



2022 WINTER PRINT: REDTAIL TRIGGERFISH

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your donation during REEF's winter fundraising campaign! Your contribution makes REEF's work possible, including studying and protecting ocean species, and educating future ocean stewards. Each winter, I enjoy giving a signed fish print to our most generous donors. This year, I feel the fish selected is special because it tells an interesting story about the REEF Volunteer Fish Survey Project, which is the largest marine life database in the world.

This year's print is of a Redtail Triggerfish, *Xanthichthys mento*. This species lives from the eastern tropical and subtropical Pacific to the far western Pacific. It is sometimes referred to as the Crosshatch Triggerfish. This fish is stunningly eye-catching, with a bright golden body. Males have red tails, meanwhile females' tails are yellow.

Although the Redtail Triggerfish is spread over a huge geographical range, according to the REEF database, it is quite a rare sighting - except in two locations: the Socorro Islands off of Baja, Mexico, where it is common, and the northern islands of Galapagos where, although not rare, it is still uncommon.

I was blown away by the Redtail Triggerfish's beauty when I saw it for the first time in the mid-1980's in the Galapagos Islands. I feel lucky to have gotten several pictures of both the male and female on that dive, especially because I have only seen this fish a handful of times since then – twice in the Galapagos, and several years later, surprisingly, a single male in Fiji! This species reminds me of the endless wonder and beauty of the ocean, and the importance of working together to protect our underwater world.

Best "Fishes"
Paul Humann

P.S. To see a gallery of all of the limited-edition prints, visit www.REEF.org/humann-limited-edition-prints.

Thank you for supporting marine conservation!