










# The Ones You Should Know!

## Top 25 Fish of the Caribbean

*Fishinar 11/16/2015, Jonathan Lavan – Instructor*

Questions? Feel free to contact me at [jonathan@REEF.org](mailto:jonathan@REEF.org)

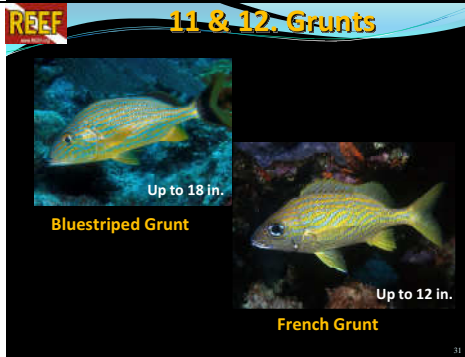
<p><b>REEF</b> 1– 3. Surgeonfish</p> <p>Up to 15 ins.</p>  <p>Blue Tang</p>  <p>Ocean Surgeonfish</p>  <p>Doctorfish</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Blue Tang- white to yellow spine on caudal peduncle.</li> <li>2. Ocean Surgeonfish- Dark spine on caudal peduncle. Pectoral fins “clear like the ocean”.</li> <li>3. Doctorfish- Dark spine on caudal peduncle. Pectoral fins dark not clear. Dark body bars (not always present).</li> </ol>
<p><b>REEF</b> 4 &amp; 5. Parrotfish</p>  <p>Up to 2 ft.</p> <p>Spotlight Parrotfish- TP</p>  <p>Up to 11 in.</p> <p>Redband Parrotfish- TP</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stoplight Parrotfish- TP, yellow “stoplight on caudal peduncle and at top of gill cover. IP, pine cone pattern.</li> <li>2. Redband Parrotfish- TP, tail tips black with white highlights. Red band from corner of mouth, under eye to top of gill cover. IP, white spot on saddle of caudal peduncle.</li> </ol>
<p><b>REEF</b> 6 &amp; 7. More Parrotfish</p>  <p>Up to 13 ins.</p> <p>Princess Parrotfish- TP</p>  <p>Up to 10 ins.</p> <p>Striped Parrotfish- TP</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Princess Parrotfish- TP, pink borders on top and bottom of tail. JP, dark borders on top and bottom of tail.</li> <li>2. Striped Parrotfish- TP, No pink borders on top and bottom of tail. JP, No dark borders on top and bottom of tail. May have yellow nose.</li> </ol>



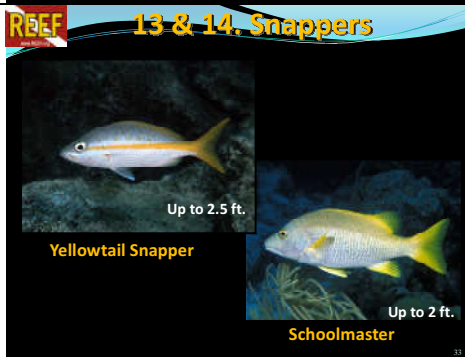
1. Bluehead- TP, Brilliant blue head with alternating black-white-black bands fading into green. JP, always has spot on front of dorsal fin (blob or blot on blue).
2. Yellowhead Wrasse- TP, “eye lashes” on all phases except most juvenile. JP, brilliant blue stripe on yellow body.



Purple/mauve “shawl” covers back. Visible teeth.



1. Bluestriped Grunt- Yellow margin on edge of tail. Blue stripes on yellow head & body.
2. French Grunt- diagonal bands under lateral line midbody- “designer stripes” or “cigarette smoke”.



1. Yellowtail Snapper- yellow stripe from eye to yellow tail.
2. Schoolmaster- All fins yellow, visible teeth.



2 to 4 white or black spots on back as if “grazed by bullets” (but spots are not always visible). Rounded tail covered with red spots as with entire body.

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### 16. Harlequin Bass

Up to 4 ins.



Seabass Family

Black and yellow blocky pattern overall. "Harlequin clown-like". Often over sand, looking at you.

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### 17. Bar Jack

Alex Griffin



Up to 2 ft.

Black and blue bar runs from top of head across back to lower lobe of tail. "crowbar" on back. Dark body overall when shadow hunting; bar may not be visible.

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### 18. Sharpnose Pufferfish



Up to 4.5 in.

Dark borders on top and bottom of tail.

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### 19 & 20. Butterflyfish



Banded Butterflyfish

Up to 6 in.



Four-eye Butterflyfish

1. Banded Butterflyfish- two broad bands on body and one more narrow band through eye. Scribble design on tail.
2. Four-eye Butterflyfish- Large ocellated spot at rear of body. Yellow fins overall.

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### 21- 23. Damselfish



Bicolor Damselfish

Up to 4 in.



Yellowtail Damselfish

Up to 7.5 in.



Sergeant Major- Up to 7 in.

1. Bicolor Damselfish- Black Forebody, white rear body. Juvenile may have yellow/gold belly (tri-color) which fades with age to just dorsal fin.
2. Yellowtail Damselfish- dark body with yellow tail. Juvenile- bright blue with brilliant blue, iridescent spots.
3. Sergeant Major- broad black bars highlighted in yellow, (like a Sergeant Major's uniform). Male when guarding eggs blue wash overall.

Up to 5 in.



Blue Chromis

Up to 6.5 in.



Brown Chromis

64

1. **Blue Chromis-** bright iridescent blue with black running along top and bottom of body to tips of tail fin. Tail deeply forked
2. **Brown Chromis-** very similar to Blue Chromis but brownish to tan with yellow fin tips and black spot at base of pectoral fin. Some times has white spot on saddle of caudal peduncle.