



Cool Hawaii Finds – Fish of the Big Island

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Brown Surgeonfish (Lavender Tang)- Up to 8 in. Dark brown to light grayish brown with a definite lavender tinge, especially on the fins. There are dull orange spots on the head (freckles) and two dark spots at the base of the crescent shaped tail; above and below the spine.



Black Surgeonfish (Chevron Tang is the juvenile) – Up to 11 in. Greenish black and covered with closely-set fine longitudinal lines. The dorsal and anal fins are deep and sail-like when extended.










Goldring Surgeonfish– Up to 7 in. Bright gold ring around the eye. Dark body is marked with many fine horizontal lines; mouth is surrounded by blue.








Palenose Parrotfish– Up to 12 in. The original parrotfish described over 200 years ago. TP- Blue and green with lavender tints about the head. There may be a yellow spot at base of tail and/or yellow patch covering some or almost all of the side. IP- Small, light grey to darkish brown often with reddish pelvic fins. Snout in all phases is distinctive from other parrotfish.



Bullethead Parrotfish– Up to 15 in. Bullet-shaped head profile (symmetrical above and below the beak). TP- greenish overall often with cheeks or sides washed with orange-yellow or tan. Beak is blue green. IP- white beak, body grayish in front becoming dark brown to almost black in the rear. Often red around the mouth. A double row of four or five white spots may mark the side and a broad white bar (which may contain a dark spot) may be at the base of the tail.

	<p>Redlip Parrotfish (Ember Parrotfish)- Up to 28 in. TP- largest parrotfish in Hawaii. Distinctive squarish humped snout. Light green with blue tints and darker blue marks around the mouth and eye. Beak bluish and usually bears a mustache of darker algae. IP- reddish brown to grayish with numerous short black lines at odd angles on the sides, creating a textured appearance.</p>
	<p>Stareye Parrotfish- Up to 20 in. TP- Magenta lines radiate out from the eyes. IP- gray-brown, speckled with lighter marks, particularly on the back.</p>
 	<p>Indo-Pacific Sergeant vs. Hawaii Sergeant – Indo-Pacific Sergeant- Bright yellow on the upper sides it has broad black bars which are typically wider and extend further down the body than those of the Hawaiian Sergeant. Indo-Pacifics have only been in the Hawaiian region since the 1990's. Now seen alongside and interbreeding with the Hawaiian Sergeant. Hawaiian Sergeant- Brassy green to yellow with five vertical bars which are widest and darkest along the upper back.</p>
	<p>Blackspot Sergeant – Up to 9 in. This large solitary Damselfish is common in areas of moderate surge around rocks and boulders down to about ten feet. Yellowish grey with six broad brown bars to brown with six or seven narrow light bars.</p>
	<p>Brighteye Damselfish – Up to 2.5 in. Tiny. Grayish-yellow. Eyes although bisected by a dark bar nevertheless appear bright yellow-white. The base of the tail is faintly yellow.</p>
	<p>Blue-eye Damselfish- Up to 4.5 in. Yellowish gray with bright blue eyes and blue margins on the dorsal and anal fins.</p>

	<p>Blackfin Chromis –Up to 2.75 in. Yellow with gray-blue stripes and a dark blue-black anal fin the lower edge of the tail fin is also black.</p>
	<p>Agile Chromis –Up to 4.5 in. Brown with lavender tinge, especially around the gills. Top of head yellowish brown and there is a large dark spot at the base of the pectoral fin.</p>
	<p>Oval Chromis –Up to 7.5 in. Endemic. Brassy yellow-green but appear grayish at a distance. Snout slightly more pointed and body bigger than most other Chromis.</p>
	<p>Speckled Scorpionfish –Up to 4 in. Light body covered with small dark spots and large blotches, mimicking the texture of the coral.</p>
	<p>Hawaiian Orbicular Velvetfish (Coral Croucher) –Up to 1.75 in. laterally compressed disk-like. Live deep within heads of branching coral. Related to Scorpionfish but not venomous. Skin is covered with short hair-like projections (papillae) which produce a velvety texture. Violet-gray evenly covered with small red spots.</p>

Photos by Nancy Harris, Marty Snyderman, Janna Nichols, Jonathan Lavan, John Hoover, Corey Fischer, and Ed Robinson.