



Overlooked Fish of Turks and Caicos

REEF Fishinar April 10, 2017, Amy Lee - Instructor

Questions? Feel free to contact Amy@REEF.org

	<p>Greater Soapfish (<i>Rypticus saponaceus</i>) Family: Sea Bass (Subfamily: Soapfish)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drab, gray to blue-ish tinged body • Pointed head with upturned mouth • Small, irregular, pale flecks on head, fins, and body • Solitary, rest against the bottom during the day <p>Photo by: Florent Charpin Size: Up to 13 in.</p>
	<p>White Margate (<i>Haemulon album</i>) Family: Grunt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pearly to gray body with no distinct markings • High back profile • Scales on upper body have dark margins <p>Photo by: ReefNet Size: Up to 2.5 ft.</p>
	<p>Smooth Trunkfish (<i>Lactophrys triqueter</i>) Family: Boxfish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dark body with white spots • Pale, honeycomb markings on central midbody • Dark area around mouth and base of pectoral fin <p>Photo by: Florent Charpin Size: Up to 1 ft.</p>
	<p>Spotted Trunkfish (<i>Lactophrys bicaudalis</i>) Family: Boxfish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White to tan body with dark spots (opposite of Smooth Trunkfish) • White area around mouth • Two sharp spines in front of anal fin <p>Photo by: ReefNet Size: Up to 16 in.</p>



Orangespotted Filefish (*Cantherhines pullus*)

Family: Filefish

- Body color can vary greatly – may be brown, gray, or mottled
- Pale orange stripes and spots on body
- White marking at base of tail

Photo by: ReefNet

Size: Up to 8.5 in.



Sunshinefish (*Chromis insolata*)

Family: Damselfish/Chromis

- Juvenile has brilliant yellow upper body and bright blue to purple lower body
- Adult phase is olive to brown with yellow on outer portion of tail and second dorsal fin
- Usually seen below 60 ft. in small groups near the bottom

Photos by: ReefNet

Size: Up to 4 in.



Arrow Blenny (*Lucayablennius zingaro*)

Family: Blenny (Tube Blenny)

- Elongated body with reddish-brown or gold tinge
- Long, pointed snout
- Several black dots on dorsal and anal fins
- Keeps tail “cocked” so it can shoot forward to grab prey

Photo by: Florent Charpin

Size: Up to 2 in.



Goldspot Goby (*Gnatholepis cauerensis*)

Family: Goby

- Whitish to tan with dusky square-like blotches on body
- Dark bar runs from top of head across eyes and down cheeks
- Gold spot rimmed in black above pectoral fin
- Perch on sand or rubble, never far from protective cover

Photo by: Florent Charpin

Size: Up to 3 in.



Rosy Razorfish (*Xyrichtys martinicensis*)

Family: Razorfish/Wrasse

- Many phases and color patterns – vary with age and gender
- Straight margins on tail fin
- Female has bright white belly patch starting behind pectoral fin
- Male has yellowish head and small dark spot where pectoral fin meets body

Photos by: ReefNet

Size: Up to 6 in.



Puddingwife (*Halichoeres radiatus*)

Family: Wrasse

- Five white bars or along upper back – *pudding blobs*
- Greenish-yellow margin on mail
- Juvenile has navy blue spot on upper tail base ringed in white or light blue

Photo by: Florent Charpin

Size: Up to 18 in.



Creole Wrasse (*Clepticus parrae*)

Family: Wrasse

- Forked tail and streamlined body – not like other wrasses
- Dark purple to lavender body, with deeper purple snout
- Terminal phase is bicolored – front half is purple, rear half is golden yellow, may also have reddish area

- Feed on plankton in water column – seen in schools above the reef

Photo by: ReefNet

Size: Up to 1 ft.



Blue Runner (*Caranx crysos*)

Family: Jack

- Silvery body with blue-green color on near dorsal area
- Both upper and lower tips of tail fin lobes are black – *tennis shoes*
- Small black spot on margin of gill cover
- Open ocean swimmers – usually seen in water column

Photo by: ReefNet

Size: Up to 2.5 ft.



Cero (*Scomberomorus regalis*)

Family: Mackerel

- Elongate, silvery body with yellow-gold streaks
- Small gold spots on both sides of streaks
- Dark dorsal fin with white at base of second dorsal
- Usually solitary, swims over reefs and along drop-offs

Photo by: ReefNet

Size: Up to 4 ft.