



# BASA

**Standard name:** BASA

**Scientific name:** Pangasiidae

## Background to the standard name

Basa (family Pangasiidae) is a white-fleshed fish imported in large volumes from south-east Asia, where it is predominantly farmed in ponds, tanks and cages. Imports are mostly *Pangasius* species (mainly *P. hypophthalmus*).

Until June 2000, most imports were labelled “Pacific Dory” or “Freshwater Fillets”.

The Fish Names Committee determined that the name “Pacific Dory” was grossly inaccurate and misleading, and should not continue to be used for the following reasons:

- the family Pangasiidae is not, nor related to, the dories and their relatives (Order Zeiformes); and
- they are freshwater species and not from the Pacific Ocean.

In 2002, the Seafood Importers Association of Australasia proposed the name “Basa” for all species of Pangasiidae, and ‘Royal Basa’ for *Pangasius bocourti*, which is the superior quality species and commands a premium price.

After widespread public consultation, the FNC approved the names, BASA and Royal Basa. The name Basa is now widely used in the industry and is an internationally accepted name for the group.

Standard Fish Name	BASA*	Royal Basa
Scientific Name	Pangasiidae	<i>Pangasius bocourti</i>
Authority		Sauvage, 1880
CAAB Code	37 177750	37 177751
Redundant names or names NOT to be used	Pacific Dory, Mekong catfish, shark catfish, freshwater fillets	
FNC Application Number	App 061	App 060
Date of FNC Decision	29 April 2002	29 April 2002

\*Capital letters indicate that more than one species is included under this name



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### Additional information and resources

Despite the generally widespread acceptance of the approved names, a number of unscrupulous or ill-informed retailers and food service outlets continue to use the name “Pacific Dory” in an attempt to deceptively capitalise on the popularity of other prized but unrelated species such as John Dory.

Consumers need to be aware that the use of the name Pacific Dory is not supported for members of the family Pangasiidae, and statements that Pacific Dory is an acceptable alternative name are incorrect.

### The Standard

The FRDC Fish Names Committee (FNC) is responsible for the maintenance and ongoing development of the Australian Fish Names Standard (AS 5300), which is accessible at

[www.fishnames.com.au](http://www.fishnames.com.au)

Use of the names is strongly encouraged but not currently mandatory apart from export regulations (see [www.legislation.gov.au/F2005L02705/latest/text](http://www.legislation.gov.au/F2005L02705/latest/text)). This is one of a series of Fact Files to help explain the background to some of Australia’s fish names and the FNC’s application of the Standard’s naming protocols.