



The Grunt Club

Fishinar 11/6/2012, Jonathan Lavan – Instructor

Grunts 101:

- Classic Fish
 - Basic "fish-like" shape
 - Relatively large mouth
 - Notched tail
- Common name is derived from the unusual "grunt" sound produced when teeth grinding deep within their throats is amplified by the air bladder.
 - Related to Snapper
 - No canine teeth
 - schoolers

Basic Grunts:

- Bluestriped - 18"
 - Blue and yellow stripes on head and body
 - Dark tail with translucent yellow margins
 - Common Florida, Bahamas, Caribbean; uncommon north to South Carolina, Bermuda and Gulf of Mexico
- Caesar – 15"
 - Silver and yellow stripes
 - Dark tail with translucent margins (not yellow)
 - Often very shiny compared to the Bluestriped
 - Occas. To uncommon S. Florida, Bahamas, Caribbean; also Bermuda
- White – 18"
 - Blue and yellow stripes on head, none on body
 - White tail!
 - Common Florida, Bahamas, Caribbean; also Gulf of Mexico, north to Maryland and south to Brazil.

Smaller Grunts:

- Smallmouth Grunt- 9"
 - 5 or 6 yellow stripes go all the way from top of body to bottom
 - Fins yellow
 - Common S. Florida and Keys; occas. Bahamas and Caribbean; also south to Brazil
- Striped Grunt- 9"
 - Normally have five yellow to brown stripes on upper body (none on belly)
 - Fins white or opaque
 - Occas. To uncommon Florida and Caribbean; rare Bahamas; also Gulf of Mexico and south to Brazil
- French Grunt- 10"
 - Yellow stripes below lateral line set on a diagonal.
 - All fins yellow

- Abundant Florida Keys; common Florida, Bahamas, Caribbean; also Gulf of Mexico, north to South Carolina and Bermuda

Broadstriped Grunts:

- Tomato – 8”
 - Prominent yellow to bronze stripe runs from snout through eye to base of tail; another thinner stripe on back.
 - Fins pale.
 - Black spot on base of tail (not always present)
 - Common to uncommon Florida, Bahamas, Caribbean; also Gulf of Mexico, north to Massachusetts. Bermuda and south to Brazil. Can be locally abundant.
- Cottonwick- 10”
 - Bold black stripe on dorsal fin continues to form a “v” on tail (not present in pale phase)
 - Black stripe begins on snout, runs across eye and continues to tail; color may change to yellow behind eye
 - Uncommon to occas. Florida, Bahamas, Caribbean; also Bermuda and south to Brazil. Can be locally common in northwestern Gulf of Mexico

Weird Grunts:

- Spanish Grunt- 10”
 - Bold black stripes on upper body
 - Yellow green dorsal hump
 - Yellow saddle or spot on base of tail
 - Common Florida Keys, occas. S. Florida, Bahamas, occas. to uncommon Caribbean
- Porkfish– 12”
 - Bright yellow gold
 - Two bold diagonal bands (bacon) on head
 - High back profile
 - Abundant Florida especially Keys; occas. to rare Caribbean; uncommon Bahamas; also south to Brazil
- Sailors Choice – 17”
 - Silvery gray with rows of darker spots on each scale, makes the scales stand out (sails)
 - Dark tail and dorsal fin, prominent lateral line
 - Larger eye, golden edges
 - Common to occas. Florida, Bahamas and continental coasts of Central and South America occas. to rare in the islands of the Caribbean; also Gulf of Mexico and south to Brazil

Other Grunts:

- Black Margate- 1.5’
 - High back profile Dark patch behind pectoral fin
 - Scales on back have dark centers, fins dusky
 - Occas. Florida, Bahamas, Caribbean; also Gulf of Mexico and south to Brazil
- Margate (White) or White Margate or just Margate- 2’
 - High back profile; pearly gray head with blackish dorsal and caudal (tail) fin.
 - Small eye in relation to body
 - Occas. Florida, Bahamas, Caribbean; also Bermuda and south to Brazil

Questions? Feel free to contact me at jonathan_maureen@yahoo.com

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