OR, NW

Maximum length 24 cm TL

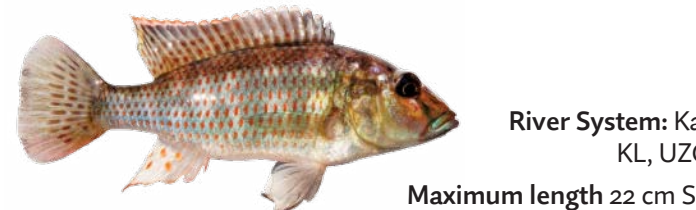
Southern Mouthbrooder (*Pseudocrenilabrus philander*)



River System: Ku, CV, Ka, KL, UZC, OR

Maximum length 13 cm SL

Zambezi River Bream (*Pharyngochromis acuticeps*)



River System: Ka, KL, UZC

Maximum length 22 cm SL

Banded Jewelfish (*Hemichromis elongates*)



River System: Ka, KL, UZC

Maximum length 19 cm SL

Cunene Dwarf Bream (*Orthochromis machadoi*)



River System: Ku, CV

Maximum length 6 cm SL

Cunene Bream (*Sargochromis coulteri*)



River System: Ku, CV

Maximum length 22 cm SL

Thicklipped River Bream (*Thoracochromis albolabris*)



River System: Ku, CV

Maximum length 20 cm TL

Okavango Tilapia (*Tilapia ruweti*)



River System: Ka, KL, UZC

Maximum length 12 cm TL

Smallmouth Yellowfish (*Labeobarbus aeneus*)



River System: OR, NW

Maximum length 70 cm FL

Largemouth Yellowfish (*Labeobarbus kimberleyensis*)



River System: OR, NW

Maximum length 82 cm SL

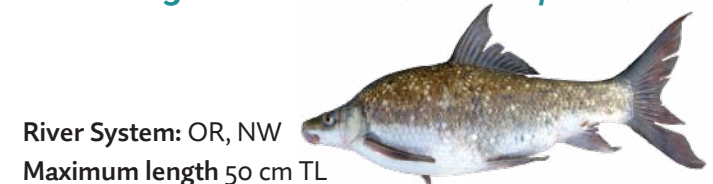
Upper Zambezi Yellowfish (*Labeobarbus codringtonii*)



River System: Ka, UZC

Maximum length 50 cm TL

Orange River Mudfish (*Labeo capensis*)



River System: OR, NW

Maximum length 50 cm TL

Silver Labeo (*Labeo ruddii*)



River System: Ku, CV

Maximum length 30 cm SL

Upper Zambezi Labeo (*Labeo lunatus*)



River System: Ka, KL, UZC

Maximum length 40 cm SL

Kunene Labeo (*Labeo ansorgii*)



River System: Ku, CV

Maximum length 25 cm SL