Fishes of the Fitzroy River, Western Australia, and their Nyikina names

Nyikina is the traditional language spoken in the lower Fitzroy River. Language names of the fish were provided by Nyikina elders during field trips in 2001 and 2002 through a joint project by the Kimberley Land Council, Kimberley Language Recovery Centre, Murdoch University’s Centre for Fish and Fisheries Research and the communities in the Fitzroy River. The project was funded by the Natural Heritage Trust and the poster production was funded by the Recreational Fishing Community Grants Programme. Contact the Department of Fisheries WA regarding fishing regulations in the river.

For more information email: fish@murdoch.edu.au or visit wwwscieng.murdoch.edu.au/centres/fish/ to download this poster or posters in Bunuba, Gooniyandi, Ngarinyin or Walmajarri.

A number of marine/estuarine species migrate large distances into the freshwaters of the Fitzroy River, where they use the river as a nursery and/or feeding ground. The Freshwater Sawfish and Dwarf Sawfish are listed as Critically Endangered (IUCN). The Critically Endangered Northern River Shark has also been found near the river mouth.