



# Perplexing Parrotfish!

*Fishinar 9/10/2013, Tracey Griffin – Instructor*  
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General: Heavy scales in irregular rows. Fused jaw teeth form parrot-like beak. Usually has three distinct color phases: Juvenile, Initial & Terminal phase male. (below, marked by initials JP, IP, TP)  
 Initial phase are general female, but not always. Females can change into males when they grow larger (Sequential hermaphrodites) Usually found down to 80 feet depth, unless noted otherwise.



**Rainbow Parrotfish** – 4 ft. Bright orange and green scales. Usually solitary as adults.



**Midnight Parrotfish** – 3 ft. To 240 feet depth. Dark ‘Midnight Blue’ with lighter blue markings on head.



**Blue Parrotfish** – 1-2 ft, up to 4 ft. Light powder blue. TP has prominent hump on head, and sometimes lilac patch on head. JP/IP can have yellow patch on head.

**Queen Parrotfish – 2 ft.**



**TP:** Green/bluish-green, some pink and yellow markings. TP has ‘mustache’, a scepter on the pectoral fin, and thick, stiff bands on the upper and lower tail lobes.



**IP:** Grey/black with a thick white stripe mid-body. (‘The queen wears a stole’)

**Stoplight Parrotfish – 2 ft.**



**TP:** brilliant green, yellow spot at top edge of gill cover. Patch of yellow on the caudal peduncal. Deeply lobed tail with yellow crescent.



**IP:** Dark brown upper body fading to red ventrally. Dark mottled face, scattering of white scales.

**Yellowtail Parrotfish – 18 in. Usually <35ft.**



**TP:** dull blue green, no distinct markings. Yellowish/clear central tail fin. Often found motionless in the sand.



**IP:** light colored with bright yellow tail.

**Redtail Parrotfish** – 18 in. Usually <40 ft.



**TP:** Bluish green with distinct blue area behind pectoral fin. Lunate tail has reddish orange crescents.



**IP:** Mottled red/gray, with reddish central tail fin.

**Redband Parrotfish**– 11 in.



**TP:** green body with red/yellow and blue patches. REDBAND is the pinkish orange streak coming from the corner of the mouth. Black and White tips on tail lobes.



**IP:** Range of colors, can be striped. Will ALWAYS have white botch on the saddle of the caudal peduncal

**Princess Parrotfish**– 13 in.



**TP:** Green/bluish-green, some pink and yellow markings. Tail has narrow pink upper and lower margins. (The Princess wears a skirt!)



**IP:** white with black stripes. Tails has narrow black margins. Never has yellow snout.

**Striped Parrotfish** – 11in.



**TP:** Green/bluish-green, some pink and yellow markings. Tail has blue/pink stripings (no skirt!)



**IP:** White with black stripes. Tail clear, no margins. Can have yellow snout.