

NOTES ON A YOUNG RED SNAPPER (*LUTJANUS BLACKFORDI*),
FROM GREAT SOUTH BAY, LONG ISLAND.

By TARLETON H. BEAN, M. D.

On the 26th of October, 1887, Mr. E. G. Blackford, Fish Commissioner of the State of New York, forwarded to the National Museum a young Red Snapper, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, which was caught in Great South Bay, at Bay Shore, Long Island. This is the smallest Red Snapper that we have obtained, and it is the first record of the occurrence of the species so far north. The specimen has been catalogued as 39213 of the Museum fish register.

As in other young fishes the size of the eye, the length of the head, and the colors are different from these characters in the adult.

It is perhaps in order for me to state that I am not convinced of the propriety of substituting any one of the several names whose claims to priority over *blackfordi* have been urgently pressed by some other ichthyological authors. I have not seen the type of *Mesoprion campechianus*, Poey, but the description of that species certainly does not agree with the Red Snapper identified with Mr. Blackford's name. As for *Mesoprion vivanus* (Cuv. & Val.), that is a very different fish, and the name *aya* of Bloch has long been relegated to the shades of obscurity, and it is doubtful if we will ever know for what species it was intended.

A description of the colors of the fresh fish follows:

A dark band nearly as wide as the diameter of the eye is placed immediately in front of the spinous dorsal; it fades out about the median line of the body. Three similar bands, and of like size, under the dorsals, separated by narrow interspaces and fading out below. The fourth band contains a blotch as large as the eye, which passes slightly beneath the lateral line. A fifth band is under the last third of the soft dorsal and continues backward to the caudal, not descending below the lateral line. The second and third bands are traversed vertically by a narrow median stripe of the rosy body color. Membrane of dorsals and caudal with a narrow black edge. Spine and external ray of ventral milk-white. Anal rosy, except membrane of first two spines and last three rays, which is milk-white.

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