



More Holy Moly Gobies!

Top 12+ Gobies of the Caribbean

Fishinar 4/13/2016, Jonathan Lavan – Instructor

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

Gobies 101:

- Typically 3 inches or smaller
- Two dorsal fins that you can “Go-be-tween”
- Rest on pectoral & ventral fins
- Stiff, straight body
- Face “lacks character”
- Cleaner fish

Sand Gobies



- **Bridled Goby Complex-** all have obvious “bridle” except Bartail
 - **Sand Canyon-** Orange/brown spot on lower third of pectoral fin base. Darkish bar on base of tail.
 - **Patch-Reef-** No spot of pectoral fin base. Dark bar on tail base.
 - **Bartail-** Upper half of eye speckled with dark spots. Foredorsal fin spine long and filament like. Black blotch on upper base of pectoral fin.
 - **Bridled-** Row of 4 white spots behind eye. Darkish bar above bridle.



- **Pallid & Colon Goby– 2.5”**
 - **Pallid-** Dusky bar on tail base, many yellow/orange stripes & spots over body.
 - **Colon-** 2 dark colon-like spots on base of pectoral fin.



- **Goldspot Goby- 2.75”**
 - Dark bar runs from top of head, across eye and down cheek
 - Gold spot outlined in black above pectoral fin (not always obvious)

Cleaning Gobies



- **Neon Goby- 2”**
 - Electric blue body stripe runs length of body.
 - No marking on nose



- **Cleaning Goby – 1.8”**
 - Brilliant yellow V on snout.
 - Yellow extending from snout fades behind eye into a wide white stripe.



- **Sharknose Goby- 1.5"**
 - Bright yellow V on snout fades into a pale or bright blue body stripe (occasionally yellow).



- **Masked/Glass Goby- 1.5/1"**
 - 2 separate species frequently mixed.
 - Usually abundant on every dive.
 - Series of small white rectangles on lateral line.

Reef/Sponge Gobies



- **Orangeside Goby- 1"**
 - 2 reddish orange squared areas outlined in black below lateral line.
 - Red & white dashes along lateral line.



- **Leopard Goby – 1"**
 - Reddish brown spots on body.
 - 1 or 2 dark rectangles below midline.



- **Peppermint Goby – 1.25"**
 - Yellow gold body.
 - Electric blue wash on snout and front of eyes.



- **Rusty Goby – 1.5”**
 - Usually “upside down”.
 - Rusty colored with faint body bars, green pupil.



- **Shortstripe & Yellowline Gobies- 1.5/2”**
 - Shortstripe- Yellow line from eye ends at start of pectoral fin.
 - Yellowline- line continues all the way to base of tail.



- **Yellowprow Goby- 1.5”**
 - Yellow mark on nose over dark snout.



- **Yellownose Goby- 1.5”**
 - Yellow mark on pale (sometimes dark) snout
 - Thin bluish line extends from under eye to behind pectoral fin.



- **Spotlight Goby- 1.5 in.**
 - **Bright yellow to white spot centered on snout**

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