

Common Stargazer

Kathetostoma laeve



Common Stargazer, *Kathetostoma laeve*, photo courtesy of William Boyle.

This large muscular fish is an ambush predator that buries in sand and leaps out to grab passing fish. It digs into the sand by wriggling and reversing until only the eyes and rim of the mouth remain at the sand surface. It is mainly night active and can sometimes be seen emerged and swimming around at night. Some stargazers have wriggling lures in their mouth but this has never been witnessed for this species.