



Lookalikes? Look Again! Pt. 2

Fishinar 9/18/2012, Tracey Griffin - Instructor

Yellows:

- Yellow Goatfish 15"
 - Flat belly/bottom
 - Barbels on chin
 - Found sifting through the dirt, or resting in small schools with grunts & snappers
- Yellowtail Snapper 2.5'
 - Rounder body Shape
 - Constantly moving about the reef, usually high in the water column

Purples:

- Fairy Basslet 3"
 - Purple/blue at front, yellow/gold at back. Black line thru eye, black dot on dorsal.
 - Found close to coral heads, often upside down along roofs of overhangs, walls.
 - Generally shallow, but can be found at any depths
- Spanish Hogfish juvenile
 - Purple/blue on top front, almost a square pattern, the rest yellow
 - 'Spanish Serape' memory clue – like a blue shawl over its shoulders & back
 - Juveniles stay close to reef, often as cleaner fish when young.
- Sunshinefish (Chromis) juvenile 1-2"
 - Yellow on top (sunshine) purple/blue on bottom, bright line over eye.
 - Stays close to the reef, in small groups around coral heads. Usually deep +50'

Browns:

- Brown Chromis – 6.5"
 - Grayish brown to olive brown.
 - Dark splotch at base of pectoral fin, white blotch at base of tail (not always visible)
 - Outer edge of dorsal might have a tinge of yellow.
 - Tails highly forked, usually sharper edges
 - Usually seen in loose aggregations well above the reef (10' or more)
 - Very common, usually abundant
- Sunshinefish adult – 4"
 - Usually brown/olive above with silvery gray on belly
 - Tail fins clear margin, rounded
 - Stays close to reef in small groups, Usually deep, +50'

Silvery-Gray:

Snappers have straight edge on the tail, flatter line on the belly. Teeth visible

Grunts have a forked tail and more rounded body overall

- Gray Snapper – 3'
 - Light gray body and fins. Can have a darker gray diagonal band through eye
- White Margate (Grun) – 2.5'
 - Pearly gray head with blackish dorsal and caudal fin.
 - May also have a dark wash at top of back and top of base of tail
 - Small eye in relation to body
- Sailors Choice – 17"
 - Silvery gray with rows of darker spots on each scale, makes the scales stand out (sails)
 - Dark tail and dorsal fin, but not generally gray wash on the body.
 - Larger eye, golden edges

Grunts:

- Bluestriped - 18"
 - Blue and yellow stripes on head and body
 - Dark tail with translucent yellow margins
- Caesar – 15"
 - Silver and yellow stripes
 - Dark tail with translucent margins (not yellow)
 - Often very shiny compared to the bluestriped
- White – 18"
 - Blue and yellow stripes on head, none on body
 - White tail!

Striped Wrasse:

Yellow, black, white cigar shaped wrasse that constantly move about the reef/sand.
Can intermix together. At this phase these three fish are usually 1-3"

- Bluehead initial phase
 - Blob on dorsal fin is unique to this fish.
- Clown Wrasse initial phase
 - Stripes are very distinct, no blurring of colors
 - Red dot on nose, start of the clown mask
- Rainbow Wrasse initial phase
 - Color is more golden/orange than the yellow on the Bluehead
 - No blob, no red nose.

Questions? Feel free to contact me at

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(also on facebook)