



Overlooked Fish of Cozumel

Fishinar 10/17/2013, Tracey Griffin – Instructor

Cozumel fish that are easy to overlook!

- **Yellowmouth Grouper** – 2.5 ft. Body a dense pattern of dots, can be light or dark, OR with a 'checkerboard, type pattern. Tail margins ragged.
Most likely to find in Cozumel at: Palancar Reefs, Chankanaab, Santa Rosa (65-500ft deep)
- **Chalk Bass (Seabass)** – 3 in. Similar to tobacco fish, except with 'chalky' sides. Brownish and white bars across back. Found in rubble areas next to reef, hovers over bottom, often found in small (3-5) groups.
*In Cozumel at: Almost anywhere, in rubble areas and dead coral next to reef (to 1300 Ft)
- **Lantern Bass (Seabass)** – 2.5". White belly with blotched orange 'Chinese Lanterns' on belly. Solid gold braid mid-belly. ~4 back spots on base of tail. Perches on rubble next to reefs.
*In Cozumel at: Colombia Shallows, Chankanaab (to 250Ft)
- **Peppermint Basslet (Seabass)** – 3.5 in. Maroon stripes over pinkish/yellow body. White margins on tail, dorsal and anal fins. Stays in dark recesses, small caves, often near ceiling. Shy.
*In Cozumel at: Palancar Reefs, Colombia, Santa Rose (to 250Ft)
- **Cave Basslet (Seabass)** – 2.5 in. Salmon-red to pinkish purple, same body shape as Peppermint basslet. Dark recesses, small caves, only found on deep dives. VERY shy, will hide from flashlights.
*In Cozumel at: Delila, Cedral Wall, Tunich Hills (60-200ft)
- **Cherubfish (Angelfish)** – 3 in. Deep cobalt blue with orange face/shin. Behaves more like a damselfish than parrotfish. Bottom hugging, likes rocks, rubble, and vegetation to hide in. VERY shy, will flit into a crevice if you hover over it. Try looking at it 3-4 feet away.
*In Cozumel at: Palancar Reefs, Colombia, Santa Rose (to 250Ft)
- **Greenblotch Parrotfish** – 4.5 in. Terminal male, dark greenish with red flecks. Initial phase – red/brown mottled. All have 3-4 white stripes on belly. Found in rubble, rocks, algae and sea grass beds, but also found on tops of reefs as well
*In Cozumel at: Delila, Cedral Wall, Tunich Hills, Chankanaab, all the shallower reefs (50-150ft)
- **Bluelip Parrotfish** – 5 in. AKA Slender or Rosy parrotfish. Initial phase peachy, or with white stripes. IP will dart about in small groups, moving fast and changing direction together. IP stays very close to the

bottom, rubble, rocks at sides of reef.

*In Cozumel at: Delila, Cedral Wall, Tunich Hills (to 180ft)

- **Green Razorfish** – 5.5 in. Male is blueish green, sometimes with dusky bars. Usually a black dot mid body. Female is faded green or with red dusky bars. Both M& F have distinct scales giving a 'quilted' look. Found in rubble next to reefs, seabed grasses.
*In Cozumel at: Paradise, all the shallower areas (to 35ft)
- **Rosy Razorfish** – 6 in. Male pale with vertical lines under eye. More common females are pinkish with a pearly white patch. Smaller females are white with rusty-rosy stripe mid body. All have red irises. Found in sand next to reefs, where they hover and bounce over the sand.
*In Cozumel at: Paradise and shallower areas (to 50ft)
- **Barsnout Goby** – 1.75 in. Dark with broad white stripes from eye to tail, white bar on snout. Found perched on coral heads, cleaning stations and cleaning fish. The ONLY cleaning-type goby found in Cozumel.
*In Cozumel at: Paradise, shallower reefs, or tops of deep reefs (to 30-100ft)
- **Yellowline Goby** – 2 in. Black body with yellow stripes from eye to tail. In Cozumel, usually found with WHITE stripes. Lives in tube and vase sponges, shy.
*In Cozumel at: Anywhere with a tube sponge (to 20-100ft)
- **Yellowface Pikeblenny** – 3.5 in. Long eel-like body with a flattened snout. Usually only the head sticking out of the sand. Territorial.
*In Cozumel at: Chankanaab, Paradise, anywhere in the sand (to 70ft)

* These are the most likely place you'll find these fish in Cozumel, however, these fish can be found other places too. Keep an eye out for them on other dives as well!

Questions? Coming to Cozumel this winter?

Feel free to contact me at trasea@gmail.com,

Or find me on Facebook.