













Pufferfish & Porcupinefish of the Caribbean

Fishinar 7/21/2015, Allison & Carlos Estape – Instructors

Questions? Feel free to contact carlos.allison@me.com

	<p>Sharpnose Puffer – Look for white to yellowish gold <u>tail with dark borders</u> Memory Trick: “Sharpnose puffer has SHARP LINES on tail edge”s</p> <p>(Goldface Toby does not have dark borders on tail)</p> <p>Family: Pufferfish</p>
	<p>Bandtail Puffer – Look for a <u>row of dark blotches from mouth to tail along lower edge of body</u>; also has 2 dark bands on tail Memory Trick: “Bandtail has 2 bands on tail”</p> <p>DANGER: POISONOUS (Has tetrodotoxin in skin/eyes/organs)</p> <p>Family: Pufferfish</p>
	<p>Checkered Puffer - Look for <u>dark polygon-shaped brown/olive/gray patches on back & sides; Lower sides heavily spotted with black spots</u> Memory trick: “black checkers”</p> <p>DANGER: POISONOUS (Has tetrodotoxin in skin/eyes/organs)</p> <p>Family: Pufferfish</p>
	<p>Southern Puffer – Look for <u>numerous small white spots that form a reticulated pattern</u> Memory Trick: “white stars in southern sky” <i>Has several large black spots – especially on midbody behind pectoral fin</i> <i>Has dark bar on head between eyes</i></p> <p>Family: Pufferfish</p>

	<p>Balloonfish – Look for long spines on head & body & brown bar above & below eye <i>Has small dark spots on body & <u>no spots on fins</u></i> Memory trick: “long spines can pop a balloon”</p> <p>DANGER: POISONOUS (Has tetrodotoxin in skin/eyes/organs) Family: Porcupinefishes</p>
	<p>Porcupinefish – Look for long spines that lay flat on body (spines erect when inflate) <i>Has black spots on body & all fins. Largest member of Porcupinefish family.</i> Memory trick: “spines as big as a porcupine’s”</p> <p>DANGER: POISONOUS (Has tetrodotoxin in skin/eyes/organs) Family: Porcupinefishes</p>
	<p>Spotfin Burrfish– Look for a few, short triangular spines (burrs) on body that are always erect; <i>Has black spots on body & all fins</i> Very similar to Porcupinefish – Key difference: <i>Porcupinefish have spines that lay flat vs short, triangular spines/burrs on Spotfin Burrfish</i> Memory trick: “no long spines = burrfish”</p> <p>DANGER: POISONOUS (Has tetrodotoxin in skin/eyes/organs) Family: Porcupinefishes</p>
	<p>Web Burrfish – Look for honeycomb pattern of thin black lines on back & sides <i>Has 5-7 dark blotches on back & sides – including at base of dorsal fin</i> Memory trick: “connected to the web”</p> <p>Family: Porcupinefishes</p>
	<p>Striped Burrfish – Look for irregular pattern of dark brown, more or less parallel stripes on back & sides <i>Has 5-7 dark blotches on back</i> Memory trick: “stripes on the striped”</p> <p>Family: Porcupinefishes</p>
	<p>Bridled Burrfish – Look for black spots on body & tail; <i>Does not have spots on other fins</i> <i>Has a dark patch above each pectoral fin & another centered on rear body</i></p> <p>Memory trick: “Bridle and saddle”</p> <p>Family: Porcupinefishes</p>

Photos thanks to Carlos & Allison Estape