

Standard Fish Names Protocols



FRDC
FISHERIES RESEARCH &
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

STANDARD FISH NAME PROTOCOLS

The following standard fish name protocols are applied by the Fish Names Committee when considering a proposed amendment to a standard fish name.

This set of protocols or assessment criteria were developed and agreed to by an eminent group of fish taxonomists, authors, and industry experts at the Common Names Workshop (21-22 September 2004).

They are used initially by the applicant and then applied by the FNC, particularly as part of initial and final evaluation of all proposed amendments to the Australian Fish Names Standard.

Compliance with international obligations

The Australian Fish Names Standard must comply with Australia's international obligations including World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (commonly referred to as the TBT Agreement) and particularly Annex 3, the World Trade Organisation Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards when developing standards, which requires that standards:

- accord products originating from other members of the WTO, no less favourable treatment than products of Australian origin
- ensure that unnecessary obstacles to international trade are not created
- where international standards exist or their completion is imminent, use the relevant parts of them as a basis for its work, except where they would be ineffective or inappropriate
- make every effort to achieve a national consensus.

Compliance with Federal and State laws

The Australian Fish Names Standard must comply with relevant Australian and State Governments' laws including, but not restricted to:

- 1) Australian Government's legislative objectives for developing food standards including:
 - a) the protection of public health and safety
 - b) the provision of adequate information relating to food to enable consumers to make informed choices
 - c) the prevention of misleading or deceptive conduct.
- 2) Trade Practices Act which:
 - a) prohibits anti-competitive practices

Doc ID NEMO-4436-24	Version: 2.0	http://frdc-sp13/FilePlan/StandardsDev/ReferenceMaterial/ProcedureFishNamesProtocols.docx	16:10:28	11-Nov-15	Page 1 of 5
------------------------	-----------------	---	----------	-----------	-------------

- b) prohibits unconscionable conduct
- c) requires compliance with applicable industry codes of conduct
- d) provides consumer protection (unfair practices, product safety and information, conditions and warranties, actions against manufacturers/importers, product liability).

Preferred names

Preference will be given to:

- 1) a name that has over-riding historical significance (e.g., names that have been widely used across Australia for more than a century (historical names), or nationally entrenched names, would generally have preference over recently derived, less well-used names).
- 2) a name that is internationally accepted (e.g., names used by FAO or are well known and widely applied elsewhere).
 - a) a regional name where the species is most commonly found would normally have priority over a less frequently used name, or names used where the species is less common.
 - b) a vernacular or common name in Australia (where one exists) retained in full or in part providing it complies with these guidelines.
- 3) a name that has demonstrated strong stakeholder support.
 - a) a name used in recent mainstream field guides and group treatments with regional relevance (e.g., Allen, Midgley & Allen, 2002; Kuitert, 2000) and wide public exposure.
 - b) a name that most effectively distinguishes a species from its closest relatives (e.g., by reference to a diagnostic feature) is preferred over less obvious or irrelevant combinations.
- 4) A name that generally conforms to other members of the family or generic-level grouping (e.g., an un-named species of flathead should typically be called '_____ Flathead');
- 5) A name that facilitates market acceptability;
- 6) A name that is simple, unambiguous, and easily readable.

One name per species

- 1) Each species may be assigned a single, standard fish name, and
- 2) No two species may have the same approved standard name.

Group names

A group standard fish name:

- 1) may cover multiple species in a particular scientific family or group of fish, and
- 2) may not be the same as a species' standard fish name, and
- 3) may be used in the singular or plural if followed by (s) – e.g., Sole(s)
- 4) will follow internationally accepted names (Nelson, 1994) unless alternatives are well entrenched in Australian mainstream literature.

Subspecies and hybrids

Subspecies and hybrids will not generally be given a standard fish name.

Doc ID NEMO-4436-24	Version: 2.0	http://frdc-sp13/FilePlan/StandardsDev/ReferenceMaterial/ProcedureFishNamesProtocols.docx	16:10:28	11-Nov-15	Page 2 of 5
------------------------	-----------------	---	----------	-----------	-------------

Structure of names

Simplicity of names and name structure is fundamental to the naming process.

