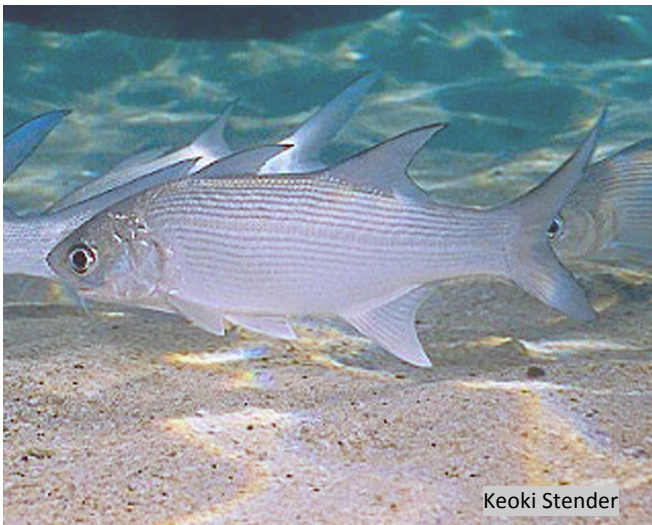


Creature Feature

Hawaiian Name: **Moi**

Common Name: **Sixfeeler Threadfin**

Scientific Name: ***Polydactylus sexfilis***



Endemic

Family: Polynamidea

Name Origin: In Hawaiian, moi means threadfish, a type of taro, or white birthmark

Size: Can grow up to 30 cm

Three Stages of Growth:

- Moi li'il'i 5cm – 8 cm
- Pālāmoi or Mananoi 13 cm
- Moi 45 cm – 97 cm

Current Fishing Regulations: Minimum size 9 in.
Bag limit of 15.

Description: Moi are silver in color. They have a bulbous snout, distinctive swept back fins, and a deeply forked tail. The pectoral fins are low on the body and divisible into an upper and lower part with rays. They also have transparent gelatinous adipose tissue covering their eyes. They have two separated dorsal fins.

Habitat: Found over shallow sandy bottoms near shore. They travel in small groups and sometimes large schools. Moi do not swim at the surface.

Diet: They feed on small benthic crustaceans, polychaete worms, and occasionally small fish.

Behavior: They commence mature life as males and changes sex later to female.

Cultural Significance: Moi is one of the fish most loved by the chiefs. In most cases Moi that are raised in far fishponds are the most desirable. In Hilo, there was a chief who desired Moi from Kona, and everyday he would send his fast-running messenger to that side of the island to get Moi fish for him. This runner would have to run to the fishpond in Kona, get the fish, place it in a container with water, and run back to Hilo before the setting of the sun. When the messenger reached the chief, the container was opened, and Moi fish was seen flapping about in the container. If the fish were alive then the fast running messenger would live.

'Ōlelo No'eau:

Ehuhu kai, noho ka moi. *Where the sea broils, there the moi fish dwell.*

Ho'i hou i ke 'ehu me he moi la. *Returns to the broiling sea like a moi fish.* Said of one who leaves home for a better chance of advancing but eventually comes back.