



# Super Duper Groupers – Part Deux

## Top 12 Groupers of the Caribbean

*Fishinar 6/17/2016, Jonathan Lavan – Instructor*

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### Groupers 101:

- Groupers are Seabass but not all Seabass are Groupers.
- Other Seabass: Creolefish, Soapfish, Hamlets, Bass, even Basslets.
- Pupil of eye shaped like a watermelon seed.
- Groupers have strong well-built bodies, a large mouth and lips, and a jutting lower jaw.
- Largest predators on the reef other than sharks.
- The long continuous dorsal fin is noticeably divided into two parts.
- The fore dorsal is constructed of sharp spines that can be held erect or lowered; the rear is soft and flexible.
- Most can pale or darken radically. Hinds, Graysbys
- Most species in the family have experienced dramatic declines in their population numbers due to overfishing.



### **Goliath Grouper - 10-100ft.**

- **Largest bony fish observed on the reef, up to 8 feet/800 lbs.**
- **Small dark spots over body and fins.**
- **Yellowish brown to olive green. Tail fin rounded.**
- **Wider/Beefier than other groupers.**
- **Formerly known as Jewfish**



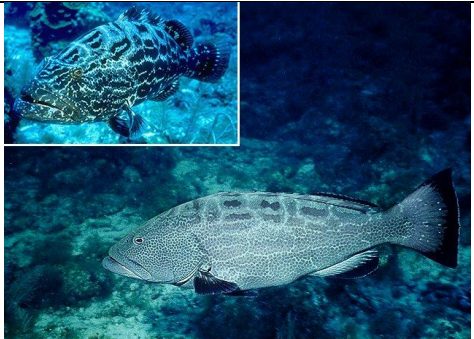
### **Nassau Grouper- 20-100ft.**

- **Black saddle on base of tail.**
- **Dorsal fin notched between forward spines.**
- **Five irregular olive brown bars over light background.**
- **Diagonal bar from snout across eye to start of dorsal fin.**



### Tiger Grouper- 10-60ft.

- Dramatic “tiger stripe” bars.
- Nine brown to black diagonal bars over light background.
- Noticeable canine teeth.



### Black Grouper- 20-100ft.

- Tail has black wide margin with thin white edge.
- Squared rectangular blotches on upper body.
- Thin pale to yellow margin on pectorals.



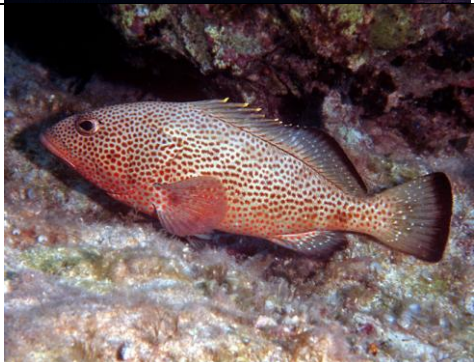
### Coney- 10-60ft.

- Two black dots on lower lip.
- Two black dots behind dorsal fin on base of tail.
- Variable in color, from white to brown to bright yellow, more so than any of the other species presented here.
- Covered in neon blue spots



### Graysby- 10-60ft.

- 3 to 5 pale or dark spots along base of dorsal fin.
- Tail more rounded than similar species.
- Juvenile: White band runs from nape, between eyes to lower lip.



### Red Hind- 10-160ft.

- Tail and rear fins have black margin edged in white.
- Tail squared off.





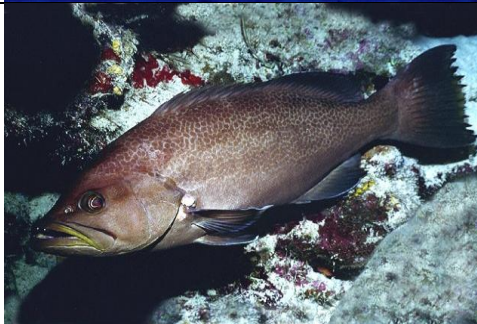
### **Rock Hind- 2-100ft.**

- Black saddle blotch on base of tail.
- Black stripe on snout to eye.



### **Yellowfin Grouper- 15-120ft.**

- Outer third of pectoral fin is pale to bright yellow.
- Rounded rectangular blotches on upper body.
- Quite variable in color as well, can be very colorful, showing red and yellow
- Tail has thin dark irregular margin.



### **Yellowmouth Grouper- 10-80ft.**

- Distinct yellow around corners of mouth.
- Brown to brownish gray; color may be uniform or have pattern of close set dots and occasional blotches.



### **Red Grouper- 6-400ft.**

- Foredorsal fin has smooth straight edge (not notched).
- No saddle at base of tail but sometimes similar body markings (Nassau).
- Usually reddish brown with small scattered white blotches.



### **Scamp (Salmon Rockfish)- 10-80ft.**

- Dusky tail has pale margin.
- Dark body spots tend to form broken stripes and rectangular blotches.
- Covered in “puppy dog paw print” markings