



Keep Pointing!

Fishinar 9/26/2013, Jonathan Lavan – Instructor

The top 12 Caribbean fish you might see mistake for a Rock or other non-fish object.

- **Peacock Flounder**- 6- 15 in., max 18 in. Notch in upper head above lips. Numerous blue rosettes over entire body. Numerous blue spots on fins and head. Common throughout the Caribbean.
- **Eyed Flounder** – 4- 5 in., max 7 in. Body almost circular. Body covered with brown to tan rosettes and spots. Widely spaced eyes set on diagonal. Two dark, somewhat faint, tail spots near the base, one above the other. Common Bahamas, occasional Florida, Caribbean also Gulf of Mexico, north to New York and south to Brazil.
- **Spotted Scorpionfish** – 7- 14 in., max 18 in. Three dark bars on tail. Back side of pectoral fin, near base, has black area with brilliant white spots. Occasional to common Florida, Bahamas, Caribbean; also Gulf of Mexico, north to New York and south to Brazil.
- **Reef Scorpionfish** – 2- 4 in., max 5 in. Spotted pectoral, rear dorsal, anal and tail fins. Dark to dusky spot on rear spinous dorsal fin. Common Bahamas, occasional Florida, Caribbean also Gulf of Mexico, Bermuda and Brazil.
- **Shortnose Batfish**– 6- 12 in., max 15 in. Unicorn-like projection from between eyes. Two dark bands border pale band on tail. Uncommon South Florida, Bahamas, Caribbean; also Gulf of Mexico and south to Brazil.
- **Oyster Toadfish**- 6- 10 in., max 15 in. Spots, dashes, blotches and other markings line up to form bars on pectoral fins and tail. Common eastern coast Florida; also north to Massachusetts. Not reported balance of Florida, Bahamas or Caribbean.
- **Longlure Frogfish**– 3- 5 in., max 8 in. Numerous dark spots over body, some of which are occasionally ringed in white. Three spots on tail can usually be observed. Common to occasional Florida, Caribbean; rare Bahamas, also Bermuda and Brazil. Most common frogfish on Caribbean reefs.
- **Flying Gurnard**- 6- 14 in., max 18 in. Huge fan-like pectoral fins that often have brilliant, iridescent blue line and dot markings. Can pale or darken dramatically. Blunt snout. Occasional to uncommon Florida, Bahamas, Caribbean, also Gulf of Mexico, north to Massachusetts, Bermuda and south to Argentina and eastern Atlantic.

- **Leopard Searobin**- 4- 7 in., max 10 in. Body and fins covered with leopard-like reddish brown spots. Two dark spots on foredorsal fin. Uncommon Florida, also Gulf of Mexico and north to Virginia.
- **Sand Diver**- 4- 14 in. max 18 in. Dark spot at upper end of gill cover. Diamond markings on side often join bars on back. Common Caribbean; Occasional Florida, Bahamas, also Gulf of Mexico, north to North Carolina, Bermuda and south to Brazil. Most common lizardfish in the Caribbean.
- **Snakefish** – 4- 12 in., max 15 in. Short, blunt mouth with upturned snout. Short, dark diagonal streak at upper end of gill cover. Alternating stripes of pale blue and gold with narrow black borders run length of body; dusky wide bars on back. Occasional Florida, Bahamas, Caribbean; also Brazil and circumtropical.
- **Pipehorse** – 1- 2 in., max. 3 in. Small tail fin on curled base of tail. Clusters of fleshy tabs (papillae) on body. Intermediate between seahorse and pipefish. Rare South Florida, Bahamas, Caribbean; also Gulf of Mexico and Bermuda.

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