



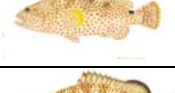


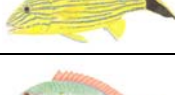



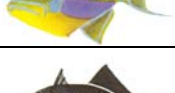



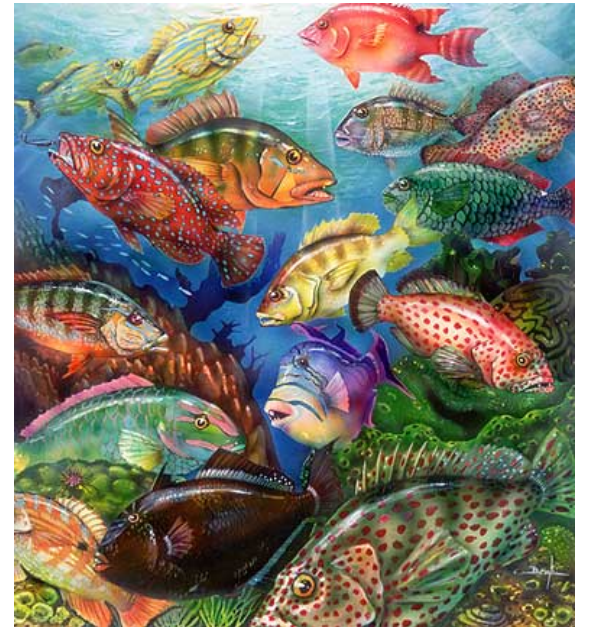


REEF FISH	COMMON NAME	LOCATION	FEEDING PERIOD	BAITS
 <i>Lutjanus jocu</i> Dog Snapper	Pargo colorado	Reef, hard bottom	Nocturnal	Cut baitfish, sprat
 <i>Lutjanus apodus</i> Schoolmaster	Dogtooth Snapper, Mango Snapper, Pargo amarillo	Reef, hard bottom	Nocturnal	Cut baitfish, sprat
 <i>Lutjanis analis</i> Mutton Snapper	Virgin Snapper, Sama	Grass beds, hard bottom	Nocturnal	Cut baitfish, sprat
 <i>Lutjanus synagris</i> Lane Snapper	Arrayado	Reef, hard bottom	Nocturnal	Cut baitfish, sprat
 <i>Epinephelus adscensionis</i> Rock Hind	Cabra mora	Reef, hard bottom	Diurnal	Cut baitfish, squid
 <i>Epinephelus guttatus</i> Red Hind	Hine, Cabrilla	Reef, hard bottom	Diurnal	Cut baitfish, squid
 <i>Cephalopholis cruentata</i> Graysby	Mantequilla	Reef, hard bottom	Diurnal	Cut, baitfish, squid
 <i>Haemulon sciurus</i> Bluestriped Grunt	Whipper, Ronco Amarillo	Hard Bottom, Sand, Seagrass	Nocturnal	Cut baitfish, squid
 <i>Sparisoma aurofrenatum</i> Redband Parrotfish	Goo-too, Bluefish, Specktail, Loro	Parrotfish are normally caught in fish pots; they are not normally caught with a baited line.		
 <i>Sparisoma viride</i> Stoplight Parrotfish	Goo-too, Green bluefish, Loro verde			
 <i>Calamus bajonado</i> Jolthead Porgy	Porgy, Bajonado, Pluma	Hard Bottom	Diurnal	Squid
 <i>Balistes vetula</i> Queen Triggerfish	Oldwife, Peje puerco	Hard Bottom	Diurnal	Cut baitfish, squid
 <i>Melichthys niger</i> Black Durgon	Black Oldwife, Pigger, Japonesa	Midwater	Diurnal	Cut baitfish, squid
 <i>Cephalopholis fulva</i> Coney	Butterfish, Mantequilla	Reef, hard bottom	Diurnal	Cut baitfish, squid
 <i>Lachnolaimus maximus</i> Hogfish	Eaglemouth, Hog Snapper, Capitan	Hard bottom	Diurnal	Squid

Shallow Water Reef Fish RECREATIONAL FISHING IN THE U.S VIRGIN ISLANDS



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND
NATURAL RESOURCES



Division of Fish and Wildlife
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JOIN THE FUN!

