






South Atlantic States (NC, SC, GA) – Top 25

Fishinar 2/25/2014, Christy Semmens – Instructor

Questions? Feel free to contact janna@reef.org

Colorful	
	<p>Blue Angelfish</p> <p>Yellow margins on tail. Juv – straight white body bars. 8 -- 14”</p>
Sea Bass	
	<p>Belted Sandfish</p> <p>Dark wedge-shaped belt on side, pointing down to white (sand) patch on belly. 2.5 - 3.5”</p>
	<p>Black Sea Bass</p> <p>Dark gray to black, indistinct pattern on sides (sometimes bars), white margins on tail, white tips on dorsal fin. Hover over bottom. 6 - 18”, 24”max</p>



Bank Sea Bass

6-7 dark bars on side, bluish lines on face.
Sits on bottom (lazy banker!).
5 - 9"



Sand Perch

Blue stripes running length of body, dark V on snout and blue lines "perched" across snout, sometimes has body bars.
3 - 9"



Scamp

Dark body spots that can resemble puppy paw prints (scampering), dusky fins with dark band and pale margins, tail becomes ragged with age.
1 - 1.5'



Gag

Darker gray body, dusky scrawls that look like worms, fine lines radiate from eyes, thin blue margin on tail usually there, tail is never ragged
1.5 - 2'

Mid-Water



Mackerel Scad and Round Scad

Both have dark spot at base of pectoral (always in mack, sometimes in round). Round has deeper body, widely spaced (round) black spots on side, yellow tail, more obvious scutes. (Photo: Round)
6 - 10"



Atlantic Spadefish

Shape resembles a spade, often in schools.
6 - 18"



Greater Amberjack

Elongated body, dark diagonal band through eye.
1 - 4'



Gray Triggerfish

Gray with blue spots and lines.
5 - 9"



Planehead Filefish

Thick blotchy body, snout at 45 degree angle (on a plane).
2 - 10"

Grunts and Porgy



Tomtate

Variable. Prominent yellow stripe through eye to tail, thinner yellow stripes as well, often black spot at tail. Juv 2-3 black stripes and spot at tail.
5 - 8"



White Grunt

Blue strips on face and head that get “whited” out toward body. Typically solitary.
8 - 14”



Spottail Pinfish

Smaller and rounder than most porgy, large black spot covers entire base of tail.
4 - 8”



Longspine Porgy

Elongated spine at front of dorsal. Some uncertainty in ID of this porgy complex (scup, longspine porgy, pinfish).
6 - 7”



Sheepshead

5-6 thick dark body bars, found on rocky areas and artificial structures
1 - 1.5’

Bottom Dwellers



Slippery Dick

Three distinct life stages. All have bi-colored ear spot and dark mid body stripe.
2 - 4” juv, 5 - 7” adult



Seaweed Blenny

Variable colors. All have light blue lines on face (“seaweed fronds”). Prominent forked cirri. Often found in holes, old barnacles.
1.5 - 3”



Crested Blenny

Gray to brown color, with orange blotches on head, small crest on head. Males have distinct cirri. Typically not in holes.
1 - 3”



Whitespotted Soapfish

Behavior is key to family (appear dead during day, laying on side on bottom). Grayish white with several scattered white spots outlined in black, white stripe on nose is not distinctive.
5 - 7”



Oyster Toadfish

Fleshy tabs are distinctive to family. Key to species is blotches that form lines on pectorals and tail.
6 - 10”



Twospot Cardinalfish

Pale red, two distinct spots. “Flames” on eyes are not distinctive.
1.5 - 3”



Cocoa Damselfish / Beaugregory

Juv.– both are yellow and blue. Dorsal fin ocellated spot is fully within dorsal in Beaugregory, extends down onto back in Cocoa.

Adult – blue spots on many of the mid-body scales in Beaugregory, with lighter body. Cocoa has distinct vertical dark lines that follow scale edges. Spot on caudal peduncle is not distinctive (previously thought to be). 0.5 - 4" (Photos: Cocoa)



Cubbyu

Adults dark, with thin evenly spaced lines. Juv –“cubby hole” between eyes. 5 - 8”



© Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF). All Rights Reserved

All photos ©Frank Krasovec