STUART SCUBA FISH GUIDE FOR

Costa Rica · Papagayo

PART 1 OF 2 • Find these first



King Angelfish

Holacanthus passer

Up to about 14 in

Dark adult with one narrow white bar and yellow tail.



Barberfish

Johnrandallia nigrirostris

Up to about 8 in

Yellow fish with pale face and black eye mask.



Threebanded Butterflyfish

Chaetodon humeralis

Up to about 10 in

Three broad black bars: eye, shoulder and tail base.



Panamic Sergeant Major

Abudefduf troschelii

Up to about 8 in

Five bold bars and yellow along its upper back.



Panamic Green Moray

Gymnothorax castaneus

Up to about 5 ft

Blunt head and mostly plain olive-brown body, sometimes flecked.



Mexican Hogfish

Bodianus diplotaenia

Up to about 30 in

Terminal fish shows white chin and a narrow yellow bar.

Compare shape and markings. Observe without touching or chasing.

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Background: Gulf of Papagayo, NASA / USGS Landsat

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PART 2 OF 2 • Look a little closer



Guineafowl Puffer

Arothron meleagris

Up to about 16 in

Dark body dusted with white dots; some are yellow.



Stone Triggerfish

Pseudobalistes naufragium

Up to about 3½ ft

Heavy, deep body with a small white gill opening.



Giant Hawkfish

Cirrhitus rivulatus

Up to about 24 in

Blunt head and sturdy fins on a rocky perch.



Spotted Sharpnose Puffer

Canthigaster punctatissima

About 3½ in

Small blue-white dots reach the tail base; snout pointed.



Flag Cabrilla

Epinephelus labriformis

Up to about 24 in

Stocky grouper with pale specks and dark tail-base saddle.



Blue-and-Gold Snapper

Lutjanus viridis

Up to about 12 in

Golden body with five pale blue, dark-edged side stripes.

Compare shape and markings. Observe without touching or chasing.

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