Whether you fish from the shoreline, a dock, a boat with spinning rod and reel or handline fishing gear, sooner or later, you're certain to feel the steady tug on the line from one of our brightly colored shallow-water reef fish. All of these fishes are closely associated with the coral reef community, relying on its numerous crevices, holes, nook and crannies as a place to hide or as a source of food. Herbivorous fish, such as Parrotfish, feed on plant material that grows on the reef or bottom substrate. Carnivorous fish such as Snappers, Groupers and Grunts, feed on smaller fish or invertebrates (Brittle Starfish, Crabs, Shrimp, Sea Urchins or Mollusks). Still, others like the Black Durgon are planktivores, feeding on minute crab larvae or other members of the zooplankton (animal) community carried by the ocean currents.

WHAT'S ITS NAME?

Reef fish have different local names, depending on where you live in the U.S. Virgin Islands. If you live in St. Thomas and St. John, Parrotfish are called goo-too. There are redbelly and redbelly goo-too (female and male redbelly parrotfish). Black Durgon are called Black Oldwife, Hogfish are called Eaglemouth and Schoolmaster Snapper are called Mango Snapper. In St. Croix, Parrotfish are called bluefish. Female Stoplight Parrotfish are called redbelly bluefish or Buck Island Soldier, while male Stoplight Parrotfish are called green bluefish. Black Durgon are called pigger, Hogfish are called capitan or hog snapper (actually not a snapper at all but a member of the wrasse family) and Schoolmaster Snapper are called dogtooth snapper (not to be confused with a Dog Snapper). Confused yet? Well, fortunately fishermen agree that Grunts are called whipper, Queen Triggerfish are called

Oldwife, Coney are called Butterfish and Mutton Snapper are called virgin snapper! Whew!!

You're probably wondering how some of these fish got such strange names, like grunt, oldwife and butterfish. The family of fish called grunts got their name from the sound that is made by the grinding together of bony plates in their throat. The name oldwife for the Queen Triggerfish comes from their thick, coarse, sandpaper-like skin used long ago by women for doing household chores like scrubbing. The Coney, one of the most common small Groupers on the coral reef, has several color phases, one of which is bright yellow, hence the name butterfish.

COLORFUL CAMOUFLAGE

The coral reef consists of communities of brightly colored reef organisms, including corals, sponges, sea fans and sea whips. Coloration patterns of reef fish have evolved over the years to allow them to blend in with their surroundings. Special pigment bodies within the skin of the fish give them the ability to form a spotted, barred or wavy coloration pattern to match their background. The Jolthead Porgy and Mutton Snapper, found at times in more open waters, may take on a silvery coloration to blend with a brightly lit, sandy background. Reef fish need not necessarily be fast swimmers, they are good camouflage artists. Camouflage allows them to avoid predation and snap up unsuspecting food items.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the Queen Triggerfish has a trigger-like spine in front of its dorsal fin that it erects and locks when startled? With this raised, it can wedge itself inside a hole for protection or make itself look bigger and

definitely more difficult for a predator fish to swallow.

Did you know that Parrotfish are the most abundant herbivorous fish on the coral reef and the most important vertebrate sand producer? As the Stoplight Parrotfish or Red-band Parrotfish rasp the coral or limestone surface to eat algae they also grind up considerable amounts of coral to produce calcium carbonate sand.

Did you know that some fish change sex? Nature has a way of maintaining healthy fish stocks by providing some fish with the ability to change sex from female to male after sexual maturity is reached. The more brightly colored Parrotfish are all terminal phase males. Some Groupers change to males when they grow larger too.

CLOSED SEASONS

Reef fish such as Nassau Groupers, Red Hind and Mutton Snapper form breeding aggregations at certain times of the year during which they are vulnerable to exploitation from fishermen. The protection of fish populations during this period of time is extremely critical to the survival of the species. If too many fish are caught from these aggregations, the actual numbers of fish become too low for the aggregations to occur and mass spawning events do not happen. Such has been the case with the Nassau Grouper, now almost extinct in the Virgin Islands fishery.

A closed season exists annually for Red Hind from December through February each year in an area off the South Coast of St. Thomas and at the head of Lang Bank, St. Croix. Likewise, there is a closed season for mutton snapper off the Southwest Coast of St. Croix from March through June each year. During the closed seasons, these areas are closed to all fishing

ETHICAL ANGLING

- ◆ Help fish stocks increase through catch and release.
- ◆ Limit your take, don't always take your limit.
- ◆ Observe regulations and report violations.
- ◆ Bring all garbage in, don't teach it to swim.
- ◆ Captain your boat, practice safety afloat.
- ◆ Show courtesy and respect, others' rights don't neglect.
- ◆ Share what you know to help your sport grow.

For more information on Recreational Sportfishing contact:

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