



# Fishes of Micronesia

Fishinar 09/21/16

Dr. Christy Pattengill-Semmens, Ph.D. – Instructor  
Director of Science- REEF

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



## Crocodile Flathead (*Cymbacephalus beauforti*) - Flathead

Elongated flattened body, crocodile-like snout. Camouflaged to blend in with bottom, shades of brown, can change colors to blend in. Found in sand and rubble areas. Up to 19"

Photo by: Frank Bossen



## Yellow-mask Angelfish (*Pomacanthus xanthurus*) - Angelfish

Yellowish body with blue spots on scales and all **blue face**. **Yellow mask on eyes**. Solitary, in coral rich areas. Feeds on sponges. One of the larger species of angelfish. Up to 15"

Photo by: Norbert Potensky/WikiMedia



## Vermiculated Angelfish (*Chaetodontoplus mesoleucus*) - Angelfish

Purplish-gray with **white vermiculations on body**. Face and **tail yellow**. Looks more like a butterfly than an angel. Up to 7"

Photo by: Paddy Ryan



## Two-spined Angelfish (*Centropyge bispinosa*) - Angelfish

**Small and shy** pygmy angel. Red-orange body with blue head, fins, and body bars. Up to 4"

Photo by: Paul Humann



## Pyramid Butterflyfish (*Hemitaurichthys polylepis*) - Butterflyfish

Distinctive **white pyramid on side of body**, yellow fins. Form **large aggregations up in water column**, plankton feeder. Up to 7"

Photo by: Jeff Haines



## Whitecheek Surgeonfish (*Acanthurus nigricans*) - Surgeonfish

**AKA Goldrim Surgeonfish in HAW**

Dark body with pale tail. Small **white rectangular patch below eye** and **gold rims at edges of body** (similar Japanese Surgeonfish has much larger white patch on face). Up to 8"

Photo by: Ralph Turre



### **Bignose Unicornfish (*Naso vlamingii*) - Surgeonfish**

Brownish-gray body that can **lighten or darken quickly**, with **blue markings on lips, between eyes**, face and sides of body. Has a **“big nose” hump on face**, does not get large unicorn “horn”. Seen in large groups feeding in open water. Up to 22”

Photo by: Paul Humann



### **Many-spotted Sweetlips (*Plectorhinchus chaetodonoides*) – Grunt**

Covered in **large dark brown spots**. (similar Dotted Sweetlips has smaller black spots and dark margin on gill cover). Typically solitary. Up to 20”

Photo by: Frank Bossen



### **Oriental Sweetlips (*Plectorhinchus vittatus*) – Grunt**

White with **black stripes that extend on to belly** (distinguished from Striped Sweetlips with white belly), **yellow on black-spotted fins and lips**. Solitary or in small groups, hovering over bottom. Up to 24”.

Photo by: Paddy Ryan



### **Humphead Wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*) - Wrasse**

**AKA Napoleon Wrasse**

**Large-bodied wrasse with large lips**. IP is olive/greenish gray with 2 dark lines radiating from eye. TP is blue-green with maze markings on head. **Hump on head** gets larger with age. Populations have been heavily depleted in most areas. Typically solitary. Up to 5.5 feet.

Photo by: Andrew J Green / Reef Life Survey



### **Striped Large-eye Bream (*Gnathodentex aureolineatus*) – Emperor**

Gray to copper colored body with several brownish-stripes. **Yellow-orange blotch on rear back**. Often seen in large schools hovering above bottom. Up to 12”

Photo by: Rick Stuart-Smith / Reef Life Survey



### **Midnight Snapper (*Macolor macularis*) - Snapper**

Black to copper colored with **blue lines and spots on head**. **Bright gold eyes are key to ID**. Can be solitary but often seen in large mixed schools with Black Snapper. Sub-adults and juveniles have white spots and white mid-lateral stripe, and black lips. Up to 24”

Photo by: Frank Bossen



### **Black Snapper (*Macolor niger*) - Snapper**

**Mottled gray to brown**, with no blue lines on head (like Midnight). Can be solitary but often seen in large mixed schools with Midnight Snapper. Eye can be dull yellow (not bright gold like Midnight). Sub-adults and juveniles have a black and white pattern (lacks midlateral stripe). Up to 24”

Photo by: Frank Bossen



**Scissortail Fusilier (*Caesio caerulaurea*) - Fusilier**

Dark streaks on upper and lower tail fins creates a “scissortail”. Yellow stripe on side of body, terminating at tail, distinguishes it from other species. Often schools with other fusiliers. Up to 14”

Photo by: Jeff Haines



**Bluestreak Fusilier (*Pterocaesio tile*) - Fusilier**

Blackstreak on tail fins (similar to Scissortail). Distinguished by wide iridescent blue swath below a dark stripe along sides of body. Often schools with other fusilier species. Up to 10”

Photo by: Paul Humann



**Reef Manta Ray (*Manta alfredi*) - Manta**

Distinguished from Oceanic Manta Ray by: white at terminal of mouth (vs. dark), white shoulder patches that form black “V” (vs. a more distinct “T”), unique spot patterning on ventral side (vs. mostly white), and smaller. Both species distributed world-wide in tropic and sub-tropic waters. Both species can be found near reefs and both species have a black morph. Only Reef Manta will be seen in Palau and Yap. Up to 16.5 feet wingspan (vs. 23ft in Oceanic).

Photo courtesy: Jaine et al, PLoS One / Wikimedia