

The Wonders of Bangamary



THE KING WEAKFISH



(Name in Suriname)

POSTER 1, SEPTEMBER 2023

Meet Bangamary!

Scientific Name: Macrodon ancylodon

Creolese Name: Bangameerii

Fun Fact: Bangamary's name comes from the West African word '**Bonga**' for a small fish and '**meerii**' (Mary), meaning cheap and common



How to spot Bangamary?



Appearance:

Shiny grey on top, white underneath

Distinctive Features:

Dark gold-coloured fins and tail

Size: Bangamary can grow as long as your arm from wrist to elbow

That's around 25 to 30 centimeters! Wow!

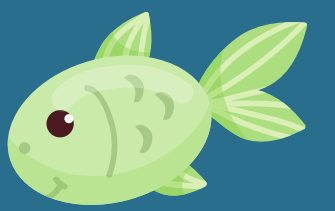


Where do Bangamary live?



Home: Salty Atlantic Ocean off the coast, see areas in red on the map

Depth: 8-20 meters (4-10 fathoms) over sandy sea bottom



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What do Bangamary eat?

Diet: Feed on smaller fish and shrimp

Fun Fact:

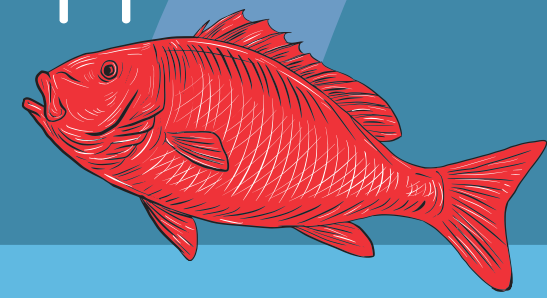
Bangamary is also known as '**Bites Twice**' - quickly closes its jaws twice while catching food!



Who eats Bangamary?

Guyanese at home and fish lovers in Canada, Caribbean Islands, China and USA, adore the firm, white, and tasty flesh of Banga

Ocean Predators: Larger fish like Snapper and Sea Trout also enjoy eating Bangamary



How to catch a Bangamary?

Guyanese fisherfolk believe Bangamary can reproduce quickly if protected

Techniques: Fisherfolk use gill net seines near the sea bottom and Chinese seine in shallow water to catch Bangamary

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Why are Bangamary becoming scarce?



1. There are too many boats catching Bangamary every day
2. Fisherfolk are catching Bangamary at a faster rate than the adult fish can have babies 
3. Chinese seine nets catch too many young Bangamary before they can grow to adult size and have babies
4. Bangamary are finding it harder to survive as the seawater temperature steadily rises because of climate heating 
5. **Bang-bang-bang** noise from repeated seismic surveys from 2008 to 2023 may drive Bangamary and all fish away from their normal habitats 

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What can the Government do to help

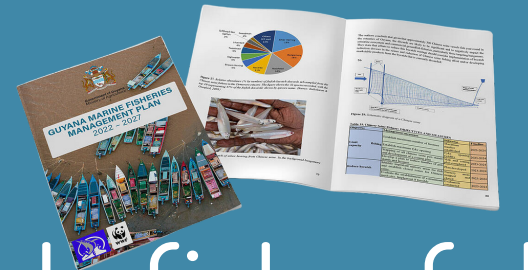


Bangamary?

1. **Talk to wise fisherfolk:** To agree on a six-week closing of all fishing to allow Bangamary to lay eggs undisturbed, so giving the young fish a better start in life
2. **Closed season:** A closed season as for seabob shrimp will give time for Bangamary to have babies and grow big

Supporting fisherfolk and Bangamary

1. Apply national policy as written in the revised **Marine Fisheries Management Plan 2022-2027** for sustainable Bangamary populations
2. **Public Subsidy:** During the closed season, provide fisherfolk, fish vendors, and fish processors with financial support until fish numbers and fish catch are in balance
3. **Fisherfolk's Code:** Use larger '**eyes**' in gill nets (stretched mesh of at least 4 inches). Use '**buss**' nets, allowing young Bangamary to escape and grow to adulthood



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