

Extinction of the Smooth Handfish (*Sympterychthys unipennnis*)



General Handfish facts



- 14 different species, related to angler fish
- Endemic to Australia and Tasmania
- No larval phase, no swim bladder, benthic → limited dispersal
- One of the rarest fish in the world



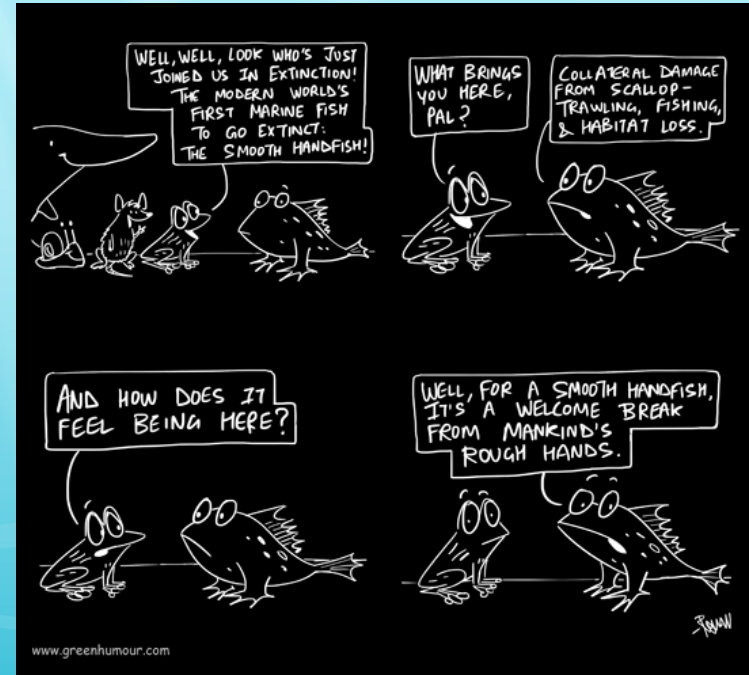
Smooth Handfish



- Discovered by François Péron in 1802
- 1st modern-day marine fish to be declared extinct on IUCN Red List
- “No reasonable doubt that the last individual has died”
- Due to extensive oyster and scallop fishing

Why does this matter?

- Primary food source for 3 billion people
- 455 fish species are critically endangered
- Marks a sad milestone
- How many other undiscovered species have gone extinct?
- Wake-up call: raise awareness, mitigate threats



Thank you!

Sources:

- <https://handfish.org.au/meet-the-fish/>
- <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/123423283/123424374>
- <https://fishesofaustralia.net.au/home/species/4324>
- <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/smooth-handfish-extinction-marks-a-sad-milestone/>
- <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2020/08/smooth-handfish-extinct-other-handfishes-threatened/>
- <https://www.worldwildlife.org/industries/sustainable-seafood>

Images:

- <https://blog.rapusia.org/world/media/big/image91.jpg>
- https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/55/CSIRO_ScienceImage_10_The_Endangered_Spotted_Handfish.jpg
- [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/1/16/François_Péron_-_frontispiece_from_German_translation_-_cropped.jpg/1200px-François_Péron_-_frontispiece from German translation - cropped.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/1/16/François_Péron_-_frontispiece_from_German_translation_-_cropped.jpg/1200px-François_Péron_-_frontispiece_from_German_translation_-_cropped.jpg)
- https://1.bp.blogspot.com/-auAUay_L9LE/XwvHZUTtqvl/AAAAAAAAAODY/S_h8QdXeQ1Ay7ymMfSF-HLSyZJ5vmV3vgCLcBGAsYHQ/w1200-h630-p-k-no-nu/smooth%2Bhandfish%2Bweb.JPG

