

Hamlets

Fishinar 3/3/2015, Carlos & Allison Estape - Instructors Questions? Feel free to contact me at Allison.carlos@me.com All photos by Carlos & Allison Estape



Juvenile Hamlet -

Pale body

Prominent black & white markings on tail base are typical of juvenile hamlet With maturity acquire adult color & markings



Butter Hamlet- Up to 5 " RANGE: S. Carolina thru the Caribbean

Head, body & fins whitish to pale yellow Large black saddle blotch on upper tail base

Memory Clue: Black tail blotch is a pat of butter Often have black spot outlined in blue on snout

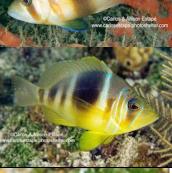
Blue line around eye that extends below as a thin blue bar



Florida Barred Hamlet – Up to 6" RANGE: SE FL to the NE Gulf of Mexico

6 dark brown to red-brown/yellow-brown bars on head & body 1st body bar is wide, deep & intense

2 distinct spots (colon:) on base of tail fin – 1 above the other Memory Clue: My two favorite spots to go bar-hopping in Florida



Barred Hamlet – Up to 6" **RANGE: Gulf of Mexico to the Caribbean**

Broad bar on mid-body – intensity & completion of head/body bars varies Lacks 2 dots at tail base

Memory Clue: Bars on side of body



Black Hamlet – Up 6" RANGE: FL Keys, Bahamas through the Caribbean

Head & body – **black**, grey or dark brown

All fins have same color as body except the pectorals

Pectorals are black in black bodied fish & clear with grey bodies Ventral fins unusually long



Bluelip Hamlet – Up to 4 ½" RANGE: FL Keys to Caribbean (Species description has not been published)

Reddish brown above; paler below – dorsal & tail fins brown

Mouth, throat & belly pale mauve to bluish

Memory Clue: Lips can be blue

Pelvics & front of anal fins whitish mauve to blueish white

Black spot at pectoral fin base



Tail fin clear with black borders

Memory Clue: Bright iridescent blue color

(Maya Hamlet looks exactly the same **EXCEPT** no Black Borders on tail fin)

Indigo Hamlet – Up to 6 ½" RANGE: Bahamas through the Caribbean

Blue & white bars on head & body *Memory Clue: Deep blue like Indigo*



Shy Hamlet – Up to 5" RANGE: Bahamas through the Caribbean, rare FL Keys

Dark-brown/black body Head & fins are bright yellow Blue ringed black blotch before eye

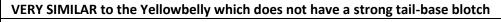
Memory Clue: Hides in the dark shadow, because it's so shy

Bicolored Hamlet – Up to 5" RANGE: Bahamas to Panama (RARE)

Upper head, back & spiny dorsal dark grey-brown; rest of fins & body yellow Large ocellated black spot on snout

Large black saddle on tail base

Memory Clue: Blue Blotch on the Bicolor



Yellowbelly Hamlet - Up to 5" RANGE: Bahamas to Caribbean
Yellow underside extends to tail with dark brown to slate blue upper body
Dorsal fin yellowish brown lightens towards rear; other fins yellow

May have: Irregular blue spots & markings on head

Diffuse dark saddle spot on upper tail base

Dark stripes along the top & bottom edges of the tail fin



Yellowtail Hamlet – Up to 5" RANGE: Bahamas through Caribbean, rare FL Keys Yellow or clear tail fin with a dark body

Pectoral fins vary from black to yellow

Not included in this fishinar: Tan Hamlet, Masked Hamlet, Golden Hamlet, Maya Hamlet, Jarocho Hamlet, Veracruz White Hamlet, Spotted Hamlet

RESOURCES:

REEF FISH IDENTIFICATION, 4TH Edition; Paul Humann & Ned Deloach Shorefishes of the Greater Caribbean online; Smithsonian Research Institute http://biogeodb.stri.si.edu/caribbean/en/gallery/gspecie/3511