



Questions? Feel free to contact me at
christy@REEF.org

Galapagos – Fishes in the Land of Finches

Fishinar 05/03/17

*Dr. Christy Pattengill-Semmens, Ph.D. – Instructor
Director of Science- REEF*



King Angelfish (*Holacanthus passer*)

Dark body with white bar on side, bright yellow tail and crown of jewels on head. Can act as cleaners, often seen in large schools. Only angelfish in the Galapagos. Up to 12"

Distribution: Northern Peru to Baja Mexico, abundant entire archipelago.

Photo by: Clay Bryce



Barberfish (*Johnrandallia nigrirostris*)

Dark black eye ("barber gave a bad haircut, got punched!"). Lacks stripe through eye that most butterflyfish have. Up to 6"

Distribution: Northern Peru to Baja Mexico, abundant entire archipelago.

Photo by: Annette Felix



Pacific Creolefish (*Paranthias colonus*)

Drab coloration, brown to olive-red. Torpedo shaped body with forked tail. Three to five spots (can be light or dark) along back of body. Found in large plankton-feeding schools. Juveniles are yellow. Up to 14"

Distribution: Northern Peru to Baja Mexico, very abundant entire archipelago.

Photo by: John Randall



Leather Bass (*Dermatolepis dermatolepis*)

Grouper, distinct body shape with steeply-sloped forehead. Covered in white blotches and small black spots. Fins often bordered in yellow. Reproduce in spawning aggregations. Up to 3'

Distribution: Northern Peru to Baja Mexico, common entire archipelago.

Photo by: Jerry Allen



Bacalao (*Mycteroperca olfax*)

Typically shades of gray with small black spots, sometimes display faint body bars. Uncommon bright yellow phase is called "Golden Grouper". Classic grouper shape. Up to 3'

Distribution: Generally restricted to Galapagos, Malpelo, and Cocos. Occasionally found between Columbia and northern Peru

Photo by: Paul Humann



Bicolor Parrotfish (*Scarus rubroviolaceus*)

More commonly seen IP phase distinctly bi-colored, dark brownish-red front and paler in back. Large TP individuals are blue and green, often darker on front half. TP and IP have squared-off head. Up to 2'

Distribution: Wide-ranging throughout eastern and western tropical Pacific. Common entire Galapagos archipelago. AKA Redlip Parrotfish in CIP and SOP.

Photo by: Paul Humann (IP shown)



Bluechin Parrotfish (*Scarus ghobban*)

IP phase has five indistinct blue bars on greenish body. TP phase uniformly blueish-green with blue markings under chin. Conical head shape (vs. squared-off). Up to 1.5'

Distribution: Wide-ranging throughout eastern and western tropical Pacific. Abundant entire Galapagos archipelago. AKA Blue-barred Parrotfish in CIP and SOP

Photo by: Paul Humann (IP shown)



Harlequin Wrasse (*Bodianus eclancheri*)

A large-bodied hogfish. Variable coloration, with harlequin designs of orange, black, and white. All are uniquely colored. TP always has black spot at base of pectoral fin, and typically a forehead bump. Juveniles are all pale to redish with three dark body stripes. Up to 1.5'

Distribution: Common to occasionally throughout Galapagos, ranges south to central Chile. Prefer cold water.

Photo by: Roger Steene



Red-lipped Batfish (*Ogcocephalus darwini*)

Small batfish (3-5") with bright red lips. Body brown to tan, with dark unicorn-like spine extending from head. Found in sandy areas. Up to 6"

Distribution: Common throughout Galapagos, ranges south to Peru. Originally thought to be endemic to Galapagos. A similar looking species is endemic to Cocos (*O. porrectes*).

Photo by: Jerry Allen



Blacktip Cardinalfish (*Apogon atradorsatus*)

Redish pink with black tip on rear dorsal fin, and dusky tips on tail. Most common cardinalfish in Galapagos. Often in mixed schools with Pink Cardinalfish. Up to 3.5"

Distribution: Abundant entire archipelago, ENDEMIC to Galapagos, Malpelo, and Cocos. Similar species: Tailspot Cardinalfish (*Apogon dovii*) with large spot at base of tail.

Photo by: Ross Robertson



Pink Cardinalfish (*Apogon atradorsatus*)

Redish pink with black bar below dorsal fin. Often in mixed schools with Blacktip Cardinalfish. Up to 2.5"

Distribution: Northern Peru to Baja Mexico, sometimes in to California. Occasional entire archipelago.

Photo by: Carol Cox



Galapagos Ringtail Damsel (*Stegastes beebei*)

Grayish brown body with white band on base of tail (can be faint or sometimes non-existent). Pectoral fins have yellow tip followed by white edge. Juveniles have orange on back. On rocky boulder areas, typically found deeper than Yellow-tail Damsel. Up to 6”
Distribution: Abundant to common entire archipelago. Also found along Panama, Cocos, and Malpelo.

Photo by: Jerry Allen



Yellow-tail Damsel (*Stegastes arcifrons*)

Grayish brown body with yellow lips and yellow tail. Blue eyes. On rocky boulder areas, typically found shallower Galapagos Ringtail Damsel. Up to 6”

Distribution: Abundant to common entire archipelago. Also found in Cocos and Malpelo.

Photo by: Ross Robertson



Galapagos Triplefin Blenny (*Lepidonectes corallicola*)

Blenny with three dorsal fins, pointed snout. Black spot on base of tail, body pale with brown bars and fine red spots. Most phases have dark midbody stripe. Breeding (nuptial male) lacks stripe and first dorsal is dark black with two yellow spots. Typically perch on top of rocks. Up to 3”

Distribution: Abundant entire archipelago, ENDEMIC to Galapagos.

Photo by: Paul Humann



Galapagos Barnacle Blenny (*Acanthemblemaria castroi*)

Large blunt head with goggle eyes and one long unbranched cirri above each eye. Found in empty barnacle shells. Typically between 20-40’. Reddish body, face and head covered fine blue spots (vs. red spots on Barnaclebill Blenny) and white chin sometimes with yellow spots. Up to 2”

Distribution: Abundant to common entire archipelago, except rare on Darwin and Wolf. ENDEMIC to Galapagos.

Photo by: Ross Robertson



Galapagos Blue Banded Goby (*Lythrypnus gilberti*)

Reddish body with 9 to 10 blue bands along body. Found in small cracks and recesses on rocks. Up to 1”

Distribution: Abundant entire archipelago, ENDEMIC to Galapagos.

Similar species: Spotcheek Goby (*Lythrypnus rhizophora*), distinguished by 9-14 bands.

Photo by: Ross Robertson