

Sea Saba Underwater: Fishes of Saba

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A small, vibrant fish with a deep purple head and body, transitioning to a bright yellow tail. It has a dark spot on its dorsal fin and dark streaks on its head.	<p>Fairy Basslet (<i>Gramma loreto</i>) Family: Basslet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deep purple at front of body, yellow to gold at the back• Dark spot on dorsal fin• Dark streaks on head running through eye
A fish with a purple wash on its upper body and a yellow belly area and tail.	<p>Spanish Hogfish (<i>Bodianus rufus</i>) Family: Hogfish/Wrasse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purple wash on upper body – “Spanish shawl”• Yellow belly area and tail• Juveniles are cleaners
A large, reddish-brown fish with many small, dark spots on its body.	<p>Coney (<i>Cephalopholis fulva</i>) Family: Grouper/Sea Bass</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Many color variations: Reddish brown, brown, bicolor, yellow.• 2 dots on bottom lip• 2 dots at base of tail
A bright red fish with a black bar behind its head and white borders on its ventral, anal, tail, and second dorsal fins.	<p>Blackbar Soldierfish (<i>Myripristis jacobus</i>) Family: Squirrelfish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can be bright red or pale red• Black bar behind head• White borders on ventral, anal, tail, and second dorsal fins



Longsnout Butterflyfish (*Prognathodes aculeatus*)

Family: Butterflyfish

- Long, pointed snout
- Yellow bar runs from top of head across eye – but not below eye like other butterflyfish
- White lower body, yellow midbody, dark orange to brown on dorsal fin



Atlantic Creolefish (*Paranthias furcifer*)

Family: Sea Bass

- Three spots along back – white or black
- Body can be reddish brown to purple
- Bright red spot at pectoral fin base



Longjaw Squirrelfish (*Neoniphon marianus*)

Family: Squirrelfish

- Red body with yellow to orange stripes
- Very long anal fin spine
- Yellow dorsal fin



Horse-Eye Jack (*Caranx latus*)

Family: Jack

- Large eyes
- Bright yellow, deeply forked tail
- Dark scutes



Sand Tilefish (*Malacanthus plumieri*)

Family: Tilefish

- Elongated, pearly white body – can also appear to be blue-gray
- Crescent-shaped tail
- Top of tail is dark



Brown Garden Eel (*Heteroconger longissimus*)

Family: Conger Eel

- Thin, brown body
- Undulate in wavelike motion
- Live in colonies of up to thousands in the sand



Peppermint Goby (*Coryphopterus lipernes*)

Family: Goby

- Translucent body with yellow-gold sheen
- Bright blue eyes and wash on head
- Usually perched on coral heads



Shortstripe Goby (*Elactinus chancei*)

Family: Goby

- Bright yellow stripe begins on eye and ends above each pectoral fin
- Dark upper body with pale snout
- Lives in and around sponges – check inside tube sponges!



Black Jack (*Caranx lugubris*)

Family: Jack

- Steeply sloped forehead
- Long, dark dorsal and anal fins
- Dark, noticeable scutes
- Small, black spot on gill cover



Reef Shark (*Carcharhinus perezii*)

Family: Requiem Shark

- Dark underside of pectoral fins
- Tips of ventral and anal fins are black*
- Bottom lobe of tail is black
- First dorsal fin begins behind pectoral fin

*Blacktip Shark has pale to white anal fin

Photos courtesy of ReefNet, Inc. www.reefnet.ca

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