



Kings and Queens of the Reef

Fishinar 4/1/2014, Jonathan Lavan – Instructor

The top 12 Angel & Butterflyfish of the Caribbean

Angel/Butterfly 101- These disk-shaped, thin bodied elegant fish are some of the most visible on the reef. In the Caribbean Angelfish tend to be large (more than a foot in length) while Butterflyfish tend to be in the 6- 8 in. range. Additionally Angelfish have a rounded forehead while Butterflyfish tend to have a more concave forehead. Both families have small mouths for plucking food off the reef; algae as well as coral polyps. In general other than size Angelfish can be differentiated from Butterflyfish by their cheek spine located at the base of their gill cover and their long tapering dorsal and anal fins. Both groups often travel in pairs as they mate for life.

All photos courtesy ReefNet, Inc. www.reefnet.ca

- **Queen Angelfish-** 8 to 14 in., max 18 in. Dark blue spot on forehead speckled and ringed with brilliant blue, forms the “crown”. Juvenile: second blue body bar is curved.



- **Gray Angelfish** – 10 to 18 in., max 2 ft. Gray body. Yellow inner face of pectoral fin. Square-cut tail. Juvenile: Square-cut tail with white to transparent margin.



- **French Angelfish** – 10 to 14 in., max 18 in. Black with bright yellow rims on scales. Bright yellow ring around eye. Juvenile: Rounded tail with yellow border forms an oval.



- **Blue Angelfish** – 8 to 14 in., max 18 in. Tail and pectoral fins bordered in yellow. No crown. Juvenile: Middle blue body bar is straight. Townsend Angelfish; hybrid of Queen & Blue.



- **Rock Beauty**– 5 to 8 in., max 12 in. Yellow forebody and tail. Mid and rear body black. Blue marks above and below pupil. Lips occasionally navy blue. Juvenile: Very young have a black spot ringed in brilliant blue on rear body.



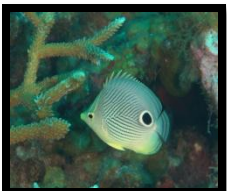
- **Cherubfish**- 1.5 to 2.5 in., max 3 in. Yellow to orange face and chest. Dark blue body. Similar Flameback Angelfish; orange to yellow extends onto back and dorsal fin.



- **Banded Butterflyfish**- 3 to 5 in., max 6 in. Two wide, black midbody bands. Juvenile: Black spot ringed in white on rear dorsal fin (easily distinguished from similar juveniles by lack of any yellowish fins).



- **Foureye Butterflyfish**- 3 to 4 in., max 6 in. Black spot, ringed in white, on rear body near upper base of tail. Juvenile: very young have second, smaller black spot bordered in white on rear dorsal above larger spot.



- **Spotfin Butterflyfish**- 3 to 6 in., max 8 in. Black spot on outer edge of rear dorsal fin. Fins (except pectoral) bright yellow. Juvenile: Very young have a black spot on rear dorsal, anal and base of tail fins. Tail translucent.



- **Reef Butterflyfish**- 3 to 4 in., max 6 in. Broad, dark, bar-like area on rear body, including the rear portions of dorsal and anal fins.



- **Longsnout Butterflyfish** – 2 to 3 in., max 3.5 in. Long pointed snout. Dusky to yellow bar runs from upper head across eye, but not below eye as in other butterflies.



- **Bank Butterflyfish** –3 to 5 in, max 8 in. Long pointed snout. Dark band from middorsal fin to rear anal fin. Dark eye bar.



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