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# Hawaiian Parrotfishes (and a few Wrasse too!)

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## **Bullethead Parrotfish (*Chlorurus sordidus*)**

Symmetrical, bullet-shaped head profile. IP is reddish-brown to gray, double row of 4-5 white spots may mark the side and a broad white bar (which may contain a dark spot) often at the base of the tail. TP is variable in color but generally greenish with pale area on cheeks, typically has broad white saddle at tail base. Juveniles are b&w striped. Feed on both coral polyps and algae.

Photo by: Bill Stohler



Distribution/Size: Widespread throughout central and western Pacific. Up to 15"

REEF Expert Sighting Frequency in Hawaii – 85%

Photo by: Joyce Burek



## **Palenose Parrotfish (*Scarus psittacus*)**

IP often found in schools, very drab in color (light gray to dark brownish gray) without distinctive markings. TP is green/blue, sometimes with large yellow patch on side. Dark blue patch on their nose. Juveniles look like tiny IP.

Photo by: Ralph Turre



Distribution/Size: Widespread throughout central and western Pacific. Up to 12"

REEF Expert Sighting Frequency in Hawaii – 85%

Photo by: Ralph Turre



**Redlip Parrotfish (*Scarus rubroviolaceus*) AKA Ember**

IPs often distinctly bi-colored with dark brownish-red front and paler in back, or overall reddish “textured” with white. IP often have algal mustache. TP are blue and green, often darker on front half, with blue mustache. TP and IP have squared-off head. Juvenile are brown and white striped with speckles.

Photo by: Paul Humann



Distribution/Size: Widespread throughout central and western Pacific. Up to 24” AKA Redlip Parrotfish in CIP and SOP; Bicolor Parrotfish in TEP  
REEF Expert Sighting Frequency in Hawaii – 75%  
Photo by: Ralph Turre



**Stareye Parrotfish (*Calotomus carolinus*)**

Both IP and TP are mottled with browns and whites, often blend in with reef. IP has opalescent crescent on top of eye. TP have magenta lines radiating from eye. All parrotfish in *Calotomus* genus have individual teeth vs. fused beaks. Feed on leafy algae.  
Photo by: Philippe Bourjon/EOL



Distribution/Size: Widespread from Africa to Galapagos. Up to 20”  
REEF Expert Sighting Frequency in Hawaii – 57%  
Photo by: Florent Charpin



**Spectacled Parrotfish (*Chlorurus perspicillatus*)**

IP is brown-gray with reddish tint on fins, large white area at base of tail. IP can sometimes become uniformly pale. TP is blue-green with dark band over snout (the spectacles), snout becomes big and bulbous with age.  
Photo by: Dr. Dwayne Meadows, NOAA/NMFS



Distribution/Size: ENDEMIC to Hawaii. Up to 24”  
REEF Expert Sighting Frequency in Hawaii – 7%  
Photo by: Bryan Harry/NPS



**Regal Parrotfish (*Scarus dubius*)**

IP are reddish to brownish, uniformly from snout to tail (tail is not a different color). Can sometimes exhibit irregular darker bars along body. 2-3 pale streaks on belly resemble stretch marks. TP are orange-yellow with blue bars on each scale. Blue line runs from snout to under eye and large green patch in middle of tail. Similar body shape to more common Palenose Parrotfish.

Photo by: Florent Charpin



Distribution/Size: ENDEMIC to Hawaii. Up to 14"

REEF Expert Sighting Frequency in Hawaii – 2%

Photo by: Florent Charpin



**Yellowbar Parrotfish (*Calotomus zonarchus*)**

IP and TP are gray-brown mottled with broad bar across middle of body; bar is pale in IP and yellow in TP. TP often have pink/red marks around mouth. Size of the bar varies. All parrotfish in *Calotomus* genus have individual teeth vs. fused beaks. (Not the same "Yellowbar" Parrot in the CIP and SOP, *Scarus schlegeli*)

Photo by: John Randall



Distribution/Size: ENDEMIC to Hawaii. Up to 12"

REEF Expert Sighting Frequency in Hawaii – 0.2%

Photo by: Keoki Stender



**Juvenile Parrotfish sp. (unidentified)**

Juvenile parrotfish can be difficult to distinguish and there are not published photos of all species. Therefore, REEF has a "Juvenile Parrotfish sp" category to report unidentified juveniles.

Size 2-4"

REEF Expert Sighting Frequency in Hawaii – 7%

Photo by:



**Saddled Wrasse (*Thalassoma duperrey*)**

TP and IP have blue head, followed by orange band and then greenish-blue body. TP are more brilliantly colored and often have a white bar following the orange band. Juveniles (1-2") are whitish with dark mid-body stripe running head to tail.

Distribution/Size: ENDEMIC to Hawaii. Up to 10"

REEF Expert Sighting Frequency in Hawaii – 98%

Photo by: David Andrew (TP shown)



**Belted Wrasse (*Stethojulis balteata*)**

TP are green with brilliant blue lines come off face on to body. Prominent orange or yellow stripe runs down the side of body (the "belt"). IP are drab gray with tiny white spots and yellow spot at base of pectoral fin (the "buckle"). The IP are inconspicuous but everywhere once you start noticing them.

Distribution/Size: ENDEMIC to Hawaii (with sister spp in Indo-Pac). Up to 6"

REEF Expert Sighting Frequency in Hawaii – 88%

Photo by: Bill Stohler (TP shown)



**Ornate Wrasse (*Halichoeres ornatissimus*)**

Reddish body with green markings on each scale. Tail marked with alternating green and red bars. Younger individuals have two ocellated spots on dorsal. Line under eye is straight ("ornate is straight").

Distribution/Size: ENDEMIC to Hawaii, but similar spp in Indo-Pac. Up to 6"

REEF Expert Sighting Frequency in Hawaii – 59%

Photo by: Ed Robinson



**Elegant Coris (*Coris venusta*)**

Body color ranges from drab to colorful greens and reds. Often yellowish on head. Dark crescent "ear" spot above pectoral fin in all phases. Tail speckled with blue, no obvious bars. Line under eye is curved ("elegant is curved")

Distribution/Size: ENDEMIC to Hawaii (1 of 5 spp in Indo-Pac complex). Up to 7"

REEF Expert Sighting Frequency in Hawaii – 35%

Photo by: John Hoover