

Herring Cale

Odax cyanomelas



Female Herring Cale, *Odax cyanomelas*, photo courtesy of Rudie Kuitert.

This fish is abundant in the surge zone, swimming effortlessly through beds of large brown algae on which it also feeds. It has a long-ish body and is estimated to grow somewhere between 35 and 50 cm long. Young fish and females are a mottled greenish-brown colour, while males are dark with bright blue stripes along the top and bottom of the tail. Its snout is rounded and short. Males hold set territories and will repeatedly swim along the same loop route. The Herring Cale is found from WA to Coffs Harbour, NSW and the Tasman Peninsula, in water down to 30 m.