



Shore Diving in Bonaire

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Pearl Blenny – Blenny

Up to 4in. Elongated blenny that is restricted to shallow rocky surge zones. Fish often is exposed out of water. Mottled **body covered in white spots**, large head with **lips covered in vertical lines**.

Photo courtesy of Reef Net.



Hairy Blenny (Complex) - Blenny

Up to 9in., 3-6in. avg. **Distinguished by size and habitat**. One of the largest blennies in the TWA. Found along rocky shorelines and nearshore shallow patch reefs. Recently discovered to be three species, which are very difficult to distinguish. Mottled brown with small spots or irregular bars, with a large **ocellated spot on operculum** and large fan-like cirri above eyes. Courting males of all three species take on brightly colored orange/red heads and distinct bars.

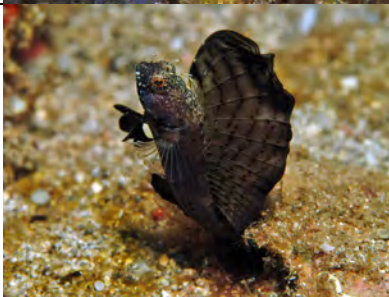
Photo by Jonathan Lavan.



Chain Moray – Moray Eel

Up to 2.5ft, avg. 1ft. Moray eel that prefers shallow rocky shores. Dark body with **bright yellow chainlike markings**.

Photo courtesy of Reef Net.



Sailfin Blenny - Blenny

Up to 2.5". This species is typically found in shallow (up to 35ft) rubble / reef flats. They live in tubes and are **distinguished by a pair of single, long, banded cirri above each eye**. Sail-like dorsal fin is most obvious in males, who dance up out of their hole flicking fin to attract mates and defend territory. Females are drab/mottled brown. Often sit up out of tube on long pectoral fins.

Photo courtesy of Reef Net.



Yellowface Pikeblenny - Blenny

Up to 3.5 in. **Resembles a straw sticking up from a tube in the rubble**, with large jaws. Pale shades of gray to brown with yellow tinge. Displaying **males will come out of tube and vigorously defend territory against other males**. Fore dorsal fin on males has an ocellated spot. Typically found depths of 15-70 ft.

Photo by Jonathan Lavan.



Yellowfin Mojarra - Mojarra

Up to 16in. The largest and most common of the Mojarra species, all of which are bright silvery fish with forked tails, found foraging for small invertebrates over sand flats. Distinguished by **yellow ventral fins** and indistinct vertical bars on sides.

Photo courtesy of Reef Net.



Mottled Mojarra - Mojarra

Up to 9in. Distinguished by **dusky spot on upper eye**.

Photo courtesy of Reef Net.



Slender Mojarra - Mojarra

Up to 8in. **Very slender body that often lacks any distinguishable markings**. Can sometimes have dusky tip on dorsal and/or dusky body bars.

Photo courtesy of Reef Net.



Bonefish - Bonefish

Up to 3ft. Elongated silvery fish with **short, underslung mouth**. Feed over shallow flats during incoming tides. A single dorsal fin and forked tail, typically with dark spot on tip of snout.

Photo courtesy of Reef Net.



Sharptail Eel – Snake Eel

Up to 3.5ft, typically 1-2ft. Snake eel that is often seen hunting in open around patch reefs, often part of a nuclear hunting group with other species. **Bluish-gray/green body covered in large, diffuse pale yellowish spots**.

Photo by Jonathan Lavan.



Yellowhead Jawfish - Jawfish

Up to 4in. Lives in burrow in areas of sand/rubble, **hovers vertically, tail-down above burrow**. Pale white body with **yellowish head**. Males incubate eggs in mouth until hatching.

Photo by Jonathan Lavan.



Dusky Damselfish - Damselfish

Up to 5in. Light to dark brown, uniformly colored. Dorsal and anal fins do not extend beyond base of tail fin rays. **Dusky edge on anal fin.** Typically found in less than 25ft in surge/rocky reefs. Compare with Longfin Damselfish (below).
Photo by Paul Humann.



Graysby - Seabass

Up to 1ft. Covered in orangish-brown spots, distinguished by **rounded tail fin and three to five dark dots along base of dorsal fin** (spots are occasionally pale/white).
Photo by Carol Cox.



Red Hind - Seabass

Up to 2ft. Pale body covered in reddish-brown spots. Distinguished by **dark black margin on edges of dorsal, tail, and anal fins.**
Photo courtesy of Reef Net.



Rock Hind - Seabass

Up to 2ft. Reddish to brown dots cover body and fins, distinguished by **one to four dark blotches along back** (always one present as a saddle blotch on tail).
Photo courtesy of Reef Net.



Rainbow Parrotfish – Parrotfish

Up to 4ft. **Orange-brown head and greenish body.** Head becomes more blue and tips of tail grow longer with age.
Photo by Ned DeLoach.



Midnight Parrotfish – Parrotfish

Up to 3ft. **Bright to pale blue markings on head,** deep midnight blue body.
Photo courtesy of Reef Net.



Blue Parrotfish – Parrotfish

Up to 4ft. **Body powder blue.** Young individuals have yellow wash on top of snout. **Snout becomes squared off with age.**
Photo courtesy of Reef Net.



Longfin Damselfish – Damselfish

To 6in. Dark brown to black with **blue edge on anal fin**. Dorsal and anal fins extend beyond base of tail. Compare with Dusky Damselfish (above). Territorial and often chase other fish and divers.

Photo by Carol Cox.



Cocoa Damselfish – Damselfish

To 5in. Coloration on body not uniform, ranges from brown, tan, to yellow. Distinguished by **dark vertical thin bars**, often (but not always) has a dark spot on caudal peduncle. Compare with Beaugregory (below)

Photo by Paul Humann.



Beaugregory – Damselfish

To 4in. Dusky gray to bluish wash over body, often with yellow on belly and tail area. Distinguished by **blue dots on head and gill cover that continue as vague horizontal rows**. Rarely has a spot on caudal peduncle. Typically found in water shallower than 40ft. Compare with Cocoa Damselfish (above).

Photo by Paul Humann.