

# Southern Blue Devil

## *Paraplesiops meleagris*



Southern Blue Devil, *Paraplesiops meleagris*,  
photo courtesy of William Boyle.

This species is one of Victoria's prettiest fish. It lives in caves and crevices on rocky reefs, particularly at depths greater than 10 metres. It is common on steep vertical walls such as Lonsdale Wall and near the Rip in Port Phillip Bay. They prey on small fish and crustaceans. Their nearest relatives are the hulafishes.

Most divers would recognise this distinctive fish. Blue Devils are brilliantly coloured with small electric blue spots on a dark, bluish-grey background, and a long dorsal fin. Blue Devils are often seen towards the southern end of Port Phillip Bay. They have been found from Cape Woolamai, Vic, to WA. This species is sometimes known as the Western Blue Devil as distinct from the Eastern Blue Devil which lives in NSW and Queensland.