



Safety Stop Survey!

The top 12 fish you might see @ 15 feet in 3 minutes

Fishinar 7/11/2013, Jonathan Lavan – Instructor

Silvery vs. counter-shading- Fish that spend their time in the middle to upper part of the water column are usually marked/colored in one of two ways. 1. Silvery: A highly reflective skin helps the fish to disappear into the water whether to help hide from predators or to help stake prey. Additionally the sunlight from above bouncing off the multifaceted shiny surface (scales) further confuses both predators and prey particularly when stalking a large school of silvery swimmers. 2. Counter-shading- many marine animals, both fish and mammals have counter-shading. The darker upper body when seen from above helps the animal disappear in to the water column. Likewise the lighter underbelly accomplishes the same when seen from below as the sun shines down. Almost all of the fish we will look at tonight exhibit one of these two features.

- **Great Barracuda**- 1.5 to 3 ft., max 6 ft. Large underslung jaw, pointed teeth often obvious. Silver long cylindrical body. Usually has scattered dark blotches. Can darken side bands. Dorsal fins widely separated. Common throughout the Caribbean. Almost circumtropical.
- **Southern Sennet** – 8-14 in., max 18 in. Long, slender and silver with no obvious markings. Usually found in schools vs. Barracuda. Uncommon Florida, Bahamas, Caribbean also south to Uruguay.
- **Crevalle Jack** – 1 to 2.5 ft, max 3.5 ft. Blackish blotch on pectoral fin. Black spot near top of gill cover. Tail may be yellowish. Tips of dorsal and upper tail occasionally black. Common Florida, uncommon to rare Bahamas, Caribbean; also Gulf of Mexico, north to Nova Scotia, south to Uruguay.
- **Greater Amberjack** – 2-4 ft., max 5.5 ft. Sleek elongated body. Diagonal band runs from lip, across eye to beginning of dorsal fin. Foredorsal fin short. Occasional to uncommon Florida, Bahamas, Caribbean also Gulf of Mexico; circumtropical.
- **Cero**– 1.5 to 3 ft., max 4 ft. Series of yellow-gold streaks along midline from pectoral fin to tail. Small gold body spots on either side of streaks. Abundant to common Bahamas, Florida, Antilles; common balance of Caribbean; also Gulf of Mexico, North to Mass., south to Brazil.
- **Spanish Mackerel**- 1.5 to 3 ft., max 4 ft. Very similar to Cero with only gold body spots on sides; no streaks. Abundant Florida; rare to absent Bahamas, Caribbean; also Gulf of Mexico and north to Virginia.
- **Wahoo**– 4-5 ft., max 7 ft. Sharply pointed snout. Longer cigar shaped body then Cero or Spanish Mackerel. No obvious body markings. Occasional Florida, Bahamas, Caribbean; also Gulf of Mexico, circumtropical & sub tropical.

- **Cobia**- 2 to 4 ft., max 6 ft. Long torpedo shaped body. Silver to dark brown. Often have dusky midbody stripe. Lower jaw protrudes. Tail forked. Often seen swimming with larger animals. Occasional Florida, uncommon to rare Bahamas, Caribbean, also Gulf of Mexico, north to Mass., Bermuda and south to Argentina. Circumtropical and subtropical.
- **Atlantic Tripletail**- 1.5 to 2.5 ft., max 3.5 ft. Rear dorsal and anal fins large giving the impression of three tails. Nape profile concave. Lightly mottled in a variety of brownish-yellow shades which become less defined and more uniform with age. Sluggish; often float on sides near surface. Occasional Florida, Bahamas, Caribbean, also Gulf of Mexico. North to Mass., Bermuda and south to Argentina; circumtropical.
- **Ocean Sunfish**- 5-7 ft. Max. 10 ft. Broad oval body; no visible tail. Long dorsal and anal fins. Often found at surface on its side; basking. Rare Florida, Bahamas, Caribbean; worldwide tropical and temperate waters.
- **Sharksucker** – 10- 18 in., max 3.5 ft. Thin white borders on dark tail. Disk shaped sucker on top of head. Attach to sharks, rays, large fish, turtles, even boat & divers! Adult Sharksuckers are most common free swimming remora species. Occasional Florida, Bahamas, Caribbean; also Gulf of Mexico, north to Massachusetts, Bermuda and south to Uruguay; circumtropical
- **Remora** – 8-15 in., max. 31 in. Uniform coloration without distinctive markings with exception of varying amounts of speckling. Disk shaped sucker on top of head. Attach primarily to sharks and large rays. Occasional Florida, Bahamas, Caribbean; also worldwide in warm waters.

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