- 1) Avoid using:
 - a) long-winded names.
 - b) unnecessary suffixes and hyphens.
 - c) ambiguous names, for example, where names combine well (elements are easily determined and unambiguous), use one word (e.g., Elephantfish).
 - d) long names with multiple descriptors (e.g., 'Sixgillstingrays' is unwieldy and better separated as 'Sixgill Stingrays').
 - e) repetitive frequently used descriptors (e.g., 'Spotted', 'Banded', 'Striped', 'Australian', 'Deepwater'), unless no other distinctive attribute exists.
 - f) patronyms or names intended to honour persons (apart from those that are historically entrenched) are discouraged; however
 - i such names may be used when no user-friendly, diagnostic descriptors are available, and
 - ii when used, these names should include an apostrophe (e.g., Ray's Bream), and
 - iii names derived from ships should not be represented in the possessive case (e.g., Kapala Stingaree).
 - g) the expression 'Common', or emotive terms such as 'Dangerous', as part of a fish's name.
 - h) descriptors of size (e.g., 'Little', 'Large'), unless strongly diagnostic of the species or group in question.
 - i) names that are also widely used for other organisms unless pre- or suffixed to make them distinct.
- 2) Use:
 - a) hyphens where combinations involve vowel or letter pairing (e.g., Blue-eye, Spot-tail).
 - b) separate names to maintain 'readability' if the word elements are unclear (e.g., as a suffix, 'fish' combines well but 'shark' is sometimes confusing).
 - c) the correct form of the descriptor, for example:
 - i 'Orangespot' refers to a species with a single orange spot or bilateral pair of spots;
 - ii 'Orangespotted' refers to a species with multiple orange spots;
 - iii 'Orange Spotted' is non-specific (e.g., 'Orange Spotted Catshark' refers to a member of a group of 'spotted catsharks' in which the species has either orange spots or an orange body – in this case, the former).
 - d) Construct descriptors based on:-
 - i the meaning of the scientific species name (e.g., *Parastromateus niger* is called 'Black Pomfret' because 'niger' means 'black');
 - ii structural attributes, coloration, and colour pattern;
 - iii suitable adjectival modifiers reflecting the geographic distribution of the species;
 - iv ecological or biological characteristics of the species;
 - v colourful, romantic, fanciful, metaphorical, otherwise distinctive and original names.
 - vi well-accepted aboriginal names.

Scientific names

- 1) A standard fish name is not intimately tied to scientific name changes (i.e., if the scientific name of a particular species changes, the standard fish name should remain unaffected unless there is a good reason for change).
- 2) Generic or family names (i.e. scientific names) may be used as standard fish names (e.g., Remora for *Remora remora*) or in modified form (e.g., Oxeye Oreo for *Oreosoma atlanticum*).

Other grammatical rules and exceptions

Standard fish names should adhere to the following rules:

- 1) Use **capital letters** at the start of each word except directly following a hyphen (exceptions to this are where the hyphenated word/s are proper nouns, eg. North-West Hardyhead);
- 2) **Abbreviated forms** of words and combined words are preferred except where there is some advantage in retaining the unabbreviated form in keeping the words separate, for example use 'and' rather than '&'; use 'zigzag' rather than 'zig-zag';
- 3) **Words that end in 'ate'**. Most words that end in 'ate' are adjectives, so a 'd' is not required at the end of the word (e.g., 'Reticulate Pipefish' rather than 'Reticulated Pipefish'). For verbs, such as 'inflate', a 'd' is required at the end of the word (e.g., 'Inflated Whiptail'). For example:
 - a) 'Annulate' (adjective)
 - b) 'Decorated' (verb)
 - c) 'Delicate' (adjective)
 - d) 'Elongate' (verb/adjective)
 - e) 'Fimbriate' (adjective)
 - f) 'Frigate' (noun)
 - g) 'Immaculate' (adjective)
 - h) 'Inflated' (verb)
 - i) 'Lanceolate' (adjective)
 - j) 'Ocellate' (adjective)
 - k) 'Ornate' (adjective)
 - l) 'Reticulate' (adjective)
 - m) 'Striate' (verb/adjective)
 - n) 'Variegated' (verb)
 - o) 'Vermiculate' (verb/adjective)
- 4) Combine words that:
 - a) precede 'band' and 'banded' (eg, 'Goldband Fusilier'; 'Orangebanded Coralfish') except for unwieldy combinations (eg, 'Oblique-banded Snapper')
 - b) precede 'bar' and 'barred' (eg, 'Orangebar Threefin'; 'Blackbarred Wrasse') except for unwieldy combinations (eg, 'Oblique-bar Monocle Bream')
 - c) precede 'blotched' are combined (eg, 'Whiteblotched Sole')
 - d) follow 'Double' (eg, 'Doubleline Fusilier') except when followed by an 'e' (eg, 'Double-end Pipehorse') or based on readability (ie, 'Double-row Grubfish')
 - e) follow 'False' (eg, 'Falsespine Catfish') or separate them (eg, 'False-girdled Reefgoby') based on readability
 - f) follow 'Half' except in one case (ie, 'Half-and-half Puller')
 - g) precede 'line' and 'lined' (eg, 'Manyline Leatherjacket'; 'Narrowlined Puffer') except in a few cases based on readability (eg, 'Two-line Monocle Bream')
 - h) precede 'speckled' (eg, 'Bluespeckled Pipefish')

- i) precede 'spine' (eg, 'Shortspine Goosefish')
 - j) precede 'spotted' (eg, 'Bluespotted Tuskfish') except for longer words that end in 'y' (eg, 'Sparsely-spotted Stingaree'), which are unwieldy if combined
 - k) precede 'streak' and 'streaked' (eg, 'Redstreaked Blenny')
- 5) **'Margin'** (a noun) is used if the type or colour of the margin is defined (eg, 'Brownmargin Flathead'); **'Margined'** (an adjective) is used if it's stand alone (eg, 'Margined Coralfish')
 - 6) **Multi** is usually combined (eg, 'Multispot Lanternfish') except for one unwieldy case (ie, 'Multi-thread Dragonfish')
 - 7) **'Shorthead'** is one word (eg, 'Shorthead Lamprey')
 - 8) **'Spangled'** not 'spangle' (eg, 'Spangled Emperor')