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PERMANENT BAN ON GATHERING, MARKETING AND CONSUMPTION OF CERTAIN SPECIES OF “BUNOG” OR “PAROG” OR “BIYA” OR GOBY FISH (Scientific name: *Gobius criniger*) AND “BOTETE” OR PUFFERFISH (Scientific names: *Lagocephalus lunaris* and *Lagocephalus lagocephalus*)

Certain species of goby fish with local name “*bunog*” in Ilocano, “*parog*” in Waray and “*biya*” in Tagalog with scientific name of *Gobius criniger* and species of “botete” or pufferfish with scientific names of *Lagocephalus lunaris*, and *Lagocephalus lagocephalus* naturally contain toxin called tetrodotoxin or pufferfish toxin which renders the said species of fish not edible and unfit for consumption. TTX is an especially potent neurotoxin, specifically blocking voltage-gated sodium channels on the surface of nerve membranes. There is no antidote for tetrodotoxin. The symptoms of goby and botete fish poisoning are: numbness of lips and tongue sometimes with gastroenteric symptom, advance paraesthesias, motor paralysis, motor incoordination, respiratory distress, drop in blood pressure, mental faculties impairment, and respiratory paralysis. There is a rapid onset of symptoms (5-30 minutes).

Several cases of poisoning due to consumption of the above-mentioned fish species have occurred in several instances and localities of the country. **Therefore, the public is hereby informed that a permanent ban is imposed on the gathering, marketing and consumption of “*bunog*”, “*parog*” or “*biya*” with scientific name of *Gobius criniger* and species of “botete” or pufferfish with scientific names of *Lagocephalus lunaris* and *Lagocephalus lagocephalus* to avoid poisoning.**


MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.
Director



<http://www.bfar.gov.ph>

The species of goby and pufferfish that should be given particular attention are illustrated below:

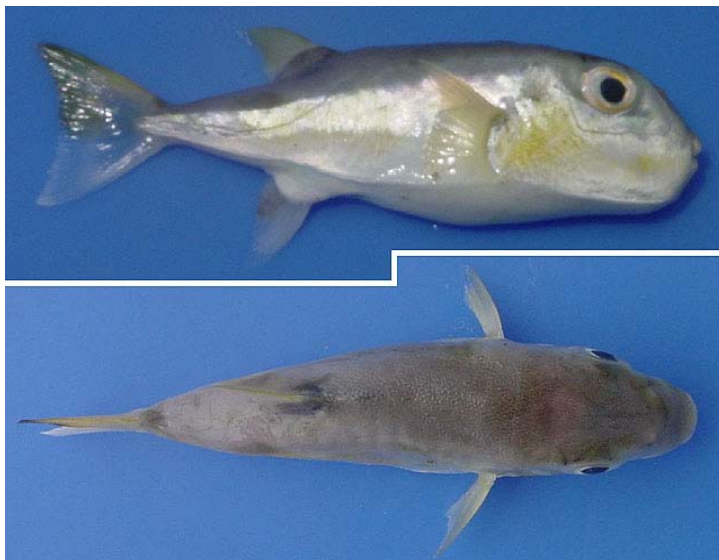
Fishes With Natural Presence of Tetrodotoxin



Gobius criniger

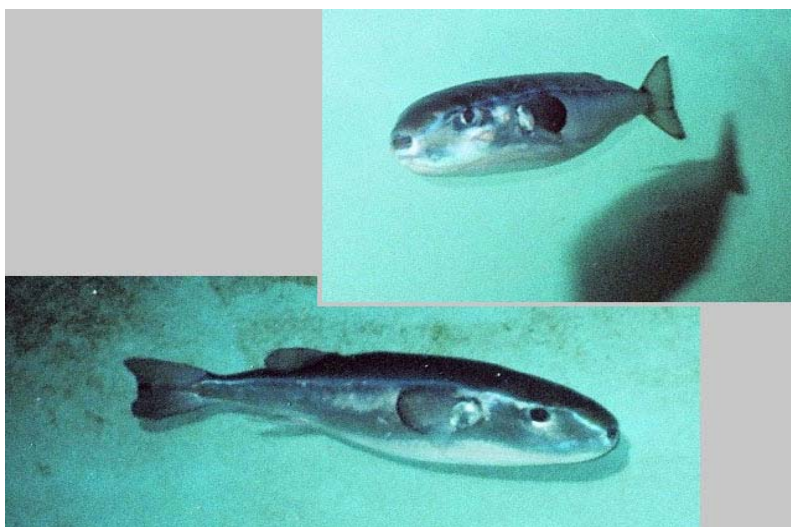
Local Names:

- Brown Spotted Goby**
- Biya (Tagalog)**
- Bunog (Ilokano)**
- Bunor (Pangasinan)**
- Parog (Bisaya/Waray)**



Lagocephalus lunaris

Local Name: Butete



Lagocephalus lagocephalus

Local Names:

- Oceanic Puffer**
- Buteteng Laot**