












# Snap On, Snap Off, The Snappers!

*Fishinar 5/21/2015, Jonathan Lavan – Instructor*

## Top 12 Snappers of the Caribbean

All photos courtesy of Reef Net unless otherwise indicated

	<p><b>Yellowtail Snapper</b>- 1 to 2 ft., Up to 2.5 ft. Yellow midbody stripe from snout becomes broader toward rear as it merges into yellow deeply forked tail. Plankton eater.</p>
	<p><b>Gray Snapper</b> – 10 to 18 in., Gray, often with no distinguishing features. Darkish band occasionally runs from lip across eye and onto lower nape. More common in younger individuals in shallow water habits; Mangrove Snapper.</p>
	<p><b>Schoolmaster</b>– 10 to 18 in, Up to 2 ft. Fins yellow. Occasionally display bars on back. Juvenile: bars on back and dark band runs from lip across eye and onto lower nape similar to Gray juvenile.</p>
	<p><b>Lane Snapper</b> – 8 to 12 in., Up to 15 in. Several narrow yellow body stripes below lateral line. Silvery. Pectoral, ventral and anal fins often yellow; dorsal and tail fins often reddish. Black often indistinct spot just below rear dorsal fin (absent on rare occasions). Juvenile very similar to adult just with bolder colors.</p>
	<p><b>Dog Snapper</b>– 1.5 to 2.5 ft., Up to 3 ft. Pale triangular patch under eye (the puppy is crying). May have body bars or lighten or darken dramatically. Very visible canine teeth.</p>

	<p><b>Mutton Snapper</b>– 1 to 2 ft., Up to 2.5 ft. Black spot on midbody below rear dorsal (button on the Mutton) may be absent on rare occasions. Fine blues lines below eye. Pointed anal fin.</p>
	<p><b>Mahogany Snapper</b>- 7 to 12 in., Up to 15 in. Reddish margin on tail, as well as dorsal and anal fins (may be quite narrow and pale). Juvenile: Ventral and anal fins translucent to yellow. Often have dark spot below rear dorsal.</p>
	<p><b>Cubera Snapper</b>-1.5 to 3 ft. Up to 5 ft., Larger size and blunter head than Gray Snapper; never have band on eye. Thick lips and viable canine teeth. Occasionally display dark bars on back and sides, especially younger individuals. Anal fin rounded.</p>
	<p><b>Blackfin Snapper</b> – 1 to 2 ft., Up to 2.5 ft. Red. Dark blotch at base of pectoral fin. Iris orange or bronze. Juvenile: yellow area below rear dorsal fin continues along upper base of tail and onto tail. Usually only juveniles are seen as adults inhabit depths of 200- 300 ft.</p>
	<p><b>Red Snapper</b> – 1 to 2 ft., Up to 3 ft. Pinkish upper head and body. Red iris. Pointed anal fin. Seen mostly in the Gulf of Mexico, occasionally on the East coast of Florida. Not reported in the Bahamas or Caribbean.</p>
	<p><b>Vermilion Snapper</b>- 1 to 2 ft., Up to 2.5 ft. Elongate cylindrical body. Protruding lower jaw. Shallow forked tail. Lower body fades to silver. More common below safe dive limits. Plankton eater.</p>
	<p><b>Black Snapper</b> – 2 to 8 in., Up to 2 ft. Solid Blue to Violet. Obvious lateral line. Usually only juveniles are seen as adults inhabit depths of 300- 800 ft. Plankton eater.</p>

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