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## MARINE BIOTA OF THE MONTH - JULY 2007



### *Lethrinus nebulosus*

This socially prized tropical fish species is more affectionately known as a Spangled Emperor or North West Snapper and is easily identified by bright blue bands radiating out from the eye on an iridescent gold background.

The Spangled Emperor can be located from the Houtman Abrolhos Islands in Western Australia to Sydney Harbour in New South Wales and mainly inhabits coral reefs, lagoons, rocky reefs and seagrass beds. Their carnivorous diet primarily consists of molluscs, echinoderms, crustaceans and to some extent polychaetes and fish.

This valuable recreational and commercial species has a minimum catch size of 410 mm, but has been known to reach sizes of over 900 mm and live to greater than 25 years of age.