

Wumboko fish names

Wumboko is a dying language spoken in several villages along the coast north of Limbe. The following fish names were recorded during a visit to the village of Nzónzi ('whale') on 24/2/10. Many fish names seem to have been forgotten and only the Pidgin name is now known. Plurals in many cases had been forgotten and speakers even applied English –s to some names. They were therefore not recorded. Wumboko is a dialect of Mokpe (Bakweri).

Speakers: Silvester Musanga, Exodus Penda

Villages: Nzónzi, Bakingili, Idenau, Batoke, Bomoko Up

Table 1. Wumboko fish names

Wumboko	English	Latin	Pidgin	Comments	Page
ɲámá	fish, generic				
̀ndómè	shark, generic				
mólóŋgè	longnose spurdog	<i>Squalus blainvillei</i>			19/1
džáŋgá màlúà	requiem shark	<i>Carcharinus</i> spp.			33
̀ndžóŋgá	sawfish	<i>Pristis pectinata</i> , <i>P. pristis</i> , <i>P. microdon</i>			49
ètimètimè	guitarfish	<i>Rhinobatos</i> spp.			54
lùbà	stingray	<i>Dasyatis</i> spp.			65
jómbè	manta ray	<i>Manta birostris</i>		possibly other large rays with similar characteristics such as <i>Rhinoptera bonasus</i> and <i>Mobula</i> spp. and the eagle ray, <i>Aetobatus narinari</i>	77
mótáŋgá	ladyfish	<i>Elops lacerta</i> , <i>E. senegalensis</i>		'herring' (Cameroun)	83
̀mbéli	Atlantic tarpon	<i>Tarpon atlanticus</i>			85
̀ndžáŋgá mbjè	moray eel	<i>Muraena</i> spp.		probably also the snakefish <i>Pisodonophis</i> sp.	89
mbià ŋgùnú	conger	<i>Cynoponticus</i> sp.			91
̀mbóŋgá évákà	bonga shad	<i>Ethmalosa fimbriata</i>			101
ɲàŋgá màlóa	anchovy	<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i>			105
ènáŋgá	sea catfish	<i>Arius heudeloti</i>			107
mòtúà	longspine angler	<i>Lophius kempfi</i>		only caught in bottom trawls so possibly another species	111
mòsíná	half-beak	<i>Hemiramphus brasiliensis</i>			121
tàmbálè	flying fish	<i>Cheilopogon</i> sp.			125
míàndzá	needlefish	<i>Tylosaurus</i> <i>crocodilus</i>	<i>crocodilus</i>		127

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	sea horse		wísù lòn móp	‘whistle long mouth’	135
	rockfish	<i>Helicolenus dactylopterus</i>	hós fíf	‘horse fish’	141
ètèfjê	remora	<i>Echeneis naucrates</i>			143
mósómbè	blue runner	<i>Caranx crysos</i>			181
mòtsíngílí	crevally jack,	<i>Caranx hippos</i>			195
mòtòndù	kingfish				197
bèbàtè		<i>Caranx senegallus</i>	kókóbè		199
litàndè	pompano	<i>Trachinotus ovatus</i>			205
lándzèmbù					
ngópé	longfin	<i>Trachinotus goreensis</i>		probably also <i>Trachinotus maxillosus</i>	207,
	pompano				F19
ènàngí lònḡò	moonfish	<i>Selene dorsalis</i>			213
èlùḡgúlùḡgù	Alexandria	<i>Alectis alexandrinus</i>			(215)
	pompano				
èwáwá	snapper	<i>Lutjanus spp.</i>			219
ḡgélé	flagfin mojarra	<i>Eucinostomus melanopterus</i>			223
ḡgówè	sompat grunt	<i>Pomadasys jubelini</i>			229
èpòndzò	biglip grunt	<i>Plectorhynchus macrolepis</i>	swaí móp		235
èbé	seabream	<i>Diplodus bellottii</i>			267
		<i>Umbrina steindacheri</i>	switá	‘sweeter’	271
ḡéndí	bobo croaker	<i>Pseudotolithus senegalensis</i>			275
mósòmbò	cassava croaker	<i>Pseudotolithus elongatus</i>	broke		279
			married		
			groundnut		287
			fish		
èkèkè	moony	<i>Psettias sebae</i>			289
mómbúbmbè	sicklefish	<i>Drepane africana</i>	disco fish		293
ètòḡgò	spadefish	<i>Chaetodipterus goreensis</i>			295
pàḡánḡgòndò	angelfish	<i>Holacanthus africanus</i>			301
mbòkó	mullet	<i>Liza falcipinnis</i>	molete		309
èwàlé mbòkó		<i>Liza grandisquamis</i>	big mbòkó		311
màú	barracuda	<i>Sphyræna afra</i>			319/2

