



Swimming in the Deep End Cheat Sheet

Fishinar 1/20/2015, Allison & Carlos Estape – Instructors

Questions? Feel free to contact janna@reef.org

	<p>Horse-eye Jack – Look for the large eye (HUGE HORSE EYE) & bright silver body with usually BRIGHT YELLOW TAIL & nearly black scutes. BLACK DORSAL LOBE. Fish can be found from the surface down to 300 ft. Like to school.</p> <p>Family: Jacks</p>
	<p>Yellow Jack – Look for a silvery body with a yellowish cast. <i>Fins are yellow with YELLOW LOWER TAIL FIN</i>. Have a gold border on back. These are typically solitary fish or found in small groups. Found from the surface to 150 ft.</p> <p>Family: Jacks</p>
	<p>Bar Jack - Look for DARK CROW BAR: black & blue border on back runs along dorsal fin & onto lower tail lobe. Can darken body to almost black. Can be found from the surface down to 200+ ft. This is another schooling species.</p> <p>Family: Jacks</p>
	<p>Permit – Look for the DARK PECTORAL FIN. Has a silver body and orangeish area at start of anal fin. Have white/orange/black at anal fin – “fill the permit in triplicate”. Can be found from the surface down to 100+ ft. Has a blunt/rounded head & deeper body shape. Usually seen in small schools or as solitary individuals.</p> <p>Family: Jacks</p>
	<p>Palometa - Look for 3-4 narrow dark or pale body bars on silvery body With EXTREMELY LONG DORSAL, ANAL & TAIL FINS edged in black. The Palometa “has a long name to go with super long dorsal/anal/tail fins”. This is a schooling fish that is typically found in shallow water over sand; they can be found near the surface in deep water.</p> <p>Family: Jacks</p>



Atlantic Spadefish – Look for a body shape that resembles the **“SPADE”** on playing cards. Several dark bars on silver/gray body; bars can lighten/darken dramatically. Does not have the forked tail of a Jack. Schooling species. Found from 10 – 100+ ft.



Is the only member of the Spadefish family.



Spanish Hogfish – Look for purple upper forebody (**“spanish shawl”**). Has yellow-gold belly & tail. Dark variations exist. Can be found from 10 to 100+ ft. Juveniles are cleaner fish & can be seen cleaning other fish.

Family: Hogfishes/Wrasses



Spotfin Hogfish – Look for dark area (**“SPOT”**) at **OUTER TIP** of pectoral **FIN** (**“SPOT on the outer FIN”**). Has a brilliant yellow rear dorsal fin, upper base of tail & tail. Found in 60 – 300+ ft.

Family: Hogfishes/Wrasses



Blackfin Snapper – Look for dark blotch (**BLACK**) at **BASE** of pectoral **FIN** (**BLACK (base of) FIN**). Yellow area below rear dorsal fin continues to upper base of tail & onto tail.

Intermediate/Adult: have red body vs bluish/white to pale brown body in juvenile phase. Juvenile & intermediate phases found in 20-200+ ft; adults prefer 200+ ft depth.

Family: Snappers



Blue Chromis – Look for brilliant **blue body with slender, deeply forked tail with dark borders**. Elongated, deeply forked tail gives fish speed to survive in the water column. Found in 35+ ft of water. One of the most common fish in the Tropical Western Atlantic.

Family: Chromis/Damselfishes



Brown Chromis – Look for **brownish/gray/olive body with slender, deeply forked tail**. Has yellow border on dorsal fin. Semi-pelagic fish that feeds from the water column. Elongated, deeply forked tails gives fish speed to survive in the water column. Found in 35+ ft of water. One of the most common fish in the Tropical Western Atlantic.

Family: Chromis/Damselfishes



Purple Reef fish – Look for **bright blue crescent around upper eyes on a slate blue to navy blue body**. Has the damselfish body shape. The tail is not deeply forked & does not have the black edging like the Blue Chromis. These fish prefer deeper water 80-160 ft and stay near structures/reef to dart away from predators. Juveniles can be found in shallower water and usually mix with juvenile Sunshinefish.

Family: Chromis/Damselfishes



Sunshinefish – Look for **large yellow or transparent rear soft dorsal fin & wide margin on tail**. Has a green, olive, brown upper body; belly may be pale. Has the Damselfish body shape. The tail is not deeply forked.

These fish prefer deep water 50-160 ft and stay near structures/reef to dart away from predators. Juveniles can be found in shallower water and like to mix with Purple Reef fish juveniles.

Family: Chromis/Damselfishes



Sunshinefish Juvenile– Look for the **brilliant yellow upper body with brilliant blue to purple to dull olive body below**. It is the **“sun rising over the ocean = Sunshinefish”**. Has the Damselfish body shape.

Juveniles can be found in shallower water and like to mix with Purple Reef fish juveniles.

Family: Chromis/Damselfishes



Yellowtail Reef fish– Look for **yellow to clear rear dorsal, anal & tail fins**. Has a **bright, iridescent blue V on snout that continues over eyes & onto nape**. They have the Damselfish body shape.

These fish can be found in 65+ ft and stay near reef/structures.

Family: Chromis/Damselfishes

Photos thanks to Carlos & Allison Estape

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