















HHUC.ca Inner Space Seminar: Reef Watchers Fish Identification Handout

Fish descriptions on this document were supplied by J.Lavan, reef.org, for Bonaire Invasion

Photos were downloaded from the internet

		<p>Stoptlight Parrot 2 ft., Terminal phase (TP) yellow stoplight on gill cover and yellow stoplight at base of tail. Initial phase (IP) pinecone or Indian corn pattern.</p>
		<p>Brown Chromis 6 ½ in., Dorsal fin and tips of tail fin are bordered in yellow. Dark spot at base of pectoral fin. "Potato chips" of the sea.</p>
		<p>Blue Tang (Surgeonfish) 15 in., Yellow or white scalpel, slightly steeper profile & more prominent lips than other Surgeonfish. Juvenile yellow.</p>
		<p>Bicolor Damselfish 4 in., Black fore-body, white rear-body, tri-color varies greatly.</p>
		<p>Sergeant Major (Damselfish) 7 in., Vertical "bars" on a Sergeant Major; black with yellow. Male guarding eggs shows a blue body wash overall.</p>
		<p>Yellow Goatfish 15 ½ in., Barbels look like the goatee on a goat. Large red eye, nose is sloped and less pointed than Yellowtail Snapper.</p>
		<p>Foureye Butterflyfish 6 in., Large oscillated spot (false eye) at back. Ventral fins yellowish.</p>



French Grunt

1 ft., Diagonal patch of stripes below lateral line: like French “cigarette smoke”.



Bluehead Wrasse

6 in., Terminal phase brilliant blue head. Initial phase yellow and spot on dorsal fin called “Blob on Blue”.



Trumpetfish

3 ft., Doesn’t look like anything else, floats vertically, hiding in the vegetation.



Schoolmaster

(Snapper) 2 ft., Fins are yellow like a school bus, visible canine teeth.



Blackbar Soldierfish

8 ½ in., Black bar behind head. Bright red (on rare occasions pale red) body. Large dark eye. White borders on leading edge on all but pectoral fins.



Smooth Trunkfish

Up to 1 ft., Dark body covered with white spots, with an area of pale honeycomb markings on central midbody. No anal spines: Therefore, it’s called “smooth”. Juvenile: dark body, white spots.



Bar Jack

2 ft., Bright blue & black border on back runs along base of dorsal fin and onto lower tail fin.



Princess Parrotfish
13 in., Pink border on the tail in all phases. "Princesses wear pink".



Queen Parrotfish
2 ft., TP: Dramatic blue to green markings below mouth. Light pink streak on pectoral fin. IP: Broad white stripe with diffuse edges down midbody; her mink stole.
[More parrotfish](#)



Graysby
(Grouper) – 1 ft., three to five dark spots on back along base of dorsal fin; "Grazed by bullets". Rounded tail with spots overall. Juvenile white stripe runs along ridge of nose.



Spanish Hogfish
2 ft., "Spanish Shawl" on back. Juveniles (white mid-body stripe) are cleaner fish.











Blue Chromis
5 in., Slender deeply forked tail with dark border.



Yellowhead Wrasse
8 in., "Eye lash" markings in all phases.



Yellowtail Snapper
2 ½ ft., Brilliant yellow mid-body stripe and tail. Snout more pointed than similar Yellow Goatfish.

		<p>Yellowtail Damselfish 7 ½ in., Large black body with yellow tail. Juvenile (Jewelfish); blue with bright turquoise iridescent dots, and the tail is clear to yellow.</p>
		<p>Mahogany Snapper 15 in., Reddish margin on tail (may be quite narrow and pale). Silver to white often with reddish tinge. Large eye compared to most other Snappers.</p>
		<p>Banded Butterflyfish 6 in., Two wide, black mid-body bands.</p>
		<p>Redband Parrotfish 11 in., TP shows black tips on tail, reddish band from corner of mouth to below eye. IP- White spot below rear dorsal.</p>

Video

- Special thanks to reef.org for granting us permission to use their material.
- Reef.org Fish Identification Course with Jonathan Lavan, “Bonaire Invasion: Top 25 fish of Bonaire”
<https://www.reef.org/events/fishinar-bonaire-top-25-scubaboard-special-fishinar> - start at minute 13:27 for Fish #1

Reef.org

- Get an ID and password to login to [reef.org](https://www.reef.org) for this and more videos. It’s a terrific website.

Our favourite resources for Caribbean diving

- *Guide to Corals and Fishes of Florida, the Bahamas, and the Caribbean*, by Idaz Greenberg – waterproof booklet, light.
- *Reef Fish Identification - Florida Caribbean Bahamas*, by Paul Humann – packed with excellent detail and photos, heavy!
- *Reef Coral Identification - Florida Caribbean Bahamas*, by Paul Humann
- *Reef Creature Identification - Florida Caribbean Bahamas*, by Paul Humann
- App – *Fishes: Greater Caribbean*, by the Smithsonian – see Play Store – try it and give us your feedback.
- Pocket card – available at most dive resort shops – waterproof card, lightweight, fits in your dive log.
- On site – Dive Resorts often have a resident expert, books for sale, a library and coffee table fish books to view.
- Google it! e.g., <https://reefguide.org/carib/>



Hart House Underwater Club – Fish Identification Resources

