

## **Sea Chubs & Porgies Cheat Sheet**

Fishinar 9/15/2016, Allison & Carlos Estapé – Instructors

Questions? Feel free to contact janna@REEF.org



Topsail Chub – Look for wide, squared off anal fin with outside edges that form a 90 degree angle ("right angle" triangle)

Memory Trick: Topsail has a "big sail" (similar shape to a sailboat sail)

Family: Sea Chubs



Brassy Chub - Look for "tight" & sassy fins

Rear edges of anal & soft dorsal fins create an "X" with caudal fin Sometimes have narrow, brassy body stripes & stripe under eye

Memory Trick: Brassy has "tight" & sassy fins

Family: Sea Chubs



Gray Chub – Look for dark edging on soft dorsal & anal fins
Anal fin not as "tight" as Brassy Chub & not at "90 degrees" like Topsail

Very difficult to differentiate between Gray & Bermuda Chub These 2 species combined into the: **Bermuda/Gray Complex** 

Family: Sea Chubs



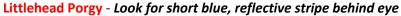
Bermuda Chub - Look for pale body & fins

Can have faint golden stripes along body similar to Brassy Chub Anal fin not as "tight" as Brassy Chub & not at "90 degrees" like Topsail

Very difficult to differentiate between Gray & Bermuda Chub These 2 species combined into the: **Bermuda/Gray Complex** 

Family: Sea Chubs





Memory Trick: Littlehead has a little stripe behind its eye

**Distribution is in dispute**; for REEF surveys, enter

Littlehead Porgy for Florida; Pluma for Bahamas/Caribbean

Family: Porgies



Pluma – Look for short blue, reflective stripe behind eye

Memory Trick: Pluma has a reflective "plume" behind its eye

Distribution is in dispute; for REEF surveys, enter

Littlehead Porgy for Florida; Pluma for Bahamas/Caribbean

Family: Porgies



Jolthead Porgy – Look for reflective mustache above lip

Has long sloping snout with large mouth & thick lips

Has yellowish orange at corner of mouth

Memory Trick: Big mustache gives you a JOLT

Family: Porgies



Knobbed Porgy – Look for 2 knobs above nostrils & in front of eyes

Adults develop a pronounced humped forehead Can have a purplish, gray snout & cheeks with brassy spots

Memory Trick: Knobbed has knobs in front of its eyes

Family: Porgies



Saucereye Porgy - Look for blue spot at upper base of pectoral fin & blue saucer under eye (watchout: many porgies have blue eye saucer)

Corners of mouth silver to yellowish; body frequently has yellow highlights on face, forehead & body

Memory Trick: Blue spot saucer eye- it's none of the others!

Family: Porgies



Sheepshead Porgy - Look for black spot at upper base of pectoral fin & slight overbite

Memory Trick: Overbearing black sheep has a black spot

Family: Porgies

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