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èkǎkǎ	barracuda	<i>Sphyraena guachancho</i>			319/1
sê	giant threadfin	<i>Polydactylus quadrifilis</i>	shine nose	? also <i>Pentanemus quinquarius</i>	323
èjónǵá	blackbar hogfish	<i>Bodianus speciosus</i>			327
èbònzì	parrotfish	<i>Scarus hoefleri</i>			335
krò mùtándá	stargazer	<i>Uranoscopus polli</i>		probably other <i>Uranoscopus</i> spp.	341
ndáá	surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus monroviae</i>			349
mòwáí	hairtail	<i>Trichiurus lepturus</i>			351
èfúmáfúmá	Atlantic bonito	<i>Sarda sarda</i>			361, F69
èwàlé	skipjack tuna	<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>		big man for <i>èfúmáfúmá</i>	363
èfúmáfúmá					
mòjòlí	swordfish, marlin	<i>Xiphias gladius</i> , <i>nigricans</i>	<i>Makaira</i>		375
pàpá èkótè	grey triggerfish	<i>Balistes capriscus</i>			399
èkótè	blue-spotted triggerfish	<i>Balistes punctatus</i>			401
			chameleon horse		405
ndòndòndúmè	pufferfish	<i>Ephippion guttiferum</i>			409 1
kókótè	pufferfish	<i>Lagocephalus laevigatus</i>			409 2
ngòmbá mánzà	porcupine fish	<i>Diodon hystrix</i> , <i>Chilomycterus spinosus mauretanicus</i>			413, 415
Sea creatures					
nzónzì	whale				
èsó	dolphin				
mèùrì	crustacean gen.			unusual retroflex /r/	
bíátò	prawn generic				F173
mákákálákô	box crab	<i>Calappa</i> spp.			F182
éjángì	wrinkled swimcrab	<i>Liocarcinus corrugatus</i>			F188/1

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bètólè	squid moon snail	<i>Natica spp.</i>	inkfish		F195 F 221/2-4
jòwá ékámúngê	oyster jellyfish starfish	<i>Ostrea spp.</i>	five star		F 212/3

References

- Seret, B. & P. Opic 1997. [2nd ed.] *Poisson de mer de l'Ouest Africain tropical*. Paris : ORSTOM.
 Schneider, Wolfgang 1990. *Field guide to the commercial marine resources of the Gulf of Guinea*. Rome : FAO.
 Vivien, J. 1991. *Faune du Cameroun: guide des mammifères et poissons*. Yaoundé : GICAM.

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sg.	English	Comments
bálò	boat	
fákí	paddle	
nòwí	hook	
mbèndú	floater	
màpítò	weight	
lólí	line	
sámbí	hookline	
mbúnzá	cast net	
m ^w ánzà	sea	
mòkókó	beach	
mòmbànù	storm	
mèwáŋ	wave	
mòhúmbà	whirlpool	
ènòngè	small wind from land	
júŋgà	current	
mòkáká	froth	
éwúwâ	season April-October	