STUART SCUBA FISH GUIDE FOR

Southern Florida

PART 1 OF 2 • Find these first



High-Hat Drum (Top Hat)

Pareques acuminatus

Up to 10 in

Broad lengthwise bands and a tall front dorsal fin.



Atlantic Spadefish

Chaetodipterus faber

Up to about 3 ft

Silver disk with dark bars and tall pointed fins.



Goliath Grouper

Epinephelus itajara

Up to 8 ft

Broad head, mottled body and rounded tail on adults.



Yellowhead Jawfish

Opistognathus aurifrons

Up to 4 in

Yellow head and big mouth peeking from sand burrow.



French Angelfish

Pomacanthus paru

Up to 16 in

Dark adult with yellow-edged scales and yellow eye rings.



Lookdown

Selene vomer

Usually about 14 in

Thin silver body with steep forehead and pointed fins.

Compare shape and markings. Observe without touching or chasing.

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Background: Key West, NASA Earth Observatory

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PART 2 OF 2 • Look a little closer



Spotted Drum

Eques punctatus

Up to 10 in

Adults show striped bodies and spotted tails; juveniles streamers.



Porkfish

Anisotremus virginicus

Up to about 16 in

Two black bars cross the face; yellow stripes behind.



Blue Tang

Acanthurus coeruleus

Up to about 15 in

Blue adult with pale tail spine; juveniles often yellow.



Queen angelfish

Holacanthus ciliaris

Up to 18 in

Look for the crown spot on its bright forehead.



Sergeant Major

Abudefduf saxatilis

Up to 9 in

Five dark bars, often yellow along the upper back.



Gray Angelfish

Pomacanthus arcuatus

Up to 24 in

Pale lips and dusky gray scales, without yellow edging.

Compare shape and markings. Observe without touching or chasing.

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