



# Philippines: Tubbataha

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### Pickhandle Barracuda (*Sphyraena jello*) - Barracuda

Up to 4.5 feet. Silvery with **yellowish** tail and wavy bars on the side of body. Tail color distinguishes it from similarly looking Blackfin Barracuda. Think of the yellow tail as the handle of the pick. Often in large schools, mixed with other species of barracuda.

Photo by: Jan Messersmith



### Blackfin Barracuda (*Sphyraena qenie*) - Barracuda

Up to 4.5 feet. Silvery with **dark borders on tail**, often tail is all black. Elongated body with up to 22 wavy bars on body. Often in large schools, mixed with other species of barracuda.

Photo by: Jan Messersmith



### Great Barracuda (*Sphyraena barracuda*) - Barracuda

Up to 5.5ft. Elongated silvery body with **large black blotches** along body and fin lobes. Typically seen solitary or in small groups. Circumtropical.

Photo by: Jeff Haines



### Yellowtail Barracuda (*Sphyraena flavicauda*) - Barracuda

Up to 16". Much smaller than the previous species. Typically seen in large schools. **Two dark stripes run the length of the body** and tail yellowish. Sometimes has a series of dark bars along back.

Photo courtesy of thisscuba.com.



### Narrow-barred Spanish Mackerel (*Scomberomorus commerson*) - Tunas & Mackerel

Up to 8 feet. Typically pelagic, but occasionally comes in over reefs to hunt. Long, **slender body** with finlets. Has **numerous thin wavy bars** on side of body.

Photo by James D. Watt/SeaPics.com.



### Dogtooth Tuna (*Gymnosarda unicolor*) - Tunas & Mackerel

Up to 7 feet. Most common tuna on reefs. Stocky body with finlets. **Pale tips on rear of dorsal and anal fins**. Typically solitary or few.

Photo by: Rick Stuart-Smith, courtesy of Reef Life Survey.



### **Bigeye Trevally (*Caranx sexfasciatus*) - Jack**

Up to 2.5 feet. Silvery, large-bodied jack. Distinguished by a **black spot on the upper end of gill cover** and **white tip on end of dorsal fin**. Can be seen in large schools. Males are black when courting. Western and Eastern Pacific and Sea of Cortez.

Photo by: John Hoover.



### **Bluefin Trevally (*Caranx melampygus*) - Jack**

Up to 3.5 feet. Most common jack seen on reefs. Silvery iridescent with blue to green spots on upper two-thirds of body. Bluish hue to fins. Often seen nuclear hunting with other predators. Found throughout Indo-Pacific and Hawaii.

Photo by: Bill Stohler.



### **Giant Trevally (*Caranx ignobilis*) - Jack**

Up to 5.5 ft. Large, silvery jack. Scattered black speckles on sides and diffuse black area above pectoral fin. Distinguished by **size and steep forehead profile**.

Typically solitary.

Photo courtesy of WikiCommons.



### **Redtooth Triggerfish (*Odonus niger*) - Triggerfish**

Up to 16". Dark blue to purple body with pale blue head. Red teeth are sometimes visible. Seen up in water column in large, plankton-feeding schools, dart down on reef when threatened.

Photo by Florent Charpin.



### **Black-backed Butterflyfish (*Chaetodon melannotus*) - Butterflyfish**

Up to 6". Black diagonal bands and black along back, **black saddle on base of tail**.

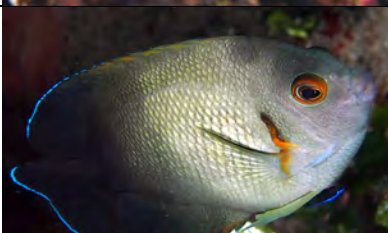
Photo by Florent Charpin.



### **Spot-tail Butterflyfish (*Chaetodon ocellicaudus*) - Butterflyfish**

Up to 5.5". Black diagonal bands. Distinguished from Black-backed Butterfly by shape of mark on tail. Spot-tail Butterflyfish has a **distinct black spot on base of tail** (vs. saddle).

Photo by Ron Lucas.



### **Pearl-scaled Angelfish (*Centropyge vroliki*) - Angelfish**

Up to 4.5". Pale gray (pearly white) fore-body, graduating to **solid black back half**. **Blue fin margins**.

Photo by Florent Charpin.



**Diagonal-banded Sweetlips (*Plectorhinchus lineatus*) - Grunt**

Up to 20". Distinguished from other sweetlips by **diagonal black bands**. Yellow lips and yellow fins with black spots. White belly.

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia.



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

Up to 20". Body is **covered in dark brown spots on head, body, and fins**. Belly is whitish.

Photo by: Jan Messersmith.



**Gray Reef Shark (*Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*) - Shark**

Up to 7 feet. Distinguished by **broad black margin on tail**. Second dorsal, anal fin, and underside of pectoral fins are black.

Photo courtesy Wikimedia.



**Whitetip Reef Shark (*Triaenodon obesus*) - Shark**

Up to 5.5 feet. Common shark found on reefs throughout west Pacific and Hawaii. Often seen resting on bottom in small groups. Distinguished by **white tips on first dorsal fin and top of tail fin**.

Photo by: Jeff Haines.