



Lesser Seen Fish of Grand Turk

Fishinar 6/24/2015, Jonathan Lavan – Instructor

Fish with a sighting frequency of < 40%

All photos courtesy of Reef Net unless otherwise indicated



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Chubs- 1 to 2 ft., max 2.5 ft.

Bermuda/Gray- Rear edge of medium-width triangular anal fin does not align with front edge of upper tail lobe.

Topsail- Wide triangular anal fin, outer two edges form 90 degree corner. Soft dorsal fin elevated, taller than spiny dorsal.

Brassy- Rear edge of narrow anal fin aligns with front edge of upper tail lobe. Numerous narrow brassy body stripes (rarely absent).



Longfin vs. Dusky Damselfish – 2 to 4 in., max 6 in.

Longfin- Dorsal and anal fins extend beyond base of tail. Thin bright blue line on edge of anal fin. Juvenile- Brilliant blue lines run from snout to back usually under dusky color. (Cocoa/Beaugregory has blue under color).

Dusky- dorsal and anal fins do not extend beyond base of tail. Narrow black edge on anal fin. Juvenile- Brilliant orange wash extends from snout across nape to end of spinous dorsal fin.





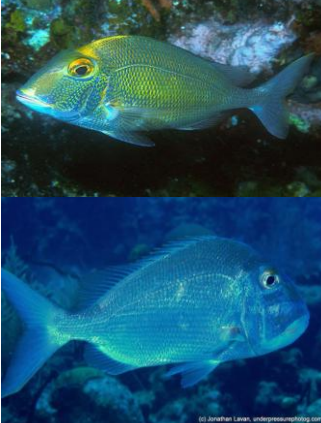





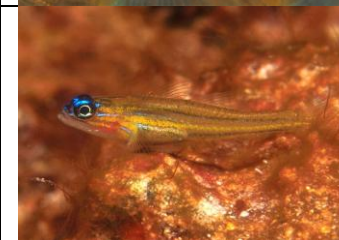


Paul Humann

Cocoa vs. Beaugregory– 3 to 4 in, max 5 in.

Cocoa- usually has a black spot on tail base (coco puff). Scales more defined. Juvenile- black spot ringed in blue on dorsal extends slightly on to back.

Beaugregory- Series of blue dots on head and gill cover continues as vague horizontal rows on upper body (scales undefined). Juvenile- black spot ringed in blue does not extend slightly on to back from dorsal.

	<p>Sunshinefish – 2 to 3 in, max 4 in. yellow or transparent rear soft dorsal fin and wide margin on tail. Juvenile- Brilliant yellow to chartreuse upper body; brilliant blue to purple, lavender or dull olive below.</p>
	<p>Sand Tilefish– 1 to 1.5 ft., max 2 ft.- Crescent tail with dark area on upper center. Hovers over sand and goes head first into borrow. Groundhogs of the reef.</p>
 <p>©New World</p>	<p>Bridled Goby Complex– 1.5 to 2.5 in., max 3 in.</p> <p>Sand- Canyon- Orange or brown spot on lower third of pectoral fin base (can be small and difficult to see). White “bridle” runs from edge of mouth to rear of gill cover without darkish band above anterior end. Usually dark bar with squarish ends on base of tail, bar occasionally broken.</p> <p>Patch-Reef- (new species) No orange or brown spot on lower third of pectoral fin base. Otherwise same as Sand-Canyon.</p> <p>Bartail-(new species) Upper half of eye speckled with large and small spots and occasional reticulations. Second fordorsal spine long and filamentous. Dark rectangular blotch on base of tail. Black blotch on upper base of pectoral fin.</p> <p>Bridled- In a row of about 4 white spots behind eye, second is elevated and underlined in black. White “bridle” runs from edge of mouth to rear of gill cover with darkish band above anterior end and occasionally above entire length of bridle.</p>
 <p>©New World</p>	<p>Other Sand/Rubble Gobies- 0.5 to 1, max 1.5 in.-</p> <p>Barfin- (new species) Dark bar below dorsal fin extends to belly.</p> <p>Kuna- (new species) Cluster of black spots behind pectoral fin and below first dorsal fin. Darkish bar on upper foredorsal fin. Row of small dark round spots across upper eye.</p> <p>Goldspot- Dark bar run from top of head across eye and down cheek. Gold spot outlined in black above pectoral fin (not always obvious).</p>
	<p>Saucereye vs. Jolthead Porgy- 8 to 14 in., max 16 in., 1 to 1.5, max 2 ft.</p> <p>Saucereye- Short, bluish, saucer-shaped line below eye. Small, bluish blotch at upper base of pectoral fin. Corners of mouth yellow.</p> <p>Jolthead- Large eye, long sloping snout and large mouth with thick lips. Yellowish orange at corners of mouth.</p>

	<p>Tobaccofish – 3 to 4.5 in., Up to 7 in. – Midbody is shades of orange to brown (tobacco color). Dark U-shaped border on tail.</p>
	<p>Puddingwife – 12 to 15 in., max 18 in.-TP- Bright yellow to greenish yellow margin on tail. Small dark spot on upper pectoral fin base. IP & JP- Five white bars or dots (pudding) across upper back. JP- Two yellow to gold stripes down midbody with white stripe between. Large navy blue spot on mid dorsal fin and upper back ringed with white to pale blue.</p>
	<p>Cleaning vs. Sharknose Goby- 1 to 1.25 in., max 1.5 in. –</p> <p>Cleaning- Brilliant yellow “V” on snout. Yellow extending from snout fades behind eye into a wide white to yellowish stripe that ends at tail.</p> <p>Sharknose- Brilliant yellow “V” on snout into pale or bright blue stripe.</p>
	<p>Peppermint Goby – 0.5 to 1 in., max 1.25 in. – Electric blue wash on snout and front of eyes. Always on live coral.</p>
	<p>Shortstripe vs. Yellowline- 1 to 1.5 in., max 2 in.-</p> <p>Shortstripe- A short, bright yellow stripe extends from each eye to above pectoral fin.</p> <p>Yellowline- Yellow or white body stripe extends from front of each eye to tail; occasionally yellow crescent at top of eye becoming white toward rear.</p>
	<p>Masked/Glass Goby- 0.75 to 1.25, max 1.5 in.- Usually in small hovering schools between coral heads. Series of small white rectangles on lateral line. Two species are undistinguishable to the naked eye.</p>

Questions? Feel free to contact me at jonathan@REEF.org