

## BLUEFIN TREVALLY

*Caranx melampygus*

Hawaiian name: 'o milu

### Physical Traits

**Size:** Up to about 30 inches

**Climate:** Tropical 26-29 C; 35 N-37 S

**Distribution:** Found in East Africa to the Americas



These jacks are silvery blue with scattered dark blue spots on the sides and blue fins. They can quickly alter their color, and do so when they are excited, sometimes turning all black. They are the most commonly seen jacks in Hawaii, and are found solitarily or in large groups.

Jacks and their relatives frequently patrol the reef in school, but single individuals are not uncommon. Hunting behavior intensifies in the early morning and late afternoon. When they are hunting, they make swift movements and quickly change direction to disorient or isolate their prey. Jacks feed on other fishes, relying on speed to chase them down. There are about 140 species of jacks worldwide, with at least 24 known in Hawaii.

Hoover, John P. Hawaii's Fishes: A Guide for Snorkelers, Divers, and Aquarists. Honolulu, HI. 1993.